

COUNCIL**26 MARCH 2014****APPOINTMENTS – COMBINED AUTHORITY****Report of the Head of Law and Governance****1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the appointment of the Council's representatives to The Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland Combined Authority (the Combined Authority). The report also seeks approval to delegate initial nominations to the committees of the Combined Authority following its creation to Cabinet.

2.0 The Combined Authority

2.1 On 24th July 2013 Council endorsed Cabinet's decision to agree the submission to Government of a Scheme for the creation of a Combined Authority consisting of the Tyne and Wear Councils along with Northumberland and Durham County Councils. Following a Government consultation, the Statutory Order creating the Combined Authority is due to be laid before Parliament imminently, with an anticipated start date during April 2014. As a Constituent Council, under the terms of the Order Sunderland is required to appoint a Member and a Substitute Member of the Combined Authority so that it can commence its functions once it is legally established. The Council is accordingly asked to appoint the Leader of the Council as the Member of the Combined Authority, and to appoint the Deputy Leader of the Council as the Substitute Member.

2.2 Once established the Combined Authority will require appointments to its committees, following approval of its Constitution on the first day it becomes operative under the Order. The draft Constitution provides for two members per Authority to sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and one Member per Authority to sit on the Audit and Standards Committee. There will also be a Transport North East Committee, which is to be a joint committee of the seven Authorities, together with a Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee, which the Leader will make appointments to.

2.3 The nominations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Standards Committee will need to be made before the next Council meeting (Annual Council on 10 June 2014). Therefore a delegation to Cabinet is requested to facilitate the initial nominations, prior to Annual Council. Future nominations will be at Annual Council in the usual way.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Council is recommended to:

- (i) Appoint the Leader of the Council as the Combined Authority Member;
- (ii) Appoint the Deputy Leader of the Council as the Combined Authority Substitute Member; and

- (iii) Delegate authority to Cabinet to nominate Councillors to the Committees established by the Combined Authority, such delegated authority to operate in the period until Annual Council.