

Record of Urgent Decision taken by Head of Paid Service for the North East Combined Authority

Consultation and Agreement

The Chair and the Vice Chairs of the NECA have been consulted on this matter and have agreed that it is appropriate for the Head of Paid Service to use the delegated powers given to her by the Leadership Board of the NECA and to make an urgent decision.

The Chair and Vice Chairs agreed that this decision is urgent because the project construction contracts are ready to be let and will otherwise be frustrated and that any delay in commencement of the project will impact adversely on the North East LEP LGF Budget spend target for 2016/17

Consultation response from the Chair of NECA 16/12/2016
Consultation response from the 1st Vice Chair of the NECA 15/12/2016
Consultation response from the 2nd Vice Chair of the NECA 16/12/2016

Record of the Decision

1. **Subject of Decision**

Replacement Local Growth Fund (LGF) grant funding agreement to Newcastle City Council in regards to the expanded Newcastle Laboratory project at Science Central, Newcastle.

2. **Thematic Area**

North East LEP Local Growth Programme

3. **Executive Summary**

The Newcastle Science Laboratory project, led by Newcastle City Council received a LGF grant award of £8.6m in February 2016. The North East LEP Board has subsequently agreed to a received project business plan that will see the scheme increase in scale from 4,600 to 7500sqm with an adjusted delivery programme. No additional LGF budget is required. Increased costs are being met by the City Council and an ERDF grant award. NECA is being asked to endorse the North East LEP Board decision.

4. **Alternative Options Considered**

Option 1 None applicable

5. **Reason for Decision**

To enable the project to proceed without any further delay and avoid adverse impacts on the LGF budget targets in 2016/17. Construction contract are due to be let in December 2016.

7. **Date of Consultation with the Monitoring Officer and their Relevant Comments**

19 December 2016

Having reviewed the amended documentation I am in agreement with the proposed amendment, subject to the GFA, including the requirement for the Recipient to ensure State aid intensity does not exceed 50% of eligible aid to ensure State aid compliance.

8. Date of Consultation with Chief Finance Officer and their Relevant Comments

19th December 2016

The project is within budget with no increase in Local Growth Fund grant. The changes improve the value for money provided by the project. I am satisfied that the request for change can be agreed on financial grounds.

9. Date of Publication

19 December 2016

10. Implementation Date

19 December 2016