



Report of Corporate Management Team

Helen Bradley, Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To make appointments to the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (**NEMCA**) in advance of its first scheduled meeting on the 7 May, following the Mayoral Election on 2 May 2024.

Executive summary

- 2 Subject to the passing of the necessary statutory order, the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (**NEMCA**) will come into existence at 00:00 on 7 May 2024, following the Mayoral Election on 2 May 2024.
- 3 The first scheduled meeting of the new combined authority is on 7 May 2024, and in advance of that meeting the council is required to appoint a member and two substitutes to NEMCA.
- 4 Appointments to committees of NEMCA (including overview and scrutiny) shall take place in due course once arrangements have been made by the new Combined Authority.
- 5 It is proposed that the Leader of the Council is appointed and that the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, plus the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships from the Executive are appointed as substitutes.

Recommendation(s)

- 6 Council is recommended to:
 - (a) Appoint the Leader of the Council (Cllr Amanda Hopgood) as its member of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority; and
 - (b) Appoint two members of the Executive, Cllr Richard Bell (the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance) and Cllr Elizabeth

Scott (Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships) as substitute members of the same.

Background

- 7 In December 2022, Government agreed a 'minded to' devolution deal with the leaders of the LA7 and the Mayor of the North of Tyne Combined Authority. The deal will see the abolition of the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the North East Combined Authority and the establishment a new Combined Authority covering the entirety of the LA7 region.
- 8 On the 18 January 2023, Cabinet gave in principle endorsement to the 'minded to' deal and agreed to undertake consultation on the proposals.
- 9 On the 31 May 2023, Cabinet considered the response to the consultation and agreed to submit the response to the Secretary of State. Cabinet delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to give consent to the laying of an order to create the new combined authority.
- 10 On the 2 February 2024, in accordance with powers delegated to him, the Chief Executive gave consent to the Secretary of State's proposals to abolish the two existing Combined Authorities and establish a new Mayoral Combined Authority.
- 11 The draft order to establish the new Combined Authority was subsequently laid before both the House of Commons and the House of Lords and at the time of drafting this report, is currently making its way through the usual Parliamentary processes. By the time of the Council meeting on the 27th, it is very likely to have been approved and become law.
- 12 The draft order provides that each constituent council must appoint one of its members to the Combined Authority and also must nominate two members who can act as substitutes.
- 13 Ordinarily, appointments to the North East Combined Authority are made as part of the appointments to other Joint and Outside Bodies at the Annual Meeting, however the council's annual meeting this year will not take place until after the first meeting of the new Combined Authority.
- 14 In keeping with the expectations that have been set out by the Combined Authority for local authority representation on the NEMCA, and following previous practice, it is recommended that the council appoint the Leader of the Council to NEMCA. The Leader is currently the interim portfolio holder for culture, creative, tourism and sport.
- 15 It is further recommended that two Members of the Executive (the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, and the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships are appointed as substitute members.

- 16 Appointments to committees of NEMCA (including overview and scrutiny) shall take place in due course once arrangements have been made by the new Combined Authority.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- North East Devolution, Cabinet, 18 January 2023
- North East Devolution, Cabinet, 31 May 2023
- Creation of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority, Delegated Decision of the Chief Executive, 2 February 2024

Author(s)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The proposed recommendations will comply with the council's legal duty as set out in the draft order.

Finance

None from these appointments.

Consultation

N/A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

N/A

Climate Change

N/A

Human Rights

N/A

Crime and Disorder

N/A

Staffing

N/A

Accommodation

N/A

Risk

N/A

Procurement

N/A