

**Subject:** Education Improvement Programme, School Climate Change Interventions Delegated Decision report  
**Report of:** Andrew Garrad, Senior Programme Manager  
**Portfolio:** Education, Inclusion and Skills

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## Report Summary

This report seeks approval from the Chief Executive for funding to enable delivery of three climate change interventions to North of Tyne schools as agreed by Investment Panel in March 2023.

## Recommendations

The Chief Executive is requested to approve/authorise

1. Procurement of a provider to deliver a climate change intervention for Key Stages 2&3 in 12 schools between April and December 2023 focusing on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) to the value of £38,000
2. Sponsorship of the climate change activities relating to the Bring It On exhibition and event in October 2023 to the value of £5,000
3. Procurement of a provider to deliver 3 Games Challenge sessions for Key Stage 5, aimed at raising the awareness of climate change through computer games design to the value of £1,400

## 1. Background Information, Proposals and Timetable for Implementation

- 1.1 Education has a hugely important role to play in driving the transition to a sustainable future. Programmes of learning focused on conservation and environmental education have shown enhanced environmental attitudes, values, and knowledge, as well as build skills that prepare individuals and communities to collaboratively undertake positive environmental action.
- 1.2 This report seeks authorisation from the Chief Executive to approve the funding for the projects as set out in this report.
- 1.3 This work is being delivered within the NTCA Education Improvement Programme which was co-designed by the three Education Directors from our constituent local authorities. Feedback has also been sought from officers with climate change work within their remit at each local authority to ensure that our proposals are in line with their climate change work. These local authority colleagues will be consulted as part of the school selection process to ensure the most appropriate schools take part, with regular project updates and final best practice sharing/reports also provided to colleagues.

## 2. Potential Impact on Objectives

- 2.1 NTCA is committed to tackling climate change. In the Delegated Decision Report dated 1 April 2020, approval was given to NTCA's Energy, Green Growth and Climate Change – a North of Tyne Blueprint, which set out a bold programme of investment, collaboration and change to support carbon reduction, clean growth and a new generation of jobs. Appendix 3 of that report – Climate

Emergency and Supporting Communities to Reduce Carbon Emissions of the Blueprint - set out the need for NTCA to champion, influence and raise awareness of climate change action and green growth, a budget of £100k was approved to develop the propositions which will support this work. The NTCA Citizens' Assembly identified Awareness Raising and climate change education as a key recommendation to address climate change.

- 2.2** In July 2020, the North of Tyne Cabinet supported a Joint School Improvement Strategy, which led to the creation of NTCA's Education Improvement Programme. The projects set out in this report are delivered within that strategy and works towards agreed priorities. These climate change education propositions will also work towards achieving the goal of awareness raising and championing through climate education for multiple Key Stages in schools.

### **3. Financial and Other Resources Implications**

Funding for this activity is proposed to come from the NTCA Investment Fund.

### **4. Legal Implications**

The Interim Monitoring Officer's comments have been incorporated within this report.

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### **5. Equalities Implications**

- 5.1** This pilot will have positive impacts for groups experiencing protected characteristics, under the terms of the Equality Act 2010. Eligibility for the pupil premium is a characteristic of socio-economic disadvantage and can correlate with single parent status, for example. The elements of the programme addressing the Joint School Improvement Strategy priority of 'Closing the Gap' will specifically deliver the aims of the 2010 Equality Act: to advance equality of opportunity for all, especially for residents experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

### **6. Inclusive Economy Implications**

- 6.1** This strand of the Education Improvement Programme speaks directly to NTCA's Employability and Inclusion priority. This work will develop interventions early, supporting long-term local economic resilience by strengthening our education system to improve outcomes for our pupils. This will ultimately lead to our young people moving into the good jobs our wider Education, Skills and Inclusion portfolio will provide.
- 6.2** Education Improvement will support the development of a future inclusive economy, addressing critical barriers early to reduce achievement gaps and support more of our young people to thrive in our school system and be better prepared for a successful life beyond it.

## 7. Climate Change Implications

There are no direct climate change implications for this report.

## 8. Consultation and Engagement

8.1 The work has become part of the NTCA Education Improvement Programme which was co-designed by the three Education Directors from our constituent local authorities. We have also sought feedback from officers with climate change work within their remit at each local authority to ensure that our proposals are in line with their climate change work. These local authority colleagues will be consulted as part of the school selection process to ensure the most appropriate schools take part, with regular project updates and final best practice sharing/reports also provided to colleagues.

## 9. Appendices

None

## 10. Background Papers

10.1 Investment Fund Update, Part B: Energy, Green Growth and Climate Change – a North of Tyne Blueprint, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

10.2 Education Improvement Programme funding Delegated Decisions report, 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

## 11. Contact Officers

Andrew Garrad, Senior Programme Manager, Education Improvement

## 12. Glossary

DfE – Department of Education

LA – Local Authority

## 13. Sign-off

1) Portfolio holder Yes	2) Director/SMT Yes	3) Chief Finance Officer: Yes	4) Monitoring Officer: Yes
KK – 5/4/23	AD – 4/4/23	JG – 21/4/23	JS – 25/4/23