

North Tyneside Council
Report to the Elected Mayor
Date: 8 May 2025

**Title: Appointment of Constituent Council Member and Substitute
Constituent Council Members to the North East Mayoral
Combined Authority**

Portfolio(s): Devolution and Development of the new Mayoral Combined Authority	Cabinet Member(s):	Elected Mayor Karen Clark
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Responsible Officer: **Jacqueline Laughton,** **Tel: (0191) 643 7000**
Interim Chief Executive

Wards affected: **All**

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024 ("the Order") was made on 20 March 2024 following the completion of legislative process set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The Order, amongst other things, fully established the North East Mayoral Combined Authority ("NECA") on 7 May 2024.

The Order requires each constituent council of NECA to appoint one of its "elected members" (under the terms of the Order an "elected member" includes an Elected Mayor) to be a "Constituent Council Member" of NECA and to appoint two other elected members to be a "Substitute Constituent Council Member" so that either of those member can attend NECA Cabinet meetings as a substitute for the Constituent Council Member should that member be unable to attend such a meeting.

Prior to the conclusion of the Mayoral election in North Tyneside, Dame Norma Redfearn DBE was the Authority's Constituent Council Member and Councillors Carl Johnson and Karen Clark were the Authority's Substitute Constituent Council Members.

As a result of the Mayoral election held on 1 May 2025 and the election of Karen Clark as the Authority's Elected Mayor, there needs to be the appointment of a new Constituent Council Member and the appointment of two Substitute Constituent Council Members.

This report concerns the appointment the Authority's Constituent Council Member and the appointment of the Authority's two Substitute Constituent Council Members.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the Elected Mayor:

1. Appoint herself, Karen Clark, the Elected Mayor of North Tyneside Council, to be a member of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority and to become the Authority's Constituent Council Member of that Authority; and
2. Appoint Councillor Carl Johnson and Councillor Janet Hunter to act as a member of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority in the absence of the Elected Mayor and for each to become a Substitute Constituent Council Member of that Authority.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given, and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 9 April 2025.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

All aspects of the 2021/25 'Our North Tyneside' Council Plan and in particular a 'Thriving North Tyneside', a 'Secure North Tyneside', and a 'Green North Tyneside' are engaged by this report.

1.5 Information:

Background

- 1.5.1 In accordance with the terms of the Order, the Authority, as a constituent council of NECA, in April 2024 appointed the then Elected Mayor, Dame Norma Redfearn DBE to be the Authority's Constituent Council Member of NECA. In addition to that appointment, at the same time Councillors Carl Johnson and Karen Clark were appointed as Substitute Constituent Council Members of NECA so that either of them could attend NECA Cabinet meetings in the absence of Dame Norma.
- 1.5.2 The Order specifies that on a constituent council's member ceasing to be a member of the constituent council they automatically cease to be that constituent council's Constituent Council Member. As Dame Norma left office and ceased to be a member of the Authority on 6 May 2025, her appointment as the Authority's Constituent Council Member of NECA was terminated on that date.
- 1.5.3 Insofar as the Substitute Constituent Council Members are concerned, one of those members, namely former Councillor Karen Clark, was elected to the office of Elected Mayor of the Authority on 1 May 2025 and it is recommended that she be appointed as the Authority's Constituent Council Member. If that appointment is made, there will be a need to appoint a Substitute Member to fill the vacancy created by that appointment. It is therefore recommended that Councillor Janet Hunter be appointed as one of the Authority's Substitute Constituent Council Members, and that Councillor Carl Johnson remain the other Substitute Constituent Council Member.
- 1.5.4 In accordance with the Elected Mayor's delegation scheme set out paragraph 3 of Part 3.4 of the Authority's Constitution – "Responsibility for Executive Functions and the Elected Mayor's Delegation Scheme" – the Elected Mayor has authority to: –
- "approve the appointment of representatives to serve on those outside bodies that exercise executive functions".*
- 1.5.5 Such an executive "outside body" includes NECA which means that the Elected Mayor has the delegated authority to make appointments to it.
- 1.5.6 The Constituent Council Member is a voting member of NECA. If the Constituent Council Member is absent from a meeting when a vote is taken, if

the Substitute Constituent Council Member is in attendance at the meeting in that member's place, they will have the vote of the Constituent Council Member.

1.5.7 The appointment by the Elected Mayor of the Authority's Constituent Council Member and Substitute Constituent Council Members to NECA needs to be made in the knowledge that under the terms of the Order those appointments will only take effect at the end of the period of one week from the date on which NECA received the written notice of those appointments from the Authority.

1.5.8 NECA's next Cabinet meeting is due to take place on 10 June 2025 so the appointments need to be effective in advance of that date so that the Elected Mayor can attend that meeting as the Authority's Constituent Council Member and the Substitute Constituent Council Members duly appointed so that they can attend if necessary at any future NECA Cabinet meetings at which the Elected Mayor cannot attend.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by the Elected Mayor: –

Option 1

To agree the recommendations in paragraph 1.2 of this report

Option 2

Not to agree the recommendations in paragraph 1.2 of this report

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The Order requires the Authority to appoint one of its elected members (or Elected Mayor) to NECA and for that member/Mayor to act as the Authority's Constituent Council Member. Whereas the Order does not specify that the Constituent Council Member should be either an Elected Mayor or Leader of Council, given the regional significance of NECA, each of the other constituent

councils have appointed their respective Leaders of Council to be their Constituent Council Member. It is on that basis that it is recommended that the Authority's Elected Mayor be its duly appointed Constituent Council Member of NECA.

As stated, the Order also requires two members to be appointed by the Authority to act as Substitute Constituent Council Members of the Authority who would attend NECA Cabinet meetings in the absence of the Constituent Council Member.

By making the appointments as recommended in paragraph 1.2 the Authority will be acting in accordance with the Order.

1.8 Appendices:

None.

1.9 Contact officers:

Jacqueline Laughton, Interim Chief Executive – Tel (0191) 643 7000

David Mason, Head of Finance Tel (0191) 643 3293

John Barton, Legal Manager, Regulatory, Legal Services – Tel (0191) 643 5354

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

(1) The North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024

(2) Part 3.4 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Executive Functions and the Elected Mayor's Delegation Scheme.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

2.2 Legal

The legal implications are dealt with in the body of the report.

The Elected Mayor has the delegated authority as set out in Part 3.4 of the Authority's Constitution to approve the appointment of representatives to serve on outside bodies that exercise executive functions. Such a body would include the North East Mayoral Combined Authority.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Elected Mayor, Cabinet members and senior managers are aware of the establishment of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

An extensive public consultation on the establishment of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority took place between 26 January 2023 and 23 March 2023.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

If the appointments are not made before NECA's Cabinet next meets on 10 June 2025 the Authority will have failed to have acted in accordance with the provisions of The North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Interim Chief Executive ☐
- Director(s) of Service ☐
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) ☐
- Chief Finance Officer ☐
- Monitoring Officer ☐
- Interim Director of
Corporate Strategy and
Customer Service ☐