

A meeting of the: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

will be held on: **Monday, 8th December, 2025**

at **10.00 am**

in: **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington**

With reference to the agenda previously circulated for the above meeting, please find attached supplementary papers in relation to the following agenda items.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA PACK 2

		Page No
4	Northumberland Line To review and assess the benefits of investing in transport infrastructure by considering the example of the Northumberland Line. Presentation slides attached.	97 - 120
7	Inward Investment To examine the North East CA's approach to attracting inward investment to the region. Presentation slides attached.	121 - 128

Contact Officer: Michael Robson, Senior Governance Officer
 Tel: 0191 277 7242 Email: michael.robson@northeast-ca.gov.uk
www.northeast-ca.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



Northumberland Line

Developing the Northumberland Line

NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Stuart McNaughton, Head of Strategic Transport and Climate Change, NCC

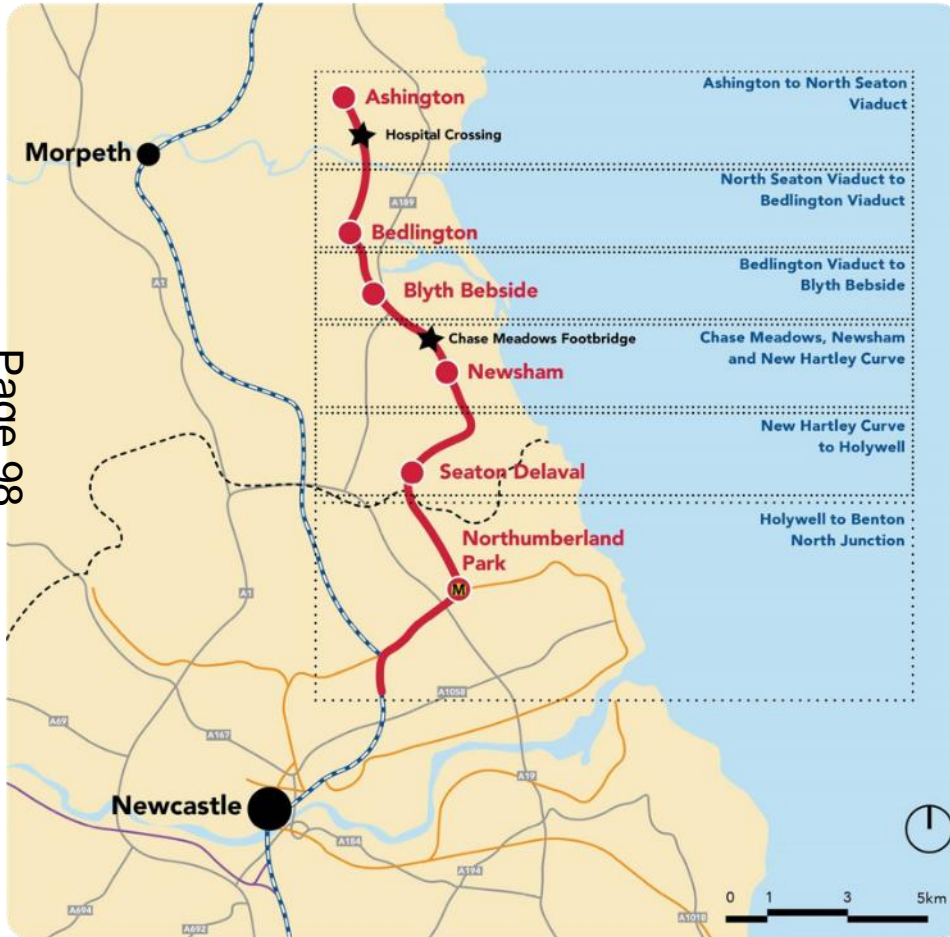
Neil Blagburn, Programme Delivery Director, AECOM

08 December 2025

Keeping You Connected

Overview

Page 98



Levelling up

Generates > £450M of economic benefit and a BCR >1.5

An Economic Regeneration Project

Key

- A-roads 
- Local authority boundary 
- Tyne & Wear Metro 
- Tyne Valley Line 
- East Coast Main Line 
- Northumberland Line route and stations 
- Interchange with Tyne & Wear Metro 

New passenger service:

- Stimulates growth in the economy, employment and housing
- Provides new opportunities to access education and employment hubs
- Mode shift car to public transport (de-congestion/air quality).
- Integration with regional transport systems
- Supports growth in renewable energy, offshore oil and gas and engineering sectors
- Helps attract visitors and tourism

High level scope

Base requirement 2 passenger trains per hour plus one up and down freight path opportunity each operating hour.

