

Dear Partner,

## **North East Devolution – Consultation & Letters of Support**

As you will be aware, as the Leaders and Elected Mayor of the seven North East councils, we have agreed in principle to a devolution deal, which the Government has confirmed it is 'minded to' approve.

The devolution deal would unlock £4.2 billion of investment, over 30 years, and see additional powers transferred from Whitehall to local people with better knowledge and experience of our communities.

As local leaders we have worked together to negotiate an offer which matches our ambition to make a difference for residents, communities and the economy. 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.

The deal represents a significant opportunity to make a difference to people who live and work in the North East, and could have a hugely positive impact on the big issues that matter to you.

This devolution deal is subject to the region adopting the model of a directly elected mayor over the whole of the area and replacing the two combined authorities which currently exist, namely the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and North of Tyne Mayoral Combined Authority (NTCA), with a single new North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA).

The new authority, which would cover an area that is home to around 2 million people, will have the power to make decisions on areas such as transport, skills, housing, finance and economic development.

The deal includes:

- An investment fund of £1.4bn, or £48m a year, to support inclusive economic growth and support our regeneration priorities
- An indicative budget of around £1.8bn, or £60m a year, for adult education and skills – to meet local skills priorities and improve opportunities for residents
- A £900m package of investment to transform our transport system, with £563m from the City Regional Sustainable Transport Fund, on top of funding already announced for our buses and metro system
- £69m of investment in housing and regeneration, unlocking sites to bring forward new housing and commercial development

As part of the process we are now consulting on the proposals, which provides an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to understand how the proposed devolution deal could be implemented in the region and for us to hear your views on this. As a key stakeholder we are particularly keen to hear your views as part of this process, and if you are willing to provide a letter of support for the proposals it would be greatly appreciated. We know 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.

Further details on the consultation can be found on each council's website, the consultation will run until 23 March 2023. We may already have been in touch with your communications team with material to help you understand the proposals and further publicise the consultation and if you would like further information on

this please do contact us via the details on the consultation webpages. And we apologise if you have received this letter more than once; we are keen not to miss out any of our stakeholders which may result in some duplicates.

Letters of support can be sent to [corporate.affairs@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:corporate.affairs@sunderland.gov.uk)

We will ensure a summary of consultation responses and letters of support will be considered by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, who will have regard to the views of the public and stakeholders when deciding whether to make the required legislation to put the proposals into effect.

We hope you will join us in supporting what we feel is a significant step towards securing important decision-making powers and investment for our region that will make a difference for all our residents, communities and the local economy.

Your Sincerely

[Leader / Elected Mayor]



**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**  
North Tyneside Council



**Councillor Amanda Hopgood**  
Leader, Durham County Council



**Councillor Glen Sanderson**  
Leader, Northumberland County Council