

Dear Councillor Philip Tye,

North East Devolution – Thank you for your support

Thank you for taking the time to submit a letter of support as part of the consultation process for the minded to devolution deal. Your contribution has helped us to progress with this historic opportunity that has the potential to transform our region for the better.

We have worked together to negotiate an offer which matches our ambition to make a difference for residents, communities and the economy. In total the deal is expected to provide £4.2 billion of additional investment to the region, over 30 years. It is expected to create 24,000 extra jobs, create 70,000 courses to give people the skills to get good jobs and leverage £5 billion of private sector investment. We are confident that the changes will have economic, social and wellbeing impact by creating more good jobs and homes as well as creating a better-connected region.

We have always understood that we can only deliver the benefits of the deal with the support of our partners, and in coming together in this way we can make the biggest difference to our residents, communities and businesses. With that in mind, we were delighted to receive your support for the deal.

Thousands of individuals and dozens of organisations like yours from across the region contributed to the process. Participants were asked to consider five key areas around the proposals, and in all instances, the majority of respondents agreed with the plans.

The five areas that were considered were governance of the proposed North East Mayoral Combined Authority (61% agreed) as well as its plans around transport (67%), housing and planning (60%), finance and investment (53%), and skills, employment and adult education (65%).

The findings paint a clear picture of a united North East that wants to see us work together to drive our region forward and unlock further opportunities in the future. This consultation has provided us with a significant amount of positive feedback, as well as lots of important considerations to take on board, to ensure the North East Mayoral Combined Authority delivers for the near two million people who call our region their home.

Following the end of the consultation in March, - our seven local authorities and two combined authorities have approved the consultation responses at their respective cabinets. We have then collectively written to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to consider before laying an order in Parliament to establish the new combined authority.

Subject to parliamentary approval, it is expected that an election to appoint a new mayor would take place in May 2024, at which point the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority would come into effect. We are now one step closer to realising the deal, and we thank you again for your support and look forward to working with you as we move forward on our devolution journey.

Yours Sincerely,



Councillor Martin Gannon
Leader
Gateshead Council



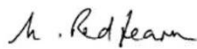
Councillor Nick Kemp
Leader
Newcastle City Council



Councillor Tracey Dixon
Leader
South Tyneside Council



Councillor Graeme Miller
Leader
Sunderland City Council



Mayor Norma Redfearn
Mayor of North Tyneside



Councillor Amanda Hopgood
Leader
Durham County Council



Councillor Glen Sanderson
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County Council