35 min journey time Ashington to Newcastle

23 min journey time Ashington to Northumberland Park

Page 9

12 min journey time Newcastle to Northumberland Park

In order to run an hourly passenger service there was no 'do nothing' option even with line-speed upgrades

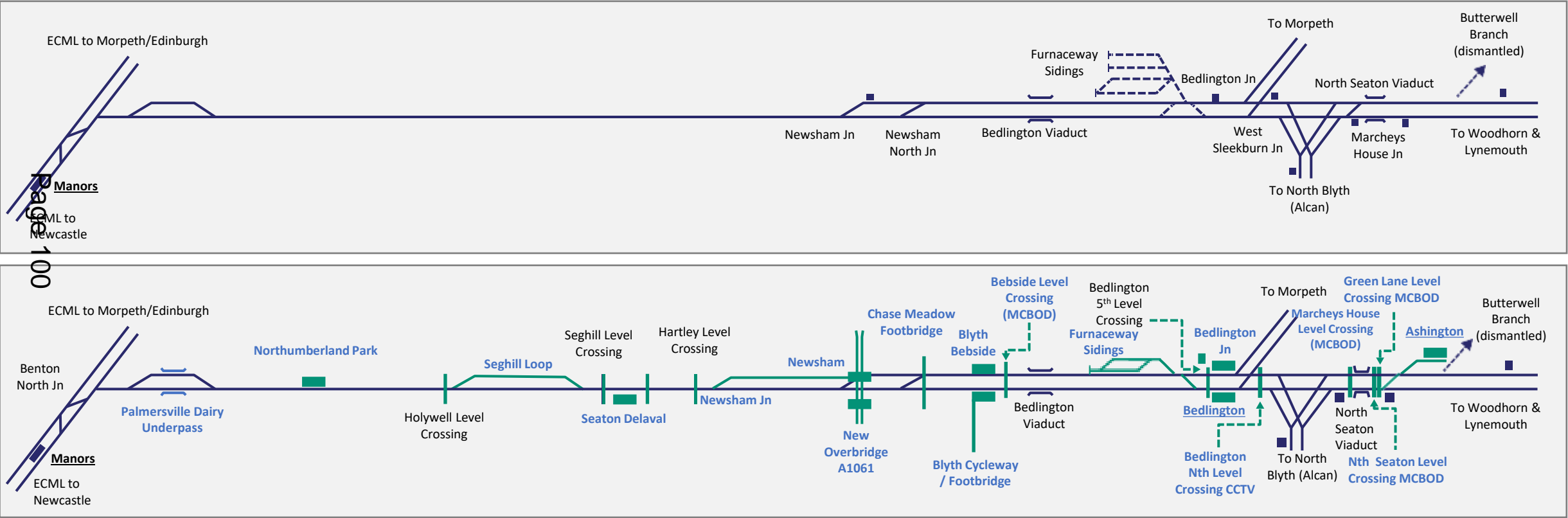
Extension of existing passing loops and installation of a new passing loop required to achieve the outputs.



- Currently average of 3-4 freight trips per day – predominantly bio-mass Tyne Dock to Lynemouth PS plus 3 return trips per week Port of Blyth to Fort William Alumina traffic



Route layout changes



Rail infrastructure scope

Optimised Infrastructure for timetable / operational requirements:

- 26km of track renewal
 - 2.4km – New passing loop between Holywell and Seghill
 - 1.0km - New twin track extension at Newsham
 - 22no. S&C installs / renewals
 - 1no. Run-around siding

Upgraded Signalling – Mechanical to computer controlled

- 24 level crossings
- 5 upgrades (roads)
 - 3 upgrades (footpaths)
 - 3 closed and replaced with structures
 - 4 closed outright
 - 1 closed and diverted to nearest structure
 - 8 remain unchanged
- 3 underbridges

All delivered and commissioned in August 2024



Stations and structures scope

- 6 new stations (5 with car parks)
 - Northumberland Park (1 Platform)
 - **Seaton Delaval (1 Platform)**
 - **Newsham (2 Platforms)**
 - **Blyth Bebside (2 Platforms)**
 - Bedlington (2 Platforms)
 - **Ashington Station (1 Platform)**
- 1 underpass
- 1 cycle bridge
- 1 road over bridge

