

North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board



Thursday 23 July 2020

17.00 – 19.00

AGENDA

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 28 May 2020** (5.00pm).
Board will be asked to agree the Minutes.
4. **SEP Delivery Plan** - paper attached (5.10pm)
Helen Golightly to present to the Board.
5. **Annual Delivery Plan 2020/21** (5.20pm)
Helen Golightly to present to the Board.

Items 6, 7 and 8 are confidential as they contain commercial information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation and are not for wider circulation.

6. **Funding decisions and update** – confidential paper attached (5.35pm)
Paul Woods to present to the Board.
7. **Covid – 19 economic response plan** - confidential paper attached (6.00pm)
Henry Kippen and Helen Golightly to present to the Board
8. **Appointment of Chair of the North East LEP Board** – paper attached (6.40pm)
Helen Golightly to present to the Board
9. **Any Other Business** (6.55pm)
10. **Date and time of next meeting – Thursday 1 October 2020 from 5 - 7pm**

23 July 2020

ITEM 4: SEP Programme Delivery Update

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the details given in the SEP Programme Delivery report, which is attached as *Appendix 1*.

2.0 Highlights and points to note since the last meeting

Business Growth

- Growth Hub performance for 2019/20 was positive, with over-achievement of all KPIs (light touch interventions, medium touch interventions, high intensity interventions and customer satisfaction). Progress to date against 2020/21 KPIs is strong. Additional funding has been received to expand capacity of the Growth Hub.
- The remote delivery model for High Potential Startups is working very well with good engagement and feedback. Cohort 1 completes in July 2020, Cohort 2 underway and Cohort 3 has started with 11 founders, taking number on programme to 44 founders in total.

Innovation

- A Covid-19 challenge fund has been developed which will support the development of solutions to immediate problems posed by Covid-19 to assist economic recovery.
- Team continues to work closely with the SuperNetwork team including on the development of activity which may replace VentureFest and Finance Camp in 2020.

Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

- The primary pilot continues to have positive engagement from the schools involved despite covid-19. A series of webinars have been delivered to pilot schools, including a number where schools shared best practice
- 153 Enterprise Advisers (EAs) have been recruited from a broad range of both large employers and SMEs, enterprise coordinator team has successfully facilitated five matches between enterprise advisers and school since May 2020.

Transport

- Transport North East Strategy Unit has procured Swarco UK Ltd. To progress the development of the EV chargers for the Taxi trade. Orders are being processed with the intention of the chargers being installed by the 30 September 2020.
- Metro Asset Renewal Programme is progressing with 203 of 275 projects now completed. Programme completion expected March 2021, delivery continuing with some delays and disruption to site works and budget pressures resulting from Covid-19 working restrictions.

Investment and Infrastructure

- Package of schemes to provide support as a result of Covid-19 has been agreed by the North East LEP Investment Board, alongside additional LGF investments for projects put forward to the Board in March 2020.
- The region received an allocation £47m from the Getting Building Fund with final submission of proposed projects being sent to Government on 17 July 2020. The funding is to be spent by March 2022.

Strategy and Policy

- The Health and Life Science Project pipeline is under review and an open call for projects will be launched at the end of July (supported by project development funding).
- The Energy for Growth fund is providing support for projects aligned to the strategic themes. Funding has been approved for seven projects across the North East worth £1,470,202. There are also currently three additional projects in the appraisal stage.

Communications

- There continues to be growth in the number of followers across LEP's social media (1.7% on Twitter and 4.4% on LinkedIn since March). The North East LEP remains the most followed LEP in the country on Twitter.
- The stories with the greatest interaction for the period were in relation to the Crowdfund North East LEP (up to £5,000 match funding for micro businesses crowdfunding) and the Job Opportunities website launch.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report and *Appendix 1*.

Appendix – North East Strategic Economic Plan Programme Delivery update, July 2020

North East Strategic Economic Plan **Programme Delivery update**

July 2020

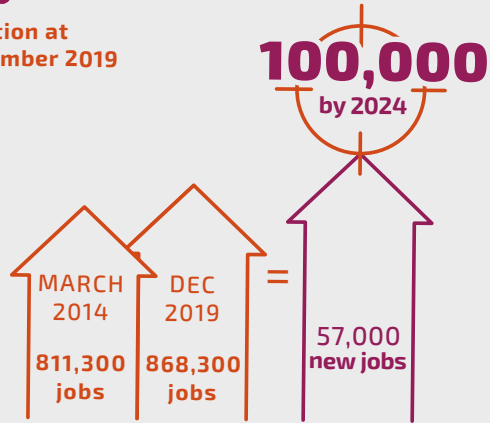


Performance against Strategic Economic Plan targets since 2014 (Updated, April 2020)

Target Increase the number of jobs in the North East economy by 100,000 by 2024



Position at December 2019



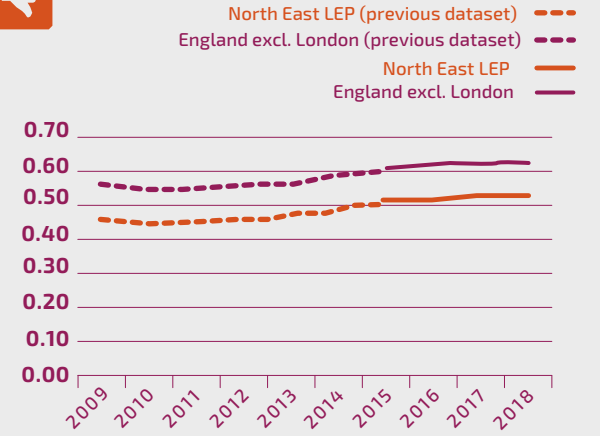
Target 70% of all jobs created from 2014 will be better jobs



Reduce the gap in private sector employment density
Target 50% reduction in gap by 2024



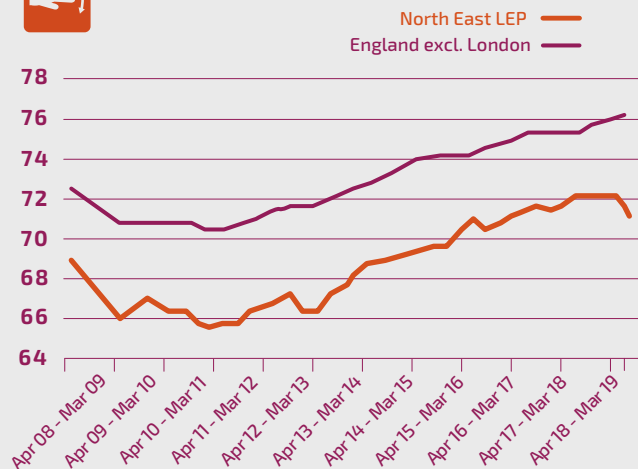
Position at 2018: 17% increase (compared to 2015)



Close the gap in the employment rate for people aged 16-64
Target 100% reduction in gap by 2024



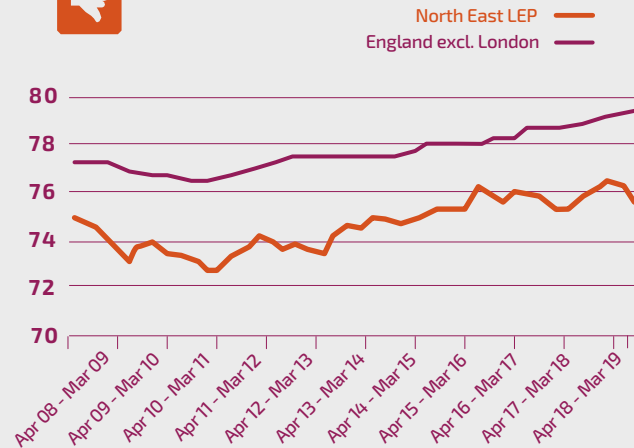
Position at December 2019: 3% reduction



Reduce the gap in economic activity for people aged 16-64
Target 50% reduction in gap by 2024



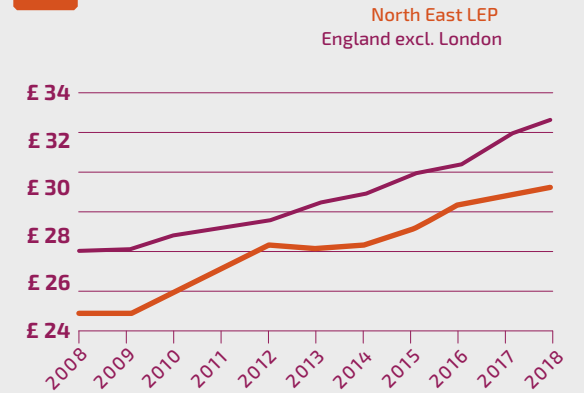
Position at December 2019: 11% increase



Reduce the gap in GVA per hour worked
Target 50% reduction in gap by 2024



Position at 2018: 19% increase



Business Growth | Lead: Colin Bell

Ambition by 2024

To be a growth orientated, dynamic and productive environment where businesses invest, grow and thrive. At a time of change, we want business leaders to be inspired and supported to achieve their goals through strengthened leadership, innovation and trade, resulting in:

- An increase to the density of scaleup businesses in the North East by 50% from 2014 to 2024. These businesses will deliver 6,000 new jobs into the North East economy
- The attraction of new businesses who invest in the North East and create 4,000 new job per year between 2014 and 2024

We want more businesses to actively seek, and find with ease, the support and finance they need to grow and to strengthen the visibility of opportunities for investment in our economy.

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
Raise levels of business growth ambition			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Research, develop and implement a strategy designed to increase businesses' ambition to start up, grow, scaleup and improve · Develop relationships with intermediaries to reach a larger proportion of the region's businesses, with a particular focus on improving awareness amongst under-represented groups, such as women, ethnic minorities, rural areas and social enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The financial input/output modelling work commissioned to inform the design of a business and innovation support commissioning framework has been received and is being tested. · Work continues with Northumbria University to explore causes of low business birth rate – an initial report demonstrating business start-up hot and cold spots has been produced and is now informing the MIT REAP programme which is focused on defining how we can raise levels of entrepreneurship and growth aspirations. · Team have been working closely with the Business Support Provider Network, MIT REAP Stakeholders and Access to Finance working group to develop the Business Growth Programme Covid19 restart plan. · Targeted promotion of High Potential Startups underway to reach under-represented groups. 	Colin Bell	G
Increase demand for external business support and finance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide access to business start-up support, finance and information through the North East Growth Hub online portal and the national Business Support Helpline · Provide one-to-one impartial brokerage to established businesses and high potential start-ups through our Growth Hub Connectors · Provide intensive account management and managed brokerage to businesses that are scaling up or have the potential to do so · Work with high quality private and public partners to ensure business support and finance are accessible to rural businesses, social enterprises and business leaders from different gender and ethnic groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Feedback from BEIS was that they consider the North East Growth Hub's performance during 2019-20 as impressive with over-achievement of all KPIs against targets. Q1 2020/21 figures: 7,469 light touch interventions; 94 medium touch interventions; 95 high Intensity Interventions; 78 additional jobs are forecast to be created from high intensity interventions, 55 of which are forecast better jobs; customer satisfaction continued to be high at 96% · The North East Growth Hub has received an additional £370k from BEIS - £290 to expand Capacity of the Growth Hub and £80k for GH Cluster activity and the development of a joint cluster plan with TVCA. · As part of Govt Covid19 response plan, the North East Growth Hub will receive additional funding to run up to 40 Peer Networks targeted at building business resilience and productivity improvement. · RGN programme contracted to deliver 100%+ of jobs target. Since last report, 44 projects complete (an increase of 2 on last report) and 1 underway. Closure visits taking place remotely to ensure due diligence under current circumstances. Under the SEIF Round 6 £1m project approved on condition of other public sector funding approval. · RDPE Growth Programme: Round 2 no change since last report. 213 North East Eols to the National Reserve Fund. 14 full applications in progress from 151 Eols endorsed across all 4 themes. No projects contracted as yet. Drop out rate stands at 22.5%. Expect this to rise as Eols are assessed. No projects contracted to date. 	Colin Bell	G
Ensure the support of external business support and finance matches the needs of businesses and the economy			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Review business support and finance provision to ensure that the region's ecosystem provides a ladder for business growth from start-up to scaleup and continuous improvement · Introduce a quality assurance system through the North East Growth Hub that assess the quality of support offered to businesses by external business support and finance providers · Work with private and public partners to design and develop a range of interventions to drive productivity improvement and the adoption of digital technology · Ensure peer mentoring and peer-to-peer leadership development is available to support businesses to scale and improve productivity · Work with partners to increase the density of high potential start-ups in the North East · Continue to develop the North East Growth Hub Business Support Provider Network to encourage collaboration and the sharing of good practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Worked with the Business Support Provider Network to identify programmes and funding to support the COVID19 Restart Plan. Engagement with the network to inform a proposal to BEIS to support the development of Peer to Peer action learning sets across the North East for anticipated rollout July/August 2020. · Weekly Covid19 business intelligence report, incorporating feedback from regional stakeholders, has been reported to Government helping to inform both national and regional response. · MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program (REAP) work continues with stakeholders as part of Covid-19 regional recovery plan, focused on entrepreneurship and ambition. All four universities engaged. · Access to Finance task and finish group continues to inform the region's approach to access to finance and Covid19 recovery planning and has reported initial findings to business growth board (June 2020). · Scaleup North East is also supporting companies whose continued high growth is impacted by the pandemic situation, with grant support available to implement growth-oriented activity. Work continues to develop successor scaleup programme via ERDF. · High Potential Startups remote delivery is working very well with good engagement and feedback. Cohort 1 completes in July. Cohort 2 continues and Cohort 3 underway with 11 founders on 2 groups taking total on programme to 44 founders. Recognising the challenging environment to recruit to programme, positive that conversion rate mirrors earlier cohorts. Targeted diversity promotion in planning phase. Intrapreneurship positioned within regional economic recovery plan. · Weekly newsletter has been issued to the Growth Hub Provider Network, presenting the latest information and sharing best practice. Held two network meetings and have third scheduled for 15 July. 	Colin Bell	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
Improve the region's economic resilience			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the North East Growth Hub to distribute up-to-date information on business support and finance options available to support Brexit preparations Work with partners to develop programmes and solution designed to help businesses to diversify into new markets, supply chains and geographies, including through Supply Chain North East Work with partners to inform the business support and finance funding mechanisms that will replace the European Structural Investment Funds Work with partners to set up task forces, when appropriate, to prepare for, to mitigate the effects of and to deal with the fallout of economic shocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the Covid19 ERG Covid19 Business Restart plan has been mobilised with refreshed offer presented through the Growth Hub's Covid19 Toolkit. 5 x additional Growth Hub connectors are being put in place to provide additional support to businesses in areas of opportunity, Social Enterprise and Hospitality. As part of Govt response we are expecting £500k to fund Peer Networks and in excess of additional £1mil ERDF to support businesses effected by Covid19 – both awaiting Ministerial signoff – mobilisation happening in parallel. Enhanced LGF Grants are being provided to businesses who can supply PPE via Supply Chain North East. Work on-going to develop support for localisation of supply chains. Support measures being put in place with TVCA as part of Growth hub Cluster Action plan to support businesses through EU Transition. This will include enquiry handling, survey and technical training for front line staff. Coordinating (via Stakeholders and Survey), compiling and submitting business intelligence reports to BEIS weekly as to inform the response to Covid19 and EU Exit. 	Colin Bell	G
Grow inward investment in the region			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined and local authorities, the LEP, the Department for International Trade and private sector will work together with a shared ambition of securing maximum inward investment into the North East Establish and follow a clear target driven, lead generation model that is focused on the SEPs areas of strategic importance and support service sectors Have a robust account management system, led by local authorities, to share knowledge and investment opportunities with key partners Develop and deliver an integrated marketing plan to raise the profile of the North East as a place to invest and locate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final inward investment success figures for 2019/20 in the North East LEP area: 84 total investments creating 2,906 jobs (plus many safeguarded). Of these 65 were Foreign Direct Investments creating 2,468 jobs and 19 were from UK companies creating 438 jobs. INEE continues to deliver the DIT Key Account Management Programme (KAM) through circa £157k of DIT Northern Powerhouse funding in 2020/21 (subject to final contract). In 2019/20 there were provisionally 27 successes through this programme, making the North East LEP area the highest performing Northern Powerhouse LEP area. INEE is working with local authorities to access key information gleaned from account management activity. Key information on the impact of COVID-19 on the KAM companies is being fed to DIT. 	Guy Currey	A

Programme Risks

Risk Description	Cause description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall	Actions to avoid/reduce impact
Programmes do not match the needs of businesses	Lack of control over current funding landscape	M	H	MH	Liaison with BEIS, LEP taking a thought leadership role.
Future ecosystem deployment is delayed	SPF or EU funding successor is delayed	M	H	MH	Financial input/output modelling supplier being procured currently.
Business downturn and/or closure	Brexit process/outcome causes economic shock National resources are not secured or directed to deal with significant shocks Regional partners are uncoordinated and unable to draw down Government resources	M	H	MH	Engage with business and gather intelligence about business impacts of Brexit.
Ability to attract new FDI is significantly impeded with resultant economic impacts to North East LEP economy.	Covid-19 and EU Exit processes and timescales cause uncertainty and deter or defer investment decisions.	H	H	HH	Continued liaison and dialogue with partners to develop contingency plans.

