

**Cabinet**

**30 January 2024**

**Decisions Notification**

**Please Note:** In accordance with the Constitution of the Combined Authority, decisions will not be implemented pending any call-in.

**Date of Publication:** 31 January 2024

Any valid requests for call-in must be received by the Monitoring Officer by 5pm on 7 February 2024.

Item	Decision
4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 28 November 2023	Approved as a correct record.
5. NTCA Investment Fund Update and Funding Approvals	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted progress to date on the Investment Fund, UKSPF and BHF programmes, achievement of key milestones and ongoing project development work, particularly in respect of new job creation for residents as a direct result of the NTCA investments.</li> <li>2. Noted that the NTCA will act as accountable body for a programme of capital investment in regeneration projects secured as a part of devolution negotiations. The first three projects have now been agreed by the Chief Executive.</li> <li>3. Noted that the Chief Executive will make final approvals and associated decisions relating to implementation, in accordance with existing delegations, for the £27.8m of project funding described in the report, using Investment Fund, UKSPF, Brownfield Housing and NEMCA devolution resources.</li> <li>4. Noted the advanced stage of development achieved in relation to the North East Investment Zone proposition and delegated approval to the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive for the submission of final documentation to Government.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Agreed that the North of Tyne Combined Authority should act as accountable body for the North East Investment Zone, once it is established in April 2024.</li> <li>6. Noted that Northumberland County Council, Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council Cabinets will be asked to approve proposals around Investment Zone business rate retention sites.</li> <li>7. Noted the proposals in the report around business rates retention and delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to prepare and complete an agreement with Northumberland County Council, Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council to operationalise the Investment Zone Business Rates Reinvestment Strategy.</li> </ol>
<p>6. NTCA Q3 Budget Monitor Report</p>	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted the 2023/24 forecast budget monitoring position for the Combined Authority as set out in Section 2 Corporate Budget, Section 4 Investment Fund (including capital spend), Section 5 Creative Growth Programme, Section 6 UK Social Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), including Multiply and Rural England Prosperity Fund, Section 7 Brownfield Housing Fund, Section 8 Adult Education Budget (AEB), Section 9 and 10 Bootcamps Wave 3 and 4 and Section 12 Reserves position; and</li> <li>2. Approved the issuing of “in-year growth” awards totalling £1.366m for further AEB provision during the Academic Year year 2023-24 as set out in paragraph 8.7 of the report.</li> <li>3. Approved the issue of ‘letters of comfort’ to identified Grant Providers setting out their indicative funding allocations for delivery of the devolved AEB from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024. The letters of comfort will precede the issue of Grant Agreements to these providers once NEMCA is established as set out in section 11 of the report.</li> <li>4. Approved the issue of Flexible Adult Skills Framework Agreements to the organisations who submitted a successful tender to the procurement of the Framework in November 2023 as set out in section 11 of the report.</li> <li>5. Authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and portfolio holder for Education, Inclusion and Skills, to approve any subsequent grant agreements and /or call-off contracts procured from the Flexible Adult Skills Framework for the delivery of skills programmes from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 as set out in section 11 of the report.</li> </ol>

7. North East Mayoral Combined Authority 2025-2029 - Draft Corporate Plan, Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan Proposals	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agreed the draft NEMCA Corporate Budget for 2024/25 as set out in section 3 of the report.</li> <li>2. Agreed the overarching delivery budgets as set out in section 4 of the report.</li> <li>3. Noted the Transport levies were agreed by the North East Joint Transport Committee on the 16 January 2024 and will be issued by the Combined Authorities preceding the commencement of the financial year in respect of which they are to be issued, in line with the Transport Levying Bodies Regulations</li> <li>4. Noted the reserves position as set out in section 11 of the report, which will be kept under review while consideration of NEMCA developments and additional information becomes available about the financial risks facing authority and the proposed arrangements for managing those risks.</li> <li>5. Noted that no comments or recommendations have been made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees as set out in section I of the report.</li> </ol>
8. North East Local Enterprise Partnership Project Funding Decisions Update	Cabinet noted the report which provided information on the work and funding decisions of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP) since the previous update on 26 September 2023.
9. Date and Time of the Next Meeting	Tuesday, 12 March 2024 at 2pm.
10. Exclusion of Press and Public	Under section 100A and Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 because exempt information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against disclosure was satisfied.
11. North East Local Enterprise Partnership Project Funding Decisions Update - Appendix A	Noted.
12. North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Transition	The Cabinet agreed the recommendations set out in the report.

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