

North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board



Thursday 29 September 2022

17.00 – 19.00

AGENDA

Items 5 and 6 are confidential as the papers contains commercial information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation and are not for wider circulation.

1. **Welcome from the Chair and apologies** (5.00pm)
2. **Declarations of interest** (5.00pm)
3. **Minutes of the last Board meeting held on Thursday 21 July 2022** (5.05pm)
Board will be asked to agree the Minutes.
4. **Annual Delivery Plan, Progress update** – paper attached (5.10pm)
Helen Golightly to present
5. **Fund management update** – confidential paper(s) attached (5.20pm)
(a) Investment Funds' update - Paul Woods to present
(b) International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) – Catherine Auld to present
6. **Net Zero update** – confidential paper attached (6.00pm)
Heidi Mottram and Helen Golightly to present
7. **Devolution** – verbal update (6.15pm)
Henry Kippin to present
8. **Chair and Chief Executive update** - paper attached (6.30pm)
Lucy Winskell and Helen Golightly to update the Board.
9. **Any Other Business** (6.40pm)
10. **Date and time of next meeting - Thursday 24 November from 5 - 7pm**

Annual Delivery Plan Update September 2022

Item 4

This report has been refreshed in line with the Annual Delivery Plan, which can be seen [here](#).

It has been designed to show progress, priorities and raise any issues that the Board should be aware of.

Please contact jen.robson@nelep.co.uk if you have any feedback.

Representing the business voice: Embed a strong, independent and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions

Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
Fill vacancies on the North East LEP Board as they become available to ensure a strong representation of businesses across the North East.	Application deadline closed. Shortlisting undertaken and interviews scheduled for 27 September.	Appoint, announce and induct new board members following recruitment.		Green
Review the structure and remit of our advisory boards and sector groups to ensure their remit reflects the priorities outlined by government that they have strong business representation.	Work is underway to review the current sub-board governance structures, their terms of reference, membership and focus.	Considering new board members, appoint sub-board chairs to vacant roles and continue to review the focus and membership.		Amber
Work with combined and local authorities to highlight business-led priorities and the priorities identified within the Strategic Economic Plan, to ensure they are integrated into future devolution proposals.	Requested that representatives of the combined and local authorities meet with the LEP, the leads of the business representation organisations and key sector groups to understand progress with local and national devolution discussions and how the business voice can influence and the shape the next steps.	Confirm a meeting with the parties.	Awaiting an engagement plan from NTCA / LA7 around devolution and how business can help inform delivery.	Amber
Support the democratic institutions leading on strategic investment plans for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund by providing the evidence base to inform decision making, leadership, and to ensure business priorities are central to thinking.	Provided supplementary evidence to individual Local Authorities and led a session on evaluation and monitoring practice to support planning.	Continue to work with NTCA and the LA7 on the regional level priorities for UKSPF investment programmes and understand next steps and timeline for regional and local decisions.		Green
Work with the local and combined authorities to ensure there is a shared economic evidence base across the region, and to highlight regional investment priorities for integration into investment planning, to maintain a regional level approach where appropriate.	We have supported local and combined authorities on developing an evidence base. Their investment plans were submitted to government for sign off. The outcome of this process will determine next steps.	Continue to support local and combined authorities on additional evidence activities to mobilise their investment planning.		Green

Added value: Part of ensuring continued engagement with the business community requires the LEP to remain consistent with its strong governance and communications activity. In addition to the above, between April 2022 and March 2023, we will:

Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
Ensure progress updates to the North East LEP Board reflect the new remit for LEPs as defined by government, and the progress of the North East Strategic Economic Plan to 2024.	Ongoing new format of report.	Complete board report.		Green
Hold a public Annual General Meeting.	No action until 2023			Green
Update the Assurance Framework in January 2023.	No action until 2023			Green
Continue to embed communications across our programmes and priorities, but specifically deliver strategic communications to ensure the revised role and remit of the North East LEP is understood by the business community and the wider community.	<p>Communications activity is summarised on page 31 of this report.</p> <p>Published four pieces of content around the repositioning :</p> <p>Moving forward with a refreshed role but the same commitment and determination to create more and better jobs, by Helen Golightly</p> <p>Leading business and sector growth in a changing landscape, by Colin Bell</p> <p>Raising skills levels in the North East while navigating national change, by Michelle Rainbow</p> <p>Thinking bigger and planning together for the future, by Richard Baker</p>	Evaluate engagement in repositioning content and advise on next steps.		Amber

Strategic economic planning: Lead the development of data, research and evidence for the North East economy

Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
<p>Provide a comprehensive state of the region evidence base, including place-based intelligence that is accessible and reflects the North East's economic performance.</p>	<p>A local economic assessment project specification has been submitted to North Tyneside Council, which would be a pilot of a localised approach.</p> <p>Draft evidence base pages have been developed for Advanced Manufacturing; Digital Tech and Net Zero on the North East Evidence Hub. These pages will be published in line with wider programme activity.</p> <p>Our Economy 2022 is on 10 November. The focus of this year will be on the cost of living. This year's event will be a full day – in the morning we will welcome keynote speakers to discuss the impact of the cost of living and in the afternoon, we will be delivering workshops and hosting discussions around key topic areas.</p> <p>Added the latest foreign direct investment data, land use statistics, population estimates and housing and housebuilding data to the Evidence Hub.</p>	<p>Take forward discussions on the local economic assessment with North Tyneside Council. Progress conversations with Gateshead Council.</p> <p>Publish the Advanced Manufacturing; Digital Tech and Net Zero evidence base in conjunction with programme timings.</p> <p>Develop and publish the future economic markets analysis.</p> <p>Deliver the Our Economy 2022 event.</p> <p>Develop the infrastructure and standards of living sections of the Evidence Hub to support the Net Zero evidence base and the Our Economy cost of living focus.</p>		Green
<p>Review and produce analysis of the 2021 census data, ensuring a clear understanding of the North East's position post COVID-19.</p>	<p>We have developed a timetable of analysis based on ONS's draft plan of topic releases.</p> <p>The initial Census population totals have been added to the Evidence Hub, with comparisons to previous mid-year estimates.</p>	<p>Analyse the first two single topic releases (Demography and migration; ethnicity, national identity and religion) from the Census due out in October/November</p>		Green

<p>Develop and support delivery of collaborative analytical and evidence activities to support key projects for Strategic Economic Plan programmes, devolution, levelling up, UKSPF with our partners in combined and local authorities and through the Economic Evidence Forum (EEF).</p>	<p>The latest data for SEP targets relating to more jobs and better jobs, the employment rate and the economic activity rate up to the end of Q1 of 2022 were released in August and have been updated on the Evidence Hub. The data for the productivity target up to 2020 was released in July and has also been updated on the hub.</p> <p>The advanced manufacturing and digital tech evidence base are finalised and ready to publish.</p> <p>The Economic Evidence Forum meeting took place on 17 August, with ONS and Insights North East presenting their activity. We extended the invitation to partners from other groups who were interested in the work of the EEF. Members were invited to engage with ONS regional activities.</p>	<p>Publish the advanced manufacturing and digital tech evidence base.</p> <p>Take forward conversations about developing evidence base on the wider business ecosystem.</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Systematise processes and governance for commissioning, publication and communication of evidence, data and analysis outputs and products on LEP platforms.</p>	<p>A corporate protocol has been drafted as part of the Assurance Framework which will support internal commissioning of research and evidence.</p>	<p>Finalise the approach with SMT</p> <p>Implement programme of Evidence Hub briefings</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Deliver the preparatory activities for the final evaluation of the Strategic Economic Plan programme for 2014-2024.</p>	<p>Due to other priorities, the development of the final evaluation specification has rolled over. We had initial conversations with the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth about how they can support our final evaluation activity through being a critical panel or utilising their expert evaluation panel.</p>	<p>Develop a specification for the next stage of work.</p>		<p>Green</p>