Innovation | Lead: Alan Welby

Ambition by 2024

Innovation is central to our long-term aim to build a more productive North East, fostering a competitive and embedded business base and solving social and economic challenges in the region and beyond. It is a tool for internationalising our economy, particularly in areas of specialisation, by attracting partners and investors to engage in our science, research and business base and for strengthening the competitiveness of businesses and creativity of communities.

We have an ambition of a collaborative and open innovation eco-system that enables the matching of what is needed to what is possible to drive economic or social value, or both.

We aim to increase the number of innovation active businesses by 550 and increase investment in business research, development and innovation by 50% between 2014 and 2024.

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
Stimulate new business opportunities through the North East Open Innovation Challenge			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support growing activity to foster open innovation between large corporates, public sector and innovation-led SMEs in the region Support the alignment and communication of open innovation and challenge events and programmes to create critical mass and deepen engagement with regional businesses in events Support best practice for open innovation events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The virtual workshop held with partners on 13 June was well attended and produced insights which will be used to inform the approach to developing a regional model for Open Innovation. Learning from the June workshop is being reviewed and used to inform the next steps in delivering a toolkit for OI challenges. A Covid-19 challenge fund has been secured which will support the development of solutions to immediate problems posed by Covid-19 to assist economic recovery. The Horizon 2020 funded INVITE project is drawing to a close. Learning from these activities is informing development of the Oi2Lab approach. 	Alan Welby	G
Prioritise a regional pipeline of projects to form a Strategic Investment Programme			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a prioritised list of regional, large scale pipeline projects Align with activities undertaken by our Combined Authorities Focus on large-scale collaborative projects that have the capacity to have significant impact for the regional economy and create jobs The North East LEP's Innovation Board will play a challenge and support role, holding regional partners to account for progress in developing the evidence base and business plans, securing funding and delivering pipeline projects Develop a programme to address identified place-based gaps to supporting business growth Coordinate an approach to securing funds for pipeline projects, including from the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) and Grand Challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project pipeline, process for accepting new projects, and the quarterly reporting mechanism to the Innovation Board is well established. The Innovation Board has representatives from both the North East Combined Authority and North of Tyne Combined Authority which approves new applications and monitors progress. The assessment criteria approved for the initial prioritisation of projects will be retained for assessment of future projects. The board reporting process approved in September 2019 is now in regular use. Engagement with all priority projects has commenced on a regular cycle to maintain dialogue. This approach is being reviewed to ensure appropriate LEP support is provided. A specification for procurement was produced to take this work forwards in 2020/21. The scope for delivering this work in the current operating climate is being assessed, and may result in a change to the proposed activity. New funding streams have been announced including £47 Million for Infrastructure Projects. We are working with partners to identify projects which are suitable to bid for this funding. 	Alan Welby	G
Support our businesses to capitalise on local research and innovation capability			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen collaboration between businesses and innovation assets such as universities, catapults and national centres of excellence Enhance the co-ordination between businesses, sectors and innovation assets Support our innovation assets to successfully secure national funding to run regional programmes Work with service delivery partners such as the NHS and local authorities to take-up and roll-out new delivery approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial demonstrator asset base mapping exercise complete. Two workshops have been held with the Universities to develop opportunities for collaboration. The universities continue to feed into Covid-19 response working group and are working closely with Catapult partners to develop an R&D lifeboat programme. The Innovation Project Development fund has supported 12 projects to develop full business cases. Engagement is underway with key partners to develop the Open Innovation Challenge. 	Alan Welby	G
Increase private sector investment into growing innovation businesses			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support VentureFest and FinanceCamp Develop new approaches to lever private funding from outside the region Develop an open innovation challenge to drive increased collaborative investment Work with universities to continue to grow spin-out success, including through Northern Accelerator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Innovation team continues to work closely with the SuperNetwork, and will provide support for the delivery of activity which may replace VenureFest and Finance Camp in 2020. Initial review of access to finance provision was completed in 2019. The task and finish group work is nearing an end, with next steps being formulated. The Open Innovation Challenge development is underway as reported under Activity 1. This will develop an approach that will support increased private sector investment. Alan Welby continues to attend the Northern Accelerator Board to support the development of the project. Work with the universities to identify routes to increase spin-out activity is ongoing. Current work is being taken forward through ERDF activity with the developing Business Growth model addressing university activity. 	Alan Welby	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
Engage partners to identify and drive business growth through an Innovation Sectors and Competencies Programme			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and prioritise regional innovation sectors and competencies, including assessing where these align with the Industrial Strategy and North East Local Industrial Strategy Put robust governance in place to identify priority areas Ensure buy-in and engagement with private sector Develop a portfolio of projects and programmes Identify leads and capacity to drive activity Improve alignment of innovation activities to skills and business growth programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional sectors and competencies study has been completed with Technopolis providing a final report. A procurement exercise will be undertaken for consultancy support to take the IDP Pilot approach forward in line with the original proposals. A number of potential IDPs are keen to engage in the process. Innovation Delivery Partnership are the proposed route to ensure oversight. The Innovation Delivery Board approved a programme of activity in 2020. Partners are being engaged through the development of the Innovation Delivery Framework. Work is ongoing to finalise the framework document, with a launch anticipated in late 2020. The project pipeline addressed under Activity 2, provides a portfolio. Gaps in the pipeline will be identified through a top-down approach involving the LEP sector leads. A series of draft propositions have been developed as part of the LIS development process. Alan Welby is leading a corporate planning workstrand which aims to align programme activity across Innovation, Skills, Business Growth, and Strategy and Policy. 	Alan Welby	G
Coordinate regional partners to provide enhanced innovation support activity			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the delivery of a programme of innovation support for regional businesses Ensure activity is aligned through successful partnership brokered by the Innovation SuperNetwork Support businesses to increase their investment in RDI Strengthen our links with national and international hubs and networks to generate commercial returns for local businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform Green have developed an input-output model which demonstrates the economic impact of investment to support business growth which will be tested in July 2020. LEP team continues to work closely with the SuperNetwork team including on the development Open Innovation Challenge, and in and working collaboratively with the Academic Health Science Network in support of the regional response to the PPE need caused by COVID-19. The challenge of increasing business RDI continues to be considered through the Innovation Delivery Framework. Alan Welby is leading the Northern Powerhouse innovation workstream including innovation challenge activity. 	Alan Welby	G

Programme Risks

Risk Description	Cause description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall	Actions to avoid/reduce impact
Innovation budget insufficient to cover all activities - namely Places and Communities study	Broader budget pressures	H	M	HM	Investigating other approaches to delivery with reduced cost and reprofiling activity

Skills, employment, inclusion and progression | Lead: Michelle Rainbow

Ambition by 2024

Our long-term ambition in the North East is that demand for skills and the quality of jobs continue to improve, leading to higher productivity. To delivery this, the North East must be a place where:

- Individuals, regardless of age or employment status, have a good understanding of the employment opportunities available in the North East and the pathways to access them
- Employers have strong links with education and training providers leading to responsive provision that meets local needs
- All patterns understand the importance of skills in improving productivity and living standards, with commitment to delivering good working environments for residents

This is an ambition vision that will require substantial changes to deliver. By 2024, our ambition is that these principles are understood across the region and that there has been significant progress made towards their achievement, providing a strong base to build on in future years.

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
1. Deliver North East Ambition			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop a primary school benchmark pilot that could influence the national careers strategy · Adoption of the Gatsby Good Careers Benchmarks by all secondary schools and colleges · Secure and deliver a £3.4million North East Ambition programme that ensures our education system provides young people with the skills to meet the long-term needs of the North East economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The primary pilot continues to have positive engagement from the schools involved despite covid-19. A series of webinars have been delivered to pilot schools, including a number where schools shared best practice. A baseline survey report by external evaluators has been completed and the schools are currently completing an end of year audit and further survey, to enable us to analyse the progress made during the first year and to start considering the focus for next year. One school was successful with their innovation fund bid from the 7 applications. · The Career Hubs are continuing to support schools and colleges in challenging times including on a 1-1 level. The Opportunities Bulletins have been refreshed so that there are now individual versions for primary, secondary and SEND schools as well as one for FE; there are also two versions for Enterprise Advisers. These are being sent out to their targeted audiences every two weeks and include details of a range of resources, events, activities that schools, colleges and individuals could find useful. Each of the hubs have also organised a recent focus group, in order to gather some further intelligence in terms of the emerging impact of covid-19 in their work towards the Benchmarks, and what the impact might be moving forwards into next year. The college hub lead recently participated in a national AOC/CEC webinar, highlighting some of our work in the North East and our SEND hub lead delivered a presentation to the CEC national community of practice (SEND). · The ESF funded North East Ambition Programme continues delivery, the programme has been in close contact with the managing authority to establish a new model for delivery online. · The Enterprise Coordinator Team are currently working with a pool of 153 Enterprise Advisers. Despite the current restriction measures being in place, the team have successfully facilitated five matches between Enterprise Advisers and schools since May 2020. The team has been facilitating ongoing virtual contact with both the Enterprise Adviser Network and schools through staff CPD, match and progress meetings. 	Michelle Rainbow	G
2. Deliver Education Challenge			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Partner with the Department for Education and others to consider the allocation of the £24 million Opportunity North East funding to improve prospects for young people in the North East. Boost social mobility and raise aspirations for children · Expand delivery of the Next Generation learning pilot focussing on school leadership, high quality CPD, rich employer engagement, early preparation for next stage, a focus on wider skills, a focus on student well-being and teaching and learning through applied learning, project based learning and oracy skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Opportunity North East is now into operational phase. The team hosted a schools inception meeting and the detail of project delivery shared with school leaders. The project facilitator is in the process of finalising the development of a data collection and reporting tool which will give powerful analysis and reporting from a school to whole project level. Schools are now in the process of identifying the cohorts of students that will be supported through the enhanced and targeted careers guidance and interventions. Finalisation of contract for the independent careers advice and guidance is underway and we will be working with the successful organisation over the summer to prepare for induction meetings in each school. In consultation with the schools we are ensuring that any ongoing restrictions due to covid-19 do not prevent progress in the new academic year. · The Next Generation Learning Pilot phase 2 remains operational despite the covid-19 situation, conversations with leadership, colleagues from the U.S. continue and teaching staff and support remotely to continue to work against schools and college action plans, this has included new partnerships being established with other educational institutions in the UK that have agreed to provide virtual and at some point face to face CPD. System and structural changes have been implemented in schools and colleges to ensure that the work remains a priority moving into the new academic year. · Following the postponement of the second round of teacher externships, a virtual externship has now been trialled and the model and feedback is being reviewed for wider participation. · The Next Generation Learning team is focusing on continuation of blended learning and virtual employer engagement to 	Michelle Rainbow	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
3. Improve skills progression			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a list of the region's assets within FE, HE and other providers to inform future investment provision Promote the North East as a potential location to pilot a system to help individuals recognise and record their transferable skills Work with the Apprenticeship Growth Partnership and other partners to increase the number of apprenticeships available at all levels within growth and labour-intensive sectors Support partners to implement good quality T-levels and specialist technical education to widen choices for young people Secure funding to deliver a university pilot project focussing on careers and opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The survey is nearing completion. The further education sector, Independent Learning Providers and the four regional universities have all been consulted. The research framework has been adapted to take the impact of Covid-19 on the skills sector into account and the first part of the report is due for report in August. The LEP and other partners are scoping the pilot programme for transferable or fusion skills. The pilot will be influenced by the findings in the Taylor Review. A proposition for a pilot was included in the draft local industrial strategy. The Skills Advisory Panel has identified the impact on Covid-19 on apprenticeship delivery as a priority. The LEP team is currently scoping an action plan with regional partners to support apprenticeship recruitment and delivery through the Covid-19 crisis. A LEP proposal to hold a series of targeted events to promote T-levels placements was approved by ESFA, a series of events is underway with employers and with educational organisations to promote 	Michelle Rainbow	G
4. Increase youth employment			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver Generation North East and the model to prevent youth unemployment Provide specialist intensive support for those most distant from the labour market because of disadvantage, poverty, poor physical and mental health Grow the number of apprenticeships by developing access courses Ensure young people are able to develop their digital skills. This required digital skills to be built into school, FE and HE courses, exploring new models of delivery including working to secure an Institute of Technology in the region and ensuring that support for young people not in education, employment or training includes digital skills training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To date Generation North East has engaged 963 young people (18-29yrs) and supported 317 of those into employment. As the impact of Lockdown emerged the programme was in a good position, already delivering on digital platforms. With strong use of social media to promote, communicate and encourage it has continued to provide an efficient service across the LEP area. Advisers immediately implemented video calling as a key way to keep in contact and support clients wellbeing over this stressful time. Clients feedback has been excellent; often there is a mistaken belief that all young people are comfortable with digital tools, which has not proved the case, they need to be upskilled and given confidence on many platforms (including the secure use of Facebook). Durham Works has now supported 7,349 young people since its commencement in January 2016. Of those, 3,588 have now progressed into employment, education or training or gained a qualification. Of those, almost 70% (2,480) have progressed into employment. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on delivery. All face to face activity stopped on 23rd March however Delivery Partners have found innovative ways to support participants including Zoom and Teams meetings, posting videos and blogs onto Facebook and providing practical help such as food parcels. As lockdown measures are easing, employer routeway delivery is planned with employment opportunities being created in Construction, Warehousing, Customer Service, Retail and ICT and Digital sectors. The National Careers Service Working with the ESFA central team and other Prime Contractors to develop and disseminate careers advice and guidance content for parents/pupils to use at home. Surveying for part one of the future skills needs assessment across three sectors; Offshore Wind, Tourism and Digital Skills in Health and Social Care, was postponed in mid-march 2020 due to a fall in number of response. Planning is underway to resume surveying and capture impact of Covid-19 on future skills needs. 	Michelle Rainbow	G
5. Improve labour market activation			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop holistic package of support for people facing health barriers to employment, building on successful projects such as Mental Health Trailblazer and Working Links, showcasing the benefits of collaboration Ensure support is in place for those that have moved from unemployment or inactivity into work to help them progress and acquire further skills Increase take up of Better Health at Work Awards and similar schemes to employers, to share employment and human resource best practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North East Mental Health Mental Trailblazer three year project closed at end of December 2019. The £2.2m project was funded from the CLG Transformation Challenge Award and European Social Fund. An evaluation report was presented to the February SAP board. The project demonstrated a high level of impact, this was reflected in its high referral rates compared to other projects. The National Careers Service has been working with local authorities to roll out the Jobs Fuse programme. This is a new programme that supports workers impacted by the Covid-19 crisis to return to work and help employers fill vacancies. The programme has been launched in Durham and South Tyneside (at the time of writing) and planning was underway in the rest of the North East LEP region. The programme is flexible and will be integrated into existing services where appropriate. The programme also provides direct support for furloughed workers, it also provides information and support to employers to plan for their furloughed employees. The team is developing a partnership project with Durham University to develop a series of case studies looking at good work. The proposal has been approved for funding and first inception meeting are underway. 	Michelle Rainbow	G
6. Ensure connected communities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide targeted support for communities and individuals, focusing on those with multiple barriers or protected characteristics, and ensure this is a strategic funding priority Work to secure funding and other resources to ensure that all North East residents are able to develop their digital skills regardless of their age, location or economic status Consideration of digital skills provision and local digital infrastructure must be prioritised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over £70m of ESF projects are currently live, with 21 projects currently in the appraisal process. The ESF regional coordinator has collected information on the impact of covid-19 on delivery across the North East programming and is in touch with the managing authority to mitigate the impact. Digital Skills is part of the overall ESIF strategy and will be a priority in the development of future provision. The SAP will provide the start of the detailed analysis of the requirement. Digital meeting with representatives with Digital Workforce group took place last week with the next steps being to address those responsible for both the delivery of the tech specific qualifications and those for digitally upskilling the wider teaching workforce through an information session to these personnel. The aim of this session is to broker relationships between those supporting the demand led agenda and those delivering within the FE Sector supply side, particularly with the Institute of Technology. 	Michelle Rainbow	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
7. Help deliver Fuller Working Lives			
- Continue to develop and implement the North East's Fuller Working Lives strategy with a supporting communications plan that targets employers and addresses the challenges and opportunities around this agenda	- Work has commenced the development of a series of activities focussed on the 3 R, re-train, retrain and regain. Development of the FWL strategy is being developed as a key part of local industrial strategy. The LEP is working with regional universities to explore innovation in healthy aging, aligned with the Aging Society set out in industrial strategy.	Michelle Rainbow	G

