

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISION**  
**NOTICE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE**

Notice is hereby given that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 14 May 2026, intends to consider the following executive decision under the Special Urgency provisions contained within the Council's Constitution (Access to Information Procedure Rules, paragraph 3.141).

**Decision Title**

Foster with North East Expansion

**Summary of Decision**

The report seeks Cabinet approval for the Council:

- to participate in the expansion of the Regional Fostering Hub in accordance with the Department for Education's national expansion programme; and
- to support the submission of a North East regional bid to become a "Wave 2" Regional Care Cooperative (RCC) national pathfinder.

**Recommendations**

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the Council entering into an agreement to participate in the expanded North East Fostering Hub, in line with national policy and guidance.
2. Approve the Council's support for a North East regional bid to become a "Wave 2" RCC national pathfinder, including submission of the bid to the Department for Education by 22 May 2026.
3. Authorise the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Children's Services, to take all necessary actions to implement these decisions.

**Reasons for Special Urgency**

This matter is subject to the Special Urgency procedure as the decision cannot reasonably be deferred and the requirements of the General Exception procedure cannot be met within the available timeframe.

The urgency arises from the Department for Education deadline of 22 May 2026 for submission of the North East regional bid.

Due to the timing of the Cabinet meeting on 14 May 2026, it is not practicable to comply with the the standard call-in period without risking failure to meet the external deadline.

In accordance with paragraph 3.141 of the Constitution, the decision is considered urgent because any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's interests and those of the wider North East regional partnership.

Accordingly, the decision cannot reasonably be deferred.

### **Effect of Special Urgency**

In accordance with the Constitution:

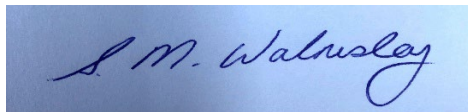
- The agreement of the Chair of the Executive Scrutiny Committee (or appropriate substitute) has been obtained that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred; and
- The decision will not be subject to call-in and may be implemented immediately following publication.

### **Consent**

In accordance with paragraph 3.141 of the Council's Constitution, I confirm that:

- the decision is urgent;
- it cannot reasonably be deferred; and
- the use of the Special Urgency procedure is justified.

Signed:

A blue rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S M Walmsley".

Name: Sylvia Walmsley

Position: Chair of the Executive Scrutiny Committee

Date: 12 May 2026