

North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board



Thursday 1 October 2020

17.00 – 19.00

AGENDA

1. **Introductions and apologies** (5.00pm)
2. **Welcome from Lucy** (5.05pm)
3. **Declarations of interest** (5.10pm)
4. **Minutes of the last Board meeting held on Thursday 23 July 2020** (5.10pm).
Board will be asked to agree the Minutes.
5. **SEP update** - paper attached (5.15pm)
Helen Golightly to present to the Board.

Items 6 and 7 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 update** – confidential paper attached (5.30pm)
Paul Woods to present to the Board.
7. **Response plan update** – confidential papers attached (5.45pm)
 - a) Reimagining Mobility and Connectivity in the North East – Toby Hughes to present to the Board.
 - b) Recovery and Renewal Deal for the North East - Helen Golightly and Richard Baker to present to the Board.
 - c) Strengthening the North East's response to climate change – Richard Baker and Carol Botten to present to the Board.
8. **Any Other Business** (6.55pm)
9. **Date and time of next meeting – Thursday 3 December 2020 from 5 - 7pm**

1 October 2020

ITEM 5: 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

- North East received £2.4million of ERDF to operate a Kickstarting Tourism and Restart and Recovery Grant Fund. Demand for these grants has dramatically outstripped supply; phase two we saw 18,000 businesses express an interest in 250 grants. A new process has been developed focused on separate calls in each Local Authority area which will provide eligible businesses an equal chance of accessing the funding.
- Growth Hub is receiving higher volumes of start-up enquiries. We are working with the Business Support Provider Network start-up providers to develop a plan to generate the capacity required to deal with increase demand.

Innovation

- Covid-19 Innovation Challenge underway with procurement of team and website development. Engagement plan is being prepared
- Team continues to work closely with the SuperNetwork team. New date agreed for next VentureFest, 17 March 2021.

Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

- Opportunity North East is now into delivery phase. All 16 schools are engaged and had inception meetings at the start of the academic year. Schools have identified the cohorts of students that will be supported through the pilot and associated baseline data has been collected.
- 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

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 in October 2020.
- Aviation has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 and associated restrictions on travel. Most airlines have returned to operations but at a much reduced frequency but unfortunately easyJet has closed its Newcastle base. Aviation development objectives have therefore switched to recovering lost traffic with existing airlines, together with securing replacement airlines and routes. More positively, Loganair has been increasing domestic capacity and has taken on the Southampton and Exeter routes, in addition to Aberdeen.

Investment and Infrastructure

- Package of measures agreed at previous LEP Board for Covid-19 related support are progressing; Patent Protection Scheme is open for applications until end of September; Health and Life Science Development Fund open call closed earlier in the month and received seven applications; Cluster Development Fund received 15 applications; VCS Capital Fund being launched at the end of September 2020.
- £47m allocated to region through the Getting Building Fund (GBF) with programme of applications coming forward over the coming months to the LEP Investment Board. Two projects already approved under GBF, and strategy being developed to ensure spend target for 2020/21 is met.

Strategy and Policy

- Health and Life Science project pipeline is under review and an open call for projects was launched on 29 July to take up £300k fund approved at last Board. Applications closed on 28 August and seven project applications were submitted. The assessment panel approved 6 which are now subject to a full appraisal process.
- Monitoring activity on UKSPF continues. The Government's plans for regional consultation have been put on hold by Covid-19, but proposals were published in May 2020. The development of UKSPF is likely to be affected by future developments of devolution policy and the economic response to Covid-19

Communications

- There continues to be growth in the number of followers across LEP's social media (2.4% on Twitter and 8% 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 *#WeGoAgain* campaign with video and the announcement of Lucy Winskill as new Chair

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, September 2020

North East Strategic Economic Plan Programme Delivery update

September 2020

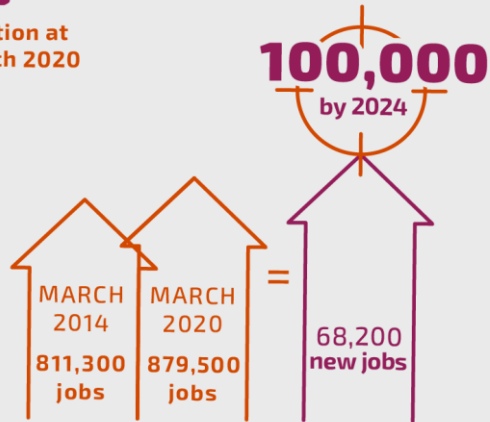


Performance against Strategic Economic Plan targets since 2014

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



Position at March 2020



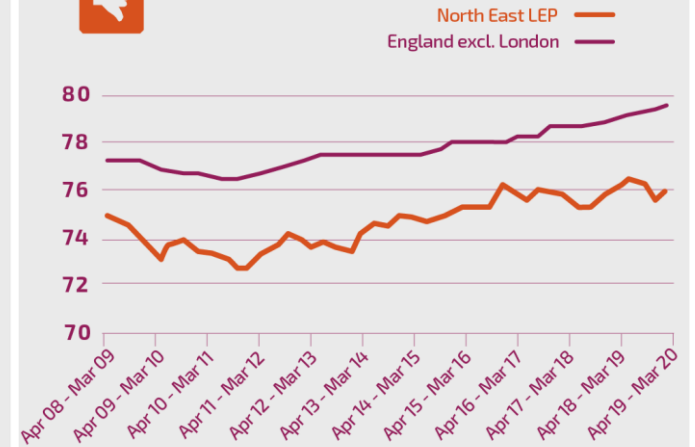
Target 70% of all jobs created from 2014 will be better jobs



