

North of Tyne Devolution Consultation

We would welcome your views on the proposed changes to the way the councils in the North East work together. Please take a few minutes to complete the following questions. The consultation finishes on 5 February 2018. All information provided will be treated as confidential and will not be attributable to you.

In order to help you answer each of the questions on the proposed changes to the way councils work together in the North East, we have provided a summary of the key points. Further details on these can be found on the North of Tyne Devolution website.

To begin the questionnaire, please press the 'next' button below.

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Changing how councils work together in the North East

To implement the devolution deal for the North of Tyne area we are proposing the following changes are made to the way in which the seven councils work together across the North East region:

- the boundaries of NECA are amended to remove the local government areas of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland. This would mean that the area of NECA would consist of the local government areas of Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland
- a new mayoral combined authority is established for the North of Tyne Area comprising the local government areas of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland having the same powers that NECA currently exercises in relation to those areas, together with the additional proposed powers as set out below
- the Mayor for the North of Tyne Combined Authority will be elected by the local government electors for the North of Tyne area and the first Mayor is to be elected in May 2019. The mayoral combined authority will appoint an Interim Mayor prior to that date
- the initial term of the Mayor will be five years. Each subsequent term is to be four years
- each constituent authority (Newcastle City Council, North Tyneside Council and Northumberland County Council) is to appoint two elected members to the mayoral combined authority and they will be collectively referred to as the Cabinet;
- the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is to nominate one of its members to be a non-voting member of the mayoral combined authority and the Mayor is to be a member of the LEP Board;
- the Mayor will nominate a person to be the "Mayor's Ambassador for Business", subject to the majority agreement of the combined authority's Cabinet. The Ambassador will attend Cabinet meetings as an observer;
- the combined authority will establish a Committee to exercise responsibility for overview and scrutiny of its, and the Mayor's, functions, as well as a Committee to exercise audit functions.

The details of the proposed changes are set out in the scheme which can be found at northoftynedevelopment.com/ or at your local library.

Q1 Do you agree or disagree with our proposals to change the way the councils in the North East work together in order for the devolution deal for the North of Tyne to be implemented?

Submit **Agree**

Submit Neither agree nor disagree

Submit Disagree

Please give your reasons here:

It is recognised that the proposed structure is equitable and provides an opportunity for the North of Tyne to have a greater influence in realising its potential, while meeting the challenges that it faces.

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Housing and Infrastructure

Improving the quality and availability of housing is a key priority across the North of Tyne area. The new mayoral combined authority will support the accelerated delivery of new homes. The volume and type of new housing will be in line with the local plans in place within each local authority area. The new mayoral combined authority will also support the delivery of associated infrastructure.

To support this, we are proposing the following new powers are devolved to the new mayoral combined authority:

- powers to acquire and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration
- compulsory purchase powers for the Mayor, subject to the agreement of the relevant local authority where the land is located and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
- powers for the Mayor to create Mayoral Development Corporations to support delivery on strategic sites in the North of Tyne area, subject to the consent of the relevant local authority where the land is located.

It is proposed that a North of Tyne Housing and Land Board will be established to support and advise the mayoral combined authority. The Board will work in partnership to oversee the programme of housing delivery and will include representation from local partners, Government, and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Q2 Do you agree or disagree with our proposals to help improve the quality and availability of housing and support infrastructure in the North of Tyne?

Submit **Agree**

Submit Neither agree nor disagree

Submit Disagree

Please give your reasons here:

While in agreement with the principles of a joined up approach to support the development of housing and infrastructure, it is vital that any powers the combined authority has in relation to this take due account of the views of local people at a local level, recognising the importance of local and neighbourhood plans, and from the point of view of Northumberland's schools forum we would like to see developer contributions to the education infrastructure in Northumberland.

Education, skills and employment

One of the central priorities of the North of Tyne area is to improve educational attainment and increase the number of residents moving into work. We aim to do this by improving the coordination of employment, skills and health services.

To support this we are proposing powers are devolved to the new combined authority:

- to support the improvement of literacy, numeracy and digital skills
- to determine locally what programmes are needed to support people to get into work or to progress from low-paid employment
- to support the improvement of employment, apprenticeships and other work related training and work experience opportunities for young people.

It is proposed that a North of Tyne Education Improvement Challenge will be established to focus on improving educational attainment, careers information and guidance, in addition to driving excellence in teaching, leadership and school governance.

It is proposed that a North of Tyne Inclusive Growth Board will be established to support the mayoral combined authority with these aims and to bring together all of the organisations that will need to work in partnership to deliver what is needed. As well as the issues mentioned above, the Board will also support the combined authority in addressing the coordination of employment, skills and health services to increase the number of people moving into work.

Q3 Do you agree or disagree with our proposals to help improve educational attainment and increase the number of residents moving into work?

Submit **Agree**

Submit Neither agree nor disagree

Submit Disagree

Please give your reasons here:

Given a key focus of the devolution deal is on economic growth, it needs to be underlined that this starts with raising levels of educational attainment, particularly in the key skills of literacy, numeracy and STEM areas. This can only be achieved through investment in our children and young people in statutory education. The Education Improvement Challenge should be central to this, giving an early tangible demonstration of the potential positive impact of North of Tyne devolution.

Transport

The devolution deal does not contain any funding or powers in relation to transport. It is, however, important that the current integrated arrangements for transport in the North East are maintained. We are proposing that a Transport Joint Committee will be established by both NECA and the new North of Tyne Mayoral Combined Authority to manage all transport matters.

The Joint Committee will have the same remit and terms of reference as exist under the current arrangements. This will ensure that the current joint work on transport across the North East is maintained with no disruption to important passenger services. Nexus will remain as the Passenger Transport Executive.

Q4 Do you agree or disagree with our proposals to maintain the current joint work on transport across the North East?

Submit **Agree**

Submit Neither agree nor disagree

Submit Disagree

Please give your reasons here:

It is believed that working with a more focussed North of Tyne perspective this will give greater opportunity to address some of the significant challenges faced by Northumberland given the contrasts within its boundaries. Northumberland is recognised as a sparsely populated area which can bring specific transport challenges particularly for our young people, which can impact on their career choices and life chances. We feel that transport infrastructure developments are key in order to improve economic opportunities for its population both as a workforce and potential consumers.