

**Cabinet**

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2013**



**Improving Economic Governance**

**Key Decision R&ED/16/13**

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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 inform Cabinet of the outcome of a review of governance arrangements undertaken in relation to local authority functions concerning economic growth and transport across the seven North East local authority areas comprising: Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland. The report will also propose submission of the final report and scheme for the establishment of a combined authority to Government.

**Background**

2. Following a request made by the LA7 Leadership Board in January 2013 the 7 local authority Chief Executives have led a Governance Review under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to assess existing arrangements for promoting economic development, regeneration and transport across the 7 local authorities areas. The final report will consider and set out a draft scheme for the creation of a new statutory body (a 'combined authority') covering the local authority areas of Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland, to maximise opportunities for growth, focusing on transport and skills, and to support greater collaboration between the local authorities and greater devolution of powers and funding to the North East.
3. The final report is to be considered by the LA7 Leadership Board at their meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, it is not, therefore, possible to file a detailed report for Cabinet's consideration at this stage but one will be tabled for Cabinet on the 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**Recommendations and reasons**

4. It is recommended that Cabinet consider the proposals and recommendations made in detail on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

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## **Appendix A: Implications**

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**Finance -**

**To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report**

**Staffing -**

**To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report**

**Equality and Diversity -**

**To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report**

**Accommodation -**

**To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report**

**Crime and Disorder -**

**To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report**

**Human Rights -**

**To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report**

**Consultation -**

**To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report**

**Procurement -**

**To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report**

**Disability Discrimination Act -**

**To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report**

**Legal Implications -**

**To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report**