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



Position at March 2020: 3% increase



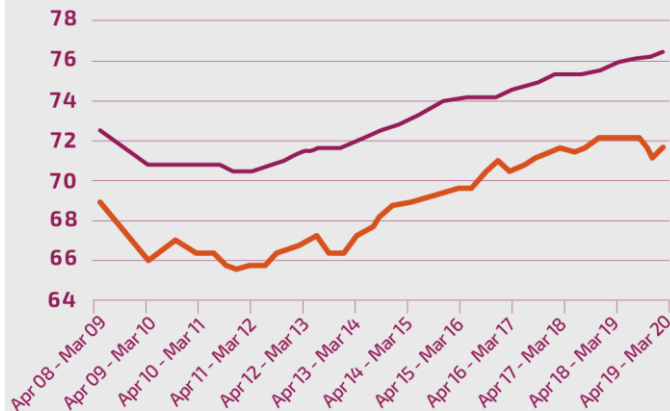
Close the gap in the employment rate for people aged 16-64
Target 100% reduction in gap by 2024



Position at March 2020: 10% reduction

North East LEP

England excl. London



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



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

North East LEP (previous dataset)

England excl. London (previous dataset)

North East LEP

England excl. London



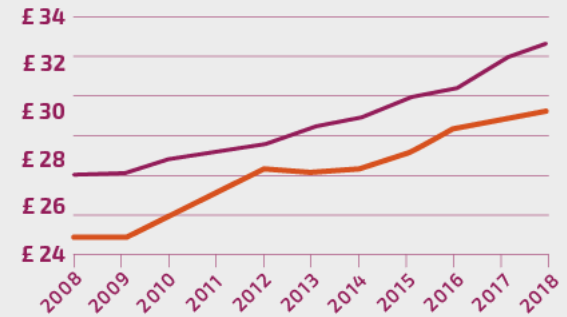
Reduce the gap in GVA per hour worked
Target 50% reduction in gap by 2024