<p>Improve the accessibility, visibility and understanding of key North East data and evidence through the relaunch of the North East Evidence Hub.</p>	<p>The Evidence Hub is receiving on average 900 visitors per month (+164% compared to last year). 15% which are returning visitors which is encouraging.</p> <p>Users are viewing on average 2.74 pages and staying on the site for 03m22s, slightly down from last year, but still really positive and shows users are engaging with the content. Pageviews are also up 74% since this time last year. Communications has predominantly been organic and direct over the summer months.</p>	<p>Deliver the communications plan that has been developed to promote usage and engagement in the Hub. The plan includes briefings, digital marketing, bespoke newsletter to partners and commentary forward plan.</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Lead the development of the Northern Evidence Network (NEN) working with NP11 LEPs, TFN and government.</p>	<p>Three NEN workstream meetings have taken place, with initial priorities agreed.</p> <p>The NEN is acting as a point of engagement for the update of the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review (NPIER), led by TFN. We have rolled forward the previous actions to align to the project timeline.</p> <p>Draft specification for external NP11 support has been reviewed and is currently out to tender.</p> <p>A cross-Whitehall meeting has been organised through the NP11 to ensure awareness of the NEN and explore further investment.</p>	<p>Mobilise the three workstreams.</p> <p>Update on progress and discuss phase 2 of the NPIER update with North East Economic Directors and other partners.</p> <p>Support procurement activities led by NP11 for the NEN.</p> <p>Present NEN to the cross-Whitehall Group.</p> <p>Seek further investment to support the long term research programme, looking at both government and research councils.</p>	<p>Additional external funding for NEN activities will be required. An outline proposal has been developed and will be presented to potential funders. If funding isn't found, workstream 1 and 3 will continue, workstream 2 will need to be adapted and redefined.</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Work with Newcastle University and other partners to deliver strengthened academic contribution to the evidence base through the Insights North East (INE) programme.</p>	<p>We participated in a pre-launch workshop on 20 September to support the definition of the Insights North East research programme. We continue discussions about how we can contribute to its programme of work.</p>	<p>Continue discussion with INE about our role going forward.</p>	<p>We are not currently a partner of the INE programme and proposal has been developed and is currently with the INE team for consideration.</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Build on existing co-operation and develop new opportunities for research collaboration with Durham University and Northumbria University.</p>	<p>Meeting to progress evidence base on regional energy masterplan was scheduled for 19 September and is being rescheduled.</p> <p>We continue to explore opportunities for further academic and policy engagement such as through UPEN (Universities Policy Engagement Network) and supporting Durham's proposal to host postdoctoral research centre.</p>	<p>Reschedule regional energy masterplan workshop with Durham academics.</p> <p>Develop a forward programme of research themes and questions which could be offered to postdoctoral researchers.</p>		<p>Green</p>

<p>Through the North East Economic Evidence Forum and other partners, develop a comprehensive analysis of the data, trends and causes of inequality and exclusion across the North East, including analysing the impact of recent economic events on standards of living and to 'map and gap' data and indicators related to White Paper missions.</p>	<p>We have hosted discussions about aspects of inequality at the EEF, including hosting a presentation from ONS about Government data at the August meeting.</p> <p>It has been agreed that living standards will be the theme for Our Economy 2022, and a thematic evidence base is being developed to support this report.</p> <p>We have worked with South Tyneside Council who facilitate the Inclusive Growth Network to develop a terms of reference for formalising its work.</p>	<p>Continue to update the Evidence Hub with relevant standards of living indicators to support the Our Economy event.</p> <p>Invite Money and Pension Service (MAPs) to present at the next EEF meeting once their financial wellbeing survey has been published.</p> <p>Continue to support the IGN.</p>		<p>Green</p>
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Strategic economic planning: Strengthen regional collaboration

Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
Support the region on the development of proposals for the next stage of the region's Strategic Economic Plan post 2024.	<p>Work has started on developing an evidence base and approach to business services, which was introduced as an additional area of strategic importance.</p> <p>Work continues to develop the evidence base needed to support planning around implementation of the Levelling Up White Paper</p> <p>The Regional Economy Group continues to meet to ensure regional co-ordination on future strategy processes.</p>	Continue to liaise with the Regional Economy Group and its members on preparations for regional scale activity and continue to build the regional evidence base to inform delivery of the devolved powers, programmes and investments, and to shape the next regional strategic economic plan in collaboration with the combined and local authorities.		Green
Continue to convene the Economic Prospects Group with the Bank of England as a regional platform to share data and information about the economy with key partners.	<p>Monthly meetings of the Economic Prospects Group have been held since the last Board. The group continues to share knowledge from across the North East.</p>	Continue to share intelligence through the Board economic update.		Green
Work closely with Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) and other partners to drive forward the implementation of the Statement of Intent, the North East's response to the review of DMOs, and engagement with government's strategy to enhance the visitor economy to strengthen strategic coordination in the region for growing the Visitor Economy.	<p>The region has taken an opportunity to propose itself to Government as the pilot Destination Delivery Partnership and awaits a response.</p> <p>We have met with NGI to discuss developing a regional evidence base, and taking forward a skills plan with the Hotels Association.</p>	<p>Monitor ongoing development of these activities.</p> <p>Work with NGI to assemble Visitor Economy analysis on the Evidence Hub.</p> <p>Support Northumberland and Durham Local Authorities on their local destination management plans.</p>		Green

<p>Working with local authority planning and economic leads, the Geo-spatial Commission and other partners such as Northumbria University, to develop partnership projects that can deliver strengthened spatial economic evidence to support economic development, investment in infrastructure, and regeneration.</p>	<p>Met with the National Infrastructure Bank to understand their forward plan.</p> <p>We will take a watching brief on this area given capacity priorities.</p>			<p>Amber</p>
<p>Collaborate with inter-governmental partnerships, think tanks and consultancies on strategic evidence and policy activities, including the What Works Centre and Productivity Institute.</p>	<p>Latest action relates to activity that will take place in the Autumn and therefore is no update at this time.</p>	<p>Support the publication and dissemination of a research output on regional level productivity in the early Autumn.</p> <p>Continue to engage with the What Works Centre in regard to developing the final SEP evaluation specification.</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Work with the EU Exit Implementation Group to complete its report analysing the impact of EU Exit on the region, bringing forward recommendations for strengthening the outcomes for the region through international work and influencing domestic policy activities implementing the Free Trade Agreement with the EU.</p>	<p>The final draft of the impact report was discussed and approved by the EU Exit Group on 12 September and will be further discussed by SMT and the Trade Steering Group in September.</p>	<p>Present a report to the North East LEP Board in November.</p>		<p>Green</p>

Coordinate the North East Northern Powerhouse Working group enabling information sharing across Northern Powerhouse priorities with NP11, TFN and CLGU Leadership. This will include the coordination of the North East's response to the updating of the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review.	The North East Northern Powerhouse group has continues to meet monthly and actions have been rolled forward.	Invite TfN to present the findings from the first phase of the refresh of the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review (NPIER) and update on the next phase at the next meeting. Discuss and monitor how levelling up conversations will impact the Northern Powerhouse as they continue to develop.		Green
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Added value: Identifying opportunities using our convening power and ability to engage with the region to develop projects and programmes that make sense to delivery regionally has always been a strong role in our organisation and is consistent with our new mandate. Between April 2022 and March 2023 we will:

Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
<p>Support the ongoing development and launch of Net Zero North East (NZNE) as a collaborative regional programme to accelerate decarbonisation, develop a greener economy and secure a positive transition for our environment and communities.</p>	<p>All actions are progressing but are ongoing. A full update is provided to Board as part of separate paper.</p>	<p>Working with the Steering Group, develop and agree a launch communications plan which includes publication of the evidence base.</p> <p>Continue to ensure development is coordinated with developments around the Net Zero strategy including the Net Zero Hub.</p> <p>Confirm a scheme for Private Sector support to NZNEE.</p> <p>Liaise with LA7 Climate leads and NEECCO on actions related to launch.</p> <p>Recruitment stalled as preferred candidate offered an alternative role. Short term capacity to be identified to avoid further delay</p>		<p>Amber</p>
<p>Work with the Department for International Trade (DIT), North East England Chamber of Commerce and Trade Strategy to drive forward implementation of the key workstreams in the North East Trade and Export strategy in the context of the UK Trade Strategy. Coordinate engagement with the Northern Powerhouse trade and investment strategy and programme, ensuring that the North East secures strong presence and outcomes from this work.</p>	<p>A blog was published by Julie Underwood of DIT to explain new working arrangements in August 2022. The blog can be read here.</p> <p>Changes in organisational arrangements with the regional DIT team has created a delay in confirmation of next steps, but a meeting is scheduled for 22 September to progress conversations.</p>	<p>Host a joint meeting between the North East LEP and DIT regional team to discuss next steps in implementation of the strategy and ways of working.</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Monitor and influence the ongoing development of the proposals in the Levelling Up White Paper and engage with new local institutions as they develop.</p>	<p>The Levelling Up metrics analysis has been submitted in July for consideration by government.</p>	<p>A further discussion is being sought with the Spatial Data Unit and ONS.</p>		<p>Green</p>

Improving skills: Provide regional leadership and delivery on an integrated programme to increase partnership between education and employers to reduce the mismatch between skills supply and demand

Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
<p>Deliver the North East Ambition programme build and develop of true partnerships between SMEs and educators in the drive to lessen the gap between skills demand and supply through 1) supporting all schools and colleges to meet the eight Good Career Guidance Benchmarks and 2) linking employers to education through our Enterprise Adviser Network.</p>	<p>Launched SEND pathways animation in August. The video has been viewed 22 times generated from organic traffic. The video can be viewed here.</p> <p>Launched SEND work experience framework. This can be viewed here.</p> <p>Transition project linking primary schools with their feeder schools has started in three schools.</p> <p>Personal guidance completed to over 200 middle school pupils.</p> <p>Issued a newsletter specifically for headteachers, which was well received with 158 views of the newsletter.</p> <p>Launched a resource, in collaboration with Uni Connect, promoting higher education to KS3 students.</p> <p>Delivered summer regional conference which was attended by 65 attendees.</p> <p>Delivered training sessions for Career Leaders including social media training and building an alumni network.</p> <p>Hosted a multi agency event with Durham Business, FSB and EDT took place in November.</p>	<p>Deliver then autumn regional careers conference and CPD training</p> <p>Evaluate the results of a middle school personal guidance project, and disseminate the results.</p> <p>Further strategic engagement of schools/ colleges including second edition of Headlines.</p> <p>Start delivering a project using careers education to support transition with 3 secondary schools and their feeder primary schools.</p> <p>Continue with the termly Business Education and Enterprise Partnership (BEEP) project with a view to wider roll out across the North East LEP area.</p> <p>Finalise and launch two reports: the academic research on four colleges as part of the careers and destination focus of our research project in partnership with Newcastle University.</p>		<p>Green</p>

<p>Deliver local Careers Hubs on behalf of the Department for Education.</p>	<p>We completed and analyzed this year's compass reports. Ann 2021-22 162 schools and colleges completed at least one Compass report. 90 schools completed Compass +.</p> <p>We also measure the number of the eight Good Career Guidance Benchmarks that have been fully achieved by schools and colleges. Across the LEP area there was progress in this score to 4.12. Progress remains stronger in the Hubs where the average benchmark score increased to 4.55. In addition, the average benchmark score for all eight benchmarks has improved during 2021-22.</p> <p>We started full delivery for our Effective Transitions project, starting successfully in all 6 school.</p>	<p>Complete 2022-23 Strategic Hub Plan</p> <p>Expand the North East Hub to include 162 schools and colleges</p> <p>Develop all 163 action plans for the year ahead with each Hub school/colleges</p> <p>Encourage more eligible schools to onboard to Compass+</p> <p>Encourage more schools to use the Future Skills Questionnaire (FSQ) this academic year</p> <p>Continue delivery of the Effective Transitions Fund project within our SEND hub.</p>		Green
<p>Deliver the Education Challenge programme, which aims to support teachers, school leaders, governors and employers to work collaboratively to integrate an understanding of the world of work and career opportunities into the curriculum. Delivery includes Opportunity North East, a two year careers and business engagement pilot; a CPD programme for careers professionals; supporting business leaders to take up opportunities as governors; and an employer engagement strategy.</p>	<p>Opportunity North East pilot delivery phase is complete with pupils receiving their GCSE results in August 2022 and transitioning to post-16 pathways. Support was provided on results day for pupils who needed additional guidance.</p> <p>A pilot project has been secured from North of Tyne Combined Authority to be delivered throughout the 2022-23 academic year. The pilot is aimed at improving engagement between secondary and middle school STEM leaders and regional employers. This will incorporate further integration of an understanding of the world of work into curriculum delivery.</p>	<p>Prepare for post-16 destination tracking and reporting of the pupils involved in the Opportunity North East project.</p> <p>Working to develop business links with a particular focus on STEM pathways to support schools in the 2022-23 pilot.</p> <p>Collaborate with professional bodies including Institute of Physics and The Royal Institute to deliver a series of resources.</p> <p>Develop supporting resources for governors who are linked to careers in schools and colleges.</p> <p>Support national partners to recruit school governors in the region.</p>		Green

<p>Ensure the successful implementation of post-16 technical skills education policy across the region to ensure it addresses the imbalance between technical skills supply and demand in key employment sectors.</p>	<p>Evaluation of the traineeship and apprenticeship CPD pilot across Northumberland schools and LA proved successful and will be rolled out.</p> <p>Designed and delivered T-level CPD session in September across North Tyneside Schools and Local Authorities with full roll out across the LEP area planned for January</p> <p>Presented findings of Gateshead BEEP and T-levels progress to date as part of a national Gatsby roadshow in July.</p> <p>Connections made with LGA and Gatsby Foundation to support North Tyneside Council 's engagement in trailblazing T-levels across the LA departments</p> <p>Bid submitted to DfE to support SME engagement in apprenticeships and waiting on outcome.</p> <p>Secured DfE commitment to deliver a technical education event aimed at SMEs in Newcastle with senior government presence</p> <p>T-level video content from employers, learners and providers now live on NEA website. These can be viewed here.</p> <p>Secured agreement with Health Education England, Gatsby and FE Colleges for £70K for a pilot funding a dedicated Health Education England post to support with T-level industry placements across the NHS.</p> <p>LEP supported resulted in two SDF bids at £5m secured for renewables and health sciences</p>	<p>Design and deliver T-level CPD session in September across North Tyneside Schools and Local Authorities with full roll out across the LEP area planned for January.</p> <p>Overseeing the second phase of the Apprenticeship research which includes deep dives and focus groups with young people and employers.</p> <p>Present apprenticeship research findings at a collaborative event with North East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network.</p> <p>Finalise Traineeships, Apprenticeships and T-levels CPD and agree dates for delivery LEP wide (LAs and Schools) for January.</p> <p>Support the four route networks to understand lessons learnt to date and growth forecast and to support new providers.</p> <p>Develop KPIs for the Health Education England, Gatsby & GFE College funded T-level Co-ordinator post for imminent recruitment.</p>		<p>Green</p>
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Improving skills: Produce local skills analysis via Skills Advisory Panels, on behalf of the Department for Education

Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
<p>The Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) brings together local employers and skills providers to pool knowledge on skills and labour market needs, and to work together to understand and address key local challenges. The SAP will continue to deliver key functions that include advising the main LEP Board, providing oversight of delivery of regional skills, inclusion and progression programmes and projects, commissioning research into key skills challenges, and reporting into government.</p>	<p>A digital solution to present labour market information (LMI) is now drafted and being tested with key green sectors stakeholders . This includes an interactive tool that visualizes the large data set from the Domestic Energy Skills Assessment research.</p> <p>The research into the barriers to young people accessing and progressing in apprenticeships has been presented to the Skills Advisory Panel.</p>	<p>Work closely with the newly appointed employer representative bodies working on Local Skills Improvement Plans. Identify areas of support and commission deep dives skills supply research to support development of Local Skills Improvement Plans.</p> <p>Publish research on barriers in apprenticeships on the evidence hub.</p>	<p>Work with DfE to coordinate the development of two Local Skills Improvement Plans across the LEP geography.</p>	<p>Green</p>

Added value: Our skills programme has always considered the skills agenda, the importance of improving labour market activation, ensuring communities are connected and that there is an strong agenda to deliver employability across the region. We will continue our work in this area during 2022/23 by:

Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
<p>Support the rollout of phase three Skills Bootcamps in green skills and continue to promote the benefits of apprenticeships to businesses across the region.</p>	<p>Three contracts with a total value of £2.4 million have been issued and contracts commenced in July 2022.</p> <p>The first inception meeting was held in August with all members of the consortium present. An initial plan for delivery was presented alongside an initial marketing and communications plan.</p>	<p>Work with delivery partners to meet DfE's phase two targets.</p> <p>Work with both the Department of Education and our delivery partners to develop a quality assurance system .</p> <p>Develop a pipeline of future bootcamps, designed to meet the needs of employers in the North East.</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Develop and publish a regional digital inclusion strategy and, together with partners, explore funding and delivery opportunities for the strategy.</p>	<p>The North East LEP has engaged with 55 partners through a series of consultation sessions held in partnership with Vonne through July and August.</p> <p>The findings have been used to develop a draft strategy and will inform the development a business case to operationalise the strategy.</p>	<p>Draft strategy will be delivered by end-September 2022 and will be finalised in October. The business case will be delivered by the end of October.</p>	<p>The mapping exercise has been extended due to poor engagement so far. As mitigation, more resources have been found to follow up directly with stakeholders. The map is due to be finalised in December.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Continue to support DWP's Fuller Working Lives initiative and work with key stakeholders and partners to support strategic regional programmes aimed at supporting disadvantaged groups into employment.</p>	<p>On hold while the North East LEP waits policy guidance from DWP on the fuller working lives initiative.</p>			<p>Amber</p>

Growing businesses: Deliver the North East Growth Hub on behalf of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
Secure investment to continue to deliver and develop the North East Growth Hub and the business and sector growth ecosystem.	Uncertainty exists as to whether UKSPF should be used to fund infrastructure/activities such as the Growth Hub. It's been suggested that such activities are better funded via Devolution or government.	Seek clarity on which funding mechanisms are deemed appropriate to fund a central coordinating body for local business support.	Future funding priorities/landscape/devolution is currently unclear which puts the future of the Growth Hub at risk.	Red
In response to a 50% reduction in funding we will implement a new operating model for the North East Growth Hub which will fulfil government's requirement by continuing to provide a one-stop-shop for all businesses to access support and advice, whilst developing a more targeted approach for key growing sectors.	<p>The new operational model with Connectors leading on priority sectors is ongoing along with the introduction of the segmentation and diagnostic tool.</p> <p>In July and August 2022, the following interventions were delivered:</p> <p>Light assists (under one hour) - 2,535</p> <p>Medium assists (one hour plus) - 63</p> <p>High assists (12 plus hours) - 9</p>	<p>Integrate sector delivery plans.</p> <p>Recruit triage project manager and business support officers.</p> <p>Run and review first data report from segmentation and diagnostic platform.</p>		Green
Work with government, local authorities, and regional stakeholders to help shape the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and national programmes so that they collectively prioritise delivery of a more impactful, simplified, cohesive and better targeted business support ecosystem.	<p>UKSPF lead authorities have now submitted Local Investment Plans to government and await feedback. Five priority areas have been agreed for regional collaboration (Innovation, Productivity, Enterprise, Decarbonisation and Enterprise).</p> <p>Each LA is being asked to lead the development of one priority area each.</p> <p>Although some local activity may be commissioned by individual LA's in year one, most of the delivery will commence June 2023 to coincide with the closure of ERDF funded programmes.</p>	Continue to work with UKSPF working group to support the development of a regional commissioning framework.	A detailed regional framework and commissioning structure has yet to be agreed.	Amber

Develop an evidence base to inform the development of a regional and local enterprise strategy and interventions designed to level up the North East's business birth rate.				
Develop an evidence base to inform the creation of a regional scaleup plan designed to build on the momentum generated in the North East over previous years.	Due to several members of staff leaving the LEP and internal changes we have not been able to progress this work.	Review programme structure, resources and capacity.	Decision over the prioritisation and allocation of reduced programme funding and resource.	Red
Establish the firm level drivers of productivity performance and consider how these drivers can be diffused across the wider business community by working with the Productivity Institute.				
Identify opportunities and funding to implement the recommendations of the North East Internationalisation Strategy that relate to increasing the number of active exporters in the North East.	Discussions are taking place with government on how best to attract the funding and resources required to move this work forward.	Continue discussions with government and follow up on September meeting.		
Ensure that the business support framework and taxonomy support business resilience by supporting businesses to identify and mitigate areas of risk around net zero plans and the effects of rising energy prices as businesses adapt to new ways of working.	Submitted bids to UKSPF that are focused on business resilience and net zero transition (South Tyneside, Sunderland and Durham) - awaiting feedback. Decarbonisation included as one of the areas of regional collaboration for the UKSPF.	Support development of UKSPF decarbonisation theme.		Amber

<p>Work with Invest North East England (INEE) to identify and convert investment opportunities to create more and better jobs for the region.</p>	<p>Led several project specific inward investment visits to the region.</p> <p>Organised and hosted a DIT visit of high profile delegates from the Nordics and Baltics to the North East around clean tech.</p> <p>Signed the DIT Key Account Management contract.</p> <p>Attended key sector events to drive enquiries and the North East profile including Fintech North East, Cenex, and US Battery Show, Novi, USA.</p> <p>Worked with government and local partners to submit expressions of interest for business showcase / visits around the national Green Expo conference.</p>	<p>Attend Wind Hamburg with Energi Coast to promote the region.</p> <p>Work with government to deliver the Green Expo on 31 Oct and 1 Nov.</p> <p>Secure investment using North East LEP Inward Investment Grant.</p> <p>Finalise the Whitecap Fintech Strategy report by end of Sept 2022.</p> <p>Organise inward investment visits to the region for key projects and continue to manage and grow a pipeline of investment projects.</p> <p>Working with North East LEP and Energy Catalyst to develop a communications strategy around Heat Pumps, ahead of UK competition.</p> <p>Complete document showcasing digital skills in the North East.</p>		<p>Green</p>
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Growing businesses: Identify actions needed to support priority sectors, aligned to the relevant leveling up missions:

Our delivery activities have always focused heavily on areas and sectors of opportunity, specifically energy, tech, health and life sciences and advanced manufacturing. Our delivery activity in these areas is included below.

Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
Energy				
Accelerate regional low carbon energy projects across all seven local authority areas, to deliver on net zero goals.	<p>Feasibility studies have started for Newcastle City Centre, Byker, Blyth and Cramlington heat networks and decarbonisation and replacement projects.</p> <p>Supported the successful procurement of a supplier for property surveys for Newcastle's Low Carbon Neighbourhoods projects.</p> <p>Detailed project development for Durham City Centre heat network complete.</p> <p>4 vertical mine water borehole drills are now completed for the Holborn Renewable Energy Network and Hebburn minewater project.</p> <p>Established a consortium and successfully secured £250k BEIS Hydrogen BECCS innovation fund as part of the Holborn Renewable Energy Network and Northern Energy Centre of Excellence.</p>	<p>Review outputs of feasibility studies Northern Spire Park (Sunderland), Killingworth (North Tyneside) heat networks and Hebburn Minewater project phase 2 expansion.</p> <p>Support applications to government for funding for detailed project development work for these projects.</p>		Green
Work with partners in the North East and Yorkshire to ensure the successful transition of the Local Energy Hub to the Net Zero Hub, supporting the UK Net Zero strategy and wider Net Zero action.	<p>Local Authority briefing meeting held on Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund.</p> <p>Feedback provided on North East & Yorkshire Net Zero Hub evaluation logic chain, North East projects to prioritise in evaluation suggested.</p>	<p>Ensure North East Local Authorities are positioned to secure Public Sector Decarbonisation Skills Fund support.</p> <p>Continue to support the evaluation of the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub.</p>		Green

<p>Coordinate the North East Energy Catalyst, enhancing collaboration through the partner and SME networks, and enabling delivery of the Energy Innovation Pipeline and an Energy Innovation Challenge Programme 2.</p>	<p>The second energy innovation challenge programme has been launched. You can see details of the challenges here.</p> <p>Lead partner contacts ('Catalyst Connectors') have been identified to collaborate on refining the pipeline.</p> <p>A trip to the DNV-Spadeadam hydrogen test facilities in Cumbria was facilitated by the LEP for regional partners, the visit sparked collaborations with Catalyst board and SME partners including British Engines Group, Newcastle and Durham University.</p> <p>A second application was made to Innovate UK's Clean Maritime fund building on successful delivery of the phase 1 'CleanTyne programme' The second phase is focused on development of a 'Green Shipping Corridor' at Port of Tyne. An announcement on that application will follow early next quarter.</p>	<p>Refine the North East Energy Catalyst's project pipeline, identifying priority projects.</p> <p>Assess business submissions to the challenge programme and identify a cohort to support.</p> <p>Continue engagement with Port of Tyne and partners on Innovate UK's Clean Maritime programme.</p>		<p>Green</p>
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<p>Work with industry and public authorities to support cluster development in key energy and net zero sectors needed to level up the region, including offshore wind, EV and battery, and low carbon heat.</p>	<p>The Heat Network 22 conference was held in partnership with the ADE, Danish Embassy and BEIS. The event was hugely successful and well attended by national industry, regional partners and government, to shape a heat network cluster approach for the North East. The conference included targeted senior leaders sessions, conference programme and cluster development workshops.</p> <p>Discussions are underway with NOF Energy, NTCA and NECA LAs around the next operational and funding cycle for the Energi Coast Offshore WInd cluster.</p> <p>Submissions have been provided to DIT for visits and showcase opportunities at the Green Trade and Investment Expo.</p>	<p>Work with INEE, BEIS and DIT to coordinate regional input into the Green Trade & Investment Expo in October.</p> <p>Develop a follow up action plan with partners from the heat network conference and cluster growth senior leaders forum.</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Position the North East as a lead region in energy and net zero, e.g. by leading the national geothermal and mine energy taskforce, and progressing an energy masterplanning approach.</p>	<p>UK Geothermal White Paper project has been awarded to the British Geological Survey with an inception meeting held and work commencing during September.</p> <p>Inception meeting held for the Heat Network Investment opportunities studies with Amberside Capital, who have been appointed and commenced the work</p>	<p>Promote the outputs of the Heat Networks conference in the North East, collaboratively with the ADE, BEIS and the Danish Embassy, incorporating a communications strategy further positioning the North East as the lead region for investment nationally.</p> <p>Work with Amberside Capital and British Geological Survey to progress their respective pieces of work.can</p> <p>Work with government contacts and regional stakeholders to develop a forward plan for the Geothermal Taskforce.</p> <p>Respond to an invitation to repare a proposal direct to government to unlock the North East Geothermal potential.</p>		<p>Green</p>

Tech				
Establish a North East Tech Sector Strategy Group as part of the Business Growth Board.	Evidence base drafted and ready for review by the Sector Strategy Group.	Share and review Evidence report with Sector Strategy Group, Publish onto Evidence Hub		Green
Work with the strategy group to develop North East tech sector development plan.	Hosted strategy development workshop with the Business Board capturing intelligence to outline sector challenges to inform logic model.	Work with the Sector Strategy Group to outline possible interventions that fall under the three key themes.		Green
Establish a tech sector development plan delivery group to deliver the plan.	To be established once strategy intervention discussion is completed.			Amber
Secure resources and funding required to deliver the plan.	Add to internal resource and membership of the Sector Strategy Group.	Review funding requirements and sources that will be required. Introduce a Sector Strategy Delivery Group.		Amber
Health and life sciences				
Following the COVID-19 pandemic, we will refresh the North East Health and Life Science strategy governance.	Discussion had with Darren Laybourn (Turner & Townsend) about chairing a new sector strategy board made up primarily of SMEs. Identifying prospective participants.	Manage the transition between outgoing and incoming chair. Review membership of the group.		Amber
Modernise and grow pharmaceutical manufacturing by supporting diversification into new and emerging markets, supporting the adoption of industrial digitisation technologies and creating a framework to develop a pipeline of skills.	Made Smarter continues to engage businesses across the sector to adopt industrial digitisation technologies.	Continue delivery of Made Smarter.		Green

<p>Increase the number of life science businesses that are born, grow and scale in the region by supporting the formation of university, NHS and corporate spinouts, developing a skills framework to create a skills pipeline that meets the needs of the sector and promoting the region's strengths.</p>	<p>Newcastle and Northumbria Universities are exploring the feasibility of a programme designed to support NHS spinouts.</p> <p>The business case for Biosphere 2 and the North East Life Science Innovation Zone proof of concept study are continuing to progress as planned.</p>	<p>Monitor and report on partner progress.</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Ensure that the right infrastructure, connectivity and investment is in place to grow the sector.</p>	<p>Confidential developments continue to progress to support logistics and supply chains.</p>	<p>Progress confidential discussions.</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Broker access to a range of expert support and services across the health and care sectors through the Innovation Pathways through development of the AHSN's Innovation Pathway Omnia brokerage system – integrating it into the North East Growth Hub to support sector innovations and to help businesses break into the NHS.</p>	<p>AHSN have further developed the Omnia brokerage system.</p>	<p>Meeting arranged with with AHSN to explore platform integration.</p>		<p>Amber</p>
<p>Progress ecosystem development by completing the proof-of-concept study for the development of the Life Science Manufacturing and Innovation Zone and consider the findings and recommendations made.</p>	<p>The project has now progressed to phase 2 Define – a cocreation session took place with businesses from across the sector to help shape the Zones vision, focus and offer.</p>	<p>Complete and report on proof of concept study.</p>		<p>Green</p>

Advanced manufacturing				
Mobilise and begin delivery of the three year Made Smarter digital adoption in partnership with government and Tees Valley Combined Authority to support regional manufacturers to adopt industrial digitisation technologies.	<p>Delegated Decision to accept Made Smarter S.31 funding of £800K approved.</p> <p>Draft annual delivery plan and three year projection submitted to BEIS, pending Programme Board approval.</p> <p>Made Smarter mobilized and procurement concluded for Digital Showcase Events, Roadmapping Workshops, staff development, and Diagnostic with CRM Integration.</p> <p>Procurement ongoing for SME Grants' Administration (full tender required)</p> <p>Made Smarter Programme management board constituted and first meeting scheduled (03/10/22)</p> <p>Made Smarter high assists in progress 24, with a further 26 expected to complete Q3. Active recruitment in progress for two new Made Smarter cohorts due to commence in October.</p>	<p>Complete procurements for the three year programme for grant management. This includes the development of a detailed contract to resolve concerns around the payment of grant monies to the provider of this service. First Made Smarter Management Board, to approve annual and three year delivery plan for submission to government.</p>	<p>Progress with procurement and contracts is in progress but taking longer than anticipated</p>	Amber
Establish a North East Advanced Manufacturing Strategy Group as part of the Business Growth Board.	<p>Delayed due to summer break – action to be picked up in the Autumn.</p>	<p>Finalise recruitment of Strategy Group.</p>		Amber
Work with the strategy group to develop a North East advanced manufacturing sector development plan.	<p>Draft evidence base for the advanced manufacturing sector complete</p>	<p>Finalise and publish evidence base after review by internal LEP working group.</p>		Green
Establish an Advanced Manufacturing Sector development plan delivery group to deliver the plan.	<p>Target list of participants identified.</p>	<p>Finalise recruitment.</p>		Green
Secure resources and funding required to deliver the plan.	<p>Not yet started.</p>	<p>Define resource requirements as strategy develops.</p>		Green