Programme Risks

Risk Description	Cause description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall	Actions to avoid/reduce impact
Fusion Skills Pilot: Lack of funding	No confirmed funding source for the employability framework	M	H	MH	Sources of funding is being sought
T Levels: Emerging government policy on T-Levels placements	Emerging government policy on T-Levels placements may result in reluctance from employers to provide apprenticeships.	M	H	MH	Working with ESFA and partners to ensure clear communication to employers on planned reforms.
Youth Employment: Future funding	Majority of programmes are funded through European Funds. Details of funds to replace them have not yet been provided, however it is anticipated that the amount of future funding will be less.	M	M	MM	Building a strong evidence base through the Skills Advisory Panel in order to ensure future funding is effectively spent
Labour Market Activation: Future funding	Majority of programmes are funded through European Funds. Details of funds to replace them have not yet been provided, however it is anticipated that the amount of future funding will be less.	M	M	MM	Building a strong evidence base through the Skills Advisory Panel in order to ensure future funding is effectively spent
North East Ambition: outputs fall due to Covid-19	North East Ambition ESF funded programme suffers fall in outputs due to Covid-19	M	M	MM	Delivery is continuing online and programme manager is constant contact with managing authority to update outputs profiles as appropriate.
Apprenticeships: regional delivery impacted by covid-19	Early indications are that covid-19 is having a impact on apprenticeship delivery country-wide	M	H	MH	Identified as a priority, working with regional partners to draw up an action plan to support delivery.
Youth Employment: programmes face uncertainty around delivery	The sector is reporting financial uncertainty with many grant funding streams uncertain and delivery halted.	H	H	HH	North East LEP is working very closely with partners to assess the impact of covid-19 on the sector in order to draw up a regional response.

Transport connectivity | Lead: Philip Meikle

Vision Statement

Our ambition is once of improved, greener and more sustainable transport options, including public transport, cycling and walking.

New mobility solutions will make travel simpler and affordable across our distinctive local economy. Quality infrastructure will make for reliable, fast journeys with connectivity into national and international freight and passenger networks. This network will be the enabler to sustainable growth and opportunity, and to the North East being an outward looking economy attracting trade, investment and visitors from across Europe and the world.

Through the Strategic Economic Plan we have established a strong investment pipeline. Our aim is to continue to deliver continuous improvement in a modern, integrated transport system that underpins our economic ambitions.

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
Ongoing transport project delivery			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued infrastructure renewals on the Metro system to promote system reliability Further roll out of electric vehicle charging points through the Go Ultra Low North East programme to encourage the uptake of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles in the region Delivery of the Local Growth Fund transport programme and the Local Sustainable Transport Fund capital programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project and Programme Management of circa 275 individual projects within the Metro Asset Renewal Programme. Funding of £350m confirmed with investment to date of £335m. 203 Projects completed and closed out, 64 Projects in progress at 3rd July 2020. Funding / Programme completion 31 March 2021. Programme delivery continuing with some delays and disruption to site works and budget pressures resulting from Covid-19 working restrictions - this is beginning to stabilise and key projects are still expected to be delivered in current financial year but lower priorities will be deferred. Transport North East Strategy Unit has procured Swarco UK Ltd. To progress the development of the EV chargers for the Taxi trade. Orders are being processed with the intention of the chargers being installed by the 30 September 2020. Delivery of the LGF transport programme is progressing well with a number of schemes now complete. Project progress and expenditure continues to be monitored closely. Consultants have been appointed to carry out an evaluation of the LSTF capital programme. 	Philip Meikle	A
Secure funding from Transforming Cities Bid and commence delivery			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A high-quality bid, that secures significant funding for the sustainable transport network Begin a programme of sustainable infrastructure interventions in public transport, walking and cycling Develop the foundations of an innovative new mobility ecosystem with digitally based ticketing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An excellent funding settlement has been achieved, with both rail schemes funded and a £104m Devolved Pot established for local schemes. This programme will commence during 2020, subject to COVID19 restrictions. A programme delivery team structure for the TNESU will be recruited. A plan for new mobility has been prepared (this formed the basis of our FMZ bid). Exploration continues to find potential sources of funding for new mobility interventions. 	Philip Meikle	G
Deliver better connectivity through improved infrastructure			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interventions on the local Strategic Highways Network, including major junction projects and commencement of A1 improvements Roll out of the first trains in the Metro fleet replacement programmes Commissioning of electric vehicle filling stations and charging clusters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways England (HE) current work programmes for strategic highways improvements is on schedule: A19: Construction on Testos/ Downhill Lane continues through the period, which will create a free flowing A19 between North Yorkshire and Northumberland. A69: Work has continued on the two junction schemes in the Hexham area to improve flow - Due for completion in March 2021. A66: Planning for the dualling scheme is progressing and HE with the commitment in the Spring Budget that the scheme will commence within the RIS2 period (2020-2025). A1: Western Bypass improvements at Scotswood-North Brunton commenced in March 2020, Birtley to Coalhouse: due to start in 2020-2021. A1 in Northumberland, schemes at Morpeth to Felton and Alnwick to Ellingham merged to now be called Morpeth to Ellingham. Pre-DCO consultation on the Environmental Impact Assessment has begun. Due to commence in 2020/21. Nexus continues to progress the joint mobilisation and design development phases with Stadler mainly by video conferencing in line with COVID 19 guidelines. The adverse impact of COVID 19 on the programme has been minimised and site investigations at the depot have commenced via the sub contractor Volker Fitzpatrick again within UK Government distancing guidelines. Stadler are unclear as to the impact COVID 19 will have on the future supply chain for the existing and new fleet but have confirmed that this has not as yet impacted on the new trains entering service in 2023. A joint working group is now established with Newcastle University through their Open Lab consultation department to facilitate virtual public and stakeholder consultations later this year. Howdon satellite depot is nearing completion for use ahead of the start of the main depot reconstruction works and fleet maintenance on 4th October 2020. The Go Ultra Low North East programme has made significant progress during the project period, notably the opening of the UK's first EV filling station. Installation of the rapid hubs continues. All hubs will be commissioned by autumn 2020. There has been some delay to the installation due to COVID. However, work is underway to mitigate this to avoid delays to the programme. The programme has been extended due to the impact of COVID on the delivery of the chargers. 	Philip Meikle	A

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
Develop a future transport investment pipeline			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the North East Transport Plan including supplementary thematic strategies designed to support our economy Continued participation in Transport for the North and Rail North to identify pan-Northern connectivity priorities A pipeline of schemes matched to targeted funding solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the North East Transport Plan continues. On 18th November JTC approved the Plan's Vision: Moving to a green, healthy, dynamic and thriving North East. The mission flowcharts include a baseline position and set out a strategic direction of where we want the region to be, together with key recommendations. The information in the mission flowcharts will form the core content of the Transport Plan technical document. Unlike previous transport plans, we will digitalise the Plan to ensure it is more public facing and it will be a 'live' document so that the data and interventions can be updated. The technical document will sit behind the web based, public facing Transport Plan. It is anticipated that the consultation draft of the Plan will be endorsed by JCT summer 2020. The Transport North East Strategy Unit and Nexus are engaged with TfN on current projects covering the Major Roads Network, Strategic Development Corridors (road and rail) and the Long Term Rail Strategy line of route audits. TfN are engaging with DfT over the review of HS2/NPR to develop an Integrated Rail Plan by the end of 2020. TNE/Nexus are inputting the NE asks into the process. NPR Strategic Outline case is also progressing with a view to submission by early 2021. TfN preparing a Covid response plan (TfN Economic Recovery Plan) and preparing for a potential stimulus budget. Project pipeline for inclusion in the Transport Plan is being developed, these will be projects which are regional priorities and meet the objectives and targets within the Transport Plan. The project pipeline will be included in the Implementation Plan. 	Philip Meikle	A
Improve national and international connectivity			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of the programme of interventions outlined in the Newcastle Airport Masterplan to grow routes and foster wider business growth in associated sectors Agreement with Northern Powerhouse Rail and others on approach to East Coast Mainline improvements Ongoing augmentation or port capability to support trade and investment and to foster growth in key regional areas of opportunity including energy and advanced manufacturing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nexus are currently engaged in development work with Network Rail and TfN in projects including Northern Powerhouse Rail (1st Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) completed, refreshed SOBC under development,) making the ECML HS2 and NPR ready (Initial future capacity analysis complete by Network Rail). Network Rail have produced the outputs from a study of the future needs of the ECML between Northallerton and Newcastle, findings show the need for 9 trains per hour (tph) (an uplift from the 6tph a day currently) to include both HS2 and NPR services. The next step is to develop the case for the various interventions needed to deliver this level of service. 	Philip Meikle	A
Use transport to drive innovation and business growth			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint work across all transport modes to identify opportunities for innovation areas including energy, fuels, digital mobility and the development of the Centre for Connected Autonomous Vehicles Collaborative work with tourism agencies to strengthen the offer for business and visitor tourism Collaborative work to develop supply chain and skills development programmes linked to transport and logistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Mobility Zone Project closed - DfT did not shortlist the North East FMZ proposition. The Airport is working with other members of the Northern Tourism Alliance, including DMO's and LA's on the Visit North East England project. NTA members are providing content for the new website and the Airport is driving traffic to the site via overseas digital campaigns The North East Freight Partnership's Skills Working Group engages with the logistics sector, training providers and other agencies to examine ways of addressing skills and labour shortages. The next meeting was due to be held in mid-2020, however all meetings are currently on hold due to COVID-19 	Philip Meikle	G

Programme Risks

Risk Description	Cause description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall	Actions to avoid/reduce impact
Affordability of Metro Asset Renewal Programme - Delivery of required outcomes within the £352m available funding.	Multiple project risks, contractor risk pricing and inflationary pressures. Covid-19 impact on working arrangements and supply chains. EU supply chain risks (inc' Brexit related).	H	M	HM	Re-prioritisation and allocation of risk contingency. Periodic (4weekly) programme reviews and quarterly 'affordability' reporting.
Beyond 2020/21, funding for Metro Infrastructure renewals remains unconfirmed. Metro Infrastructure investment unfunded beyond 31 March 2021	Business Case submitted - still awaiting DfT / Treasury approval	M	H	MH	Continue to engage with DfT / Treasury. DfT Nexus Programme Board and direct communications.
Funding not available for new mobility interventions	No funding can be identified from internal or external sources to develop new mobility trials	H	M	HM	Continue to explore funding opportunities.
Pipeline of schemes for Transport Plan change as a result of Covid-19	Priorities change as a result of Covid-19, requiring a new pipeline of schemes to be produced	H	H	HH	Working with Local Authorities to assess whether schemes are still valid in a post Covid-19 scenario. The TSU is also ensuring that the pipeline aligns with the work of the C-19 Response Group.
Funding sources for Transport Plan schemes are not identified and previous funding sources are no longer available	Funding is not available	M	H	MH	Potential funding sources will be sought
The outcome of the Integrated Rail Plan review being undertaken by the National Infrastructure Commission may significantly change the NPR project and how it serves the North East.	The Integrated Rail Plan review being undertaken by the National Infrastructure Commission could significantly affect the current NPR network being developed in partnership with TfN and DfT.	M	H	MH	Lobbying by TfN/ JTC and LEP already taken place.

Investment and infrastructure | Lead: Helen Golightly

Ambition by 2024

Through focussed and coordinated investments we will address market failures and competitive weaknesses. We will work with partners to quicken the pace and scale of investment across the North East, focusing on our business and infrastructure investment opportunities and needs. Opportunities for job and productivity growth on strategic employment sites, in town and city centres, along strategic transport corridors, in our culture and tourist hubs and in the rural economy will be prioritised.