Position at 2018: 19% increase

North East LEP

England excl. London



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 North East team continues to engage in the MIT REAP programme. The project is focused on levelling up the rate of business start ups in the North East requiring an additional 3,700 start ups each year. The emerging proposition is focused on a multi-layered approach cutting across different communities and designed to spread a culture of entrepreneurship across the North East. Targeted activities are focused on Graduate Enterprise, Community Enterprise, and High Potential Start ups · The DIT have provided £70k to the North East LEP (via North East World Wide) to fund a position and research project to drive the development of a North East Internationalisation Strategy – the next stage is to recruit into this post. 	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"> · North East Growth Hub: Performance to August 31st 2020; high intensity interventions delivered = 335 (76% of target), medium intensity interventions delivered = 267 (47% of target), light touch interventions delivered = 15.2k (85% of target), customer satisfaction 97% · The Growth Hub continues to receive high volumes of calls and e-mails, the rate of which has accelerated since the introduction of local Covid19 restrictions. The North East Growth Hub has been updated to provide the latest information about Covid19 restrictions and support options · We have seen a significant reduction in the GVA per employee projections, this is for several reasons, during lockdown the same level of segmentation was not applied to those businesses receiving High Intensity Assistance as the focus was on supporting those businesses who were in greatest need of support, in addition businesses forecasts are more pessimistic as a result of Covid19. We will monitor this metric closely. 	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"> · Business Growth Board have begun to plan the programmes development beyond EU funding. The initial focus is on levelling up in the following areas: how can we raise the level of Growth Ambition by 10%; how will we create an additional 3,700 businesses every year; how will we create 2,500 additional scaleups; how will we create 4,000 additional exporters; how will we raise average GVA per employee by £2.5k; how can we level up levels of investment in regional businesses · LEP are contributing towards the BEIS Business Support Reform, which is exploring mechanisms to devolve business support funding and delivery to a local level within a national framework. A meeting was held between BEIS and the Business Growth Board 24th September to support the development of this work. · Growth Hub has been awarded £510k from BEIS to deliver 34 peer networks to 360 businesses by 31st March 21. We believe that Peer Networks will be a useful tool to support businesses to deal with the effects of Covid19. The Networks will help businesses to develop restart plans and support the wellbeing of business owners many of whom are struggling due to the strain of dealing with the effects of Covid19. Following a OJEC procurement exercise a panel of 11 contractors have been appointed to a framework to deliver this contract. · North East received £2.4million of ERDF to operate a Kickstarting Tourism and Restart and Recovery Grant Fund. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oDue to its EU transitional status 39% of this fund will be allocated to businesses in Country Durham. The remaining budgeted will be allocated based on percentage share of businesses. oDemand for these grants has dramatically outstripped supply; phase two we saw 18,000 businesses express an interest in 250 grants. oLaunch of Round 2 the level of demand created 150,000 simultaneous requests on the Growth Hub website meaning that it crashed. oA new process has been developed focused on separate calls in each Local Authority area which will provide eligible businesses an equal chance of accessing the funding. · Funding has been secured through ERDF and LGF to develop Scaleup North East 2. The project will build on the evaluation of Scaleup North East 1 and will provide more intensive and targeted interventions to those businesses who can drive the regions economic recovery. · High Potential Start-ups has commenced recruitment for Cohort 4 or 5 receiving over 40 applications during the first week. · Growth Hub is receiving higher volumes of start-up enquiries. We are working with the Business Support Provider Network start-up providers to develop a plan to generate the capacity required to deal with increase demand. 	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"> Following a competitive procurement process the North East Automotive Alliance have been appointed to provide resilience health checks to businesses across the North East Automotive Supply Chain. Health checks will consider both Covid19 and EU Exit preparedness and provide intelligence to inform our forward approach following local restrictions the LEP have coordinated the development of a business response plan in collaboration with the CBI, NECC, FSB, MakeUK and the Entrepreneurs Forum. The plan considers the impacts on businesses and the local and national response covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -How we can provide clear guidance to businesses -Supporting businesses cashflow and viability -And supporting employees and employment Intelligence gathering tools have been amended to identify the effects of local covid19 restrictions and EU Exit. Weekly reports are submitted to Government. 	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"> Activity in 20/21 has slowed due to Covid-19. A full appraisal is being carried out in October. A key success so far has been the opening of Amazon in County Durham creating 1,000 jobs. INEE continues to deliver the DIT Key Account Management Programme (KAM). In 2019/20 the North East LEP area was the highest performing Northern Powerhouse LEP area with 29 successes. INEE has just signed the contract with DIT for 20/21 and 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. After a period of pausing proactive lead generation, INEE resumed this activity in September. The team is focusing on a range of activities including: servicing existing clients on the INEE project pipeline (one very significant investment expected shortly); updating INEE data sources (Toolkits) on which it bases the development of bespoke company value propositions; reviewing and updating its marketing and communications strategy; developing its strategic approach to inward investment attraction in a post-COVID-19 world; developing with other NPH LEPs the Northern Powerhouse Trade and Investment Prospectus which aims to increase DIT funding into the NPH as well as reviewing ways of working with DIT; assisting in the regional COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan activity. 	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 model being tested and embedded within recovery planning
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 Covid-19 Innovation Challenge, now in design phase, provides the opportunity to test our approach to the emerging Open Innovation Challenge for which the project plan is developing, building on the insights from the 16 June engagement event. Learning from the June workshop and research in to best practice will inform the development of OI toolkit, to be housed on North East Growth Hub. Covid-19 Innovation Challenge underway with procurement of team and website development. Engagement plan is being prepared to bring forward insights and lessons from the Covid-19 Innovation Challenge in to the OI Toolkit design and content. Final report submitted for the INVITE project. Lessons learned are informing the development of the OI Challenge approach. 	Alan Welby	A
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 open call is well established and a review of processes will be planned to improve the call process based on learning from the first 12 months of activity. The Innovation Board provides endorsement for the pipeline, and has representatives from both the North East Combined Authority and North of Tyne Combined Authority. Emerging projects continue to be evaluated based upon their potential economic impact. Alignment will be maintained with the broader LEP regional pipeline. Improvements continue to be made to the reporting process, based on learning and feedback to date. Progress made with regards to KPI suite, as reported to Innovation Board in September 2020, and incorporating project performance. The approach to ongoing engagement and support of projects is being reviewed with LEP colleagues to ensure appropriate support is provided to support progress to delivery. 	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"> Intrapreneurship plan developed as part of High Potential Startups. Lifeboating proposal submitted to Government and we are monitoring for response. The universities continue to feed into Covid-19 Regional Response Working Group. Success through the Getting Building Fund process for InTEGRel. Engagement with the universities and assets has taken place through the LGF-supported Health and Life Sciences Development Fund. The Cluster Development Fund has started to support other innovation assets and networks. The 12 projects supported through the Innovation Project Development Fund are progressing with business case development. The InTEGRel project is progressing with Getting Building Funding. NEAA/ Sunderland City Council secured £4.8m DCMS funding for a 5G enabled demonstrator project. Proctor and Gamble were awarded £1.3m contribution to the £2.7m Advancing Circular Economy (ACE) Research and Development (R&D) Demonstrator project IC3 (the International Centre for Connected Construction) the International Centre for Connected Construction, was selected as one of 17 projects to progress to next wave of Strength in Places Fund. from around the country that will receive £50,000 in seed corn funding. Covid-19 Innovation Challenge prepared and procurement of resources is underway and will be in place to commence delivery of the challenge programme in mid-October. Engagement with regional partners to develop the framework for the Open Innovation Challenge continues. 	Alan Welby	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
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. Since last Board report, collaboration had been focused on preparation for a major conference on investment for innovation and laying the groundwork for the OI Challenge. Innovation SuperNetwork team has been heavily involved in the virtual Northumbrian Water Innovation Festival 2020. New date agreed for VentureFest, 17 March 2021. Ammar Mirza CBE giving keynote speech at September's investment conference. The independent chair of the Task & Finish Group has reported on the gaps analysis to both Innovation and Business Growth Boards. Further work is underway to finalise recommendations and prepare roadmap for consideration at a joint advisory boards meeting in October. Alan Welby continues to attend the Northern Accelerator Board to support the development of the project. Continuing to work with the universities to identify options to increase spin-out activity including through investment routes. University representation for Northern Accelerator is supporting the Finance Task & Finish Group. ERDF support for NA continues and details of a new venture fund are emerging. Work to investigate how to encourage greater digress of entrepreneurship is underway through the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program (REAP). 	Alan Welby	G
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"> Timeline for pilot Innovation Delivery Partnerships in development and ITQ being finalised for consultancy support. A number of potential IDPs have been identified through the priority pipeline process. A procurement exercise is underway to appoint consultants to undertake a foresight analysis of emerging markets that will inform IDP development. Market engagement underway with briefing scheduled for early October. ITQ process is underway with the specification drafted in preparation for market testing, early October. Partners continue to be engaged in the development of the Innovation Delivery Framework. We are continuing to finalise the framework document. The launch has been postponed until there is greater clarity from government. Private sector partners are encouraged to play a lead role in the roll out of IDPs. Work is ongoing with the LEP's sector leads to identify new projects. The innovation priority projects are being integrated within the wider Regional Priority Project Pipeline. Continued improvements made to how project performance is reported. Focus has shifted to the Regional Recovery Plan with submission due imminently to the Government in preparation for the CSR 2020. Innovation propositions form an integrated part of the five-point plan. Work is ongoing regarding the business growth and innovation ecosystem and innovation and business growth activities are aligning via MIT-REAP. Work is underway to ensure alignment through governance including joint meetings. Specific engagement underway around IDP and the Emerging Markets analysis activities. 	Alan Welby	A
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"> Economic input-output model produced and now with the executive team for further development of the supporting data set. We continue to test the model which has been created to indicate the probable impact of investment in innovation activities to economic growth. A consortium to operationalise the programme will commence once the model has been adopted. LEP team continues to work closely with the SuperNetwork on the development of the Open Innovation Challenge. The challenge of increasing business RDI continues to be considered through the Innovation Delivery Framework with further promotion of investment and benefits of R&D tax credits being highlighted through the North East Growth Hub, with additional comms activity to raise awareness. Alan Welby is chairing the Northern Powerhouse innovation leads and activity is focussed on developing a Northern Powerhouse Innovation challenge activity. 	Alan Welby	A

