



## Forward Plan of Decisions

**22 May 2023**

The Forward Plan for the North East Combined Authority (NECA) is prepared and published by the Monitoring Officer for the purpose of:

- A. Giving 28 days' notice of key decisions that are planned to be taken by the NECA, its Boards, Committees or Chief Officers
- B. Complete transparency about decisions – the Plan also includes an overview of non-key decisions to be taken by the Combined Authority or its Chief Officers

Included within the Forward Plan are decisions that are to be made by:

- [NECA Committees](#)
- [North East Joint Transport Committees](#)
- [Officers under delegation \(Delegated Decisions\)](#)

Unless otherwise indicated, if you require any further information or wish to make representations about any of the matters contained in the Forward Plan please contact the appropriate officer as detailed against each entry at least 7 days before the meeting.

**\*The most recent entries are referred to as “NEW”. Updated entries are referred to as “Updated”. Items withdrawn since the last publication are referred to as “Withdrawn” and following that will be removed altogether.**

Further information about the Forward Plan and NECA Decision Making can be found in 'The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017' and the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Decision Making Protocol which can be found at <http://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/NECA-Decision-Making-Protocol.pdf>

### NECA Committees

Reference Number and Thematic Area	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
<b>Leadership Board</b>							
LB 1 (a) Economic Development and Digital (Standing Item)	6 June 2023	Non-key	Leadership Board	<b>Economic Development and Digital Thematic Update</b> To note and provide any comments on the update report on the Economic Development and Digital Thematic Lead Portfolio		Rory Sherwood-Parkin Senior Economic Policy Manager – South Tyneside Council <a href="mailto:rory.sherwood-parkin@southtyneside.gov.uk">rory.sherwood-parkin@southtyneside.gov.uk</a>	Public
LB 1 (b) Chairman's Portfolio (Standing Item)	6 June 2023	Non-key	Leadership Board	<b>Thematic Lead Portfolio Update Report from the Chair</b> To provide an update on the Chair's Thematic Lead Portfolio – for information and comment		Beverley Poulter Lead Policy Advisor to Leader and Chief Executive – Sunderland City Council <a href="mailto:Beverley.poulter@sunderland.gov.uk">Beverley.poulter@sunderland.gov.uk</a>	Public
LB 1 (c) Finance and Skills and Employment (Standing Item)	6 June 2023	Non-key	Leadership Board	<b>Finance and Skills and Employment Thematic Lead Portfolio Update Report</b> To provide an update on the Finance and Skills and Employment Thematic Lead Portfolio		Graham Wood Economic Development Manager – Durham County Council <a href="mailto:graham.wood@durham.gov.uk">graham.wood@durham.gov.uk</a> John Tindale Employability Manager – Durham County Council <a href="mailto:john.tindale@durham.gov.uk">john.tindale@durham.gov.uk</a>	Public

Reference Number and Thematic Area	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
LB 1 (d) Transport (Standing Item)	6 June 2023	Non-key	Leadership Board	<b>Transport Thematic Lead Portfolio Update Report</b> To provide an update on the Transport Thematic Lead Portfolio		Stuart Corker Transport Planning Team Leader - Gateshead Council <a href="mailto:stuartcorker@gateshead.gov.uk">stuartcorker@gateshead.gov.uk</a>	Public
LB 1 (e) Corporate Issue	6 June 2023	Key	Leadership Board	<b>Programme of Committee Meetings Municipal Year 2022/23</b> The Leadership Board are asked to agree the programme of Committee meetings for the Municipal Year 2022/23 starting from the Annual meeting of the NECA Leadership Board		Nicola Robason Monitoring Officer - NECA <a href="mailto:Nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk">Nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk</a>	Public
LB 1 (f) Corporate Issue	6 June 2023	Key	Leadership Board	<b>Review of the Constitution</b> The NECA Leadership Board are asked to review the NECA Constitution		Nicola Robason Monitoring Officer - NECA <a href="mailto:Nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk">Nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk</a>	Public
LB 1 (g) Corporate Issue	6 June 2023	Key	Leadership Board	<b>Appointment of Committees, Agreement of Membership, Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, Appointment of Members to Outside Bodies and Appointment of External Auditor</b>		Nicola Robason Monitoring Officer - NECA <a href="mailto:Nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk">Nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk</a>	Public

