

Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24

2023/24 is a year of transition. Our delivery plan for this year reflects this as we work towards the formation of a new Mayoral Combined Authority for the North East, in which the LEP's functions will be integrated.

The roles of the LEP set out by government are to:

- Embed a strong, independent and diverse local business voice into the North East Mayoral Combined Authority
- Carry out strategic economic planning in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulates the North East's economic priorities and sectoral strengths
- Continue to deliver a number of functions on behalf of government departments, shaped by the local business voice
- Monitor and assure existing local growth programmes and funds for which the LEP is responsible for.

This document is structured around these.



Embed a strong, independent and diverse local business voice into the North East Mayoral Combined Authority

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
Lead the transition of the North East LEP board into the governance structure of the new Mayoral Combined Authority, where it will become the Business Board. Ensure that sub boards and business-led groups are also reflected in the wider evolving governance where appropriate.	The LEP Board will evolve into the Business Board within the new Mayoral Combined Authority governance model. Discussions are ongoing on how best to transition.		Green
Map and champion business priorities in line with the structure of the Devolution Deal, ensuring that critical projects identified in the Strategic Economic Plan are not lost.	The LEP executive team will work with the LEP Sub-boards to identify and feed into the developing portfolio plans and identify the projects that business and education stakeholders feel are of regional importance to the delivery of the Devolution Deal.		Green
Convene a business-led group as the route for the new governance structures to be informed, challenged and engaged with the business community at scale with representation from business cluster and membership organisations and the education and VCSE sectors to share knowledge as the devolution detail is developed and provide a two-way forum to feed into the emerging MCA's priorities	The LEP executive is working with business and education partners to merge the existing Business Growth Board, Innovation Delivery Board and Regional Economy Group into a new Business Growth Board to provide a stronger, more consistent and coordinated business voice to feed into the development of the devolution deal and new MCA arrangements. As well as retaining some business leaders, membership will include business and sector representative organisations.	Recommendation to the board to agree the proposed new advisory board structure.	Green

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
<p>Conclude, report on, evaluate and share learning on processes and practices against the delivery of the North East Strategic Plan to inform and transfer knowledge to future economic planning.</p>	<p>Scoping exercise underway to determine the breadth, depth and scope of a review of the SEP.</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Update and adhere to the Assurance Framework which includes holding an Annual General Meeting.</p>	<p>The AGM will be held in Q4. The updated Assurance Framework is usually considered annually at the January Board. In addition, it will be reviewed in Q2 as part of developing an Assurance Framework for the new MCA.</p>		<p>Green</p>

Carry out strategic economic planning in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulates the North East's economic priorities and sectoral strengths.

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
<p>Prepare and disseminate a comprehensive evidence base that reflects the North East's economic performance and informs economic planning, investment, and prioritisation. Position the North East Evidence Hub as the go to platform to access and use this information.</p>	<p>We have analysed and disseminated a range of data on the North East Evidence Hub, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-regional GDP estimates; GVA by industry sector and quarterly GDP indices • Trade in goods by market, by commodity and by value • Regional labour market summary, employment and economic inactivity rates • Employment characteristics and working patterns • Labour market and skills projections 		Green
<p>Work with partners, including our universities, local authorities and national data bodies to analyse, develop research and share intelligence about the economy. This should complement current work programmes and ensure alignment into future priorities.</p>	<p>We have been working with NTCA and Local Authorities to develop a strategic evidence base to support the devolution deal.</p> <p>We are active members of the Northern Evidence Network. Workstream 1 (data) is focusing on developing a northern indicator dashboard and Workstream 2 (research) is scoping a longer term research programme for the North.</p> <p>We are also exploring an opportunity to host a Post-Doctorate placement from Durham University to support our analytical activity and add capacity to the team.</p>		Green

Continue to deliver a number of functions on behalf of government departments, shaped by the local business voice. The functions are summarised below:

