

# Delegated Decision Report

27 February 2024

<b>Subject:</b>	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Decisions Year 3 Investment: Employment Support and In-Work Support and UKSPF Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) Pharmaceutical Industry Support – North East of England Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC)
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Strategy and Innovation
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Investment and Resources

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## Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to approve UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding awards to projects in line with the UKSPF Investment Plan approved by Government and the Implementation Plan approved by NTCA Technical Officer Group and Investment Panel.

In September 2022, Cabinet delegated responsibility to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of Finance and relevant Cabinet Members to approve the commissioning approach and subsequent grant agreements and/or contracts associated with the Shared Prosperity Fund (minute 34 Resolution 5).

This paper includes 2 projects requesting a total of £6,567,514 UKSPF funding. The NTCA Technical Officer Group and Investment Panel were consulted on these proposals on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 respectively and recommended these projects for approval in line with the existing delegation to the Chief Executive based on their fit with the NTCA UKSPF Investment Plan, value for money and deliverability.

## Recommendations

The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance, the Mayor and relevant Cabinet Member (s) and in accordance with the scheme of delegation, is recommended to approve the following funding awards, and authorise entry into required agreements to facilitate approvals, as set out in this report:

1. UKSPF funding of the amount of £6,417,514 to be awarded to UKSPF People and Skills Year 3 Investment: Employment Support and In-Work Support, for the delivery of the 8 projects recommended for funding as set out at paragraph 1.2 and Appendix 1.
2. UKSPF funding of the amount of £150,000 to be awarded to North East of England Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC) for the delivery of the project set out at paragraph 1.3 and Appendix 2.
3. To authorise the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to:
  - a. prepare the necessary documentation and to enter into grant agreements or contracts with the lead applicants.

## 1. Background Information, Proposals and Timetable for Implementation

### 1.1 Background Information

The following projects are recommended for approval for UKSPF funding by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor and relevant Cabinet Member(s) following consultation with all the relevant parties set out in the delegation from Cabinet in September 2022.

### 1.2 Project 1: UKSPF People and Skills Year 3 Investment: Employment Support and In-Work Support

The overarching ambition for UKSPF People and Skills Year 3 investment focuses on three specific strands of activity:

- Strand 1: Barrier removal, building the confidence and motivation to work for people who are assessed as being further from the labour market. This activity will give access to the right support and skills, to progress people towards employment.
- Strand 2: Work focused employment support for out-of-work residents including work-related activities, job-search support and work placements, to prepare people for finding and entering work.
- Strand 3: Support for people who are in work to retain and sustain work, and support for people experiencing in work poverty to progress in work.

These strands of activity will focus on providing both economically inactive and unemployed residents with access to support to progress towards work, into work, and within work.

### Open Call process

An Open Call for this activity was launched on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 and closed on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Investment of £7.4m was allocated to this Open Call and a total of 13 applications were received, requesting a total of £10.3m funding.

The Open Call followed the principles of the Green Book Appraisal process, with a rigorous 5-stage process undertaken by an independent assessment panel including representatives from NTCA, Northumberland County Council, The National Lottery Community Fund and Rocket Science. Following the five-stage assessment process carried out between 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 8 projects are recommended funding, totalling £6,417,514. Table 1 provides an overview of applications recommend for approval.

**Table 1**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Delivery Area</b>	<b>Evaluation Score</b>	<b>Funding £</b>	<b>Total number of participants supported</b>
1	Your Homes Newcastle	North of Tyne	89%	651,004	360
2	North East Autism Society	North of Tyne	80%	526,040	160
3	Groundwork North East & Cumbria	North of Tyne	78%	597,575	240
4	North Tyneside Carers Centre	North of Tyne	78%	491,166	300
5	Karbon Homes	North of Tyne	75%	552,045	300
6	Back 2 Work Complete Training	North of Tyne	74%	1,498,243	750
7	Newcastle City Council	Newcastle	70%	893,533	640
8	Newcastle College	North of Tyne	70%	1,207,908	941
Total funding				6,417,514	3691

