

## **Cabinet**

**14 January 2015**

### **Update on North East Combined Authority Delegated Transport Activity**



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#### **Report of Corporate Management Team**

**Ian Thompson, Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic  
Development**

**Councillor Neil Foster, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic  
Regeneration**

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#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Cabinet on the transport activity carried out by the Council under delegation from the North East Combined Authority (NECA); and to agree to the arrangements for providing transport planning capacity at NECA.

#### **Background**

2. On 16 April Cabinet received a report in relation to the transfer of transport functions to the Combined Authority and the subsequent delegation back to the Executive in accordance with the Combined Authority's Constitution and Operating Agreement.
3. Cabinet agreed to authorise the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development to discharge these transport functions in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

#### **Reporting to NECA**

4. The NECA Operating Agreement includes a requirement that the Portfolio Holder will provide reports when required to the Transport North East Committee (TNEC) of NECA, advising on how the delegated functions have been exercised.
5. The report at appendix 2 gives a summary of transport activity carried out since April 2014. It is intended that this report will be tabled at the February meeting of TNEC.

#### **Combined Authority Transport Planning Resource**

6. The NECA transport agenda needs to sustain sufficient capacity to support its functions, to influence external partnerships and investment decisions by national government, to coordinate funding opportunities and assess

projects and to provide policy advice to members of the Leadership Board, LEP and Transport North East Committees.

7. The NECA Transport Officers Group, led by Newcastle City as portfolio holders for transport, is in the process of reviewing the resource requirements to fulfil the above agenda. The resource will likely be delivered from a review of the existing capacity across the Tyne & Wear, Durham and Northumberland current support arrangements.
8. Funding for this capacity could come from a combination of charges against the capital programme, as part of the topslice of the Local Growth Fund (which has a substantial transport element) that has already been proposed, through a top-slice of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) arrangements and through in kind support of officer time from existing policy teams, working collaboratively across the NECA geography.

### **Recommendations**

9. Members are recommended to note the contents of this report.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Finance –**

A separate report on the finance of the delegated passenger transport activity will be submitted to TNEC. The funding requirements for the NECA transport policy team are under discussion.

### **Staffing –**

No additional staff requirements but will require greater collaboration between staff across the NECA geography.

### **Risk –**

N/A

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty –**

N/A

### **Accommodation –**

N/A

### **Crime and Disorder –**

N/A

### **Human Rights –**

N/A

### **Consultation –**

N/A

### **Procurement –**

N/A

### **Disability Issues –**

N/A

### **Legal Implications –**

The requirement to report to the NECA on transport activity is included in the NECA Operating Agreement.