

TITLE OF REPORT: Consent to the establishment of a Joint Committee for Transport

REPORT OF: Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek consent to the making of the Newcastle Upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2018 (“the Order”) in so far as it requires the two Combined Authorities established by the Order to appoint a joint transport committee, and makes consequential amendments to the Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle Upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland Combined Authority Order 2014 (“the 2014 Order”).

Background

2. The North of Tyne Authorities (Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland) agreed to a “minded to” Devolution Deal with Government in November 2017. In order to implement the deal there is a requirement to establish a new Mayoral Combined Authority, which entails the withdrawal of these three councils from the existing North East Combined Authority (‘NECA’).
3. The North of Tyne Authorities have therefore sought the making of the Order by the Secretary of State to create a Mayoral Combined Authority for the North of Tyne area, and to amend the existing North East Combined Authority boundary. The Order as drafted also includes a requirement for the two Combined Authorities to appoint a joint committee through which all of their transport functions must be exercised, which will ensure those functions continue to be dealt with on an integrated basis across the existing NECA area.
4. Also included in the draft Order is a requirement for the joint transport committee to appoint a Proper Officer for transport, being the principal officer to assist the Committee in its exercise of its functions.
5. Under section 104(10) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the establishment of the joint committee for transport, and the consequential amendments to the 2014 Order and other transport legislation, requires the consent of each Combined Authority’s constituent authorities.

Proposal

6. It is proposed that Gateshead gives consent to the establishment of the joint transport committee, and all necessary consequential amendments to the 2014 Order.

Recommendations

7. It is recommended that Cabinet authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to provide Gateshead Council's formal consent to the making of the Order, specifically in respect of the making of Part 3 (Transport) and Part 2 of Schedule 5 (amendments to the 2014 Order as a consequence of establishment of the Joint Transport Committee), when requested by MHCLG for the Council's formal confirmation of consent.

For the following reasons:

- (i) through the arrangements proposed in the draft Order the current integrated approach to transport matters at a regional and sub-regional level, and the corresponding decision-making framework as exists within NECA, can be most closely replicated; and
- (ii) the introduction of a Proper Officer for transport across the joint committee's area of operation is expected to enhance the resourcing and co-ordination of transport functions at a regional and sub-regional level and engagement of all seven of the constituent authorities.

Policy Context

1. The proposal is consistent with and supports the Council's major policy direction as set out in Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives as it supports a continuation of decisions making on transport matters at a regional and sub-regional level, as appropriate.

Background

2. The draft Order provides in Part 3 for the transport functions currently vested in NECA in respect of the Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland area to be transferred to the new Combined Authority. However, in order to ensure those functions continue to be dealt with on an integrated basis across the areas of the two Combined Authorities, they are required by the Order to make all decisions on such functions through a joint transport committee.
3. Schedule 2 makes provision for the constitution of the joint transport committee, which closely mirrors the existing arrangements within NECA for consideration of transport matters. The joint committee will comprise seven members in total: three appointed by the Newcastle Upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority, along with three substitute members; and four appointed by NECA (which becomes the Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland Combined Authority), with four substitute members.
4. The draft Order also makes provision for an overview and scrutiny committee of the joint transport committee, comprising two members from each of the seven constituent authorities, plus an independent chair; and an audit committee, comprising one member of each constituent council and at least one independent person.

Consultation

5. The Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport have been consulted and have raised no objection to the proposals.

Alternative Options

6. There are no viable alternative arrangements to a joint transport committee which would so closely replicate the current decision-making framework across the existing NECA area.

Implications of Recommended Option

7. **Resources:**
 - i. **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that there are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendation.

- ii. **Human Resources Implications** – There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
 - iii. **Property Implications** – There are no implications arising from this recommendation
- 8. **Risk Management Implications** – There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
- 9. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
- 10. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
- 11. **Health Implications** – There are no health implications arising from this recommendation.
- 12. **Sustainability Implications** – There are no sustainability implications arising from this recommendation.
- 13. **Human Rights Implications** – There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
- 14. **Area and Ward Implications** – All
- 15. **Background Information** – None.