### Overview of projects recommended for funding

All projects recommended for funding, apart from Newcastle City Council, will deliver activity across North of Tyne and it is anticipated that all the successful projects will start delivery on or before 1st April 2024 and end on 31st March 2025. The total £6,417,514 funding is NTCA UKSPF Revenue and will be spent in financial year 2024/25 (UKSPF Year 3). All projects recommended for approval are in line with published Value for Money criteria within the Open Call Specification and align with the content of the NTCA's UKSPF Delivery Plan agreed with Government. The total number of residents supported by these projects is 3,691 and all outputs and outcomes achieved will fall under UKSPF measures E33, E34 and E35.

The NTCA Project Management Office (PMO) undertook an initial review of each application which was submitted to the panel to support their assessment. Further clarification is being requested from each lead organisation, specifically in relation to budgets and staffing. Subsidy Control is also currently being reviewed and this activity will be finalised before contracts are awarded.

However, it must be noted that one of the projects now falls below the £500,000 minimum grant limit due to review and adjustment of some of the submitted costs, however the application met the Open Call criteria and these adjustments are as a result of moderation discussions after the project was recommended for funding.

### **Unsuccessful projects**

Detailed feedback has been provided to the lead organisations who were unsuccessful. After the outcome of the assessment panel, representatives from The National Lottery Community Fund have offered to work with some of the VCSE organisations to determine if National Lottery Community Fund can support these proposals.

### **Stand 3: In work support**

None of the applications recommended for funding provide activity to specifically address Strand 3 'in-work support'. Therefore, it is intended to submit a report to the UKSPF Board meeting in February 2024 outlining several options to commission 'in work support' activity within the next 3 months.

## **1.3 Project 2: UKSPF DPS Pharmaceutical Industry Support – NEPIC**

North of Tyne Combined Authority established a Dynamic Purchasing System for the delivery of Local Business Support Services within the North East area. NTCA subsequently issued an ITT which invited bids for the delivery of cluster support across the area, specifically capitalising on the supply chain opportunities arising within the pharmaceutical sector from existing and new technologies through the development and delivery of a comprehensive programme of activities.

This contract is issued under Lot 2 of the DPS. The successful bidder, NEPIC, was selected following the assessment process published in the Invitation to Tender and will enter into a contract with NTCA (£150,000).

The bid from NEPIC was the sole submission. The successful bidder scored 70.5% and demonstrated that they will offer connections for the pharmaceutical sector to collaborate, find out about new opportunities within the sector and to highlight challenges for the supply chain to overcome. NEPIC provided a delivery model which outlined key supply chain events, a forum to identify potential technology challenges for the sector and a forum for collaboration to meet these challenges. While only one bid was received the assessment panel were content that the proposal met or exceeded all requirements set out in the ITT and offered good Value for Money.

The project will lead to the creation of a FTE as a Pharmaceutical Sector Innovation Executive to join the organisation to lead and be the main point of contact for relevant companies. NEPIC already deliver some existing events for the pharmaceutical sector, but the award of this funding would cement their position as the 'go-to' cluster body for the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector and allow them to significantly expand their offering in the North of Tyne.

In delivering cluster support throughout the NTCA area, NEPIC will provide 24 businesses with the skills, specialist advice and networks needed to grow. 7 specialist industry events will be facilitated with 12 additional North of Tyne inward investment enquires generated.

The project will begin in February 2023, fully funded through UKSPF with a total funding value of £150,000, all revenue. The funding comprises a maximum service fee of 80% (£120,000) and milestone-based payments of 20% (£30,000) paid on successful completion of outputs throughout the contract.

This project will support the pharmaceutical manufacturing ecosystem in the North East of England. This sector already employs around 5,500 individuals and these are high value jobs which contribute strongly to the local economy.

This project will help to further grow this sector, bringing more of these strong jobs to the region, helping it to thrive. This will encourage the growth of small supply chain companies, by connecting them with potential customers as well as each other to create a collaborative ecosystem in the North East.