Reference Number and Thematic Area	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
				The Leadership Board is requested to make the appropriate required appointments for 2022/23 Municipal Year			
LB 1 (h) Corporate Issue	6 June 2023	Key	Leadership Board	<b>Membership of the Leadership Board</b> Members are requested to make the appropriate required appointments to the Leadership Board		Nicola Robason Monitoring Officer - NECA <a href="mailto:Nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk">Nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk</a>	Public
LB 1 (i) Corporate Issue	6 June 2023	Key	Leadership Board	<b>North East Devolution</b> To consider the findings of the public consultation on the proposed creation of a new mayoral combined authority for the North East region and to determine next steps	<b>The “minded to” North East Devolution Deal – Item 11 Appendix 1 Annex A</b> <a href="https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Leadership-Board-Agenda-Pack-FINAL-24-January-2023.pdf">https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Leadership-Board-Agenda-Pack-FINAL-24-January-2023.pdf</a>	Nicola Robason Monitoring Officer - NECA <a href="mailto:Nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk">Nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk</a>	Public
LB 1 (j) Corporate Issue	6 June 2023	Non-key	Leadership Board	<b>Audit Completion Report</b> The Leadership Board is recommended to note the contents of the Audit Completion Report for 2020/21	<b>Report to Audit and Standards Committee 11 April 2023</b> <a href="https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/FINAL-Audit-">https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/FINAL-Audit-</a>	Jim Dafter Senior Manager - Mazars <a href="mailto:jim.dafter@mazars.co.uk">jim.dafter@mazars.co.uk</a> Gavin Barker	

Reference Number and Thematic Area	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
					<a href="#">and-Standards-Committee-Agenda-Pack-11-April-2023.pdf</a>	Director, Public and Social Sector - Mazars <a href="mailto:gavin.barker@mazars.co.uk">gavin.barker@mazars.co.uk</a>	
LB 1 (k) Corporate Issue	6 June 2023	Key	Leadership Board	<p><b>Statement of Accounts 2020/21</b></p> <p>The Leadership Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Authorise the Chief Finance Officer to sign the Letter of Representation on behalf of the Authority;</li> <li>ii. Approve the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21, taking into account any views from the Audit and Standards Committee meeting on 11 April;</li> <li>iii. Authorise the Chair of the Leadership Board and the Chief Finance Officer to make any further adjustments required to the Statement of Accounts as a result of the conclusion of the external audit and to sign the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21;</li> <li>iv. Approve the Annual</li> </ul>	<p><b>NECA draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21</b></p> <p><a href="#">NECA-Draft-Statement-of-Accounts-2020-21.pdf (northeastca.gov.uk)</a></p> <p><b>Letter regarding delay in Audit of Statement of Accounts</b></p> <p><a href="#">NECA-2020-21-Audit-Letter-LG-Delay-in-Issuing-the-Auditors-Annual-Report.pdf (northeastca.gov.uk)</a></p>	Eleanor Goodman Finance Manager – NECA 0191 433 3860 <a href="mailto:Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk">Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk</a>	

Reference Number and Thematic Area	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
				Governance Statement; and v. Authorise the Chair of the Leadership Board and the Head of Paid Service to sign the Annual Governance Statement.			
<b>Audit and Standards Sub-Committee</b>							
There are no meetings currently scheduled.							
<b>Audit and Standards Committee</b>							
AS 1 (a) Corporate Issue	27 June 2023 <i>(Date to be agreed at Annual General Meeting)</i>	Non-key	Audit and Standards Committee	<b>Consideration of 'Going Concern Status' for the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023</b>  For information only	<b>NECA Budget and Medium term Financial Plan, Leadership Board 24 January 2023</b> <a href="#">Leadership-Board-Agenda-Pack-FINAL-24-January-2023.pdf</a> <a href="#">(northeastca.gov.uk)</a>	Eleanor Goodman Finance Manager – NECA  0191 433 3860 <a href="mailto:Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk">Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk</a>	Public
AS 1 (b) Corporate Issue	27 June 2023 <i>(Date to be agreed at Annual General Meeting)</i>	Non-key	Audit and Standards Committee	<b>Draft Statement of Accounts 2022/23</b>  To note	<b>NECA draft Statement of Accounts 2021/22</b> <a href="#">FINAL-Audit-and-Standards-Agenda-Pack-28-June-2022.pdf</a> <a href="#">(northeastca.gov.uk)</a>	Eleanor Goodman Finance Manager – NECA  0191 433 3860 <a href="mailto:Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk">Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk</a>	Public
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>							
The next scheduled meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of the Leadership Board.							
<b>Economic Development and Digital Advisory Board (EDDAB)</b>							
The next scheduled meeting of the Economic Development and Digital Advisory Board is to be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of the Leadership Board.							

