

## Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

### 1. Subject of decision

Major Contract Variation to Deliver Public Wi-Fi in North Shields

### 2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Jon Ritchie

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

None

### 4. Executive summary

The improvement works undertaken in respect of the North Shields Culture and Creative Zone were funded by monies from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Those works have been completed under budget and there is therefore an unexpected underspend. The residue of the fund monies can be legitimately used to fund the provision of public Wi-Fi throughout the North Shields Culture and Creative Zone provided the fund monies are spent by the 31 March 2025. If the monies are not spent by this date the Wi-Fi works cannot be delivered using the residual fund monies.

The appropriate route to market has been identified as a major contract variation to the existing connectivity partnership with Aspire Technology

### 5. Alternative Options considered

Do not make the major contract variation and return the underspend of UKSPF monies.

## 6. Decision(s)

(1) To undertake the variation of the contract between the Authority and Aspire Technology Solutions Limited so as to include the provision of public Wi-Fi in the North Shields Culture and Creative Zone as part of that contract;

(2) to the allocation and spending of the residual UK Shared Prosperity Fund monies on the Wi-Fi works referred to in recommendation (1) above;

## 7. Reasons for the Decision

The bids submitted and the suppliers identified in Evaluation spreadsheet represent the most economically advantageous to the Authority, based on the specification and the response provided.

## 8. Date Decision Made

27 March 2025

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

N/A

## 10. Date of Publication

27 March 2025

## 11. Implementation Date

31/03/2025

\*Note – The decision is not subject to Call-In, as agreed by the Chair of Council, due to the following reason: Speed of decision needed to legitimately use the UKSPF fund for the provision of public Wi-Fi throughout the North Shields Culture and Creative Zone by the 31 March 2025. If the monies are not spent by this date the Wi-Fi works cannot be delivered using the residual fund monies.