

Record of Delegated Executive Decision

1. Subject of decision

North East Devolution – Consent to the making of the Order Establishing the North East Mayoral Combined Authority

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Paul Hanson – Chief Executive

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

Not Applicable

On 28 December 2022 HM Government announced a “minded to” devolution deal with the seven councils across the North East (i.e. Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland).

To implement the deal, it is necessary to establish a new mayoral combined authority which covers the area of the seven councils and replaces the two existing combined authorities in the region, i.e. NECA (which includes the areas of Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland) and NTCA (which includes the areas of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland). This will require a statutory order to be made by the Secretary of State who must be satisfied that the relevant statutory criteria set out in the 2009 Act are met before making the statutory order. Furthermore, the Secretary of State can only make the order if the seven councils (as well as NECA and NTCA, including its Mayor) consent to the order.

On 30 October 2023 Cabinet agreed in principle that the Council should consent to the making of the statutory order referred to above and authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, to issue the Council’s formal consent to the Secretary of State to the making of such an Order when the Secretary of State requested such consent. (Minute Reference CAB65/23).

The Secretary has now formally requested from the Council its formal consent to the making of the statutory order.

5. Alternative Options considered

- a) To confirm the Council's formal consent to the making of the statutory order to (a) abolish NECA and NTCA and (b) establish NEMCA.
- b) Not to give the Council's formal consent to the making of that order.

6. Decision

To confirm the Council's formal consent to the making of the of the statutory order to (a) abolish NECA and NTCA and (b) establish NEMCA.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

By confirming the Council's consent to the making of the order, the Secretary of State can proceed to the laying of the order before Parliament and at the conclusion of the parliamentary process, to the making of the order.

The order that will be laid before Parliament in early February 2024 has been agreed by the 7 Councils and the combined authorities. The order reflects what was included in the devolution deal and the scheme consulted on by the 7 Councils between January and March 2023. Once made, the order will see the powers set out in the North East devolution deal being vested in the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority.

For the reasons set out above, and the reasons set out in the delegated decision report accompanying this Record of Decision and the reports presented to Cabinet in January, June and October 2023, it is appropriate to confirm the Council's consent to the making of The North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024.

8. Date Decision Made

2 February 2024

To be completed by Democratic Services

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

The decision is not subject to Call-In as agreed by the Chair of Council, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer. This is so that the parliamentary timetable for the making of the Order can be met.

10. Date of Publication

2 February 2024

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

2 February 2024