### North East Joint Transport Committees

Reference Number	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
<b>North East Joint Transport Committee</b>							
JTC 1 (a)	20 June 2023	Non-key	Joint Transport Committee	<p><b>Appointment of JTC Committees</b></p> <p>This report seeks approval of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The membership of JTC Committees for 2023/2024.</li> <li>2. The appointment of the Independent Chairs and Vice Chairs of the JTC Audit Committee and the JTC Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the JTC Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee.</li> <li>3. The appointment of representatives to the Transport for the North Rail North Committee and Transport for the North General Purposes Committee.</li> </ol>	None	Emma Reynard – Gateshead Council <a href="mailto:emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk">emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk</a>	Public
JTC 1 (b)	20 June 2023	Non-key	Joint Transport Committee	<p><b>Programme of Committee Meetings 2023-2024</b></p> <p>This report seeks approval of the programme of committee meetings from June 2023 – May 2024</p>	None	Emma Reynard – Gateshead Council <a href="mailto:emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk">emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk</a>	Public

JTC 1 (c)	20 June 2023	Non-key	Joint Transport Committee	<p><b>North East Devolution</b></p> <p>To note the findings of the public consultation on the proposed creation of a new mayoral combined authority for the North East region and to determine next steps.</p>	The “minded to” North East Devolution Deal <a href="https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/North-East-Devolution-Deal.pdf">https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/North-East-Devolution-Deal.pdf</a>	Tobyn Hughes - Managing Director, Transport North East <a href="mailto:tobyn.hughes@transportnortheast.gov.uk">tobyn.hughes@transportnortheast.gov.uk</a>	Public
JTC 1 (d)	20 June 2023	Key	Joint Transport Committee	<p><b>North East Active Travel Strategy – Approval to publish</b></p> <p>The paper will seek Member’s agreement to publish the final version of the North East Active Travel Strategy following a public consultation.</p>	Agenda Item 6 North East Active Travel Strategy: Approval to Consult. North East Joint Transport Committee, 20th December 2022 <a href="https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022.12.20-JTC-Agenda-Pack.pdf">https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022.12.20-JTC-Agenda-Pack.pdf</a>	Rachelle Forsyth-Ward Interim Assistant Director, Transport Strategy <a href="mailto:rachelle.forsythward@transportnortheast.gov.uk">rachelle.forsythward@transportnortheast.gov.uk</a>	Public
JTC 1 (e)	20 June 2023	Non-key	Joint Transport Committee	<p><b>Transport Plan Progress Report</b></p> <p>The Joint Transport Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.</p>	None	Tobyn Hughes - Managing Director, Transport North East <a href="mailto:tobyn.hughes@transportnortheast.gov.uk">tobyn.hughes@transportnortheast.gov.uk</a>	Public
JTC 1 (f)	20 June 2023	Key	Joint Transport Committee	<p><b>Devolution Preparation – Professional Services</b></p> <p>This paper seeks the approval from the Joint Transport Committee to procure professional services and other support for devolution preparations.</p>	Joint Transport Committee Report (Item 7), Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2023 - (Public Pack)Agenda Document for North East Joint Transport Committee, 21/02/2023 14:30 ( <a href="https://northeastca.gov.uk">northeastca.gov.uk</a> )	Jonathan Bailes – Transport North East <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Bailes@transportnortheast.gov.uk">Jonathan.Bailes@transportnortheast.gov.uk</a>	Private by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972



