



## **North East Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Extraordinary Meeting)**

Friday 10th March, 2017 at 2.30 pm

Meeting to be held at Committee Room, Sunderland Civic Centre, Burdon Road,  
Sunderland, SR2 7S

[www.northeastca.gov.uk](http://www.northeastca.gov.uk)

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## AGENDA

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Page No

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Please remember to declare any personal interest where appropriate both verbally and by recording it on the relevant form (to be handed to the Democratic Services Officer). Please also remember to leave the meeting where any personal interest requires this.

3. **North East Combined Authority Governance Arrangements Update** 1 - 4

4. **Date and Time of Next Ordinary Meeting**

2.00pm on 28 March 2017

Contact Officer: Janet Howard Tel: (0191) 211 5048 E-mail: [janet.howard@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:janet.howard@newcastle.gov.uk)

**To All Members**

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## North East Combined Authority

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Subject:** North East Combined Authority Governance Arrangements Update

**Report of:** Monitoring Officer

#### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Committee with information on the potential changes to the boundaries of the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and impact on arrangements for scrutiny.

#### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee receives a verbal report from the Chair of the Leadership Board.

# North East Combined Authority

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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### 1. Background information

- 1.1 In July 2016 the Leadership Board received a report summarising a review undertaken into the functions exercised by NECA and its governance arrangements and how additional powers and functions through the devolution deal would be likely to change the functions.
- 1.2 The Leadership Board having considered assurances sought from Government on a number of points in the deal considered the matter in detail at a meeting on 6 September 2016. Members commented on the importance of devolution for the North East and confirmed their full commitment to devolution. The Members representing the Constituent Authorities south of the River Tyne expressed concern about a number of issues arising from the devolution deal and therefore on the basis of a majority decision it was decided not to proceed with the next steps in the creation of a Mayoral Combined Authority and the devolution deal was subsequently withdrawn by Government. The governance arrangements within NECA have therefore remained unchanged.
- 1.3 Media reports have referred to contact between the Constituent Authorities north of the River Tyne and Government with regard to the possibility of those Authorities leaving NECA and creating a new Combined Authority for their respective areas.

### 2. Current Position

- 2.1 On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017, the Scrutiny Committee was consulted on the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2016. The Order will come into force in May 2017 and relates to both Mayoral Combined Authorities and Non-Mayoral Combined Authorities and so has implications for the NECA Scrutiny Committee. The Order seeks to strengthen the role of scrutiny in a number of ways, including through the provision of call-in.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Committee considered the new requirements and is submitting its preferred options to the Leadership Board on 21 March 2017. However, in its consideration of the requirements and options on future scrutiny arrangements, the Committee sought information on the future potential arrangements for NECA and how this more robust scrutiny function would align to future decision making arrangements.
- 2.3 On the basis that new governance arrangements are required for the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members have requested some clarification from the Leadership Board, represented by the Chair of the Board on the potential future arrangements for NECA.

### 3. Next Steps

# North East Combined Authority

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee has invited the Chair of the Leadership Board to attend the Committee meeting, together with one of the Vice-Chairs if available in order to provide information on the wider governance of NECA and potential future decision making structures.

### **4. Potential Impact on Objectives**

- 4.1 This report does not impact on NECA's objectives.

### **5. Finance and Other Resources**

There are no financial implications arising from this report

### **6. Legal**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **7. Other Considerations**

#### **7.1 Consultation/Community Engagement**

There has been no consultation in relation to this report.

#### **7.2 Human Rights**

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

#### **7.3 Equalities and Diversity**

There are no equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

#### **7.4 Risk Management**

There are no risks arising from this report.

#### **7.5 Crime and Disorder**

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

#### **7.6 Environment and Sustainability**

There are no environmental or sustainability implications arising from this report.

### **8. Background Documents**

- 8.1 Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2016.

# North East Combined Authority

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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### 9. Links to the Local Transport Plans

9.1 There are no links to the Local Transport Plans in relation to this report.

### 10 Appendices

10.1 None

### 11. Contact Officers

11.1 Vivienne Geary, Interim Monitoring Officer : [Viv.Geary@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:Viv.Geary@northtyneside.gov.uk)  
; Tel 0191 6435339

### 12. Sign off

- Head of Paid Service ✓
- Monitoring Officer ✓
- Chief Finance Officer ✓