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
Deliver and develop contracted/funded business support programmes and services including but not exclusively:			
<p>North East Growth Hub</p> <p>Fulfil our funding commitment to government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting businesses to the best support available from the private and public sectors. • To target support on those businesses with the opportunity, ambition and greatest potential to grow. • To gather on the ground business and economic intelligence to feed into ongoing policy development. 	<p>The Growth Hub has received an uplift in funding from £390k to £420k which includes £50k to fund collaborative projects between the North East and Tees Valley.</p> <p>The Growth Hub continues to engage and deliver support to businesses to meet Growth Hub KPIs. Although funding has been confirmed we are yet to receive a funding agreement from Government which will also outline reporting criteria for the year.</p> <p>The triage team are using the in-house designed segmentation tool to ensure connector support is focused on those businesses with greatest opportunity for growth.</p>		Green
<p>Made Smarter</p> <p>Deliver the £800k programme engaging with 75 manufacturers during 2023/24, in partnership with government and Tees Valley Combined Authority. The ambition of the programme is to increase digital adoption with advanced manufacturers.</p>	<p>Year two of the Made Smarter Adoption programme is underway. A strong pipeline is being carried forward from 2022/23.</p> <p>The first cohorts workshops are being provided by existing contractors for both the North East LEP and Tees Valley Combined Authority areas.</p> <p>Currently £70k of the £350k grant pot has been committed and 18 manufacturing businesses are engaged in developing their digital roadmaps.</p>		Green
<p>Challenge North Tyne</p> <p>Deliver the £880,000 Challenge North Tyne programme in partnership with the Innovation SuperNetwork to enable 50 innovation projects to tackle the economic, environmental and social challenges through open and collaborative innovation.</p>	<p>Accelerator programme is underway. Raising finance, business canvas and user engagement workshops took place in late March/April.</p> <p>Team appointed an evaluator for the programme in April through an open procurement exercise. The evaluation will conclude in January 2024.</p>		Green

<p>Internationalisation</p> <p>Work with the Department for International Trade to mobilise international trade and investment activity, provision of local business intelligence, grant funding and levelling-up focused projects.</p>	<p>Discussion is ongoing with partner authors of the North East trade strategy (DIT and NEECC) to agree on next steps and implementation. Capacity and budget will need to be identified to move to the next stage of delivering the strategy.</p>		Amber
<p>Provide local skills analysis through the Skills Advisory Panel</p> <p>The Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) aims to bring together local employers and skills providers to pool knowledge on skills and labour market needs, and to work together to understand, address and inform the LEP board, partners, and government about local challenges.</p> <p>The SAP will provide oversight of the delivery of regional skills, inclusion and progression programmes and projects and commission research into key skills challenges.</p> <p>We will work closely with the region's employer representative bodies (ERBs) to produce Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) in the production of LSIP and continue to commission research on specific localised challenges and opportunities.</p>	<p>Both ERB's) have presented headlines of their LSIPs at the SAP shared how they are consulting with stakeholders/partners and how they are validating data. Both are now looking at DfE Phase 2 'Taking forward their LSIP priorities'.</p> <p>We are working to further inform the LSIP documents to ensure coordination across the region.</p>		Amber
<p>North East Ambition (including Careers Hubs)</p> <p>We will continue to champion and improve provision in good career guidance for each and every young person in the North East, by working with education and business.</p> <p>Through the North East Careers Hub, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of schools and colleges engaged with us • Reduce the number of schools and colleges achieving fewer than three of the Good Career Guidance Benchmarks • Increase the average Benchmark score across the schools and colleges from within the North East Careers Hub <p>We will continue to deliver the Primary schools' programme, including a new DfE initiative 'Start Small, Dream Big' which focuses on careers related learning in primary schools.</p>	<p>The average number of Good Career Guidance Benchmarks has increased from 4.5 to 4.8 since Term 1. This includes the number of schools/colleges achieving fewer than 3 Benchmarks reducing from 33 to 29 (16 on 2 Benchmarks).</p> <p>76 primary schools from across the North East (based on Education Investment Areas (EIAs)) have signed up to participate in this national pilot.</p> <p>The North of Tyne funded transition project has seen all three partnerships deliver their collaborative employer engagement event and within our core network of primary schools, five career 'champions' have been recruited from within the network to support their local networks of primary schools to embed our adapted set of Good Career Guidance Benchmarks.</p> <p>Our termly regional conference was held for secondary schools/colleges. Over 100 career leaders and other stakeholders signed up to the event.</p>		Green