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
Manage the already secured North East LEP funding effectively			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest the £270m of Local Growth Fund (LGF) grant into transport, infrastructure for strategic science parks and employment sites, plus skills and business growth activities Maximise the loan investment opportunity for the £55m North East Investment Fund (NEIF) Progress delivery of the 21 Enterprise Zone sites' infrastructure programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package of measures put forward and agreed at Investment Board to utilise LGF resource in providing covid-related support as part of £5m fund agreed at LEP Board. Three new LGF programme project business cases determined at Investment Board, with further business cases coming forward in September to commit much of the remaining LGF balance 30 projects have now received NEIF awards. Ongoing discussion with some projects around impact of covid on repayment profiles. Latest refresh of the EZ financial model and performance assessment of each site shows progress being made on most sites and that lifetime financial position has improved. Additional infrastructure required at the Holborn 2 site (following the announcement from SSE/Equinor) will lead to an additional application for EZ funding for consideration by the LEP Investment Board in late 2020. 	Helen Golightly	G
Coordinate partners to develop a regional project pipeline based on spatial economic priorities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a regional project pipeline based on agreed spatial economic priorities through effective partnership working with the two combined and seven local authorities, business and education partners and government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process and timetable for preparing an updated project list to be set out in line with the LIS proposition development Spatial narrative to be informed by the LIS propositions and pipelining work 	Helen Golightly	A
Secure additional investment into the North East			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure UK government funding linked to delivering the Industrial Strategy into the region Secure the notional allocation of European Structural Investment Funds into the region with partners Work with public and private sector partners to develop and secure funding for strategic projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £47m allocated to region through the Getting Building Fund with final submission of proposed projects being sent to Government on 17 July. Bishop Auckland and Blyth award capacity funding to support the development of Town Deals. LEP expected to be part of each Town Deal Board which are to convene early in 2020 and produce Investment Plan by the summer. Details awaited from Government on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) As of January 2020 more than 94% of the LEP area ERDF allocation is expected to be utilised by contracted or pipeline projects. ESF is now forecast to be oversubscribed, with bids coming forward from the region to access the national reserve fund for ESIF. 	Helen Golightly	G
Increase access to finance for business to invest			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively deliver the North East Fund Identify gaps and market demand for new business finance models Develop business finance mechanisms to meet the need of North East businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North East Fund has invested just over £39m into 243 different companies / 250 deals since its inception just over two years ago (up from £37.8m over 235 SMEs / 241 deals at last report) and continues to operate about 3 months behind the original plan, with the expectation that investment would total c£6m per quarter. Review of the NEIF has resulted in development of Commercial Property Investment Fund, with market engagement activities to take place over the coming months with potential fund managers and refine investment strategy. 	Helen Golightly	G

Programme Risks

Risk Description	Cause description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall	Actions to avoid/reduce impact
Delays to project completions and KPI achievement	Covid-19 related restrictions reduce ability of funded projects to complete in good time and delay achievement of KPIs	H	M	HM	Ongoing dialogue with project sponsors to understand impact
Non compliance with National Assurance Framework	Failure to adapt to LEP review requirements especially on governance matters	L	H	LH	Necessary actions reported to Board and planned to be delivered by 31/3/20
EZ Business Rate Income is not sufficient to meet the capital financing costs for infrastructure works	Slow site development and/or lack of end user interest leads across all EZ sites leads to significant drop in Business Rate Income	L	H	LH	Ongoing dialogue with EZ site owners and increased scrutiny via Investment Board

Strategy, Policy and Analysis | Lead: Richard Baker

Vision Statement

The North East LEP will be recognised locally and nationally as an exemplar for driving evidence based economic strategy, public policy and programme delivery.

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) development and delivery			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of external interim evaluation over period 2018-2021 Establish processes for embedding lessons from monitoring and evaluation into LEP decision making Development and delivery of comprehensive SEP communications plan Prepare for next scheduled review in 2021 Secure alignment with other regional plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The evaluation report content of 2019-20 review period is being completed. Discussion about the 2020-21 process took place in May 2020 given impact of Covid 19. A forward plan will be agreed in July 2020. Evaluation of projects funded through LGF are currently being scoped. A NE Ambition evaluation was recently commissioned to align with the SEP evaluation Internal sharing processes have been agreed and the NE Data Hub Research and Evidence Page will provide the location for the publication of the Evaluation report and a repository of learning. Discussion has begun about the forward progress for the SEP update, planned for 2021 informed by the evaluation and taking into account wider policy changes such as the Local Industrial Strategy and Transport Plan. The Board has agreed a Recovery Plan in response to the impact of Covid 19 at the Board meeting in May 2020 and as part of this it has been agreed that the next update of the SEP will be undertaken at a point when a post Covid 'new normal' is achieved The role of the SEP is strongly positioned in all communications and is considered with respect of other strategic processes - for example the LIS. This will continue to be reinforced. The SEP is used as a framing document for each of these documents. 	Richard Baker	G
Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) development			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree and develop a vision and objectives for LIS Develop a robust and open evidence base Identify and develop core propositions Pursue dialogue with Government regarding the LIS propositions Delivery of the engagement plan. Ensuring that it is co-produced with government and partners, and according to the government time table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LIS process is currently suspended given the impact of Covid 19, although significant content is being included in the Covid 19 Recovery Plan A range of evidence projects have been completed and report to the Steering Group and other events to provide context for propositions. The 2020 version of Our Economy has now been produced, and a Covid 19 Evidence project is being scoped to ensure that the impact of Covid 19 is clear Draft propositions have been developed; many of the proposals developed for the LIS feature in the Covid 19 Recovery Plan 	Richard Baker	A
Economic analysis and commentary			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide timely, accurate and appropriate analysis of data Effectively communicate key messages from data using the most suitable mode of dissemination Develop new methods of accessing, collating, analysing and presenting data Identify opportunities to work with or provide guidance and training of other people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of key data released over the last two months has been undertaken, including regular labour market statistics and alternative 'faster indicators' such furlough and self-employment support statistics and benefit counts that provide an indication of the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. Provided analysis to help inform the development of North East COVID-19 Economic Response Group plans, including development of baseline indicators Commissioned study to identify new methods for understanding future employment and skills needs Our Economy was launched in June in two formats - a full report and executive summary - with an accompanying video and an update of the Data Hub Local authority level data has been added to the Data Hub, together with additional information about the labour market Working with colleagues to explore the use of administrative data sources relating to COVID-19 alongside regular survey data 	Richard Baker	G
Delivery of research and evidence programme			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a centrally co-ordinated research programme Establish a collaborative research programme with NE universities Maintain the North East Economic Evidence Forum and continue to strengthen its role and remit Increase visibility of our analysis, research, and evaluation activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team is currently working with the Investment Team to determine a clear process for commissioning research, resulting from the transfer of accountable body. We are currently working with the Innovation Team on developing a number of research projects and one on COVID intelligence gathering. Workstreams have been recast in light of COVID and initial project proformas are being developed. We are working on a funding bid to explore SME resilience. Three projects looking at scale ups, trade and 'good work' continue with Durham University, however on slightly longer timelines due to COVID19. A research and publications page is live on the North East Data Hub in order to share our reports and evidence activities. We are working on a forward plan for future research to be shared on this platform. 	Emma Ward	G
Informing and influencing public policy in priority areas			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of scope and activity of LEP public policy action Implementation of EU Exit work programme Strengthen and co-ordinate engagement with the northern powerhouse and its constituent activities Support and promote approaches which can deliver enhanced devolution to the region to support the economy Move forward a co-ordinated approach to public policy development related to infrastructure Develop and deliver a public affairs strategy focus on parliament and the senior civil service Co-ordinate and support the public policy response to Covid-19 through LEP teams and the Economic Response Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report on a reviewed framework for public policy activity for the LEP will be brought to the Board later this year covering work on EU Exit, Covid, Industrial Strategy, Devolution and Infrastructure. The EU Exit Implementation Group continues to meet monthly. The Infrastructure Subgroup meets on an ad hoc basis to advise on preparations linked to trade and security or borders. It is the Advisory structure for the development of the Free Trade Zone proposal. Business intelligence is received through the EU Exit Implementation Group, the Infrastructure Subgroup, the Growth Hub Connectors, and LA economic leads. Specific business intelligence on the impact of Covid-19 is collated by the LEP programme leads, Invest NE England, the Business Growth Board, and Local Authorities and is fed to Government The EU Exit Work Programme was updated in February following discussion with the Implementation Group. Further updates are planned to reflect the current status of workstreams and the impact of Covid-19 A draft response to the Freeport consultation has been prepared and shared with the Implementation Subgroup. The consultation deadline has been pushed back to 13th July, further discussions are planned with LA Economic Directors and the LEP Board. Moves to establish a Shadow Board are underway with guidance on governance arrangements from Vivid Economics Meeting cycle for the Northern Powerhouse co-ordination group has been established and active monitoring and engagement is taking place. The LEP is engaging actively with key Government processes and other Northern structures including NP11 and Convention of the North The Covid-19 Economic Response Group has been established, with representation from the LEP, Combined Authorities, and business groups. A work programme has been agreed with five workstreams to support business activity and plan for the recovery. 	Richard Baker	G
Energy for growth programme			

Strategy, Policy and Analysis | Lead: Richard Baker

Vision Statement

The North East LEP will be recognised locally and nationally as an exemplar for driving evidence based economic strategy, public policy and programme delivery.

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Maintain active regional governance and profile for energy · Support the growth of an active Offshore Energy Cluster to promote growth working with TVCA & other partners · Develop the NE Energy Catalyst partnership and its programme of work · Accelerate delivery of regional energy initiatives, linked to the BEIS Local Energy programme · Engage actively with wider governance and political structures to embed Energy for Growth strategy · Integrate Energy for Growth and its priorities with wider LEP strategies and delivery programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Offshore and subsea technology working group actively contributing to regional intelligence to support Covid recovery and is providing guidance on regional positioning in Subsea UK Global Underwater Hub proposition and wider sectoral opportunities. · Discussions ongoing with Government and Subsea UK, on positioning the North East within a UK 'Global Underwater Hub' proposition. Continuing dialogue on NE opportunities with key Offshore Wind stakeholders e.g. developers and sector deal leads. · Energy Catalyst board meetings very well attended, moved to online webinar format in short term. Energy Catalyst partners invited to be expert panel reviewers for Energy Innovation Challenge Programme (EICP). Linking regional SMEs with Catalyst partner expertise. · Initiatives underway utilising existing assets, including: World's first 'Integrated Smart Energy Lab' (OREC, Durham and Newcastle University) with project initiation document and MOU approved by Catalyst partners. Partners assets promoted to SMEs as part of the EICP to encourage utilisation to enhance product development and business growth. · EICP progressing with round 1 well advanced and round 2 due to launch in July. Round 1 of the EICP focussed on Decarbonised, Decentralised Energy, 14 SMEs have joined the cohort, with business support and commercial links being made by Energy Team and North East LEP Connectors through the growth hub. Connections to Energy Catalyst Partners also being brokered. Themes and narrative for round 2 focusing on 'digital solutions for energy challenges' are well advanced. · Energy Catalyst presented at events including Durham Heat Hub. Profile raised amongst North East Ports - Port of Blyth, Port of Tyne. Regular content added to Twitter and LinkedIn to highlight the work of the Catalyst and partners. Particular regional comms focus on the EICP in this quarter. · Mine energy white paper now commissioned by the LEP, on behalf of the national mine energy taskforce. Positioning the region as a national lead on the subject. · Sponsored by BEIS following previous regional development work, the North East LEP has submitted a heat network High Potential Opportunity to the DIT on behalf of the North East and Tees Valley joint area. · Two projects in the North East and Tees Valley were awarded funding in the most recent round of RCEF. The next deadline is the 1st August and applicants are being supported to meet that deadline. Recently reached out to partners to circulate RCEF among their partners using the RCEF comms toolkit. · The Energy for Growth fund is providing support for projects aligned to the strategic themes. Funding has been approved for seven projects across the North East worth £1,470,202. There are also currently three additional projects in the appraisal stage. · Active participation in NP11 energy strategy working groups to shape the emerging delivery framework, with understood areas of focus for the North East. · Energy Challenge Programme launched in March integrates North East LEP Business Connectors who have provided 1:1 advice to 14 regional SMEs coming through the programme during round 1. Business Growth Team being supported to develop a potential role for a sector-specialist connector. · Ongoing coordination between the LEP innovation priority project and IDP approach, and delivery via the North East Energy Catalyst. Early progress achieved with the InTEGREL priority innovation project receiving innovation LGF grant funding offer. 	Andrew Clark	G
<h3>Digital programme</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Create a governance structure to oversee delivery of the work programme · Develop an agreed communications plan to promote NE Digital development · Develop and begin delivery of an active pipeline of projects under theme: data · Develop and begin delivery of an active pipeline of projects under theme: workforce · Develop and begin delivery of an active pipeline of projects under theme: digital collaboration and enterprise · Develop and begin delivery of an active pipeline of projects under theme: infrastructure and connectivity · Co-ordinate and support activity to drive digital adoption and transformation in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Covid response roundtable held with key stakeholders from the tech community to scope Responses to Future Fund/Innovate UK package. Webinar on Innovate UK funding to be hosted by LEP in late May/early June. Evidence gathering webinar hosted by Digital lead to develop post-Covid recovery plans. DataJam 2020 postponed, alternative online events series under development with NICD and partners to start June 2020. Series of start-up support events under consideration via Digital Collaboration & Enterprise theme. · NICD / LEP evidence base report about the opportunity of data in draft form. Publication of report to propose recommendations and initiate projects via an online event. · Digital Lead, Skills Director and steering group members liaising with key partners to accelerate skills provision in light of Covid. Key areas of focus include: digital upskilling of disadvantaged communities; hardware supply for third sector providers; transition to online learning in light of Covid. Partnerships developing with Institute of Coding regional network, plus VONNE and third sector organisations. · Internal report about tech start-ups authored by Digital Lead with input from task and finish group. Sets out suggested delivery mechanisms and activities against an evidence base. Workshop with LEP colleagues to be held early July to determine activity in the short term and inform longer term plans. · Covid Future Fund/Innovate UK funding to initiate events series with webinar. Key tech stakeholders engaged to generate NE submissions to the call in the short term, identify priorities for digital strategy in the mid-term and inform UKSPF development in the long term. Alignment with Business Growth and Innovation programmes. · Work ongoing with LA7 digital leads group to map regional infrastructure and connectivity demand and supply and mobile connectivity and 5G readiness. With a pilot study about infrastructure and connectivity demand being explored with some LAs. · A meeting with key stakeholders was held in June to discuss the next steps with Made Smarter, in light of recent updates and developments from BEIS, with a view to submit a refreshed bid with Autumn budget timelines. 	Laura Partridge	A
<h3>Health and life sciences programme</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop and update health and life sciences evidence base to inform the Economic growth strategy for Health and Life Sciences · Develop and launch an Economic growth Strategy for the Health and Life Sciences sector in the North East · Working with the Steering Group refresh and develop the project pipeline (based on evidence, and aims and objectives of the Strategic Economic Plan and Local Industrial Strategy) · Support the development of the North East Health and life sciences eco-system- and raise the profile · With partners, develop and deliver a communications strategy to raise awareness, promote and develop the reputation of the NE Health and Life Sciences Sector · Identify who we can work with/ other clusters with complementary assets and capabilities to the North East in order to maximise collaborative opportunities from which the region will benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The outbreak of Covid 19 has impacted on the HLS sector. In light of the progress made and agreement from the Steering Group in March 2020, setting out the Vision, ambition and agreed objectives, an interim document 'a Framework for Growth' will be brought forward by September. This document will be used to further refine, in the context of Covid 19, the Growth Strategy over the coming months- with a view to publishing a final strategy in 2021. · The Project pipeline is under review and subject to the outcome of the submission to secure LGF funds for a project development fund, an open call for projects will be launched at the end of July. The guidance and supporting documentation is being prepared and will incorporate the propositions set out in the Covid Recovery Plan. · Covid 19 work will be reviewed in the context of future proofing and shaping future support programmes (based on new opportunities presented by Covid 19 for the sector). Current live projects underway to respond to the challenges and opportunities include: developing a 'Patent Protection Scheme' for the Life Sciences sector; pharmaceutical North Shoring/ Supply base resilience opportunity; NE Evaluation System (Innovation project); Great North Care Record (Innovation Project) the information exchange and patient portal; Digital/ Clinical Skills Hub (Innovation Project), accelerating progression of this project; developing a Skills Framework in order to address existing and future skills needs of the sector. · The NE Evaluation System was endorsed by the HLSSG in May 2020 and approved as an Innovation priority pipeline project in June 2020. Work is underway to establish how the LEP can support the acceleration of this project in the context of Covid 19. · Discussions are ongoing to understand how the LEP can support the development and position the Trusted Research Environment - both to accelerate its development in the context of Covid recovery, but also under new governance arrangements (July 2020) · Onyx Health are being appointed to support with the development of the communications strategy for the sector and an outline Comms Strategy will be prepared simultaneously with the Framework for Growth document to set out what we want to achieve, understanding of the key audience groupings and process for ongoing development and delivery. 	Katherine Forbes	G

North East LEP Board: communications update July 2020

The date range for this report is 1 May - 30 June 2020

Highlights from the last two months

1. Worked collaboratively with the region to draft and issue a statement and summary report for the COVID-19 economic response group (see supplementary document at the end of this report)
2. Completed the procurement of a new digital supplier framework. First ranked supplier is Digital Allies and the second ranked supplier is Nebular Labs. Contract start date: 8 July 2020
3. We are making up to £5,000 in match funding available to any small businesses continuing to trade through Crowdfunder's *Pay it Forward*. We have supported over 30 businesses to date and communications has played a critical role in marketing the fund and featuring case studies where featuring case studies where the funding has made a truly impactful difference.

