

Notice to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee of a general exception to the publication of the intention to make a key decision

Executive Summary:

DATE: 7 June 2018

TO: David Taylor Gooby, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

COPIES TO: Mayor Norma Redfearn, and Cllr Simon Henig, Vice Chairs of the North East Leadership Board
Simon Hart, Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

SUBJECT: Project Approvals

NOTICE BY: Paul Woods, Chief Finance Officer

This notice informs the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee under Paragraph 12 of the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 that it is impracticable to include the above item on the NECA Forward Plan for a period of 28 clear days before the decision is made.

In accordance with Paragraph 12 (1(b) of the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 a copy of this notice will be published on the North East Combined Authority website.

In accordance with section 31 of the Leadership Board Rules of Procedure set out in Part 4.1 of the NECA Constitution, this notice confirms that at least 5 clear days will have elapsed between the agenda for the meeting, which includes the matter being made available, and the day of the meeting.

1. Background:

- 1.1 Where a decision maker intends to make a key decision, that decision must not ordinarily be made until at least 28 clear days public notice has been given.
- 1.2 Where the 28 day prior publication of the intention to make a key decision is impracticable, that decision may only be made where the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been informed of the matter about which the decision is to be made, notice to the Chair has been made available for public inspection at the Combined Authority's offices and published on the Combined Authority's website, and after 5 clear days have elapsed following the day on which notice to the Chair was made publicly available.
- 1.3 This notice is to inform the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that it has been impracticable to give 28 clear days public notice of the item(s) set out below for the reasons set out below and that it is intended that the key decision(s) will be made on the date specified below.
- 1.4 Notice is also given to the public that the reasons why compliance with the requirements for publicity in connection with key decisions are impracticable are set out below.

2. Notice Details

2.1 Date of Decision required:

19 June 2018.

2.2 Matter in respect to which decision is to be made:

NECA Project Approvals.

2.3 Description

The NECA Project Approvals Report will ask the Leadership Board to give Helen Golightly, Head of Paid Service delegated authority in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to make a delegated decision, in order that the following can be carried out in a timely fashion once approvals of the Local Enterprise Board have been secured in advance of the scheduled NECA Leadership Board meeting on 31st July 2018.

1. Approval of Gateshead Follingsby Enterprise Zone infrastructure, that may be determined by the LEP Board or the LEP Investment Board; and
2. Agreement, subject to funding approval by DWP, to enter into a European Social Fund grant funding agreement for £1,059,492 to support the North East LEPs North East Ambition project.

2.4 Decision Maker

NECA Leadership Board

2.5 Thematic Area

Corporate issue.

2.6 Consultation Process

Consultation has taken place with Statutory Officers and Constituent Authorities.

2.7 Background Documents

None.

2.8 Reasons why impracticable to give 28 days' clear notice

An employment development site in Gateshead needs to accelerate development works on a shortened timescale in order to secure an inward investment opportunity. It has become clear that this approval is needed urgently and delaying the decision to the next full NECA Leadership Board meeting at the end of July would be likely to hamper the current inward investment opportunity.

In September 2017 the NECA Leadership Board approved an allocation of £750,000 of Local Growth Funding subject to North East LEP Board approval towards the North East Ambition project and was advised of the intention to bid for ESF matched funding. Subsequently, the North East LEP Board has approved the full LGF business case for £750,000 and approved the submission of a bid for ESF funding amounting to £1,059,492. The determination of the ESF bid by DWP is expected during July and to enable prompt commencement, on programme, delegated authority is requested to enter into the grant agreement.

The NECA Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer have examined the background and context of this decision and concur that it is impracticable for this decision to be placed on the Forward Plan 28 days before it is made.

Head of Paid Service: [REDACTED]

Monitoring Officer: [REDACTED]