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
Uncertainty over funding direction of key national competitions	Pre-budget period lack of clarity	M	H	MH	Keeping up to date with development and developing strong project irrespective of details of investment stream
Capacity to address key activities particularly IDP	Required resourcing for IDP development	H	M	HM	Considering options for additional focused resource to provide capacity
Unable to deliver placed based research	Reduced Staffing capacity, Covid-19 response focus	H	M	HM	Revise scale of research. Engage University students to support the delivery of some of the research.

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"> · As part of the Skills Teams' response to covid-19, we developed a new resource (located on the new Job Opportunities North East website) to support parents and carers as well as young people with their decision making. This consisted of summarising each of the options open to 16-19 year olds - focussing on the style of learning, entry requirements and progression routes. It also provided links for further information and explained how young people could access information, advice and guidance if they wanted to speak to a qualified adviser. Finally, there was information on the website about all of the relevant Plan for Jobs initiatives recently announced by government e.g. Apprenticeships, traineeships, Kickstart. There was also advice on how to access support for adults too, in case they were interested in re-training or upskilling · In July we hosted our latest Regional Careers Leader Network Meeting. This was delivered online for this first time and was a mix of live presentation, including a well-known and respected keynote speaker, and pre-recorded webinars hosted on the North East Ambition website that the Career Leaders could access after the event. The various sessions focussed on some key themes including providing the Careers Leaders with key labour market information. Over 100 Careers Leaders signed up to the event, which was v positive considering the pressures they have faced during this time. · The Primary Pilot has reached the end of the first year and Little Lion, the team of Action Researchers, have completed an end of year 1 evaluation - based on the end of year audits and surveys completed by the schools and comparing it to their baseline equivalents. An Exec Summary is available and recognised a successful first year. Key headlines include that 39% of all characteristics are now being fully achieved; each benchmark has been achieved by at least one school; there is a significant positive impact on pupils and (most importantly) that the framework offered by the benchmarks has led to a positive impact on new Careers Leaders knowledge and their effectiveness at designing and delivering CRL across all year groups. · 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. Additionally, the team has maintained regular contact with the network via the bi-monthly newsletters. 	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 delivery phase. All 16 schools are engaged and had inception meetings at the start of the academic year. The project facilitator is working to provide data entry training for all relevant stakeholders. Schools have identified the cohorts of students that will be supported through the pilot and associated baseline data has been collected. A wide range of partnership briefings have taken place with a host of organisations who are keen to support young people through the project, data collected will inform personalised intervention plans and impact will be measured through the subsequent cycles of interview. The contract for the IAG element of the project has been awarded and the advisers have been introduced to schools with some pupil introduction sessions completed and the remaining scheduled. In consultation with the schools we continue to ensure that any ongoing restrictions due to covid-19 has as little impact as possible on project delivery. · Phase 2 Ford Next Generation Learning is in delivery with 2 additional secondary schools and an FE college, Ford NGL have led the institutions through the planning phases of the transformation roadmap leading to particular focus areas of work in each institution. Planning is now moving to implementation and teaching and learning incorporating careers in the curriculum with industry collaboration is being delivered to young people. Where this is moved to a virtual or blended platform the feedback has still been positive. Phase 2 schools and college staff have accessed a range of CPD including, project based learning 2 day CPD delivered by the world leaders, Buck Institute of Education, study visits to other institutions, virtual CPD, teacher externships and industry tasters with further collaboration planned such as partnership with South Eastern Regional College, Ireland who have an innovate curriculum model. Teachers across the North East continue to access teacher externship opportunities with a range of industry sectors. 	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 now complete. 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 now available · 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. This is now part of an overall ask around Jobs Recovery in the regional Economic Response to C-19 · A LEP proposal to hold a series of targeted events to promote T-levels placements was approved by ESFA, an 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 build 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 1063 young people (18-29yrs) and supported 359 of those into employment. Gen NE continued to deliver successfully during lockdown and young people have continued to seek out support. 50% of clients has self-referred through the digital marketing services, however 30% more clients that JCP refer directly convert to full registrations. This is a positive indication of the excellent partnership has developed between the partners. The PIV has been successful. The team are now planning the exit phase of the ESF programme (March 2021) and have commenced discussions with partners in order to try to secure further funding to continue to support young people. · DurhamWorks has now supported 7,722 young people since its commencement in January 2016. 4071 have completed the programme and of those 3,573 (88%) have progressed into employment, education or training or gained a qualification. Covid-19 has continued to have a significant impact. Until the end of August, all delivery and support were taking place remotely. However since them delivery partners, subcontractors and progression staff have gradually begun to undertake face to fact support and delivery again. this is being careful managed in order to protect participants and staff. Sector routeways in Construction, Hospitality, Customer Service and Retail have all begun direct delivery and the delivery partners have expanded their offer to include support for participants with mental health difficulties and those suffering domestic violence. DurhamWorks is working closely with DWP to develop further support for unemployed 16-24 years through the development of three Youth Hubs in the county, the Intensive Support offer for participants closest to the labour market and associated activity with Kickstart. · The National Careers Service is currently being provided by telephone and other digital platforms which provides the customer with an advice and guidance session and the demand is rapidly increasing. The two cohorts with the highest engagement are 18-24 year olds not in education, employment and training and low-skill levels (adults without a level 2 qualification). Additionally there is a large volume of support being provided for customers on furlough, unsure of what the future holds and whether their sector will survive the C-19 impact. · 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. Surveying has now resumed with an additional ask to 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, indicating a high level of demand. Additionally there was evidence of jobseekers accessing talking therapies who may not have otherwise · 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 North East LEP 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

