

**NORTH EAST COMBINED AUTHORITY – PROPOSED DEVOLUTION
AGREEMENT AND ELECTED REGIONAL MAYOR**

Report of the Interim Head of Paid Service

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Scrutiny with the current position in relation to the devolution proposals for the region, including the proposal that the North East Combined Authority (NECA) becomes a Mayoral Combined Authority.
- 1.2 Members' views will contribute to the consultation process.

2. BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 On 23rd October 2015 the NECA Leadership Board signed a proposed Devolution Agreement (the proposed Agreement) with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Commercial Secretary setting out the proposed transfer of significant powers for employment and skills, transport, housing, planning, business support and investment from Central Government to NECA. The proposed Agreement also paves the way for further devolution in the future and for the reform of public services including health and social care.
- 2.2 The proposed Agreement is 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”.
- 2.3 Included in the proposed Agreement is a proposal that NECA becomes a Mayoral Combined Authority. This proposal is subject to the formal consent of NECA, the Constituent Authorities and the agreement of Ministers.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The report is referred to the Scrutiny Committee for information and consideration as part of the consultation process and that this contributes to the on-going consultation process.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the Scrutiny Committee notes and comments on the proposals for the devolution agreement and an elected regional mayor.
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