First 4 stations open to passengers – remaining 2 nearing completion of construction



Route operations scope

- Rolling stock lease (4 x CI 158's)
- Driver and conductor recruitment and training
- Integrated Fares and Ticketing
- Operational Readiness workstreams
- Station Facility Owner
- **Passenger Services commenced in December 2024
>700k journeys already (c.15% higher than demand forecasts)**



Social Value

- £20m of social value generated
- 209 FTE jobs generated
- 9 Apprenticeships
- 111 weeks of paid work placement
- £616k of work to support young people
- 5000h of staff time engaged in skills development
- 14,000 children taught rail safety in school's presentations
- £25.8m spent in Northumberland supply chain



Ashington – before



Ashington – current



Bedlington – before



Bedlington — current



Blyth Bebside – before



Blyth Bebside – current



Newsham – before



Newsham road bridge – current



Newsham station— current



An aerial photograph of Newsham station, showing a large, multi-level car park filled with cars. The station building is visible in the background, featuring a prominent red brick structure with a staircase. The surrounding area includes green grass, a road with a bridge, and some residential buildings in the distance. The car park is organized into several rows, with cars parked in various colors. The station building has a modern design with a mix of brick and concrete. The overall scene is well-lit, suggesting a clear day.

Page 113

Seaton Delaval – before



Seaton Delaval – current



Northumberland Park – before



Northumberland Park – current



Palmersville Underpass

Page 118



Q&A

Connect with us



Connect with us and keep updated online by signing up at **nland.cc/signup**. Alternatively, scan the QR code below to sign-up to receive the digital newsletter **monthly**.

Up to date information about the project will be included on the scheme website <http://www.northumberlandline.uk/>.

If you would like to get in touch with us to ask any questions, please use the details below and we will try to ensure the appropriate person responds to you as soon as possible.



This page is intentionally left blank

North East England Inward Investment Update

November 2025



Invest North East Update

Growing our capacity to deliver the ambition of the Local Growth Plan

Global Trade portfolio – Deepen and strengthen our international relationships

Corporate plan - refresh short term goals, resource international work, Mayoral, investment trade delegations