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
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
7. Help deliver Fuller Working Lives			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 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	Regular communication with ESFA/partners to ensure clear messages to employers on reforms.
Youth Employment: Future funding	replace them have not yet been provided, however it is anticipated that the amount of future funding will be less.	M	M	MM	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.	M	M	MM	Building a strong evidence base 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 in contact with managing authority to update outputs profiles.
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	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	Working closely with partners to assess the impact of covid-19 on the sector and draw up a 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 £337m. 203 Projects completed and closed out, 65 Projects in progress at 9 September 2020. Funding / Programme completion 31 March 2021. Programme delivery is continuing with some delays and disruption to site works and budget pressures resulting from Covid-19 working restrictions - hand over of the Learning Centre was complete in August and critical track renewals are progressing with completion expected by November 2020. Transport North East Strategy Unit has procured Swarco UK Ltd. to progress the development of the EV chargers for the Taxi trade. Orders have been placed and the chargers are being installed with the intention of the chargers going live in October 2020. The Civil works to install the chargers have progressed well but there are some delays with the connection of the chargers due to a reliance on third parties involved in the process. 	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 TNEU 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. DCO consultation has begun. Due to commence in 2020/21. Nexus continues to progress the 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 continues to be minimised and site investigations at the depot are progressing via the sub contractor Volker Fitzpatrick. It remains unclear as to the impact COVID 19 will have on the Fleet Replacement Programme but as yet it has not impacted on the new trains entering service in 2023. Stadlers mobilisation activities ahead of the transfer of fleet maintenance to it on 4th October 2020 are progressing to programme. The virtual reality public consultation launch date is 14th September 2020 in conjunction with Stadler and Newcastle University's Open Lab. Howdon satellite depot is now ready for use. 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. There has been some delay to the hubs due to COVID 19 therefore a project extension until January 2021 has been granted to enable the remaining hubs to be delivered. 	Philip Meikle	G

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; 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"> Aviation has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 and associated restrictions on travel. NIAL management have been focussed on ensuring the business navigates through the crisis. Most airlines have returned to operations but at a much reduced frequency but unfortunately easyJet has closed its Newcastle base. Aviation development objectives have therefore switched to recovering lost traffic with existing airlines, together with securing replacement airlines and routes. More positively, Loganair has been increasing domestic capacity and has taken on the Southampton and Exeter routes, in addition to Aberdeen. 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 is not agreed and funding is not secured	Unable to reach consensus on which schemes are included in the pipeline and Funding is not available	M	H	MH	The interventions will be as a result of working in partnership with each local authority.

