



Leadership Board

Tuesday 17th May 2016 at 2.00 pm

Meeting to be held at County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UQ

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SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

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| 4. North East Combined Authority - The Devolution Agreement | 1 - 4 |

Contact Officer: Victoria Miller Tel: 0191 211 5118 E-mail: victoria.miller@northeastca.gov.uk

To All Members

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North East Combined Authority

Leadership Board

DATE: 17 May 2016

SUBJECT: North East Combined Authority – The Devolution Agreement

REPORT OF: Head of Paid Service

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the Proposed Agreement was signed in October 2015 there have been continuing discussions with Government on detailed implementation of a devolution deal. Following the 24th March Leadership Board report which identified a number of outstanding issues with the Proposed Agreement, the Head of Paid Service has sought further clarification or commitment from Government. That activity is still ongoing and a full report on the information received from Government will be published shortly. This report sets out the activity that has taken place to date.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Leadership Board is recommended to note the contents of the report, and note that a full report on the information received from the Government, along with recommendations, will be published in advance of the 17 May 2016 meeting of the Leadership Board.

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1. Background Information

1.1 On the 24th March 2016, the Leadership Board received a report and supplementary report on the Proposed Agreement which highlighted the key components of the Proposed Agreement, the progress made in clarifying elements necessary for implementing the Proposed Agreement and the areas where further clarity were required.

1.2 The Leadership Board confirmed their continued support for devolution and support for the Proposed Agreement entered into on 23rd October 2015 but noted the outstanding issues including those referred to in the main report and the supplementary report which required further clarification and commitment by Government. The Head of Paid Service was authorised to secure this from Government, and this report updates the Leadership Board on the activity that has taken place so far to achieve this.

2. Activity Since the 24 March 2016 Meeting of the Leadership Board

2.1 Since the Proposed Agreement was signed in October 2015 there have been ongoing discussions with Government on detailed implementation of a devolution deal. Following the 24th March Leadership Board report which identified a number of outstanding issues with the Proposed Agreement, the Head of Paid Service has sought further clarification or commitment from Government.

2.2 Senior officers from the North East Combined Authority area met with Government representatives in London on 8 April to present and fully explain the list of outstanding issues identified by the NECA Leadership Board.

2.3 Following that initial meeting a number of additional meetings have taken place throughout April and early May between NECA officers and Government to progress resolution of each issue.

2.4 Substantial progress has been made against each of the issues identified at the Leadership Board meeting held on 24 March, and as progress continues to be made details will be provided in a supplementary report to be published before the 17 May Leadership Board meeting.

3. Other Considerations

3.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

Consultation on devolution proposals has been carried out both by NECA and by the Constituent Authorities. Full details were included in the last report to the NECA Leadership Board, dated 24 March.

3.2 Human Rights

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

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3.3 Equalities and Diversity

There are no specific equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

3.4 Risk Management

3.4.1 The risks, issues and dependencies associated with the Devolution programme are actively identified, analysed and managed by the NECA programme management team. The NECA is the owner of the strategic risk register for Devolution and will ensure that all key risks are aligned with the Constituent Authority strategic risk registers.

3.4.2 The identification and analysis of risks is an ongoing process that is undertaken with the various stakeholder groups and the LA7 working groups that have been established to deliver the specific themes of the Devolution Deal. The NECA programme will report on key risks and mitigating actions as part of the fortnightly status reporting to the CEX Group which operates as the Programme Board.

3.5 Crime and Disorder

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

3.6 Environment and Sustainability

There are no specific environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

3.7 Background Documents

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016
The Constituent Authorities Cabinet Reports

3.8 Links to the Local Transport Plans

Should a non-consenting Constituent Authority emerge DCLG have advised that it will become a Local Transport Authority and will need to establish its own Local Transport Plan and Concessionary Travel Scheme.

4. Appendices

None

5. Contact Officers

Adam Wilkinson, Interim Head of Paid Service (North East Combined Authority)
adam.wilkinson@northeastca.gov.uk 0191 6435689

Vivienne Geary, Interim Monitoring Officer (North East Combined Authority)

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viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk 0191 643 5339

Paul Woods, Interim Chief Finance Officer (North East Combined Authority)

Paul.woods@northeastca.gov.uk 07446 936840

6. Sign off

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