Innovation				
Stimulate new business opportunities through the North East Open Innovation Challenge, with specific delivery focused on the £880,000 North of Tyne project.	Challenge definition workshops held for Decarbonisation of Homes and Ageing themes. EOI form launched on Challenge North East website. CRM now in development for business information capture. First claim to NTCA submitted.	Clarify the scope of the decarbonisation of homes and ageing challenges Launch programme and open application window.		Green
Work intensively with the nine priority innovation projects to support them into delivery and understand how we can support 11 more to develop their business cases.	Reviewed status of innovation projects on the pipeline in terms of refining the broader LEP priority project pipeline.	Work with wider LEP team to prioritise, lobby and add value to the development of our key projects.		Amber
Work with regional partners to shape the region's response to the innovation component of the Levelling Up White Paper, to capitalise on the region's research and innovation capability and agree an approach to embed innovation into businesses across the region.	Following the North East LEP's restructure and refined roll, consideration is being given to the way in which we take forward this action and therefore there has been a slight change in the focus of this action. Progress includes commissioning the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) to develop the Innovation Canvas with the view to deploy through the Innovation Super Network (ISN) and our IDP leads into businesses across the region.	Await the outcome of UKSPF expressions of interest submitted to South Tyneside and Sunderland. Support the completion of regional UKSPF commissioning framework. Develop work with the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) and the Innovation Super Network (ISN) to deliver 'Train the Trainer' sessions to embed the Innovation Canvas developed by KTN into business across the region.	Although strong regional collaboration is in place the UKSPF landscape in its current form is not conducive to the creation of a coherent, coordinated and transformational business support landscape and it is likely that fragmentation and duplication will occur. This is due to the UKSPF system design; regional collaboration will help to address some of the system issues.	Amber
Increase private sector investment into growing innovation businesses, ensuring innovation is positioned within the successor to the North East Fund, Venture North and Northern Accelerator.	Working with the North East Fund Limited and North East Access to Finance to ensure there is a succession plan in place. Northern Accelerator team met LEP Executives to update on progress and next steps.	Continue to work with NEF, NEA2F and LA7 EDs and FDs on the successor plan for the North East Fund.		Green

Deliver the UK Community Renewal Fund project, 'future markets acceleration project' by October 2022, as awarded by Gateshead and Sunderland local authorities.	Continued delivery of business benefits activity by eight delivery partners. Evaluation progressing.	Partners to complete the delivery of activities. Complete evaluation and review first draft of report.		Green
Work in partnership with local and combined authorities to highlight the investment opportunities from the innovation project pipeline to secure investment from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.	Innovation pipeline being integrated into broader LEP priority project pipeline. We continue to work closely with SPF lead authorities on the development of regional commissioning and programme frameworks and highlight the innovation opportunities and projects to LA and CA colleagues making decisions around investment.	Develop case studies on the priority projects and why they have been selected.		Amber
Support seven Innovation Delivery Partnerships to develop their plans.	Six delivery plans prepared and reported to Innovation Board. Ageing plan is still in development. Plans in place for further development of IDPs, as well as development of work with the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) and their Innovation Canvas.	Forward plan to be developed further. Workshops to be held with IDP leads on specific areas of shortfall; inclusive of skills and investment. IDPs to be supported through delivery of set actions within delivery plans.		Green
Publish the Economic Markets Foresight Analysis study and integrate findings into future strategy and funding development.	Worked with web developers to design wire frame for area on Evidence Hub. Reviewed priority markets and innovation data.	Publish content on Evidence Hub.		Green
Facilitate connections and collaborations between national and regional partners including UKRI/ Innovate UK, NP11 and the Innovation SuperNetwork to boost innovation activity in the region.	Meetings have taken place with Innovate UK to discuss emerging clustering strategy and how this fits with Innovation Delivery Partnerships as well as considering how the North East can best position for the next round of national Innovation Accelerators.	Finalise delivery plan. Led by RTC the Innovate UK EDGE national conference will take place in the North East October, discussions are ongoing on how the North East can showcase our approach to Innovation to this national audience.		Amber

Managing funds: Monitoring and assurance pertaining to existing local growth programmes and funds for which LEPs are responsible

Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
<p>We will continue to manage the following funding streams in line with the North East Assurance Framework. Activity will involve working with partners to develop project business cases and agree investments, then ensure legal and financial compliance and documentation is in place for management and audit purposes. We will continue to monitor delivery and output generation with partners and report to government quarterly.</p>	<p>Getting Building Fund Q1 performance return submitted on time to government in August 2022.</p> <p>NTCA Audit of LEP funding programmes undertaken.</p> <p>Website updated with refreshed information on LGF and GBF funded projects. You can see these here.</p>	<p>To compile, check and submit Q2 programme performance monitoring data to government.</p> <p>Contact projects where appropriate to seek outstanding final audits or those failing to submit project monitoring returns in Q1.</p>		Green
<p>Local Growth Fund Legacy £9 million planned expenditure 2022/23.</p>	<p>Q1 budget spend totaled £3.1m.</p> <p>Forecast expenditure for 22/23 remains c.9.0m</p> <p>Several Grant Funding Agreement variations actioned.</p>	<p>Undertake quarterly project review meetings and receive Q 2 monitoring returns and claims.</p> <p>Receive final project audits and /or evaluations from several projects.</p> <p>Prepare bi-annual monitoring return to government.</p>	<p>Letter issued in August to Just Eat confirming a deadline of 30 Sept to sign grant funding agreement. This is in response to lack of progress over the past 12 months. Positive reaction received.</p>	Green

Getting Building Fund legacy £11 million planned expenditure 2022/23.	Q1 net budget expenditure was £1.9m after £3,591,399.03 was repaid by Durham County Council following withdrawal of Aykley Heads office scheme. Latest forecasts indicate that the full budget of £11.2m will be spent this year.	Undertake quarterly project review meetings and receive Q 2 monitoring returns and claims. Arrange press releases for those projects coming to fruition. Prepare quarterly monitoring return to government.	Government advise that GBF legacy funds must be fully spent in 22/23. Consequently, to avoid repayment of grant nationally a project GBF grant underspend recently notified by Gateshead Council is proposed for reallocation to another Gateshead GBF project facing an overspend. A change request will be submitted for approval subject to Board approval.	Green
Enterprise Zone sites infrastructure programme £25 million.	Ongoing project monitoring - Q1 project monitoring returns and grant claims received. Expenditure was £0.63m before funding swaps with GBF programme resources leaving a net of £135k. Forecast annual expenditure reduced from £25m to £16m, mainly due to programme delays on the IAMP, Sunderland. Quarterly report submitted to government. Business case received for next phase of infrastructure investment on Jade Business Park. £2.6 million of EZ support for infrastructure approved at Investment Board on 7 July.	Discussions continue with Gateshead and Newcastle Councils in regards to next phases of infrastructure on Follingsby and Newcastle Airport EZ sites respectively. Development Funding application received from the airport to support process of appointing preferred developer for EZ Site A. Port of Tyne exploring opportunities for further investment on Tyne Dock EZ.	Potential for increases in interest rates on borrowing in future years. The extra cost of this is expected to be offset by increasing future business rate income. Presentation planned to September North East LEP Board meeting on the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) revised masterplan and cost plan for approval.	Amber
North East Investment Fund programme £7 million Commercial Property Investment Fund North East Property Investment Fund schemes.	FW Capital contract monitoring ongoing on North East Property Fund, with Q1 report received. New Commercial Property Investment Fund programme - award letter issued to successful bidder.	Preparations to formally launch CPIF programme with successful fund manager. Loans under the NEIF programme will be actively managed.	One loan under the NEIF programme has a delayed repayment and this is being actively managed.	Green
Enterprise Zone surpluses programme £2 million (Project Acceleration Development budget allocation).	On hold following National LEP Review and introduction of UKSPF. Report to go to Investment Board in November. Work underway to assess options and reviewing current project pipelines.	Gather evidence internally on need and opportunities to inform a report to the Investment Board in November.		Amber
Project Development Accelerator Fund £1 million planned expenditure 2022/23.	Q1 budget expenditure totaled £0.66m. One project is forecasting an underspend of £20k. Otherwise committed budget of £1.3m remains profiled to be spent this year.	Receive Q2 monitoring returns and claims and meet with project leads to discuss progress. Arrange press releases for those projects coming to fruition.		Green