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 agreed at previous LEP Board for £5m of Covid-19 related support are progressing; Patent Protection Scheme is open for applications until end of September; Health and Life Science Development Fund open call closed earlier in the month and received seven applications; Cluster Development Fund received 15 applications; VCS Capital Fund being launched at the end of September 2020. One further LGF programme project business cases determined at Investment Board during September, with one further business cases coming forward in October to commit the remaining LGF balance 30 projects have now received NEIF awards, with two approved projects having recently contracted for investment. Additional loan support conditionally approved for one NEIF project as a result of Covid-19. 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, which will include the allocation for the site from Getting Building Fund. 	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"> Work ongoing with Local Authorities to pull together a comprehensive pipeline list, including those forming part of the Covid-19 recovery plan. Expected that draft pipeline will be presented to Investment Board meeting in coming months 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 (GBF) with programme of applications coming forward over the coming months to the LEP Investment Board. Two projects already approved under GBF, and strategy being developed to ensure spend target for 2020/21 (half of total allocation). 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) 	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"> North East Fund has invested just over £42.5m into 259 different companies Market conditions have clearly been greatly affected by the COVID- 19 outbreak and investments have slowed significantly since March, although there have been some signs of improvement lately. June to August was a much busier period, with the fund managers requesting £4.4m for investment, with further deals in the pipeline for the coming months. The Small Loans Fund has seen the largest drop off in activity, primarily due to the launch of the Government Bounce Back Loan Scheme, which is both cheaper in terms of interest charged and easier to access, with only very light touch due diligence undertaken. However, the Small Loan Fund has adapted to the changing market conditions, by concentrating on loans in the £50k-£100k bracket ie targeting firms that require more than Bounce Back loans can provide, but are maybe struggling to access the Government CBILS scheme. 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"> Evaluation of projects funded through LGF are currently being scoped to align with overall SEP evaluation. A NE Ambition evaluation was recently commissioned to align with the SEP evaluation Programme monitoring data has been mapped and process for centralising is being developed through the programme managers office. Internal sharing processes have been agreed and the NE Data Hub Research and Evidence Page will provide 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 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 	Richard Baker	A
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 Approval of the LIS, taking through the required governance mechanisms Manage the various governance mechanisms including LIS Steering Group, Working Group and papers that are required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft vision has been developed and included in the May 2019 Board report. This will be confirmed as part of completion of the LIS. The LIS process is currently suspended given the impact of Covid 19, although significant content is being included in the Covid 19 Recovery Plan Outline KPI's have been produced, but will be confirmed as part of the completion of the LIS. The Industrial Strategy Council has produced a KPI framework for the Industrial strategy as a whole. A meeting with the Chair was held on 25 September 2019 and the North East LIS was including in the Industrial Strategy Council report as a case study 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 and active engagement is underway with partners and local authorities. 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"> Produced a comprehensive summary of economic and labour market datasets relating to the impact of COVID-19 Provided analysis to help inform the development of North East COVID-19 Economic Response Group plans, including updating baseline indicators and identifying novel data sources Working with consultants on ways to identify new methods for understanding future employment and skills needs for specific sectors, including a survey comparing pre and post lockdown needs. Having initial discussions about how Our Economy 2021 will differ to reflect what has happened in 2020. COVID-19 indicators are being added to the Data Hub, starting with furlough data. These have different timescales to other hub content. Continue to monitor and use administrative data sources relating to COVID-19 alongside regular survey data. Worked with the innovation team towards development of revised KPIs. Provided analysis of unpublished small business survey for the Business Growth Board. 	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 continue to support programmes with research activities including stakeholder surveys, consultation activities, reviewing tender specifications, etc. The team is working across all delivery teams in developing a number of research projects including: emerging global market opportunities with Innovation; LMI project for Skills and piloting exercise to determine future skills needs with specific North East sectors. We have also successfully commissioned a data and research project to support on our COVID intelligence work. The team continues to work with our Universities to develop a collaborative approach to research. Work within this programme with Northumbria University is currently on hold due to COVID-19, but is focused on internationalisation and entrepreneurship. The Good Work project and one looking at spatial trade and investment with Durham have both started. The Scale Up project is now complete. The team continue engage with Newcastle University regarding the development of a regional Policy and Evidence Hub and Knowledge Exchange Seminar Programme. An Economic Evidence Forum meeting took place in September 2020, where the group updated and discussed their COVID-19 research and data activities. The forum are engaged regularly regarding research and opportunities for collaboration. This will be built upon in the coming year. We are working on a forward plan for future research to be shared on the North East Data Hub research and insights pages. 	Emma Ward	G
Informing and influencing public policy in priority areas			