NEPIC activities continually highlight key issues around sustainability and skills gaps, and through interaction via this programme, companies will be able to collaborate to begin to solve these issues.

The project will be monitored regularly, with updates shared across the local authorities on a case conferencing basis.

#### 1.4 Next Steps

Funding agreements will be put in place and projects will commence delivery.

### 2. Potential Impact on Objectives

2.1 All activity outlined in the report will contribute to the delivery of the outcomes of UKSPF Investment Plan which has been approved by Cabinet and by UK Government.

### 3. Key Risks

3.1 The risks associated with the delivery of the projects outlined in the report are actively managed at several levels. Strategic risks associated with the delivery of the UKSPF programme are managed through the maintenance of a Risk Register and monitoring by the NTCA's UKSPF Steering Group. Risks at a project level are managed by the project sponsor and as a part of the regular claims and monitoring activity undertaken by the Programme Management Office.

### 4. Financial and Other Resources Implications

4.1 As a result of this report £6,596,372 UKSPF funding will be awarded to the projects named. UKSPF Funding will be allocated to the appropriate investment priority and intervention within the UKSPF Investment Plan and monitored in delivery in the usual manner; Investment Fund Funding will be allocated from the Investment Plan allocation. Funding will be defrayed against the following profile:

Project	FY 2022/23		FY 2023/24		FY 2024/25	
	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
Project 1:					£6,417,514	
Project 2:			£15,000		£135,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£15,000</b>		<b>£6,552,514</b>	

#### Overall UKSPF and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) Approvals to date

Investment Priority	Previous Approvals	New cumulative total (including this report)	% of UKSPF & REPF mobilised (minus 4% top slice)
Communities & Place	£ 9,077,807 Rev £3,253,948 Cap £ 12,331,755 Total	£ 9,077,807 Rev £3,253,948 Cap £ 12,331,755 Total	81%
Supporting Local Business	£13,533,223 Rev £2,376,334 Cap	£13,683,223 Rev £2,376,334 Cap	87.5%

	£15,909,557 Total	£16,059,557 Total	
People & Skills	£3,978,137 Rev	£10,395,651 Rev	89%
Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)	£3,043,546 Cap	£3,043,546 Cap	100%
Total (core UKSPF)	£26,589,167 Rev £5,630,282 Cap £32,219,449 Total	£33,156,681 Rev £5,630,282 Cap £38,786,963 Total	86%
<b>Total (UKSPF + REPF)</b>	<b>£26,589,167 Rev</b> <b>£8,673,828 Cap</b> <b>£35,262,995 Total</b>	<b>£33,156,681 Rev</b> <b>£8,673,828 Cap</b> <b>£41,830,509 Total</b>	87%

## 5. Legal Implications

5.1 The comments of the Monitoring Officer have been incorporated into the body of the report.

## 6. Equalities Implications

6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken for UKSPF and the implications of this will be considered in the project mobilisation and delivery stage.

## 7. Inclusive Economy Implications

7.1 All projects included in this paper contribute to the delivery of the inclusive economy objectives of the NTCA. Projects have submitted detailed responses to the Inclusive Economy case within their proposals and have been appraised.

## 8. Climate Change Implications

8.1 Overall, the projects included in this paper contribute to the delivery of the climate change objectives of the NTCA. Projects have submitted information within their proposals and have been appraised.

## 9. Consultation and Engagement

9.1 Significant consultation was undertaken in the development of the NTCA UKSPF Investment plan, which included several stakeholder events and the establishment of a strategic stakeholder group. Further engagement will be undertaken with external stakeholders, local residents and businesses as the proposals move into delivery. Three pre-engagement events were held in September and October 2023 to inform the contents of the People and Skills Specification. Over 150 organisations attended these events.