JTC 1 (g)	20 June 2023	Key	Joint Transport Committee	<p><b>Bus Service Improvement Plan – Early Investments</b></p> <p>This report asks the JTC to approve the allocation of funds for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bulk purchase of annual region-wide travel passes from Network One Ltd for those aged 18-25 who have left Local Authority care</li> <li>• The development of the region’s journey planning and public transport information website delivered by Nexus</li> <li>• Enhanced bus services across the region for the financial year 2023/24 delivered by Nexus, Northumberland County Council and Durham County Council</li> </ul>	<p>North East Bus Service Improvement Plan  <a href="https://transportnortheast.gov.uk">TNE-BSIP_FINAL.pdf (transportnortheast.gov.uk)</a>  Enhanced Partnership (Public Pack) Agenda Document for North East Joint Transport Committee, 21/03/2023 14:30  <a href="https://northeastca.gov.uk">northeastca.gov.uk</a>  Vision for Buses  <a href="https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021.07.13-JTC-Public-Agenda-Pack-v2.pdf">https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021.07.13-JTC-Public-Agenda-Pack-v2.pdf</a>  Bus Back Better - The National Bus Strategy  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/980227/DfT-Bus-Back-Better-national-bus-strategy-for-England.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/980227/DfT-Bus-Back-Better-national-bus-strategy-for-England.pdf</a>  The Bus Services Act 2017 – Enhanced Partnership Guidance  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/959501/bus-services-act-2017-enhanced-partnerships-guidance.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/959501/bus-services-act-2017-enhanced-partnerships-guidance.pdf</a></p>	<p>Heather Jones - Head of Enhanced Partnerships, Transport North East  <a href="mailto:Heather.jones@transportnortheast.gov.uk">Heather.jones@transportnortheast.gov.uk</a></p>	Public
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JTC 1 (h)	20 June 2023	Key	Joint Transport Committee	<p><b>Bus Service Improvement Plan – Fares package: Multi-operator, Multi-modal tickets</b></p> <p>This report asks the JTC to approve a variation to the Capped Fares Scheme which will allow for the introduction of BSIP funded fares offers.</p>	<p>North East Bus Service Improvement Plan  <a href="https://transportnortheast.gov.uk">TNE-BSIP_FINAL.pdf (transportnortheast.gov.uk)</a>  Enhanced Partnership (Public Pack) Agenda Document for North East Joint Transport Committee, 21/03/2023 14:30  <a href="https://northeastca.gov.uk">northeastca.gov.uk</a>  Vision for Buses  <a href="https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021.07.13-JTC-Public-Agenda-Pack-v2.pdf">https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021.07.13-JTC-Public-Agenda-Pack-v2.pdf</a>  Bus Back Better - The National Bus Strategy  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/980227/DfT-Bus-Back-Better-national-bus-strategy-for-England.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/980227/DfT-Bus-Back-Better-national-bus-strategy-for-England.pdf</a>  The Bus Services Act 2017 – Enhanced Partnership Guidance  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/959501/buses-services-act-2017-enhanced-partnerships-guidance.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/959501/buses-services-act-2017-enhanced-partnerships-guidance.pdf</a></p>	<p>Philip Meikle,  Transport Strategy Director, Transport North East  <a href="mailto:philip.meikle@transportnortheast.gov.uk">philip.meikle@transportnortheast.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Heather Jones  Head of Enhanced Partnerships, Transport North East  <a href="mailto:Heather.jones@transportnortheast.gov.uk">Heather.jones@transportnortheast.gov.uk</a></p>	Public
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**Joint Transport Committee Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee (TWSC)**

2023/24 Joint Transport Committee Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee dates to be confirmed.

**North East Joint Transport Committee Audit Committee (JTC Audit Committee)**

2023/24 North East Joint Transport Audit Committee dates to be confirmed.

**North East Joint Transport Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JTC Overview and Scrutiny Committee)**

2023/24 North East Joint Transport Audit Committee dates to be confirmed.