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"> 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 paper is to be produced for the Board updating the framework for the LEP's overall approach to public policy. Business intelligence on Brexit 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 being collated by the LEP programme leads, Invest NE England, the Business Growth Board, and Local Authorities The EU Exit Work Programme was updated in February following discussion with the Implementation Group. The Group discussed the Work Programme in August and agreed a forward agenda for future meetings. A response to the immigration consultation was submitted in July and a submission to the Freezone consultation was approved following discussions with the Implementation Group, Infrastructure Subgroup, and LA Economic Directors. Work has commenced to develop detailed arrangements for the Freezone in preparation for the forthcoming competition. A workshop is planned for September with key partners to discuss the next steps for preparing a formal bid Monitoring activity on UKSPF continues. The Government's plans for regional consultation have been put on hold by Covid-19, but proposals were published in May 2020. The development of UKSPF is likely to be affected by future developments of devolution policy and the economic response to Covid-19 On Northern Powerhouse a meeting cycle has been established and active monitoring and engagement is taking place. The LEP needs to continue to build visibility of and engagement with key Government processes and other Northern structures including NP11 and Convention of the North. The North East LEP is represented on the NP11 Board and is supporting work on energy. It is leading work on Innovation at Officer level and has inputted into Convention of the North work on skills. INEE is active in work on trade and investment. The regional transport team is active in the work of Transport for the north Initial work has been done to examine devolution development in other areas. Further work is required with partners to confirm priorities. A paper has been discussed by SMT and we await publication of the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper planned for the Autumn. Once priorities are established, further communication and co-ordinated action will be undertaken Ongoing monitoring of policy developments on infrastructure is underway. The team has prepared summary of proposals in the Planning White Paper. Arranging further discussions with a view to co-ordinating a regional response to the proposals 	Richard Baker	G
Energy for growth programme			
<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"> NEYH Hub board has signed off on supporting development of an NE-led energy skills academy with £50k funding. North East lead of mine energy white paper project ongoing. Strong representation of North East projects in the NEYH hub project pipeline. NELEP inputting into sourcing strategy for phase two of the c£40-50m Green Home Grant. Active participation in the Energi Coast cluster management group, incorporating cluster development priorities into Covid recovery planning. Utilising the LEP SAP skills needs assessment to lead and convene a skills workstream for Energi Coast, the North East's Offshore Wind Cluster. LEP participating in new innovation sub group, led by Durham University. LEP and INEE part of offshore wind north east event steering group. Discussions ongoing with Government and Subsea UK, on positioning the North East within a UK 'Global Underwater Hub' proposition. Continuing dialogue with key Offshore Wind stakeholders e.g. developers and sector deal leads. Skills development action plan being developed between the LEP and RWE. Energy Catalyst board meetings very well attended, moved to online webinar format in short term. Partners took part in an expert panel session to review applicants to the Energy Innovation Challenge Programme. Partners also consulted to inform the second challenge round. Initiatives underway utilising existing assets, examples include: World's first 'Integrated Smart Energy Lab' (OREC, Durham and Newcastle University) with project initiation document and MOU approved by Catalyst partners. Energy Innovation Challenge Programme is linking together SMEs with Catalyst partner expertise and assets. Energy Innovation Challenge Programme round 1 engaged with 14 regional SMEs, 5 of which submitted applications for Local Growth Funding. Catalyst partners consulted to help shape themes and narrative for round 2 (digital and data solutions to energy) currently live. Energy Catalyst presented at events including North East Centre for Energy Materials (NECEM) summer school and sponsorship of Northumbrian Water Festival. 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. Two videos showcasing outcomes of the Energy Challenge Programme produced together with 1 written case study. Script for another video focussing on wider North East Energy Sector is underway. Mine energy white paper commission now underway, insightful stakeholder engagement being undertaken alongside literature review. Draft white paper due by end November. Energy lead part of the Borderlands Energy Masterplan project board. Engagement also ongoing around local energy planning at NP11 level, and with utilities at NEYH level. The Energy for Growth fund is providing support for projects aligned to the strategic themes. Funding has been approved for ten projects across the North East worth £2,332,003. There are also currently three additional projects in the appraisal stage. The community energy proposal to understand how regional stakeholders may be able to better support the successful development and delivery of community energy projects in the North East is out to tender. Funding to the value of £27,500 has been secured from NTCA, Durham County Council and South Tyneside Council. Recent collaboration on CLGU clean growth pitch submission. Energy lead attending NoTCA working group meetings, to ensure alignment with regional priorities, specifically on emerging funds. Close working with Skills team to develop a skills academy proposal with Energy Systems Catapult, and an action plan with RWE, a key offshore wind developer and regional stakeholder. Ongoing strategic coordination for Offshore Wind cluster activity. 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. A second round was launched in August focusing on 'digital data solutions to decarbonisation'. Business Growth Team being supported to develop a potential role for a sector-specialist connector. 	Andrew Clark	G
Digital 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"> · 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Covid 19 has impacted on structure of programme with formal delivery groups on hold due to lockdown and impact on overall priorities. Task-specific discussions are in process with smaller task and finish groups which will feed into wider delivery plans. · Covid response roundtable held with key stakeholders from the tech community to scope Responses to Future Fund/Innovate UK package. 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 started June 2020. Series of start-up support events under consideration via Digital Collaboration & Enterprise theme. · Digital skills development embedded in Covid response and recovery planning across workstreams, focus on: training provision; upskilling of existing workforces; digital inclusion; hardware distribution; digital adoption; supporting remote working and remote learning. · Internal report authored by Digital Lead on Tech Start up completed with input from task and finish group. Sets out suggested delivery mechanisms and activities against an evidence base. Workshop with LEP colleagues held to determine activity in the short term and inform longer term plans. Findings presented to steering group, draft blueprint for startup support programme in production in collaboration with partners to identify short, medium and long term activities. · 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. · Three bids from across the region submitted to DCMS 5G Create call, Sunderland bid on Connected and Automated Logistics successful. "Connected North East" digital and transport submission to government for CSR in Covid Connectivity workstream. · Refreshed outline bid for Made Smarter programme submitted to BEIS in advance of CSR in partnership with TVCA, developed with input from CPI, Digital Catapult NETV and NEAA. 	Laura Partridge	A
Health and life sciences programme			
<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 evidence underpinning the emerging growth strategy was validated by the Health and Life Sciences (HLS) Steering Group in March 2020. A deep dive exercise was undertaken to understand the impact of Covid 19 on the sector. The findings have been incorporated into Growth Strategy and opportunities for strategically significant projects identified through Covid work have been incorporated in to the HLS project pipeline - and are being incorporated in to the CSR submission in order to stimulate investment in to the North East and ensure that HLS plays a key role in the NE's economic recovery going forward. · The Health & Life Sciences ten year growth strategy is currently being drafted and a consultation draft will be issued to the HLS Steering Group in early October. The final draft will be presented to the HLS Steering Group on 21st October. Subject to approval, the final draft will be taken through Economic directors, Business Growth Board, Innovation Board in the run up to final approval at the LEP Board in December. · The Project pipeline is under review and £300k of LGF funds was secured for a project development fund, an open call for projects was launched on 29 July. Applications closed on 28 August and 7 project applications were submitted. The assessment panel approved 6 which are now subject to a full appraisal process. One application was rejected. Following successful appraisal, projects brought forward will be included in the pipeline and progress reported to the Board in December. A submission for an Early Diagnostics Institute was submitted to the HLS Steering Group at its September meeting - this was supported and will be submitted to the next Innovation Board for approval onto the Priority Project Pipeline. · 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: pharmaceutical North Shoring/ Supply base resilience; NE Evaluation System; Great North Care Record; Digital/ Clinical Skills Hub; Developing a Skills Framework · 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) · A HLS comms working group met in July to agree core principles, communications channels and practices for sharing 'quick wins and successes' across the region. The outcomes 	Katherine Forbes	G