## 10. Appendices

10.1 There are two appendices to this paper which set out a summary of the proposals to be funded.

- Appendix 1 – UKSPF People and Skills Year 3 Investment: Employment Support and In-Work Support
- Appendix 2 – Appendix 2 – UKSPF DPS Pharmaceutical Industry Support – NEPIC

## 11. Background Papers

11.1 None

## 12. Contact Officers

Ruth Gaul, Principal Programme Manager, NTCA  
Chris Walker, Project Manager, NTCA

### 13. Glossary

UKSPF	United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund
REPF	Rural England Prosperity Fund
UK	United Kingdom
SME	Small and Medium Sized Enterprise
NTCA	North of Tyne Combined Authority
NoT	North of Tyne
NE	North East
NEPIC	North East of England Process Industry Cluster
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
MFA	Minimum Financial Assistance

### 14. Sign-off

1) Portfolio holder: Yes	2) Director of P&P/Head of Service: Yes	3) Director of Finance: Yes	4) Monitoring Officer: Yes
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## **Appendix 1: UKSPF People and Skills Year 3 Investment: Employment Support and In-Work Support**

### **Project Summary**

The focus of UKSPF People and Skills employment support and in work support (2024/25) investment is to:

- Simplify the employability landscape, to make it easier for residents to access provision.
- Ensure that employability provision is demand led, prepares people for labour market opportunities and that employers are involved in shaping delivery.
- Create an employment journey which supports people towards work, into work, and within work.

This investment focuses on three specific strands of activity:

- Strand 1: Barrier removal, building the confidence and motivation to work for people who are assessed as being further from the labour market. This activity will give access to the right support and skills, to progress people towards employment.
- Strand 2: Work focused employment support for out-of-work residents including work-related activities, job-search support and work placements, to prepare people for finding and entering work.
- Strand 3: Support for people who are in work to retain and sustain work, and support for people experiencing in work poverty to progress in work.

These strands of activity will focus on providing both economically inactive and unemployed residents with access to support to progress towards work, into work, and within work. This activity will include:

1. A focus on place-based approaches, including focusing on deprived neighbourhoods or areas with a higher density of inactivity. Deprived neighbourhoods are defined as the 20% most deprived LSOA's (lower super output areas) in the income and employment domains in the IMD 2019 (index of multiple deprivation), and
2. A focus on priority groups, in particular:
  - Young people aged 16 to 24,
  - Females,
  - People aged 50 to 64,
  - Ethnic minorities,
  - People with caring responsibilities,
  - Disabled residents or those with a health condition.

An Open Call for Employment Support and In-Work Support projects, with allocated funding of £7.4m, was launched on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 and closed on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023. A total of 13 applications were received in response to the call, requesting a total of approximately £10.3m funding. The Open Call followed the principles of the Green Book Appraisal process, with a rigorous and robust 5-stage process undertaken by an independent assessment panel which included representatives from NTCA, Northumberland County Council, The National Lottery Community Fund and Rocket Science.

The assessment panel met on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to discuss, moderate and agree consensus scores for each application. The panel then invited 6 applicants for an interview, held on 11<sup>th</sup> January, where there was a need to clarify emerging gaps in applications and discuss record of delivery. The panel met again on 12<sup>th</sup> January to agree a final list of projects recommended for funding.

### **Summary of successful projects**

Eight projects are recommended funding, totalling £6,417,514. The following section provides an overview of these projects.