Priorities for the next two months

1. Support the work of the COVID-19 economic response group
2. Focus on campaigns and content that support the three areas of the Business Growth Restart Strategy - starting your business in a crisis, living with COVID and new opportunities.
3. Continue to deliver robust and inclusive internal communications to the team as we continue to work from home in response to COVID-19.

Social media

Total followers

Twitter	11,664 (+1.7%)
LinkedIn	6,574 (+4.4%)

Total reach

Twitter	272,063
LinkedIn	30,986

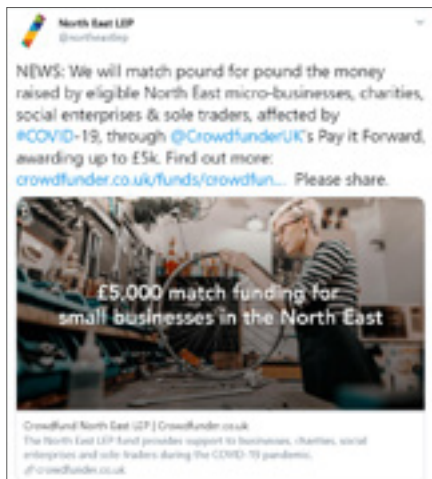
Top performing LEPs on Twitter:



Top posts (All organic posts):

Note: Twitter, LinkedIn and Google all had restrictions on paid content related to COVID-19, limiting our activity to owned content. This has also more recently been extended to content relating to PPE, which is restricting our ability to raise awareness of supply chain opportunities. We continue to raise this with government and the platforms.

Twitter



Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Retweets
7,385	310	145	34



Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Retweets
7,024	84	25	26

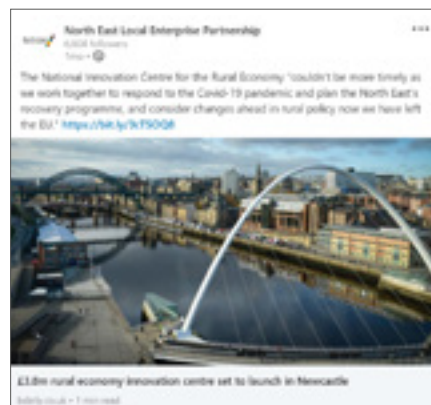


Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Retweets
6,517	269	67	30

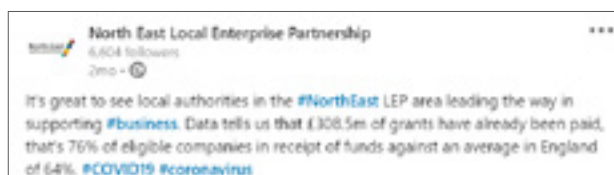
LinkedIn



Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Retweets
2,510	270	223	29



Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Retweets
1,402	136	95	25



Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Retweets
1,041	111	65	19

North East LEP website performance summary:

Audience			Top five news pages		views
Visitors	15,576	(+4.7%)	news/regional-collaboration-sees-staged-economic-recovery-plan-agreed		1,193
Total page views	56,468	(+6.9%)	news/up-to-5000-available-in-match-funding-for-smes-via-crowdfund-north-east-lep-2		1,113
Average session duration	2m3s	(-1.6%)	news/north-east-business-growth-board-welcomes-five-new-members		635
Traffic source			views		
Organic			news/north-east-local-enterprise-partnership-publishes-its-annual-review-2019-2020		435
Direct			news/supporting-innovative-north-east-firms-to-help-lead-the-regions-economic-recovery		319
Email			Top five pages		views
Social			Home		12,102
Referral			/news		2,029
Other			/about/executive-team		2,548
			/the-plan		2,053
			/projects		2,047



North East

Local Enterprise Partnership



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23 July 2020

ITEM 5: Annual Delivery Plan 2020/21

1.0 Background

1.1 As part of the 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' policy paper (July 2018), each Local Enterprise Partnership must produce an Annual Delivery Plan for the financial year and submit it to Government. LEPs are also asked to produce an End of Year Report in the following Spring to show progress against the Annual Delivery Plan. The Board received the End of Year Report for the 2019/20 period at the last meeting.

2.0 Annual Delivery Plan

2.1 In 2018/19, Andrew Hodgson chaired a national group comprising Government officials from MHCLG and representatives from several LEPs and the LEP Network to agree a standardised structure for these Annual Delivery Plans, which promotes sections on:

- Summary and strategic objectives
- Local Growth Funding
- Other funding
- Strategic activity

2.2 The North East LEP's Annual Delivery Plan for 2020/21 is attached as appendix one. Primarily it is a subset from the three-year Strategic Economic Plan programme actions, which apply to this year.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 The Board is asked to endorse the attached Annual Delivery Plan 2020/21.



Annual Delivery Plan 2020/21

DRAFT



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1. Introduction

This Annual Delivery Plan sets out what the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) intends to deliver in the financial year from April 2020 to March 2021. It will be shared with government and we will report progress against our delivery in our End of Year Report 2020/21.

The document may be subject to change, as the North East LEP responds to economic challenges and opportunities as we move through the year. Where there are changes to timelines or objectives, we'll update the document and share an updated version with government and on our website, highlighting the amendments clearly.

Within this Delivery Plan you will find:

Our plan and objectives

We published our North East Strategic Economic Plan in 2014 and updated it in 2016 and 2019. We set a clear ambition to create 100,000 more and better jobs for our region by 2024 and report regularly on our progress towards achieving this.

Governance and transparency

We ensure that a robust and transparent governance structure underpins our work and that it complies with all the recommendations within the national LEP review, published in 2018.

Our delivery programme

We have provided detailed insight into the work of our five delivery programmes.

2020/21 action plan

Here you will find a list of everything we will strive to achieve in 2020/21. We will report our progress on this in May 2021.



2. Our plan and objectives

The North East Strategic Economic Plan

The North East Strategic Economic Plan sets out our ambition for the North East as a place of work and opportunity. This is shared by regional business leaders, local government and education and supported by a wider community of partners, whose contribution to its development and delivery is central to its success.

2020/21 will see us face significant challenges as we respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19. But our direction of travel remains the same - we want more and better jobs for our economy and we want to return to pre-COVID-19 levels of growth.



Creating more and better jobs

In 2014, when the North East Strategic Economic Plan was first agreed, we committed to fostering new opportunities for our residents and businesses by driving forward a modern, diverse and entrepreneurial economy, which is agile in the face of change, as well as competitive, resilient and inclusive.

We have one clear and simple ambition: to deliver more and better jobs for the people who live and work here.

Between 2014 and 2024, we want to grow the number of jobs in the region by 100,000, with at least 70% of the new jobs being better jobs, defined as those in managerial, professional and technical roles.

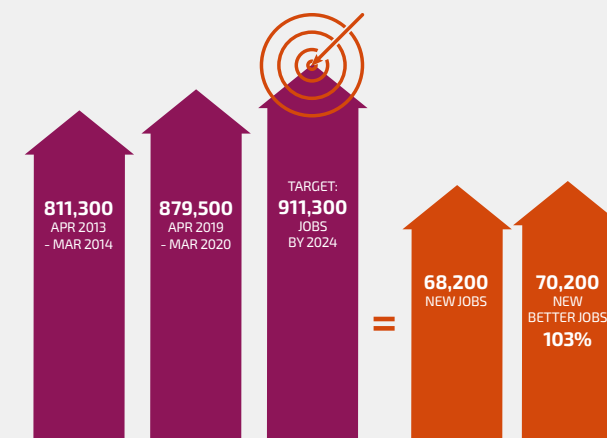
We have made good progress against this ambition. As of March 2020, the number of jobs in the North East had increased by 68,200 since 2014. This was driven by an additional 70,200 better jobs (equivalent to 103% of the total net change).

We anticipate that these figures will be significantly impacted by COVID-19. The data from the end of March acts as the baseline, against which we can assess the impact of our regions economic recovery, which we will continue to monitor.

We have also identified four targets focused on other long-term objectives. To demonstrate our progress, we aim to reduce or close the gap in our performance compared to England (excluding London). By making this comparison in employment rate, economic inactivity rate, productivity and private sector employment rate, we aim to deliver both positive change in our region and help rebalance the national economy.

You can read the North East Strategic Economic Plan in full at northeastlep.co.uk.

Progress:
By March 2020, the number of jobs had increased by 68,200. This had been driven by an additional 70,200 better jobs (equivalent to 103% of the total net change)



Source: Annual Population Survey - Workplace Analysis (Nomis)

3. Governance and transparency

We are committed to robust, transparent and fair governance at every level of our operations.

The North East LEP's Assurance Framework sets out how funding decisions are made.

Regional governance model

The North East LEP plays a key role in regional governance and works with two combined authorities - the North East Combined Authority and the North of Tyne Combined Authority - and seven local authorities.

The North East LEP's accountable body transferred from the North East Combined Authority to the North of Tyne Combined Authority on 1 April 2020.

Regional governance

Seven Local Authorities

Newcastle City Council

Durham County Council

Northumberland County Council

Gateshead Council

North Tyneside Council

South Tyneside Council

Sunderland City Council

Two Combined Authorities

North of Tyne Mayoral
Combined Authority
Covering
North Tyneside Council
Newcastle City Council
Northumberland County Council

North East
Combined Authority
Covering
Durham County Council
Gateshead Council
South Tyneside Council
Sunderland City Council

One Transport Committee

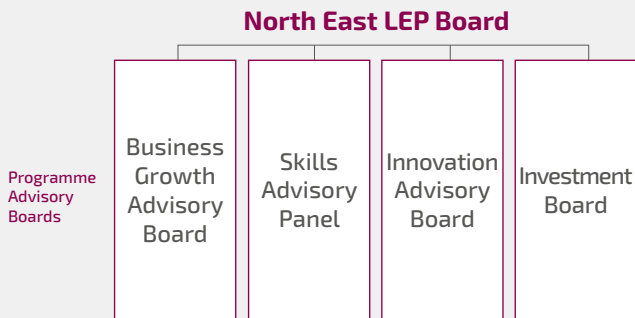
North East Joint Transport Committee

One Local Enterprise Partnership

North East Local Enterprise Partnership

North East LEP governance

The North East LEP Board is a business led, private, public and education partnership. It is supported by four advisory boards. The four advisory boards provide strategic guidance for the programmes of work within the Strategic Economic Plan and provide oversight for the main Board.



North East LEP Senior Management Team

Investment assurance and governance

The North East LEP follows a robust Assurance Framework.

Our [Assurance Framework](#) sets out how we make decisions and ensures value for money when investing in projects across the North East LEP area.

The Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme is managed in accordance with the North East Local Assurance Framework.

The Local Assurance Framework was last refreshed in April 2019 with updates including:

- The latest requirements set out in the 'National Local Growth Assurance Framework' published in January 2019
- How we remain fully compliant in the context of the 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' report that followed the Ministerial review into LEPs (July 2018).

The Assurance Framework is a live document and is updated annually. The updates will be published on the North East LEP website.

The main North East LEP Board receives an operational performance report at every meeting, which shows progress against each programme of delivery and highlights any concerns.

All project funding decisions are taken by the North East LEP Board or, where appropriate, under delegated authority by the North East LEP Investment Board.

The Investment Board is programmed to meet on six occasions in 2020/21. It receives programme monitoring reports on a regular basis and is presented with the programme dashboard. This is submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The Investment Board determines new project funding allocations under its delegation or otherwise agrees to make recommendations to the main North East LEP Board.



Andrew Hodgson, North East LEP Chair

4. Our delivery programme

Fund management

We manage four funding streams:

- The Local Growth Fund – a £270.1m programme targeted at job creation
- The North East Investment Fund – a £55m evergreen loan fund sourced from Regional Growth Fund 3 and Growing Places Fund
- The Enterprise Zone Fund – covering 21 sites; to date a total investment of £86m, unlocking £166m of private sector investment
- The North East's allocation from government's Getting Building Fund – up to £47m for local infrastructure projects that will create jobs and help the region recover from COVID-19.

We also work closely with regional partners and government in the allocation of £500m of European Structural Investment Funding into the North East.

The North East LEP has the governance, accountability and programme management expertise to manage other funds in the North East region, as they emerge and are allocated.

Local Growth Fund (LGF)



2020/21 is the final year of the six year £270.1m LGF programme. Government has allocated a budget of £14,550,627, for the 20/21 period, which is fully committed against projects approved in previous years and is forecast to be fully spent. Using treasury management flexibilities, we plan to bring back LGF funds from temporarily funded projects in previous years, to support an additional projected £3,600,000 of capital and revenue expenditure within the LGF Programme.

The LGF programme is cross cutting and supports the delivery of all five thematic programmes set out in the January 2019 North East Strategic Economic Plan, which covers the delivery period 2019-21. Overall the LGF programme is focussed on tackling market failures and competitive weaknesses.

Through working with partners, we aim to quicken the pace and scale of investment across the North East, focused on our business and infrastructure investment opportunities and needs.