Added value				
Initiative	Progress since last Board meeting	Priority action for next two months	Decisions / issues / discussion points	RAG status
We will work with partners to inform and support delivery of a number of regionally significant projects using the funding available to us.	<p>The Project Development Accelerator Fund is supporting potential large scale Levelling Up Fund and Department for Education Further Education funding bids including North Tyneside Council's Wallsend masterplan and Fish Quay projects and Sunderland University's National Glass Centre proposals and South Tyneside Council's vision to create a Jarrow Energy Park. Tyne Coast College's new campus in South Shields has secured £20m in this quarter.</p> <p>Flexible support is being offered to approved projects where project delivery challenges have been experienced.</p>			Green
<p>We will lead the coordination of the regional access to finance work to ensure future programmes meet the needs of North East businesses. This includes preparation work to understand the supply and demand issues and reaching regional consensus to inform the development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second tranche of the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund for implementation by the British Business Bank in autumn 2023. • The successor fund to the regional North East Fund Limited for implementation in January 2024. 	<p>Work is ongoing with the North East Fund stakeholders on options and best way forward to complement NPIF Phase 2. Report to be considered at Investment Board on 15 September addressing re-investment of NEIF in NEF Extension.</p>	<p>Progress plans for NEF2 reflecting outcome of discussions at Investment Board.</p>		Green

Highlights from the past two months

Below is a summary of the content we have issued to support projects and initiatives as well as strategic announcements and activity during July and August 2022.

Corporate

Moving forward with a refreshed role but the same commitment and determination to create more and better jobs -12 July 2022

Helen Golightly, Chief Executive of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP), outlines how the organisation's role is set to evolve. Read the article [here](#).

North East LEP reaction to ONS regional labour market statistics issued on 16 August

Helen Golightly OBE, said "The data released today shows little change from the position last month. There has been a small increase in the working age employment rate over the last quarter, but a small decline in total employment for all age groups."

Read Helen's full statement [here](#).

Read the July ONS statement [here](#).

Board member recruitment

Recruitment for new North East LEP board members was supported through content on the North East LEP website and social media channels. [Find out more](#).

Business and sector growth

Leading business and sector growth in a changing landscape

Change brings the opportunity to innovate and improve. Colin Bell, Director of Business and Sector Growth at the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP), explains how business support in the region is evolving. Read the article [here](#).

Support on offer for North East businesses that could help solve current energy challenges

A press release was issued detailing the second round of the Energy Innovation Challenge programme from the North East Energy Catalyst. Read the full story [here](#).

North East digital businesses offered support to enter low-carbon energy sector

A news release was also issued highlighting the opportunity that the Energy Innovation Challenge programme offers to digital businesses, resulting in coverage in [Bdaily](#). Read more [here](#).

Decarbonising homes set to bring tens of thousands of skilled roles to North East and Yorkshire

The news that a new study, Commissioned by the North East LEP and funded by the North East and Yorkshire (NEY) Net Zero Hub, showed that up to 80,000 skilled workers will be needed in the North East and Yorkshire if the UK is to reach its net zero target by 2030, was shared via [a news release](#) and a more in-depth [Q&A article](#) examining how the region will meet this demand for skilled workers.

Made Smarter Adoption North East

A three-month campaign plan has been developed for Made Smarter Adoption North East. The programme has been funded by BEIS for a year with funding available for a further two years. Campaign activity targeting manufacturing businesses in the North East will begin in mid-September and run until the end of November. More information about the programme can be found [here](#).

People Toolkit

Additional content has been added to the [People Toolkit](#) on the North East Growth Hub to support businesses to invest in their employees and recruit the right people with the right skills for their business. New content includes how employers can work with colleges to develop a future skills pipeline.

High Force Research

A Q&A with growing health and life sciences company, High Force Research, as published on the North East LEP website profiling the company's support for apprenticeships. The Q&A can be read [here](#).

Strategy, policy and evidence

In discussion: North East export team becomes a part of the Department for International Trade

An 'in conversation' article with Julie Underwood, Head of Delivery for the North East Export Team, explained the transition of the export team to the Department for International Trade. Read the article [here](#).

Thinking bigger and planning for the future together

Richard Baker, Director of Strategy, Policy and Analysis, explained the North East LEP's approach to evidence-based economic development strategy and delivery and how the work we do continues to help the region embrace new opportunities, changes and challenges. [Find out more](#).

North East Evidence Hub

The latest data on the [North East Evidence Hub](#), including Google Mobility data was shared via social media content and graphics.

Innovation

Two 'In conversation' pieces were published in August to help highlight the role of innovation in business and economic growth.

The first, with Professor Matt Boyle OBE of Driving the Electric Revolution and the second with Rhona Knox.

Matt's piece can be read [here](#) and Rhona's piece can be read [here](#). Both pieces were very well received on social media.

North East Growth Hub toolkit

New content was added to the North East Growth Hub innovation toolkit, in the form of an introduction to Innovate UK KTN's Innovation Canvas tool, supported by social media content. The two 'in conversation' articles with Matt Boyle and Rhona Knox were also added to the [toolkit](#). See more [here](#).

Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

Creating a coordinated approach to technical education in the North East

The region's collaborative approach to preparing for new technical education programmes was explained through a blog post with Kim Smith. Read the post [here](#).

Finding the right path after results day

A series of owned content, advertorial content in Northern Insight magazine and social media highlighted the guidance the North East LEP has produced for parents, carers and young people who are transitioning from school or college. Read the blog post by Matt Joyce [here](#).

Raising skills levels in the North East while navigating national change

How will the government review of LEPs affect the work going on to improve skills in the North East? Michelle Rainbow, Skills Director at the North East LEP, gave an update [here](#).

Funding

VCSE Capital Grant programme:

Work begins to create new eco-building in Newcastle's West End

As part of the VCSE Capital Grant programme communication plan, the North East LEP worked with Scotswood Natural Community Garden on a press release about the creation of the new eco-building. The story was published on the North East LEP website Scotswood Natural Community Garden [here](#).

Community café opens, creating new jobs in Gateshead

A new community café opened in Gateshead as part of the redevelopment of a former high street bank, creating new jobs and offering training for people who are long-term unemployed. This was part of another VCSE Capital Grant-funded project, The Bank, and the North East LEP issued a news release about the café opening. Read more [here](#).

Celebration event marks completion of improvement works at community garden

A celebration event was held to mark the completion of improvement works at a community garden in North Tyneside. The Meadow Well Connected's Community Garden, in North Shields, was awarded £54,612 from the North East LEP's Local Growth Fund VCSE Capital Grant programme to create an outdoor learning space, offer training for local residents, and revitalise areas including its wildlife pond and greenhouses. A news release about the event can be read [here](#).

Getting Building Fund - Bessemer Court

A news release was issued to media about the North East LEP providing funding through government's Getting Building Fund for the creation of eight new industrial workspace units on the Hownsgill Industrial Park in Consett. Read the news release [here](#). Social media was also issued via the North East LEP platforms.