- Your Homes Newcastle: Building your Own Opportunities to Succeed and Thrive (BOOST) is a housing-led employability programme delivered by the region's largest housing providers. The project will utilise the unique access, reach and relationships that housing providers have, to provide support and opportunities for socially excluded economically inactive and unemployed residents to develop their skills and progress towards, and into, employment. Delivery partners: Bernicia, Karbon Homes, North Tyneside Council and Tyne Housing.
- North East Autism Society (NEAS): Provision will serve as an adjunct to NEAS existing NTCA UKSPF project 'ProgressNE', targeting those who are unemployed and require more intensive and innovative interventions because of the complex barriers they face around social exclusion. This project is an integrated employability programme, providing opportunities for NTCA residents to achieve their aspirations; addressing both barriers to employment for participants and challenges for employers – with a focus on culture/creativity activity. Delivery partner Azure Charitable Enterprises.
- Groundwork North East & Cumbria: Northern Directions will deliver a project working directly with young people to facilitate their personal, social and educational goals, to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society – and to reach their full potential. The project will support 15 young people (from each local authority area) to gain paid work experience (including refugees/asylum seekers, neurodivergent, have SEND and those who live in rural areas).
- North Tyneside Carers' Centre: Working for Carers aims to provide support to economically inactive carers, aged 16+ years, to enable them to move towards paid employment as well as working with carers in work to sustain work and achieve career progression. The project will be delivered in partnership by three specialist charities in carer support services who understand the very specific challenges that carers face in accessing and sustaining paid work. Delivery partners: Carers Northumberland and Newcastle Carers.
- Karbon Homes: New Start's supported work placements will be a pioneering place-based employability solution which targets some of the employment market's key challenges. New Start is one of the key strategic tools which can provide substantial economic impetus behind the transformation of some of the region's most left-behind places. Delivery Partners: Your Homes Newcastle, Bernicia and North Tyneside Council.
- Back to Work: Works4U is a high-impact, person-centred programme that will transform the lives of 750 aged 50+ NTCA economically inactive residents by breaking down their barriers to employment and creating clear, attainable employer supported and co-designed pathways to good jobs. Delivery Partners: North Tyneside Council, Groundwork North East & Cumbria and Humankind Charity.
- Newcastle City Council: Talent Pools and Pathways is a co-ordinated, employer-led support to match job seekers to employers' vacancies building on successful 'talent pool' approaches and strong links with employers and sectors. The project will focus on young people and those with functional English barriers to employment and other priority groups. Delivery Partners: Reviving the Heart of the West End, Building Futures East, JET, Newcastle United Foundation, Princes Trust and Winnovation.
- Newcastle College: Open Doors: Beyond Barriers is a project dedicated to addressing the multifaceted challenges hindering our economically inactive and socially excluded residents from accessing employment opportunities including barrier removal building the confidence and motivation to work. Delivery partners: Newcastle United Foundation, Winnovation, Education Partnerships North East, Princes Trust, Children North East, Groundwork North East & Cumbria, and The Key.

## **Employment Partnerships**

All projects recommended for funding will engage with Employment Partnerships, funded by NTCA these partnerships seek to address local barriers to employment through the co-ordination of employment support



provision. The partnerships work with providers to reduce duplication, identify gaps in provision and provide labour market intelligence to NTCA. A formal Employment Partnerships and Year 3 Project Introductory Workshop is included in our mobilisation plan, aiming to take place in April 2024.

### Timescales

All the successful projects will start delivery on or before 1st April 2024 and end on 31st March 2025.

### Outputs and Outcomes

All projects recommended for approval are in line with published VFM criteria within the call specification and NTCA's UKSPF delivery plan agreed with Government. The total number of residents supported by these projects is 3,691. All outputs and outcomes achieved will fall under UKSPF measures E33, E34 and E35.

### Total number of outputs

Number of:	Overall total across all 3 strands:
Total number of residents engaged	3,691
Economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support	1,873
Socially excluded people accessing support	2,234
People accessing mental and physical health support leading to employment	462
People supported to engage in job-seeking	1,824
People sustaining engagement in job-searching following support	22
People receiving support to gain employment	1,182
Effective working engagements between keyworkers and additional services	1,904
People sustaining engagement between keyworkers and additional services	713
People reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills	2,275
People in employment, including self-employment, following support	731
People gaining basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	321
People supported to engage in life skills	88

### Mobilisation and Funding Conditions

The NTCA Project Management Office (PMO) undertook an initial review of each application which was submitted to the panel to support their assessment. Further clarification is being requested from each lead organisation, specifically in relation to budgets and staffing. Subsidy Control is also currently being reviewed and this activity will be finalised before contracts are awarded.

However, it must be noted that one of the projects now falls below the £500,000 minimum grant limit due to review and adjustment of some of the submitted costs, however the application met the Open Call criteria and these adjustments are as a result of moderation discussions after the project was recommended for funding.

