

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 23 March 2016

ITEM 3

Title: North East
Combined Authority –
Proposed Devolution
Agreement and Elected
Regional Mayor

Portfolio(s): Combined Authority

Cabinet Member(s): Mrs N Redfearn,
Elected Mayor

Report from: Chief Executive's Office

Report Author: Patrick Melia
Chief Executive

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Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

On 2 March 2016 Cabinet agreed to a report being submitted to Council on 17 March 2016 by the Chief Executive outlining the proposals contained in the North East Combined Authority's Devolution Agreement (the proposed Agreement) and inviting the views of Council on the proposed Agreement and thereafter to the Chief Executive submitting a further report to Cabinet following the Council meeting. A supplementary report setting out the views of Council and further information will be published as soon as practicable after the Council meeting.

In the interim, a copy of the report to Council (including the appendices) for the 17 March 2016 meeting prepared by the Chief Executive is attached to this report at Appendix 1

1.2 Recommendation(s):

No recommendations are contained in this report but will be included in the supplementary report that will be published as soon as possible before the Cabinet.

1.3 Forward plan:

This item appears on the current Forward Plan dated 18 January 2016

1.4 Council plan and policy framework

The report contributes towards the following priorities of the 2014-18 Our North Tyneside Plan:

Our People will be listened to by services that respond better and faster to their needs and our people will be supported to achieve their full potential, especially our children and young people.

Our places will be places that people like living in and will attract others to either visit or live, our places will have more quality affordable homes and our places will work with residents, communities and businesses to regenerate the borough.

Our economy will grow by building on our strengths, including existing world class companies in marine technology and engineering, our economy will have the right conditions to support investment and create new jobs, especially apprenticeships and our economy will have local people that have the skills that businesses need.

1.5 Information:

North Tyneside Council is one of the seven Constituent Authorities comprising the North East Combined Authority (NECA). The other Constituent Authorities are Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland. The Elected Mayor represents this Authority on the Leadership Board of the NECA.

On 23 October 2015 NECA signed a proposed Devolution Agreement with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Commercial Secretary to the Treasury setting out the proposed transfer of significant powers from central government to NECA. The proposed Agreement was expressed as being “conditional on the legislative process, the Spending Review, further public consultation, agreement by the constituent authorities, and the formal endorsement by the Leadership Board and Ministers early in the New Year.”

The Council report at Appendix 1 summarises the contents of the proposed Agreement and the consultation that has taken place across the NECA area in relation to the proposed Agreement and the required legislative process to take the proposed Agreement forward.

The views of Council will be set out in a Supplementary Report that will be published as soon as practicable before the Cabinet meeting together with further information to Cabinet to advise them of the current position in relation to the Devolution Agreement.

1.6 Decision options

At this stage the report does not contain any decision options. Such options will be contained in the further report published as soon as practicable after the Council meeting on 17 March 2016.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

See 1.6 above.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Council Report 17 March 2016 (with Appendices)

1.9 Contact officers:

Patrick Melia – Chief Executive (Tel: 6432001)

Viv Geary – Head of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer (Tel: 6435339)

John Barton – Lawyer (Tel 6435354)

Vicki Dixon, Senior Manager Investment and Commercial Finance (Tel: 643 5723)

1.10 Background information:

Autumn Spending Review

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/479745/HM_Blue_Book_Complete.pdf

Minutes of Cabinet 2 March 2016

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

This information is contained in the Council Report. Further detail will be provided if necessary in the further report to Cabinet.

2.2 Legal Implications

The legal implications relating to the implementation of the Devolution Agreement are contained in the Council report. If necessary an update will be provided to what has been included in the Council report.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Consultation with Cabinet Members has taken place and all Members have had an opportunity of attending consultation events in the Borough.

2.3.2 External Consultation

See Appendix 2 of the Council report annexed to this report.

2.4 Human rights

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

2.5 Equalities and diversity

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

2.6 Risk management

A full risk assessment will be included in the further report to Cabinet.

2.7 Crime and disorder

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

2.8 Environment and sustainability

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