

## Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

### 1. Subject of decision

North East Devolution – Adult Education Functions – North East Mayoral Combined Authority

### 2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Jacqueline Laughton – Interim Chief Executive

### 3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

Not applicable

### 4. Executive summary

The Secretary of State for Education, subject to parliamentary approval is minded to amend the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024 so that NECA has shared responsibility with the Secretary of State for a further Adult Education Function. The additional function is that set out in section 100(1B) of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 which enables the Secretary of State for Education to secure the provision of financial resources in connection with approved technical education qualifications or approved steps towards occupational competence.

It is proposed that the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NECA) will be given the powers set out in section 100(1B) to exercise concurrently with the Secretary of State. Without such a power, NECA would be unable to fund newly reformed Technical Qualifications, which means that it would be unable to use its Adult Skills Fund for these qualifications for the 2025/26 academic year.

The Authority's consent in principle to the making of an Amendment Order that would give NECA this additional power was given to the Secretary of State on 29 January 2025.

The Secretary of State has now provided the Authority with a final draft of The Amendment Order, namely, The Combined Authorities (Adult Education Functions) (Amendment) Order 2025 that will be laid before Parliament on 24 March 2025. The Secretary of State has now requested that the Authority give its formal consent to the making of the Order.

## **5. Alternative Options considered**

To give consent to the making of The Combined Authorities (Adult Education Functions) (Amendment) Order 2025 or not to give such consent.

## **6. Decision**

\*\*To give consent on behalf of the Authority to the making of the Order that will give additional Adult Educations to NECA that it will exercise concurrently with the Secretary of State for Education.

## **7. Reasons for the Decision(s)**

Giving consent to the making of the Order will enable the Secretary of State to lay the Order before Parliament which if made will give adult learners in the NECA area access to new Technical Qualifications and ensure that they have access to the same high-quality qualifications that will become available in other devolved areas.

## **8. Date Decision Made**

24 February 2025

## **9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period**

\*This decision is not subject to Call-in for the reason indicated below.

## 10. Date of Publication

24 February 2025

## 11. Implementation Date

\*24 February 2025

\*Note – The decision is not subject to Call-In, as agreed by the Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Chair of Council, due to the following reason(s): If the decision was to be called-in the date for the laying of the Order in Parliament on 24 March 2025 could be jeopardised, and the Order could not include NECA as one of the areas being given these additional powers.

\*\*Note – Appendix 1 to the Report in relation to the decision indicated above is not for publication by virtue of section 100A(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.