LGF budget

The 2019/20 budget has been fully spent with no funds rolling forward into 2020/21. The budget allocation from MHCLG for 2020/21 is £14,550,627. Planned expenditure from approved and pipeline projects is estimated at £16.55m capital with a further

£1.6m on revenue costs. The revenue costs, together with forecast capital expenditure over and above this year's MHCLG budget allocation, are planned to be met from programme balances using resources returning to the programme from temporary project funding swaps in previous years.

There are 23 live projects and six pipeline projects scheduled to be approved by Autumn 2020. In addition, several new projects are expected to come forward to utilise funds recovered from projects that have underspent. These projects will be selected in the context of, and in support of, the North East COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

2020/21	Capital £	Revenue £	Total £
LGF 2020/21 Grant	14.55m	£0m	14.550m
Programme balances	2m	1.6m	3.6m
Total Budget	16.55m	1.6m	18.15m
Forecast expenditure from contracted projects	15.75	1.6m	17.35
Forecast expenditure from pipeline projects	0.8	0	0.8m
Total Expenditure	16.55m	1.6m	18.15m

Communications and engagement

A rolling communications plan sets out opportunities to promote achievements from funded projects and the North East LEP website sets out information on all funded projects. Funding opportunities and guidelines are published on the North East LEP website. There is a dedicated Local Growth Fund programme [page](#).

Monitoring and evaluation

Grant claims and monitoring for live projects is undertaken on a quarterly basis. We have revised standard quarterly monitoring forms to capture information on the impact that COVID-19 is having on projects. A Programme Operations Group reviews quarterly monitoring returns and undertakes quality checks. Project verification visits are held following a project's financial completion.

Projects with delivery challenges are reported in the first instance to the North East LEP's Technical Officer Group. Where necessary remedial action will be agreed by the Board or delegated approval sought to a variation to contract.

Key programme and project milestones are monitored throughout the year. A summary is set out on the next page.

2020/21 LGF Programme milestones**Year five of six delivery – key milestones**

Milestone	Description	Target Dates
Quarter one		
Programme milestones to be achieved by the North East LEP		
Investment Board Programme Update	Report on draft 2019/20 outcome data, general update and COVID-19 impacts on funded projects.	13 May 2020
LEP Board Funding Report	Programme progress update including delegated decisions.	28 May 2020
Notable project milestones to be achieved by partners		
IAMP	Two new factories commence production.	30 June 2020
Jade Business Park	First new factory commences production.	30 June 2020
Hordon Rail Station	Work completed and project formally launched.	29 June 2020
Swans CFI Phase 2	Refurbishment works complete and additional workspace available.	30 June 2020
Quarter two		
Programme milestones to be achieved by the North East LEP		
Quarter 1 20/21 Monitoring Return to MHCLG	Latest project financial and performance data reported.	21 August 2020
Investment Board Programme Update	Reports on pipeline projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jarrow Business Centre • Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure • Scale Up North East 2 • Extension to North East Rural Growth Network. 	8 July 2020
Investment Board Programme Update	General programme update and pipeline project decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East Ambition 2 • Patternshop Building, Newcastle • Team Valley, Gateshead. 	17 September 2020

Notable project milestones to be achieved by partners

South Shields Metro Training and Maintenance Depot	Learning Centre component completed.	12 July 2020
Institute of Technology North East	National funds approved and work to enhance and equip learning facilities to commence.	1 July 2020
Gateshead Quays	Planning permission obtained for regional arena, conference and exhibition centre.	September 2020
Integra 61 site, Bowburn	First new building completed.	September 2020

Quarter three**Programme milestones to be achieved by the North East LEP**

Quarter 2 2020/21 Monitoring Return to MHCLG	Latest project financial and performance data reported.	20 November 2020
Investment Board Programme Update	General programme update and projects for decisions.	12 September 2020 14 November 2020
MHCLG	Six monthly review of programme.	September 2020
LEP Board Funding Report	Programme progress update including delegated decisions.	1 October 2020 3 December 2020

Notable project milestones to be achieved by partners

Institute of Technology North East	All facilities improved and equipment installed.	31 December 2020
South Shields Metro training and maintenance depot	New Nexus training centre and depot fully completed.	October 2020
Central Gateway Phase 2, Newcastle	Works commences to improve access to western Dock area.	November 2020
East Pilgrim Street, Newcastle	Construction of Bank House commences.	30 November 2020
Scale Up North East	Phase 1 programme completed.	31 December 2020

Quarter four

Programme milestones to be achieved by the North East LEP

Quarter 3 2020/21 Monitoring Return to MHCLG	Latest project financial and performance data reported.	26 February 2021
Investment Board Programme Update	General programme update and projects for decisions.	14 January 2021 11 March 2021
LEP Board Funding Report	Programme progress update including delegated decisions.	28 January 2021 25 March 2021
Annual Performance Review with MHCLG	Date to be agreed with MHCLG.	January 2021
Evaluation reports	2020/21 evaluation work programme completed.	31 March 2021
Quarter 4 2020/21 Monitoring Return to MHCLG	Latest project financial and performance data reported.	28 May 2021

Notable project milestones to be achieved by partners

Gateshead Quays	Planning permission obtained for arena and exhibition centre.	February 2021
Transforming Cities Fund programme	Barras Bridge transport scheme fully completed.	31 March 2021
East Pilgrim Street	Public realm works commence.	January 2021
Northumberland Energy Park Phase 1	Reclamation and infrastructure works substantially completed.	31 March 2021
Northern Access Corridor, Newcastle	Phase 2/3 completed.	31 March 2021
Central Gateway, Newcastle	Western dock access works completed to Central Station.	31 March 2021
High Potential Startups programme	Cohort 3 of Start Up Accelerator completes.	31 March 2021

LGF activity during 2020/21:

The following table sets out all live projects in the LGF programme split by:

- Contracted projects that are in progress and have LGF budget allocations in 2020/21 to be drawn down
- Pipeline projects that are developing final business cases for determination during 2020/21.

LGF project status and LGF budget forecast

Category	Project name	Strategic Economic Plan theme	Forecast LGF budget 2020/21 (£)
Contracted projects that are in progress and have LGF budget allocations in 2020/21 to be drawn down.	Centre for Innovation in Formulation (CIF)	Innovation	108,630
	Netpark Infrastructure Phase 3	Innovation	54,000
	North East Rural Growth Network	Investment and Infrastructure	917,778
	Horden Rail Station	Transport	1,719,639
	National Centre for Healthcare Photonics	Investment and Infrastructure	410,027
	River Tyne Economic Development	Investment and Infrastructure	58,936
	Traffic movements along A185/A194/A19 (The Arches) - Stage 2	Transport	599,877
	South Shields Metro Training and Maintenance Skills Centre	Transport	2,806,290
	A19 North Bank Tyne (Swans) - Stage 2	Investment and Infrastructure	6,603
	Jade Business Park (inc A19/A189 Seaham Murton interchange)	Investment and Infrastructure	1,255,006
	International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP)	Investment and Infrastructure	6,073,629
	East Pilgrim Street	Investment and Infrastructure	1,309,000
	Scale Up North East (inc. Supply Chain North East)	Investment and Infrastructure	1,095,000
	Institute of Technology North East	Skills	954,983
	High Potential Startups	Investment and Infrastructure	237,105
	North East Ambition Education Challenge	Skills	599,841
	Skills Research and Development	Skills	100,000
	Morpeth Station Gateway	Transport	8,500
	Central Gateway Phase 1	Transport	241,984
	Central Gateway Phase 2	Transport	3,200,753
	Weetslade Transport Corridor	Transport	60,375
	Innovation Development Fund	Innovation	416,832
	Incubation development fund	Innovation	1,190,716
Energy for Growth programme	Innovation	1,091,631	

LGF project status and LGF budget forecast

Category	Project name	Strategic Economic Plan theme	Forecast LGF budget 2019/20 (£)
Pipeline projects that are developing final business cases for determination during 2020/21.	Scale Up North East 2	Investment and Infrastructure	0
	Jarrow Business Centre	Investment and Infrastructure	165,000
	Pattenshop, Stephenson Quarter	Investment and Infrastructure	240,000
	Team Valley Industrial Units	Investment and Infrastructure	400,000
	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	Transport	500,000
	North East Ambition 2	Skills	0
	North East RGN Programme extension	Investment and Infrastructure	318,000

2020/21 LGF programme risks

At the outset of the financial year 2020/21, the following programme level risks have been identified. These risks are monitored on a regular basis by the Technical Officer Group.

Risk description	Consequence	Estimated cost impact	Probability (%)	Risk impact level	Risk owner	Action(s) to avoid or reduce risk
1. Underspend on LGF budget 2020/21	Possible partial withholding or loss of budget	Severe	Low	High	S73 Officer – accountable body	Regular project monitoring/temporary accountable body project swaps
2. Non-compliance with national Assurance Framework	Possible withholding of future years' LGF by MHLG	Severe	Low	High	Chief Executive	Annual review and action plan to adhere to any new requirements/post accountable body transfer review and update
3. Change in the LEP accountable body	Impact on continuity of programme management. Delays with Grant Funding Agreements and variations	Limited	Moderate	Moderate	Chief Executive	Regular joint review meetings with accountable body officers
4. Annual performance targets under-perform	Reputational impact	Limited	Moderate	Moderate	Programme Manager	Project KPI/budget forecasts reviewed to take account of likely COVID-19 impacts. Projects challenged for 'optimism bias' and project level risks monitored
5. Prolonged restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic/ deep economic recession	Disruption to project plans and impact on project and/or organisational stability and sustainability	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Programme Manager	COVID-19 impacts monitored quarterly on each project. Flexibilities offered to projects to mitigate impacts

LGF programme forecast outputs 2020/21

All projects are required to submit quarterly and annual data monitoring forms. These are subject to verification checks and reported on a regular basis to the Technical Officer Group and Investment Board. A selection of national and local key performance indicators from current activities are set out below.

LGF programme forecast outputs 2020/21

Key performance indicators	2020/21 forecast
Gross jobs	1,480
Number of apprenticeship/traineeship opportunities created	155
Number of established/new businesses accommodated	52
Commercial floorspace constructed (m2)	23,254
Site reclaimed, re-developed or assembled (ha)	27
Follow-on investment (£)	164m
New build training/learning floorspace (m2)	3518
Number of learners at NVQ Level 3 or above	482
Number of business receiving non-financial support	418
Number of business receiving financial support	298
Total length of newly built roads (km)	3.3
Total length of resurfaced roads (km)	2.2
Total length of new cycleways (km)	3.6
Construction jobs	500
Number of education establishments engaged	90
LGF expenditure % of annual budget	100

Other funding programmes



North East Enterprise Zones

The North East Enterprise Zones (EZs) were created to support economic growth by developing sites with key attributes to help businesses start up, grow and expand.

Our Enterprise Zones have been developed across two rounds: round one beginning in 2013, and round two in 2016. Many of our round one sites now have businesses operating on them, with the majority of our round two sites in the process of investing in the infrastructure required to allow businesses to move on to these sites in the coming years.

To date, our investment of over £86m in the Enterprise Zone sites has achieved £166m of follow-on investment. As of the end of 2019/20, more than 1,650 people are employed across 50 businesses that are now operating on our Enterprise Zone sites. By the end of 2020/21 our Enterprise Zones will be home to more than 2,000 jobs and we will have invested more than £100m in the sites, unlocking more than £178m of private sector investment.

	Up to 2019/20	Forecast for 2020/21
EZ funding spend	£86.2m	£15.2m
Follow-on investment	£166m	£12.6m
Jobs on EZ sites	1,659	400



North East Investment Fund

The North East Investment Fund is a loan fund supporting capital projects that encourage local economic growth and create jobs in our area.

It has been operating since 2012, utilising £25m of Growing Places Fund and £30m of Regional Growth Fund to invest on a sustainable basis in capital infrastructure projects which generate economic growth and job creation in line with the North East LEP objectives.

It has invested £69m in 31 projects, including money that has been repaid into the fund.

During 2020/21 we will be recommending that Board agree refocusing the fund as a commercial property investment fund model.

If approved, an OJEU compliant procurement of a fund manager will be undertaken to facilitate the launch of the new fund.



European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF)

The 2014-2020 European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) was created to inject more than £500m into the North East. Although the funds are held by government, the North East LEP plays an important role to ensure these funds are used to deliver both the European goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and support the delivery of the North East Strategic Economic Plan.

We worked with a wide range of partners to produce our ESIF Strategy that can be found [here](#).

By the 31 March 2020, the Managing Authorities believe that the North East had secured 99.3% of our notional ESIF funding into the North East. You can see how our notional allocation will be allocated below:

Total indicative allocation	498.4	494.9	-3.5
ERDF	£263.18	£249.23 (94.7%)	-13.95
ESF	£224.7	£239.75 (106.7%)	15.05
EAFRD	£10.5	£5.84	-4.6



HM Government

Getting Building Fund

The North East has been awarded up to £47m from government's Getting Building Fund to start local infrastructure projects that will help the region recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will be spent on shovel-ready projects that can be delivered by 31 March 2022.

Five programmes of delivery

We have five programmes of delivery. These set out our initiatives and projects that will deliver the ambitions of the North East Strategic Economic Plan.

The five programmes are:



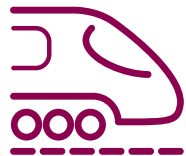
Business Growth



Innovation



**Skills, Employment,
Inclusion and Progression**



**Transport
Connectivity**



**Investment and
Infrastructure**

The delivery action plans that detail the outputs of each programme by 31 March 2021 can be found at the back of this document and the North East LEP Board are fully cited on progress.

Monitoring and evaluation

The North East LEP commissioned consultants Steer Economic Development (Steer-ED) to undertake an interim evaluation of the North East Strategic Economic Plan over a three-year period, 2019 to 2021.

The evaluation enables the North East LEP to closely understand how the North East Strategic Economic Plan has been delivered, how successful it has been in achieving its strategic objectives and to evidence what has worked well and what can be improved in future delivery. Over the course of this project, the evaluation will assess the effectiveness and impact of delivery, review programme performance and assess the effectiveness of the North East LEP in the varied roles it plays in supporting the economy.

Moving into the final year of the interim evaluation, Steer-ED will collate and review performance data about existing projects, highlight specific best practice case studies and make recommendations to support improvement in programme management and project delivery. Steer-ED also set out an indicative framework and recommendations for data collation and measuring impact in light of future funding streams, and support embedding evaluative practice across programmes and projects in preparation for the final evaluation of the North East Strategic Economic Plan, which is to be commissioned this year for the period of 2021-2024.

5. Delivering added value through strategic leadership, intelligence, co-ordination and partnership working

The North East LEP's role in leadership, co-ordination, intelligence, communications and collaborative activities is underpinned by the strength of our partnership.

Examples of our strategic, partnership activity is described below. There are many more examples set out in the detailed Action Plan for 2020/21 which can be found at the end of the report.