North East LEP Board: communications update September 2020

The date range for this report is 1 July – 18 September 2020

Highlights from the last two months

1. Managed the departure of Andrew Hodgson and welcomed Lucy Winskell as our new chair. This was supported by the publication of a video that supported Lucy's key messages and can be viewed [here](#).
2. Worked collaboratively with the region to draft the response and recovery deal to submit to government ahead of the CSR on behalf of the COVID-19 economic response group.
3. On Tuesday 15 September, the application process for SME Restart and Recovery Grants was overwhelmed by demand and the website buckled under the strain. There were many people who were frustrated by being unable to apply. We immediately suspended applications while the issue was dealt with and have taken some time to listen to businesses about the fairest way to move forward with this limited fund. You can read our full statement and information about next steps [here](#).

Priorities for the next two months

1. Support the work of the COVID-19 economic response group and input and respond to the CSR.
2. Refine and complete delivery of the SME Restart and Recovery fund.
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	11,946 (+2.4%)
LinkedIn	7,010 (+8%)

Total reach

Twitter	289,800
LinkedIn	55,503

Top performing LEPs on Twitter:



Top posts (All organic posts):

The engagements across the region both in the thanks and farewell to Andrew and the welcome of Lucy were overwhelming positive. Some examples below.

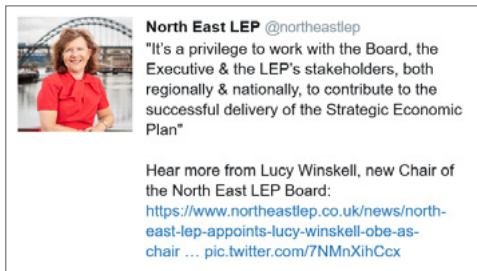
Twitter



North East LEP @northeastlep
 The @northeastlep, @NorthTyneCA + @NorthEastCA have been awarded £47m from @GOVUK's 'Getting Building Fund' to start local infrastructure projects that help the region's recovery from the #coronavirus pandemic
[https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/news/north-east-awarded-47m-from-government-to-invest-in-local-infrastructure-projects ...](https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/news/north-east-awarded-47m-from-government-to-invest-in-local-infrastructure-projects...)
 Backing business to create #moreandbetterjobs

Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Retweets
25,312	1,175	567	153

Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Retweets
5,559	256	80	29



North East LEP @northeastlep
 Universities key to North East's economic recovery: All five of the region's universities have backed the North East #COVID19 Economic Response Plan
[https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/news/universities-key-to-north-east-s-economic-recovery ...](https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/news/universities-key-to-north-east-s-economic-recovery...)
[#moreandbetterjobs](https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/news/universities-key-to-north-east-s-economic-recovery...)
[pic.twitter.com/37RovquqrO](https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/news/universities-key-to-north-east-s-economic-recovery...)

Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Retweets
8,913	445	124	29

Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Retweets
7,226	587	171	30



Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Retweets
6,725	486	261	17

LinkedIn

North East Local Enterprise Partnership 7,105 followers
2w • Edited • 🌐

We're very happy to announce the appointment of Lucy Winskell OBE as Chair of the North East LEP Board (Lucy is pictured here with Helen Golightly, Chief Executive of the North East LEP).

Read more here: <https://lnkd.in/dJgqD9C>



Impressions	Engagement	Clicks
10,965	246	465

North East Local Enterprise Partnership 7,106 followers
3w • 🌐

A message from our Chief Executive, Helen Golightly #ThankYouAndrew.

"Andrew, thank you for all you've achieved on behalf of the North East LEP and the region as our Chair. You'll see today that you are held in high regard and affection."



Impressions	Engagement	Clicks
9,101	103	630

North East Local Enterprise Partnership 7,106 followers
1mo • 🌐

Gillian Hall, who has more than 25 years' experience as a business owner, non-executive director, and corporate lawyer, has been appointed to lead our Innovation Board.

Read more here: https://lnkd.in/d7EE_qX

Impressions	Engagement	Clicks
9,101	103	630

North East LEP website performance summary:

Audience			Top five news pages		views
Visitors	15,882	(+1.96%)	https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/news/in-conversation-lucy-winskill-obe-and-helen-golightly		1,115
Total page views	76,637	(+35.7%)	https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/news/universities-key-to-north-east-economic-recovery		1,108
Average session duration	1m 50s	(-1.6%)	https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/news/north-east-awarded-47m-from-government-to-invest-in-local-infrastructure-projects		832
Traffic source			views		
Organic			https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/news/investment-on-offer-to-help-smes-develop-tech-solutions-to-energy-challenges		652
Direct			https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/news/gillian-hall-appointed-to-lead-north-east-innovation-board		652
Email					
Social					
Referral					
Other					
			Top five pages		views
			Home		14,589
			/news		3,779
			/about/executive-team		3,119
			/the-plan		3,058
			/projects		2,922



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