### Project Finances and Budget Implications

The total £6,417,514 funding is NTCA UKSPF Revenue and will be spent in financial year 2024/25 (UKSPF Year 3).

## Appendix 2: UKSPF DPS Pharmaceutical Industry Support – NEPIC

### Project Summary & Industry Context

The project seeks to capitalise on the supply chain opportunities arising within the pharmaceutical sector from existing and new technologies through the development and delivery of a comprehensive programme of activities. The activities will include events, marketing and the promotion of regional capabilities both overseas and in the UK through the creation of a regional cluster group for the pharmaceuticals sector in the North of Tyne.

As identified by Invest North East England, North East England has a 'thriving pharmaceuticals sector that is supported by a wider, world-renowned life sciences offer.'<sup>1</sup> Newcastle's Biosphere has received huge demand for commercial lab and office space, meaning private sector investment is now being sought to take the lead on expanding the North East's £1.7bn life science eco-system.<sup>2</sup>

In a wider sense, the Process Industries of North East England have proven to be dynamic and successful and are experiencing substantial growth. Since 2004, 83 process sector investment projects have been delivered in the region valued at £4.3 billion.

The region is home to the chemistry-using industries of chemicals, fine & speciality, petrochemicals, polymers and composites, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, bioresources, biofuels and renewable energy and low carbon materials.

There are more than 1,400 companies directly involved or in the supply chain of these industries, generating £26 billion of annual sales. Together they employ 190,000 people and the sector exports £12 billion each year – making this region the only net exporting region in the UK.<sup>3</sup> The manufacturing facilities tend to rely on local supply chain companies to keep their assets in good condition and productive. These supply chain companies will include a wide range of engineering companies throughout the region, and in North Tyneside and Cramlington particularly. The intention of the cluster is to ensure that these SMEs are linked effectively to the pharma manufacturers.

Evidence demonstrates that payroll spend in the region's pharmaceutical manufacturers (including those above) has increased from £62m in 2017 to £111m in 2023 – an increase of 78%.

A total of £150,000 revenue comprising a maximum service fee of 80% (£120,000) and milestone-based payments of 20% (£30,000) paid on successful completion of outputs throughout the contract.

It is intended that the chosen supplier (NEPIC) will provide connections for the pharmaceutical sector to collaborate, find out about new opportunities within the sector and to highlight challenges for the supply chain to overcome. This activity will be achieved through supply chain events, a forum to identify potential technology challenges for the sector and a forum for collaboration to meet these challenges. The cluster will also provide a critical link between academia, private sector training organisations and industry to promote the employment opportunities within the sector and provide intelligence on the training needs to allow training providers to match their provision.

NEPIC (North East Process Industry Cluster) is a not-for profit membership organisation for the chemical, process, and pharmaceutical sectors in the North East, with over 320 members. NEPIC exist to bring companies together to network, share best practice, learn from each other, and collaborate, through networking events, technical conferences, and team activities.

The project will lead to the creation of a FTE as a Pharmaceutical Sector Innovation Executive to join the organisation to lead and be the main point of contact for relevant companies. NEPIC already deliver some existing events for the pharmaceutical sector, but the award of this funding would cement their position as

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<sup>1</sup> <https://investnortheastengland.co.uk/sectors/life-sciences/pharmaceuticals/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pharmaceuticalmanufacturer.media/pharma-manufacturing-news/pharma-finance-and-investment-news/demand-for-lab-space-drives-north-east-life-sciences/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nepic.co.uk/about-nepic/>

the 'go-to' cluster body for the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector and allow them to significantly expand their offering in the North of Tyne.

Through delivery of the contract, NEPIC will deliver the following:

**Pharma Connect Networking Events – 4 total:**

These sessions would bring together representatives from the pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, associated supply chain, relevant academic institutions and pertinent CPD and training providers. The aim of these events is to highlight key challenges and opportunities for the pharmaceutical sector, share best practice between organisations, discuss relevant innovations/research that could impact the sector, and encourage collaboration between organisations.