Strategic Leadership

Areas of Strategic Importance

We continue to develop the North East LEP's leadership capacity to support the four areas of strategic importance identified in the Strategic Economic Plan:

-  **Energy**
-  **Digital**
-  **Health and Life Sciences**
-  **Advanced Manufacturing**

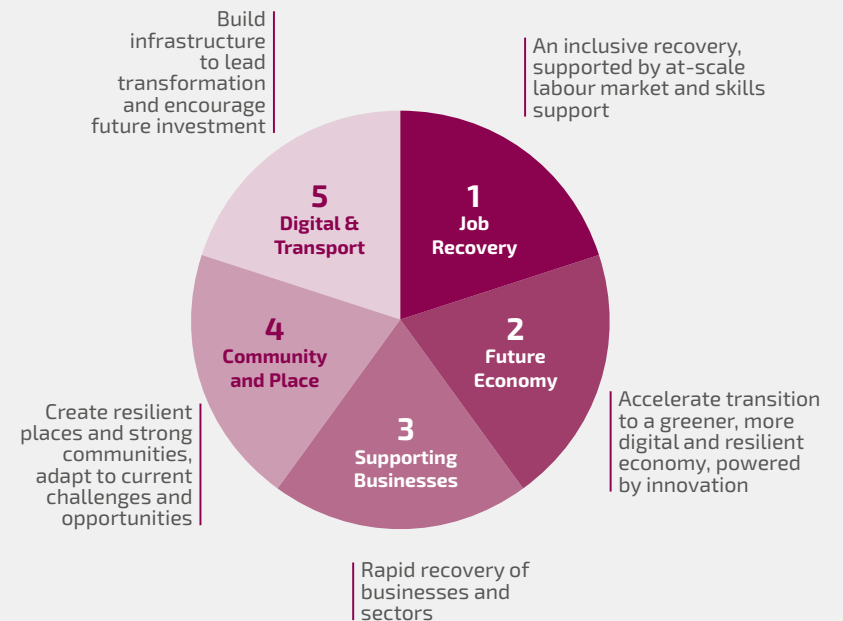
North East COVID-19 Economic Response Group

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the biggest economic shock of our lifetimes, with no straightforward recovery. Such a thing requires a strong, collective response to return our region to positive economic growth. A response that not only focuses on the impacts of COVID-19, but which identifies opportunities for our businesses to take advantage of. And that is what the North East COVID-19 Economic Response Group has been working on and will continue to work on as our region recovers.

The Group is made up of North East Local Enterprise Partnership, North East and North of Tyne Combined Authorities, the CBI on behalf of business, North East Joint Transport Committee Transport and regional universities.

Our recovery plan is being structured around five key areas, that are detailed opposite.

The pillars of our response plan



Intelligence and communications

Our Economy

Our Economy presents an overview of the North East LEP area economy and how it is changing over time.

Our Economy is published annually and provides a comprehensive look at data relating to the North East economy. It features indicators relating to our programmes of delivery and a specific topic. In 2019, it examined what makes the North East a competitive place and in 2020, it focussed on the economic geography of the North East, with maps and charts showing the diversity and interconnected nature of our region. The 2021 Our Economy will be critical in reviewing the economic impact of COVID-19.

Research, evidence and evaluation

We continue to commission and support a wide range of research and evaluation projects including providing the evidence to underpin the development of proposals for a North East Free Trade Zone, an evaluation of the North East Ambition Career Benchmarks, and exploration of opportunities through mine energy deployment.

We are working closely with a number of regional universities to develop strategic relationships and this has led to a number of new avenues of research, for example developing a collaborative relationship to inform regional economic policy around the Good Work agenda.

Business intelligence gathering

Through the Business Growth Programme and North East Growth Hub produces a weekly intelligence report to provided government with real time insights into North East businesses issues and sentiment in relation to economic shocks such as COVID-19 and changes in the business environment such as EU Exit.

Intelligence is gathered through a variety of sources including surveys, social listening and direct business interactions undertaken by our Growth Hub Connectors, local authorities and the wider business support provider network.

North East Data Hub

The North East Data Hub is a website that makes regional economic and transport data available and accessible. Launched in March 2018, the Data Hub publishes data from a range of sources using simple tools and provides easy-to-understand commentary. We continue to develop the site's functionalities, broaden the range of data available and promote the Data Hub across the region. The site now includes a repository of research and publications about the North East economy that have been commissioned by North East Data Hub partners.

North East Economic Evidence Forum

The North East Economic Evidence Forum brings together partners from across the region, national research organisations and government to identify the evidence needs of the region, review emerging findings and disseminate research. The Group delivers a collaborative research and engagement activities to contribute to regional and national debates on key topics and support the LEP in its critical analysis of the North East evidence base. We will continue to use the Forum to ensure we have the evidence that the North East needs to inform policies and investments.

Communication

As well as a corporate communications plan, every project and programme delivered by the North East LEP has a communications plan aimed which translates our work, partnerships and messages into content that relates to our audiences. We follow the Paid, Earned, Shared and Owned model, ensuring value for money and maximum reach and engagement. All communications activity is monitored regularly.

Coordination

The North East EU Exit Implementation Group

In January 2020, the North East Brexit Group reformed as the North East EU Exit Implementation Group. The Group is focused on preparing businesses for the end of the transition period, ensuring we are ready to take advantage of new opportunities for trade and campaigning for positive changes to domestic policy.

The Group provides a collective, single voice to contribute to and influence the on-going national dialogue around the UK transition. It is made up of members from business representative organisations, the education sector, trade unions, local and combined authorities

Provider Network

Through its Business Support provider network the North East Growth Hub works with providers to align their collective activities and programmes to the needs of businesses and the economy.

The provider network is chaired and governed by providers themselves and has enabled them to quickly adapt their offer in a coordinated manner and against a shared framework to COVID-19 and EU Exit.

Partnerships

Working with education

Our primary pilot is the first at scale careers work in a primary setting, our work with schools and FE partners is recognised both nationally and internationally as being innovative aiming to provide every young person with the skills and knowledge to enable them to succeed and our partnership with Common Purpose and the Universities, allows us to develop new strategies to encourage graduates to live, work and stay in the region.

Free Trade Zone

In August 2019, the Government announced it would be inviting up to 10 sites across the UK to bid to become a Freeport when the UK leaves the European Union (EU).

The North East LEP submitted its initial response to the government and we, together with partners intend to move forward with plans to establish a regional governance structure to prepare for a bid for a North East Free Trade Zone when the application process launches in the Autumn.

Rural Growth Network

The rural Growth Network is a rural focussed investment programme consisting of Strategic Infrastructure scheme and Rural Business Growth Fund.

The North East Rural Growth Network spans Northumberland, Durham and Gateshead and aims to stimulate economic growth and create jobs in rural locations.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):

As an intergovernmental organisation which brings together 37 developed economies, the OECD co-ordinates intelligence and evidence based policy ideas to improve the performance of economies. Following the input to our Local Industrial Strategy summit in 2019 about its work on regional competitiveness, we will continue to build our relationship with the OECD to support the response to Covid 19 and our wider regional strategy.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

As the UK completes its transition from membership of the EU single market and customs union it will be important that businesses are informed about global trade arrangements. Through the EU Exit Group we have reached out to the WTO and will embed understanding of WTO rules through a combination of information provision and training.

INVITE

Innovation requires connections between different sectors, companies and organisations. These are often across different countries that are not always easy for individual companies to navigate. The INVITE project was launched this year with partners from Greece, Luxembourg, Germany and Belgium, testing a new approach to linking SMEs from different countries to address identified challenges through an open innovation approach.

NP11

The NP11 was established in the Northern Powerhouse geography in a formal capacity to champion the North East's economic growth. The group brings together the 11 northern LEPs and we continue to work alongside colleagues to promote northern growth, raise our profile, attract investment and realise our economic potential.

The LEP Network

We will continue our active engagement through meetings and events with the LEP Network. This includes sharing good practice through regular contact with Network's colleagues, engagement sessions and meetings. It is also a mechanism to allow us to work closely with other LEP's.

6. Our 2020/21 annual delivery plan actions

Annual Delivery Plan – Action Plan 2020/21

The five Strategic Economic Plan programmes

Business Growth

2020/21 priority	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
<p>Continue to develop the Growth Hub's capacity to stimulate higher levels of demand for business startup, growth, scaleup and productivity support:</p>	<p>Generate 17,000+ referrals to the Business Support Provider Network.</p> <p>Double the capacity of the Growth Hub to deliver one-to-one diagnosis and impartial brokerage to 1,000+ businesses.</p> <p>Provide account management to 350 businesses that demonstrate scaleup potential and increase GVA per Employee by an average of £2.5k.</p> <p>Introduce five additional sector-based Growth Hub Connectors to expand reach and focus on the North East's areas of opportunity.</p> <p>Develop thematic toolkits available through northeastgrowthhub.co.uk that aggregate and simplify support in areas that support and encourage business engagement in startup, growth, scaleup and productivity improvement. Each toolkit should look to attract over 1,000 visitors, 250 engagements and referrals to the Business Support Provider Network.</p>
<p>Create a simplified and impactful business support ecosystem that supports the recovery and levelling up of the North East economy:</p>	<p>As part of the development of future regional economic strategy, work with government, NP11 and the North East Business Support Provider Network to develop a simplified future ecosystem model targeted at levelling up regional business birth rate, productivity, internationalisation and scaleup performance.</p> <p>Continue to develop the North East Business Support Provider Network as a mechanism of simplifying and aligning providers to business and economic priorities, sharing best practice, encourage collaboration and cross referrals.</p>
	<p>Introduce a business resilience health check through the North East Growth Hub to support 200+ businesses to prepare for COVID-19 recovery and UK transition.</p> <p>Deliver Kickstarting Tourism and COVID-19 recovery ERDF grant programme to 400+ businesses.</p> <p>Work with government to mobilise 40 peer networks to support businesses to recover from COVID-19, engaging 320+ participants.</p> <p>Provide up to date information, guidance and insights to businesses through the North East Growth Hub COVID-19 and UK transition toolkits. Monitor impact of the information via measurement of engagements, time on page and referrals to the North East Growth Hub Provider Network.</p>



Innovation

2020/21 priority	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
Stimulate new business opportunities through the North East Open Innovation Challenge:	<p>Deliver a North East Open Innovation Challenge framework to stimulate innovation activity in the region, including a pilot which will provide finance to 10 projects to support the regional COVID-19 recovery response by March 2021.</p> <p>Continue to deliver an Open Innovation programme through the INVITE Project by August 2020, taking learning from European partners to shape our North East Challenge programme. This programme will be closed by October 2020, with learning used to inform the North East Open Innovation Challenge design.</p>
Prioritise a regional pipeline of projects to form a Strategic Investment Programme:	<p>Support the production of investment-ready business cases for regionally significant projects, engaging partners using the established quarterly reporting process throughout 2020/21.</p> <p>Host at least two events in partnership with the Innovation SuperNetwork to support businesses to prepare for emerging funding calls throughout 2020/21.</p>
Continue to support our businesses to capitalise on local research and innovation capability including through the COVID-19 recovery response:	<p>Commission a research project that identifies emerging market opportunities for the North East by December 2020.</p> <p>Produce a plan for maximising the use of regional assets and capabilities to increase share of the identified emerging market opportunities and support the COVID-19 recovery by March 2021.</p>
Increase private sector investment into growing innovation businesses:	<p>Develop an action plan for engaging with the private sector and investors to increase private sector investment in the North East to be endorsed by the North East LEP Board and rolled out by January 2021.</p>
Engage with partners to identify emerging opportunities and drive business growth through an Innovation Delivery Partnerships (IDP) approach:	<p>Deliver an IDP pilot programme which will target five niche emerging market opportunities. This will test and refine the IDP concept and produce a model for successful partnerships by October 2020.</p>
Coordinate regional partners to provide enhanced innovation support activity:	<p>Improve the North East business support landscape by forming a consortium of providers to help roll-out of the co-developed model for Business Growth and Innovation Support by December 2020 to grow innovative businesses and support the COVID-19 response.</p> <p>Produce a comprehensive Innovation Framework which will be used as an engagement and coordination tool to realise North East innovation strengths, priorities and opportunities by October 2020.</p>

Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

2020/21 Activity

Deliver North East Ambition:

Continue to engage with 95 schools and colleges through our four career hubs in order to intensively support the schools and colleges involved to continue to make rapid progress against the eight Good Career Guidance benchmarks.

Continue to deliver the Career Benchmarks; Primary Pilot, including working with the 70 schools involved to develop their careers related learning programme and make progress against their version of the 8 Career Guidance benchmarks.

Allow the development of true partnerships between SMEs and educators in the drive to lessen the gap between skill supply and skills demand.

Support 145 businesses to engage with education through a variety of projects that make up NEA including.

Continue to act as an advocate of the eight Good Career Guidance benchmarks and offer strategic leaders regionally and at a national level by.

What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021

Three Regional Career Leader network Meetings, that bring together over 100 of the region's Career Leaders, as well as other key stakeholders in order that they can network, share best practice and access resources and CPD.

Ten Opportunities Bulletins, highlighting a variety of resources, events and activities that will enable the schools and colleges to further develop and enhance their career's programmes.

A minimum of three hub meetings per academic year, which offer targeted support to enable the schools and colleges to accelerate progress against the 8 benchmarks.

A minimum of one 1:1 meetings with each school and college, including a follow-up report that provides details on progress, and plans for the forthcoming year.

A minimum of three regional hub meetings, as well as two full network meetings.

A minimum of one 1:1 meeting with each school to discuss progress and the action plan for continued accelerated progress against the benchmarks.

Working with partners to provide teacher externships in businesses ; A new opportunities bulletin specifically for business leaders, which will be distributed at least 10 times per year. Continue to deliver STEM Ambassador network across the region's industry leaders.

Maintain our influence through a number of national working groups, steering groups.

Deliver presentations to various audiences at regional and national conferences and events.

Host learning visits to the region from delegates outside the North East of England.

Deliver Education Challenge:	Deliver the Opportunity North East Careers and Business Engagement Pilot.	Deliver the first year of the ONE Pilot across 16 ONE Vision schools identified by the Department for Education.
	Deliver a successful Phase 2 of the Ford Next Generation Learning partnership.	Support the Phase 2 expansion of the FNGL partnership in each of the new schools and colleges and through the Industry Alignment team establish new relationships with local communities, including employers and industry sector organisations to support action planning and implementation of the action plans.
	Education Governance Champions.	Strengthen the LEP's role as a School Governance Champion organisation, work with recruiting organisations and further develop a regional communications strategy to actively promote the positive impact effective governance has on educational outcomes. Produce at least 3 case studies with a focus on the benefits of diverse governance.
	Supporting Continuing Professional Development across education in the North East.	Alongside partners develop an approach to, and offer of, continued professional development both school and business facing to increase the impact of business and education engagement.
Improve skills Progression:	Improve skills progression and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on skills provision including apprenticeships as part of the regional economic recovery plan	Develop an investment priority strategy based on the asset map summary report of FE, HE and other provision in education and training.
		Continue, alongside key partners to develop a fusion skills pilot to promote the concept of fusion skills regionally based on international research in support individuals to recognise and record their skills.
		Continue to promote apprenticeships across all levels and to achieve a growth in the number of high quality apprenticeships undertake.
		Protect existing apprenticeships and incentivisation to increase the number of apprenticeships available.
		Enable adults of all ages to access careers advice, retraining and reskilling in order to transition in to stable or growing sectors (based on regional LMI).
		To continue to support the roll out of T-levels in the North East and to work with curriculum leads in specialist technical education from September 2020 through the North East Institute of Technology.
		Continue to look for opportunities to fund an HE careers pilot.
Deliver our annual 'Live Work and Stay' campaign highlighting the benefits for recent graduates and skilled workers to stay in the region.		