Priorities for the next two months

1. To lead the communications workstream for NetZero North East England, working up to a launch in November (TBC)
2. To undertake procurement projects for PR support and Digital Support
3. To support the launch of two challenges in the Challenge North Tyne programme

North East LEP website performance summary: 1 July - 31 August 2022

Audience	
Visitors	12,931 (+90%)
Total page views	55,296 (+46%)
Average session duration	01:23 (-13%)

Traffic sources	
Organic	4,898 (+26%)
Paid	3,740 (+100%)
Direct	2,221 (+9%)
Social	1,110 (+215%)
Email	902 (+178%)
Referral	405 (-7%)
Other	4 (+100%)

Top five news pages

	Views
Moving forward with a refreshed role but the same commitment and determination to create more and better jobs	1,536
Are you an inspirational business leader with a passion for the North East of England?	1,134
In conversation with Rhona Knox from Procter & Gamble (P&G) about innovation in the North East	864
Decarbonising homes set to bring tens of thousands of skilled roles to North East and Yorkshire	760
Raising skills levels in the North East while navigating national change	445

Top five pages

	Views
1. Home	7,629 (+12%)
2. About us	1,303 (-5%)
3. Senior Management Team	1,000 (-5%)
4. The Plan	991 (-19%)
5. Funding	953 (+5%)

North East Local Enterprise Partnership

Home / Updates: [Moving forward with a refreshed role but the same commitment and determination to create more and better jobs](#)

Moving forward with a refreshed role but the same commitment and determination to create more and better jobs

12 July 2022

Rhona Satchell, Chief Executive of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP), outlines how the organisation's role has evolved.

Rhona, working for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership for 20 years, has been the Chief Executive for the past seven years. When I started, we were a small team of 10 people and now we are a team of more than 50 people. Every day, I am incredibly proud of the regional commitment and their contribution of our team, partners and communities who come together in the best interests for the North East to achieve exciting things, whatever the circumstances.

People who have more commitment, passion and drive that I've seen before. People who strive to solve investment and improve skills, job opportunities and growth for businesses across the North East to improve the lives of others, because they want to do the right thing for a region that is so special to us all.

I believe that what we have achieved has been possible because our strategic direction has always been clear through an evidence-led, strategic evidence plan to create more and better jobs for our region.

In the past 12 months alone, as we emerged from the pandemic, independent assessors have stated that leadership, influence, synergy and engagement are areas in which the North East LEP has excelled through the delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan. Independent assessment of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership programme has also been used to guide the way we provide the support for our regional beneficiaries for these programmes.

Some highlights over the past 12 months are that we have supported over 15,000 businesses, with a customer satisfaction score of 95%. We provided evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Youth Unemployment and have focused particularly on our priority schools to help them about children from an early age. From our partnership to help the launch of National Careers Week 2022 here in the North East - the first time outside London - our ground work was recognised.

We are committed to embedding innovation challenges as a way of proactively looking for solutions to global problems and opportunities. We continue to deliver significant support projects across the region, and this year we will launch a new Connected Enterprise Investment Fund with the Capital.

Strategic direction is what keeps us steady during times of change. And in next 12 months will undoubtedly bring more change for our North East LEP and for other regional government as our local and central bodies work towards meeting greater development powers and funding for the region.

The role of the North East LEP within that process has been made clear in our Government's Levelling Up White Paper was published in

North East Local Enterprise Partnership

Home / Updates: [Welcome to the North East](#)



Welcome to the North East

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership, we are working with partners to provide a more prosperous and sustainable North East, creating more and better jobs for everyone.

The Strategic Economic Plan
Growing a more productive, inclusive and sustainable regional economy

Strategy Economic Social Environmental	Delivery Business Growth Innovation Skills, Employment, Inclusion	Support Investment Partnerships Innovation
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Social media

	Total followers	Impressions
 Twitter	13,152 (+0.2%)	41,131 (-36.4%)
 LinkedIn	10,665 (+3%)	48,746 (+26%)


Top performing LEPs on Twitter			
1. North East LEP	2. Leeds LEP	3. Liverpool LEP	4. Black Country LEP
13,152	11,693	10,377	9,467

Best performing organic posts: Twitter

 **1 Total engagements: 37**

 **North East LEP** @northeastlep · Aug 22

As GCSE results day is coming up, we know lots of parents and young people are thinking about what happens next. We've put together info on all your post-16 options here: northeastambition.co.uk/options #ResultsDay



Options for young people

From T Levels to traineeships, from A Levels to apprenticeships: find out more about post-16 and post-18 options

NorthEastAmbition.co.uk/options

7 replies, 6 likes


 **2 Total engagements: 34**

 **North East LEP** @northeastlep · Jul 19


[@RblsRichard](#), Strategy and Policy Director at the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, has commented on today's [@ONS](#) regional #labourmarket statistics: northeastlep.co.uk/updates/north-... #employment #unemployment #jobs



 **3 Total engagements: 32**

 **North East LEP** @northeastlep · Aug 16

Matt Boyle OBE, Professor of Practice in Engineering @UniofNewcastle and Executive Chair of @DER_IC_UK, explains how we can create an #innovation culture in the North East northeastlep.co.uk/updates/in-con-... #moreandbetterjobs



"You have to create an environment where people feel it's okay to fail... I'm a great believer in bringing talented people into a business and then taking the shackles off..."

Professor Matt Boyle OBE

northeastlep.co.uk #moreandbetterjobs

3 replies, 7 likes

Social media


Best performing organic posts: LinkedIn

in 1 Total engagements: 210

North East Local Enterprise Partnership
10,694 followers
2w · 🌐

The North East export team has recently become part of the Department for International Trade.


Head of Delivery, Julie Underwood, explains what's behind the move and what it means for North East businesses: <https://lnkd.in/eKvA-9FZ>



in 2 Total engagements: 174

North East Local Enterprise Partnership
10,694 followers
2mo · 🌐

Moving forward with a refreshed role but the same commitment and determination to create more and better jobs: hear from North East LEP Chief Executive, Helen Golightly OBE, on the role for our organisation.




in 3 Total engagements: 164

North East Local Enterprise Partnership
10,694 followers
3w · 🌐

We spoke to Professor Matt Boyle OBE about #innovation in the North East and the role #innovation has played throughout his long and successful career <https://lnkd.in/e6MvQaUN> #moreandbetterjobs

"Innovation is trial and error; innovation is learning from failure. Yes, there's success at the end of it, but innovation and failure go hand in glove in my book."

Professor Matt Boyle OBE



northeastlep.co.uk #moreandbetterjobs

North East
Local Enterprise Partnership

29 September 2022

Item 8: Chair and Chief Executive Update

1.0 Background

1.1 The Chair and Chief Executive would like to provide an update to Board Members on some of the discussions and meetings that they have been involved in since the last Board meeting in July.

2.0 Chair's key meetings and discussions

2.1 Since the last Board meeting on the 21 July 2022, the LEP Chair has been involved in a variety of meetings and discussions as outlined below:

- Regular meetings with the North East LEP CEO;
- North of Tyne Combined Authority Cabinet;
- North East Combined Authority Leadership Board;
- Opening speaker at the Association of Decentralised Energy Conference;
- Speaker at national conference for Levelling Up.

3.0 Chief Executive's key meetings and discussions

3.1 Since the last Board meeting, outside of the internal and external 'business as usual' and project meetings, the Chief Executive has been involved in a number of meetings that continue to move the regional economic growth agenda forward. These include:

- Meetings with the LEP Network;
- Meetings with government officials;
- Roundtable discussion with Bill Esterson, MP;
- Net Zero North East Working Group;
- Meeting with proposed CPIF Fund Manager;
- Opening speaker at the Association of Decentralised Energy Conference;
- North East Fund Limited Board.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 The Board is recommended to note the report.