<p>Enterprise Adviser Network</p> <p>We will champion the Enterprise Advisor Network and Education Support Partnerships by increasing the number of EAs, working strategically with schools and colleges in the North East Careers Hub.</p> <p>We will ensure a minimum of 45 SMEs receive support to engage with education.</p>	<p>There are now 140 schools/colleges matched with an Enterprise Adviser (EA) and 188 Enterprise Advisers in the network - the highest number since we started delivering this programme. Enterprise Advisers are senior business leaders who volunteer their time to work with schools.</p> <p>During April and May 2023, 13 SMEs have been supported to engage with education through our programmes.</p>		Green
<p>Removing Barriers to Digital Inclusion</p> <p>Working with the Digital Alliance we will begin to find ways to deliver a regional strategy to remove barriers to digital inclusion and support progression towards a set of minimum standards.</p>	<p>Stakeholders have come together to develop a regional vision to remove barriers to digital exclusion that also has the potential to align with funding opportunities .</p> <p>A Digital Alliance has been formed to take this work forward.</p>		Amber
<p>Positive outcomes</p> <p>We will continue to support education institutions with bespoke programmes to support careers leaders, teachers, school leaders, governors, employers and other stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure positive destinations for all young people.</p>	<p>Targeted work has taken place with students from mainstream schools within the ETF project. The intended destinations of students have been confirmed for the entire cohort. 21 employers have engaged with the project during the last term and work has started positively engaging with the parents/careers of the students. Over a third are now connected to the project.</p> <p>Following two CPD workshops, 10 schools north of the Tyne are now partnered with employers to co-design STEM curriculum learning with a focus on careers, reaching over 1100 pupils.</p> <p>In partnership with Newcastle University, 45 initial trainee teachers are signed up to our recently developed Teacher Encounters Programme.</p>		Green

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
<p>Technical Education</p> <p>Collaborate with employers and sector groups to enhance the talent pipeline, bridging the gap between education and employment. Implement the #ApprenticeReady vision to increase demand for apprenticeships and T-level industry placements, while ensuring high-quality technical pathways to priority sectors. Support T-level expansion and alignment with higher technical qualifications</p>	<p>T-levels: Feasibility and development study underway for enhancing existing Provider Portal to support access to T Level information and support for schools and employers, completion date June 23</p> <p>apprenticeReady update:</p> <p>Multi- agency governance structures in place for four of the five #ApprenticeReady objectives with first mutli-agency task and finish groups scheduled to meet by the end of June. Completed delivery of CEC funded apprenticeship project supporting over 50 learners accessing bespoke apprenticeship support. External evaluation will be completed end of June.</p> <p>Technical skills pathways: Regional Skills Health Hub Strategic Sevelopment Fund final report to be published detailing progress made in identifying and addressing gaps in new provision required.</p>		Green
<p>Skills Bootcamps</p> <p>Deliver the £10m Skills Bootcamps project, funded by the Department for Education to support 2,150 learners to train in jobs of the future.</p> <p>Delivery will include completion of wave three, which is focused on green skills and wave four, which extends to include green skills, technical skills, pathways to accelerated apprenticeships, supporting the education, training and learning workforce, people and management skills.</p>	<p>Our efforts have been focused on extensive procurement activity.</p> <p>We have issued contracts extensions to the existing contract holders (Gateshead College and New College Durham and their consortium of 11 delivery organisations) for Wave 3 Skills Bootcamps with a total contract value of £1.2m. This enabled delivery of Wave 4 from 1st April 2023, with the remaining £5.5m being procured through open procurement in during April/May 2023. We have encouraged consortiums bids in the procurement process to continue our strategy of testing new provision and new provider types (including employer providers).</p>		Green