<p>Increase youth employment</p>	<p>Continue to support youth employment initiative and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on youth employment</p>	<p>Continue to work with partners to reduce unemployment for young people, to encourage training and through robust labour market intelligence provide opportunities for young people to enter key growth sectors. Continue to learn from best practice examples, including Generation NE and Durham Works and support the continued funding of these important schemes.</p> <p>Continue to encourage ESF projects providing critical support to support young people enter the labour market.</p> <p>Develop programmes of careers guidance, education and skills support for education leavers and young people aged 16-24s to prevent NEET figures increasing.</p> <p>Continue to highlight the importance of digital skills across education, training and re-skilling.</p>
<p>Improve labour market activation</p>	<p>Improve labour market activation and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on employment</p>	<p>Continue to work with partners and potential funders to find a way to deliver targeted support for people facing health barriers to employment, building on and incorporating the lessons learned from projects such as the Mental Health trailblazer and Working Links.</p> <p>Short term, flexible and responsive support for those closest to the labour market</p> <p>Grow the number of apprenticeships by promoting access courses and information regarding the benefits of an apprenticeship.</p>
<p>Ensure connected communities</p>	<p>Ensure digitally connected communities aligned with economic response to COVID-19</p>	<p>Prioritise the delivery of the digital strategy, workforce theme focus-sing on accessible and inclusive digital skills provision including those skills that employers tell us are a priority as part of the recovery.</p>



Transport Connectivity

2020/21 priority	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
Delivery of the Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 1 programme and part of Tranche 2 programme following funding award	<p>All Tranche 1 schemes will be delivered in full by early 2020/21.</p> <p>The first Tranche 2 schemes by March 2021, as part of a three- year prioritised programme.</p>
Completion of the Metro Asset Renewal programme	<p>Track Renewals - Crossgates, South Shields completed May 2020. Rail Renewal in Central Area Tunnels.</p> <p>QEII Bridge to Gateshead Stadium. Heworth to Pelaw by August 2020. Network wide track alignment for platform - track interface alignment by November 2020.</p> <p>Network wide renewal of Overhead Line Equipment - paused from April - June due to COVID-19 working restrictions but planned to resume in late June.</p> <p>Completion of Station refurbishment at Monkseaton, West Monkseaton, Cullercoats, Shiremoor, Palmersville, Benton and Longbenton.</p> <p>Radio and RTMS (Railtraffic Management System) closed out and support contracts in place.</p> <p>Renewal of critical point motors - to complete in late 2020.</p> <p>Continued fleet investment – to improve reliability of current Metro Fleet.</p> <p>Occupation of Nexus Learning Centre expected end of July 2020.</p>
Continue to progress and deliver the LGF Transport programme;	<p>LGF transport schemes to be delivered by the of the financial year.</p>
Deliver the Go Ultra Low North East programme	<p>Delivery of 11 rapid charging hubs.</p> <p>Provide targeted support and advice to SMEs about the potential benefits of switching to a low emission vehicle.</p> <p>Deliver 10 Electric Vehicle rapid charging posts for use by the taxi industry, funded by the OLEV Taxi Fund by December 2020.</p>
Deliver Emergency Active Travel Funding (tranche 1) and bid into tranche 2) and deliver active travel schemes	<p>Deliver schemes by August 2020 (tranche 1) and March 2021 (tranche 2) subject to bids being successful.</p>

Continue to develop the regional North East Strategy and align it with the Covid-19 economic recovery plan

Publication of a 15-year Transport strategy setting the direction for transport in the region. Production of an accompanying implementation plan by mid-2021.

Use transport to drive, innovation and business growth

Continue to use transport as an enabler, linking people to employment opportunities, generating economic growth and business investment. Produce a pipeline of schemes to support economic recovery.

Continue to improve transport connections, making it quicker and easier to transport goods and freight, enabling the economy to grow. Produce a pipeline of schemes which will support economic recovery following the lockdown period.

Produce a pipeline of schemes which will support economic recovery following the lockdown period.

Seek investment for the East Coast Mainline to provide the capacity and line speeds to meet existing and future requirements.



Investment and Infrastructure

SEP Activity

What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021

Programme managers to attend each North East LEP Investment Board and submit quarterly progress monitoring dashboards.

Monitor programme level risks via the Technical Officer Group.

Submit quarterly performance monitoring returns to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding the Local Growth Fund (LGF) and Enterprise Zones.

Key infrastructure outputs by March 2021:

- Infrastructure works completed on Intgra 61, Bowburn - over 1,000 jobs
- Infrastructure works on Jade Business Park progressed - over 80 jobs
- Infrastructure works on Northumberland Energy Park phase one complete- 15 ha. land reclaimed
- Completion of phase one infrastructure works on IAMP - three new buildings operational with 200+ jobs.

Fully spend the 2020/21 annual LGF budget of £14.5m.

Complete the next phase of LGF interim programme evaluation activities by March 2021.

Ensure that the Local Assurance Framework is adhered to when making funding decisions by maintaining the operational management structures and decision-making accountabilities within the North East LEP.

The Enterprise Zone sites below will welcome new businesses that will begin operating from:

- Jade Business Park (Durham).
- IAMP (Sunderland and South Tyneside).
- Newcastle International Airport (Newcastle).

Have significant infrastructure works underway or complete on four more Enterprise Zone sites, that will be ready to secure private sector investment at:

- Holborn 2 (South Tyneside).
- Ashwood Business Park (Northumberland).
- Port of Sunderland (Sunderland).
- Northumberland Energy Park (Northumberland).

- By March 2021, our Enterprise Zone sites will become home to more than 400 jobs with North East LEP investment having been more than £15m, unlocking 34.7ha of remediated land and more than £12m of private sector investment.

Coordinate partners to develop a regional project pipeline based on spatial economic priorities:

Develop a strategic project pipeline for the North East building on the work carried out during the development of the Local Industrial Strategy, the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan and LGF pipeline.

Secure additional investment in the North East including resources to support the Regional Recovery plan:

Work with our partners and coordinate regional bid activity to secure funding for the region including the Building Growth Funds to support the regional economic recovery. Manage the Getting Building Fund and grant award £47m to projects across the North East by October 2020 for delivery up to March 2022.

Prepare for any future funding throughout the year by developing a project pipeline including making preparations for the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2021.

Make preparations to maximise draw upon ESIF national reserve fund from 2020 onwards across the North East LEP area.

Secure a commercial property fund model, by using the North East Investment Fund funding and commence a procurement of a fund manager by the end of March 2021.

Increase access to finance for businesses to invest:

Work with the North East Fund Limited to maximise its investment potential for North East SMEs.

Support North East Finance and North East Access to Finance to optimise use of legacy funding to support North East initiatives.

Policy, strategy, evidence and analysis

2020/21 priority	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
<p>We will continue to develop and integrate the suite of strategic documents in the region which take forward the ambitions of the Strategic Economic Plan:</p>	<p>Develop and implement the COVID-19 Recovery plan, working with regional partners through the North East COVID-19 Economic Response Group.</p> <p>Complete the discussions with government to understand the next steps for the North East Local Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>Work with the North East Transport Sub-Committee to develop the Regional Transport Plan to be launched in 2021.</p> <p>Collaborate with the North of Tyne and North East Combined Authorities to align and support their strategies and delivery plans.</p>
<p>We will continue to improve and communicate relevant, high quality and focused analysis and research on the North East economy:</p>	<p>Provide timely, accurate and appropriate analysis of economic data to North East LEP staff, boards and partners to help inform decision-making.</p> <p>Increase access to good quality, relevant economic analysis on the North East through media commentary on key data releases, ongoing development of the North East Data Hub and publication of research and evidence.</p> <p>Communicate actively with government about the economic assets and circumstances of the North East, seeking to inform policy.</p> <p>Publish the "Our Economy 2020" report by June 2020.</p> <p>Assist North East LEP staff, boards and partners to undertake research and evaluation that will inform their decision-making.</p> <p>Strengthen the North East Economic Evidence Forum's role in ensuring evidence is informing the delivery of economic priorities of the region.</p> <p>Build collaborative relationships with North East universities to strengthen deployment of academic knowledge into regional policy and delivery.</p> <p>Increase access to good quality, relevant research on the North East economy, including evaluation of interventions.</p>
<p>Influence key public policy agendas impacting on our region through collaboration and the publication of evidence:</p>	<p>Continue collaborative working through the EU Exit Implementation Group to ensure positive outcomes as the UK completes the transitional period and new domestic policy is developed including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination, monitoring and publishing data and intelligence about North East economic impacts on places and sectors • Influencing activity, including meeting and preparation of policy submissions in key areas including trade facilitation, immigration, science and research and funding • Supporting interventions through North East LEP programmes to support and advise businesses and people to adapt to new requirements • Development of specific projects which can address key issues such as a North East Free Zone proposal.

Influence key public policy agendas impacting on our region through collaboration and the publication of evidence

Continue to work collaboratively with Northern Powerhouse partners as a leading participant in the NP11, and within wider structures of co-operation including by:

- Providing NP11 leadership on Innovation
- Active support for the Net Zero North and Trade and Investment workstreams
- Develop new work on evidence and strategy with NP11 Secretariat
- Co-ordination of North East engagement with the Northern Powerhouse working LA Economic Directors and North East Transport and Inward Investments Teams.

Develop the North East LEP's policy position with respect of the forthcoming devolution white paper.

Provide a policy response to the Planning White Paper and the National Infrastructure Commission work.

Continue to develop strategic and developmental initiatives in the region in response to changes in the economic policy environment or as directed by the North East LEP Board

Work with partners in the Tourism and Culture sectors to support recovery of the sectors and promote long term growth through the Tourism Sector Deal.

Develop an integrated approach to internationalisation across trade, investment, tourism and education as the UK leaves the EU and in response to the impact of COVID-19.

Develop a strategic approach for the key Enabling Sectors identified in the Strategic Economic Plan.

Areas of strategic importance: Digital, Energy, Health and Life Sciences, and Advanced Manufacturing

2020/21 priority	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
<p>Continue to develop and implement the North East's Digital for Growth strategy launched in October 2019</p>	<p>Support and develop the work of the Digital Steering Group as the collaborative leadership structure overseeing delivery of the work programme.</p> <p>Continue to build and promote the regional evidence base around the digital sector through specific research projects and the communication of findings from all sources.</p> <p>Develop the implementation plan, including an active pipeline of analysis, communications and projects under the four Digital for Growth themes (Data, Workforce, Digital Collaboration and Enterprise and Infrastructure and Connectivity) including responding to opportunities and challenges derived from COVID-19 impacts and aligned with the recovery plan.</p> <p>Develop an agreed communications plan to promote Digital development in the region focused on evidence, delivery plans and implementation actions.</p>
<p>Continue to drive growth in the North East's energy sector through the implementation of the Energy for Growth strategy launched in August 2019</p>	<p>Help ensure active governance and co-ordination for energy activity through the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore energy and subsea technology hub, joint work with the Energi Coast cluster, and other sector initiatives • Energy Catalyst partnership • North East, Yorkshire and Humber Local Energy Hub. <p>Support growth of an active Offshore Energy and Subsea Technology Cluster. Promoting the findings of commissioned research, representing the region, and supporting inward investment and supply chain development activity working with Tees Valley Combined Authority & other partners.</p> <p>Drive forward the work of the North East Energy Catalyst partnership, facilitating delivery of ambitious projects and programmes which showcase solutions to long term global energy challenges in the North East, and which stimulate collaborative innovation to solve short term challenges driving economic and social value.</p> <p>Accelerate delivery a range of local and regional energy schemes as part of the BEIS sponsored Local Energy Programme, taking opportunities resulting from North East engagement in the North East and Yorkshire Local Energy Hub, and other national and regional programmes including initiatives launched in response to COVID-19.</p> <p>Integrate Energy for Growth and its priorities with wider LEP strategies and delivery programmes, the work of our Combined and Local Authorities and wider business and academic communities.</p>
<p>Develop and launch a strategy for the Health and Life Sciences sector in the region</p>	<p>Work with the Health and Life Sciences Steering Group (HLSSG) to bring forward an evidence-based strategy for growth which sets out evidence of North East assets and opportunities and our agreed vision, objectives and ambitions.</p> <p>Drive forward the development of a pipeline of projects and interventions to support the delivery of the strategy, and where possible build on the momentum generated by Covid 19 in continuing to accelerate innovation in the NHS and pharmaceutical manufacturing.</p> <p>Through the Local Growth Fund, invest in the development of priority business cases for key propositions identified by the Steering Group and regional partners as part of this future pipeline of activities.</p>

<p>Cont. Develop and launch a strategy for the Health and Life Sciences sector in the region</p>	<p>Respond to identified needs for a 'Patent Protection Scheme' to support the Life Sciences businesses in the region to survive the impact of Covid 19, thereby stabilising the strategically important business base and assure ongoing and future growth</p> <p>Position the North East to take advantage of the re-shoring opportunities for the pharmaceuticals sector created by Covid 19 and develop a 'North Shoring' proposal and business case to establish the North East as the lead location to catalyse this opportunity on behalf of the UK (which will strengthen the supply chain and provide opportunities for process industries and identify inward investment opportunities).</p>
<p>Advanced Manufacturing - Build support for our key manufacturing industries</p>	<p>Strengthen co-ordination between the North East LEP and businesses and leadership organisation to support growth and diversification of North East Advanced Manufacturing.</p> <p>Develop infrastructure, innovation and trade facilitation initiatives to support growth and develop in North East Advanced Manufacturing.</p> <p>Promote the Made Smarter programme, promoting industrial digitalisation, as part of a wider approach to Digital Adoption within the region.</p>

Governance

2020/21 Activity	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
Continue to implement the LEP Review recommendations:	Update the Constitution to reflect the LEP Review changes by end of May 2020.
	Update the Assurance Framework to reflect our accountable body transfer by August 2020.
	Utilise communications plan's to encourage engagement with LEP corporate documents increase downloads of the North East Strategic Economic Plan, Annual Review and Our Economy by 10%.
	The LEP's social media following on Twitter increased by 17.7% to 11,416 during 2019/20 and increased engagements by 40.8% to 26,086. We will increase both followers and engagements by a further 15%.
	Recruit a new Chair for the North East LEP Board transparently and in a way that follows due process and diligence by July 2020.
Continue the evaluation of the Strategic Economic Plan delivery:	Hold a public Annual General Meeting.
	Deliver the final year of the interim external evaluation of the Strategic Economic Plan with Steer-ED consultants.
	Collate and review performance data about existing projects, highlight specific best practice case studies and make recommendations to support improvement in programme management and project delivery.
Implement North East LEP Accountable Body transfer from North East Combined Authority to North of Tyne Combined Authority:	Set out an indicative framework and recommendations for data collation and measuring impact in light of future funding streams.
	Support embedding evaluative practice across the programmes and projects in preparation for the final evaluation of the SEP to be commissioned at the end of the year for the period of 2021-24.
	Set up all practical arrangements under the new Service Level Agreements for 2020-21 by end of June 2020.
Review and agree update LEP Scheme of Delegation by end of May 2020.	
Put in place all LEP / NTCA policies and procedures by end of June 2020 and ensure all relevant documentation is on the North East LEP website by end of July 2020.	
Agree SLA for 2021/22 by January 2021 to feed into 2022/23 budget preparation.	

North East
Local Enterprise Partnership



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