**Industry – Academic Showcase Event: 1 total**

In order to ensure that research groups from local academic institutions, and industrialists in the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector are aligned, NEPIC will facilitate a showcase event. Manufacturing industrialists will provide an overview of their operations, key challenges, and opportunities to an audience of academics. This will ensure that academia have an appreciation of the technology and business models of the manufacturers in order to hone their research. It is anticipated that this event will also highlight opportunities for collaborative projects between stakeholders and help accelerate technology up through the Technology Readiness Levels (TRL).

**Supply Chain Showcase - 2 total:**

NEPIC will provide the pharmaceutical supply chain with the opportunity to showcase their offering to relevant industrialists from the sector. Companies will have the opportunity to present a 5 minute overview of their expertise to the attendees in order to raise their profile within the sector. This event will incorporate networking, as well as presentations, and will improve the relationships between industrialists and regional SMEs. There will be a range of offerings at varying levels on the TRL scale to encourage innovation. One will be held in person and one will be held virtually.

**Non-Event Based Intervention**

NEPIC has an extensive network and track record of facilitating conversations and bringing companies together outside of traditional events. NEPIC would therefore leverage their network and deliver the following:

**Best Practice Sharing Visits – 2 total:**

Facilitation of site visits between colleagues from manufacturing companies in order to encourage (non-competitive) best practice sharing between organisations. This will highlight where certain companies are innovating and leading the way within manufacturing processes and will contribute towards the collective learning of the sector.

**Promotion of the Sector at External, Out of Region Event – 1 total:**

In order to highlight the impact that the North East pharmaceutical manufacturing sector has, NEPIC will seek to attain a speaking slot at a relevant national conference. This will be an impactful way to grow the reach of the region and to generate inward investment enquiries. It will also be a good opportunity to highlight key challenges and innovation opportunities to the wider supply chain companies and academic research base.

**Regular Pharma Cluster Meetings – 12 total:**

Facilitation of a regular virtual call between site leaders and senior management to encourage collaboration and discuss shared challenges.

## Inward Investment Enquiries – 12 total:

Via cluster activities, marketing or promotion of the cluster, NEPIC will seek to generate a minimum of 12 inward investment enquires to bring companies to the North of Tyne region.

NEPIC currently have 6 Large Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Companies in membership and will aim to support them all through this work:

- Sterling Pharma Solutions
- Quotient Sciences
- Organon
- Pharmaron
- Piramal
- Accord Healthcare

NEPIC also support smaller companies with a relevant supply chain offering that could bring their expertise into the sector. The pharmaceutical sector has a diverse supply chain and companies with areas of expertise in engineering, scientific services, digitalisation and automation, decarbonisation, energy, packaging, chemicals, biotechnology, and many others can all be supported through this work.

NEPIC have a track record of delivering public funded projects, most recently delivering on the ERDF project Supply Chain North East.

## Project Deliverables

Measure	Forecast by applicant
<b>Outputs</b>	
Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support (E24)	24
<b>Outcomes</b>	
Total events delivered	7
Additional NTCA inward investment enquiries generated	12

## Project Finances and Budget Implications

The table below shows the funding split across financial years.

NTCA Funding	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
NTCA Investment Fund Capital				
NTCA UKSPF Capital				
NTCA Investment Fund Revenue				
NTCA UKSPF Revenue		£15,000	£135,000	£150,000
<b>Total NTCA</b>		£15,000	£135,000	£150,000

## Tender assessment and Contractual Conditions

The tender submission was rated overall Green by an appraisal completed by NTCA and North Tyneside Council's procurement department. One bid was received; NEPIC received a score of 70.5%.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Score available</b>	<b>Score awarded</b>	<b>% award</b>	<b>Score</b>
Delivery Model	35%	10	8	28%	
Project Management & Delivery Team	35%	10	5	17.5%	
Social Value	10%	10	5	5%	
Total Cost	20%	10	10	20%	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>70.5%</b>	

The following precedent conditions will be discharged prior to issue of the contract:

- A full breakdown of staffing arrangements with percentage of time allocated to this contract will be required
- A risk register is to be provided.