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
Monitoring and assurance of existing local growth programmes and funds for which the LEP is responsible for. Funds include:			
<p>The Local Growth Fund To ensure full expenditure of the residual £5.5m 'swapped' funding in 2023/24 and continue to monitor and report on the performance of over 30 live projects to their conclusion</p>	<p>A bi-annual monitoring return to DLUHC is due to be submitted by 26 May reporting on outcome in 202/23 and updated performance forecasts for future years. A significant underspend on one project that is in delivery is expected to be confirmed in Qtr. 1 that will require a decision to reallocate released funds.</p>	<p>Options will be identified with recommendations to reallocate the anticipated underspend for an approved project at the Board meeting in July. The Central Gateway project at Newcastle Central Station that has been subject to delays has been asked to reprofile its planned expenditure and provide assurance that the remaining works can be completed by 31/3/24. A revised Funding Agreement will be considered in June under the Scheme of Delegation.</p>	Green
<p>The Getting Building Fund To ensure full expenditure of the residual £1.4m 'swapped' funding in 2023/24 and continue to monitor and report on the performance of 19 live projects to their conclusion.</p>	<p>A bi-annual monitoring return to DLUHC is due to be submitted by 26 May reporting on outcome in 202/23 and updated performance forecasts for future years. Three projects have funds remaining to spend, with two expected to be completed in Qtr.1. The third, at Battleship Wharf , Blyth is having to find additional funds and is expected now to complete its GBF spending in Qtr. 2</p>	<p>Unforeseen additional works and costs have delayed completion of the project led by the Port of Blyth on Battleship Wharf/ NEP 1 quays. The Port is in discussion to secure additional funds, it is hoped this matter can be resolved over the next couple of months (additional EZ funding has been ruled out due to the amount of current borrowing already committing forecast additional rates income from the NEP 1 EZ site.)</p> <p>A Ministerial formal opening on 18th May is planned for the new Digital, Autonomous and Robotics Engineering (DARE) Centre at the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult's testing facility in Blyth. The £3m GBF grant was the major source of funding.</p>	Amber

<p>Enterprise Zone Programme</p> <p>To oversee continued investment of £20m across 21 EZ sites, to increase generation of Business Rate Income to the region.</p>	<p>Report on year end outturn by 26 May 2023 to BEIS.</p> <p>Year End Business Rate Income figures being collated and collected from each Local Authority. Final figure for 22/23 to be reported to completed in Qtr 1 23/24.</p>		Green
<p>The North East Investment Fund</p> <p>Includes the Commercial Property Investment Fund and the North East Property Fund performance monitoring of external contracts and also ongoing monitoring of the repayment of existing loans from the NEIF made in previous years.</p>	<p>Quarterly performance reports planned to be received from FW Capital on NEPF and bi-monthly report on CPIF.</p>		Green
<p>Regional Access to Finance</p> <p>Lead the Regional Access to Finance development work</p>	<p>Preparatory work continues with regional stakeholders and representatives from the British Business Bank on the scale and scope of Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund 2 for the region.</p> <p>Work continues with regional partners on the development of the follow on fund to the North East Fund Ltd.</p>		Green

North East Strategic Economic Plan

Target update December 2022

More jobs

Increase employment in the North East by 100,000 by 2024

Position at December 2022:
additional employment of 59,600

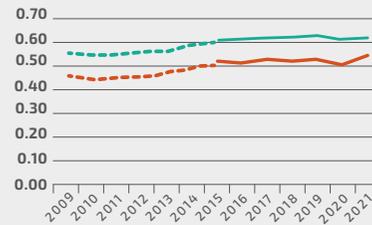


Reduce the gap in private sector employment density

Target: 50% reduction in gap by 2024

Position at 2021: Provisional 13% decrease
(compared to 2015)

Note: This will be amended when population estimates for 2015 to 2020 are retrospectively updated.



Close the gap in the employment rate (%) for people aged 16-64

Target: 100% reduction in gap by 2024

Position at December 2022: 1% increase



Better jobs

70% of additional jobs will be in managerial, professional, associate professional and technical occupations

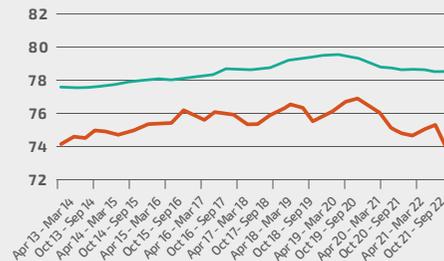
Position at December 2022:
additional employment in 'better jobs' occupations of 79,100 (133%)



Reduce the gap in working age economic activity rate

Target: 50% reduction in gap by 2024

Position at December 2022: 29% increase



Reduce the gap in GVA per hour worked

Target: 50% reduction in gap by 2024

Position at 2020: 9% increase