Office for Investment – new ways of working

Strategic relationships, targeted interventions

Direct engagement with overseas posts

Continued emphasis on partnership working



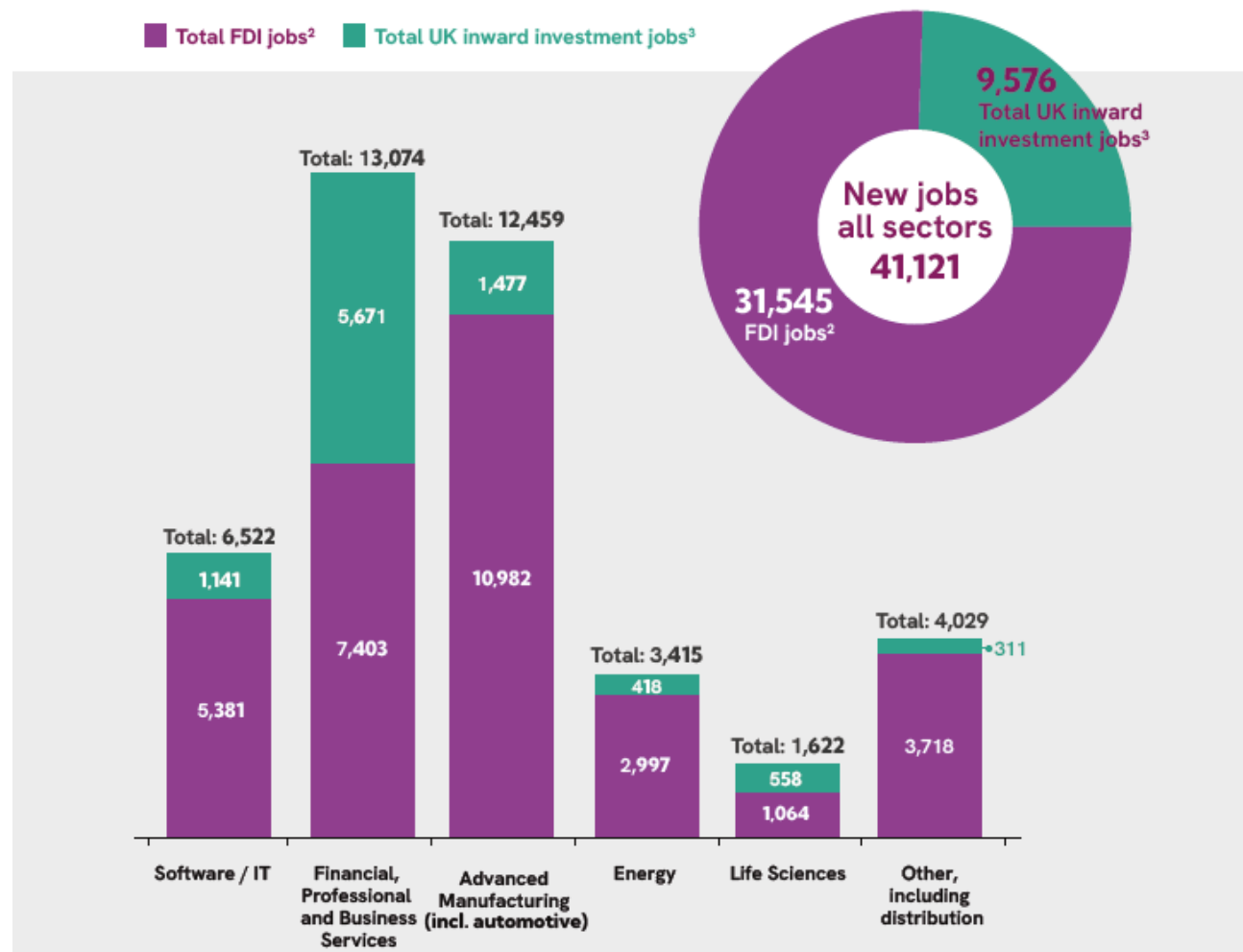
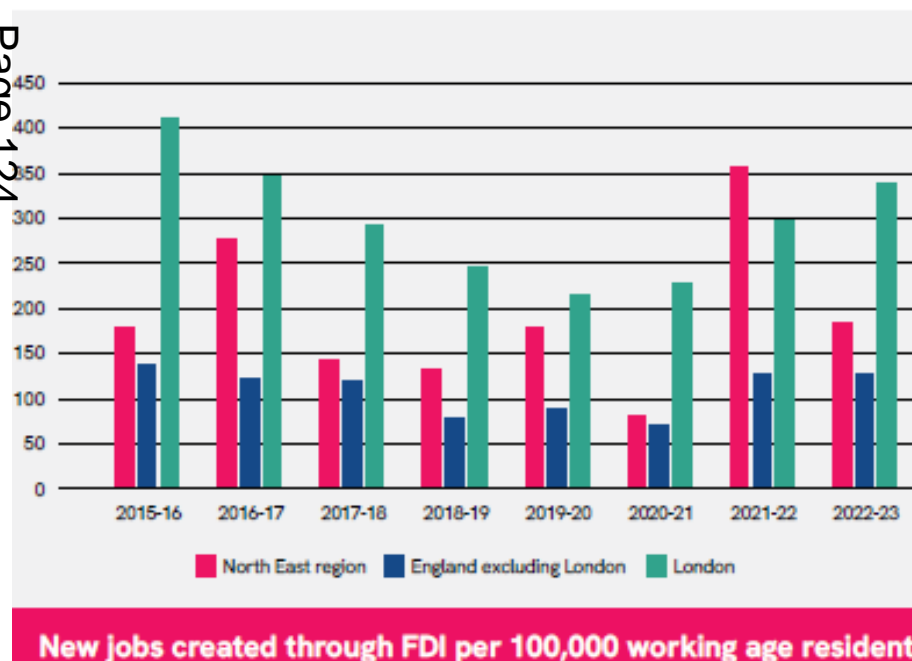
2024/25 Highlights

- National Industrial Strategy (+Trade and SME Strategies)
 - Funding for innovation, EV, creative industries...
- UKREIIF and the launch of the investment prospectus
- Breaking ground on QTS and investment in the AIGZ
- Interim Local Growth Plan, launch imminent
- Cenex, HLTH, Space Expo
- First Mayoral mission - Japan



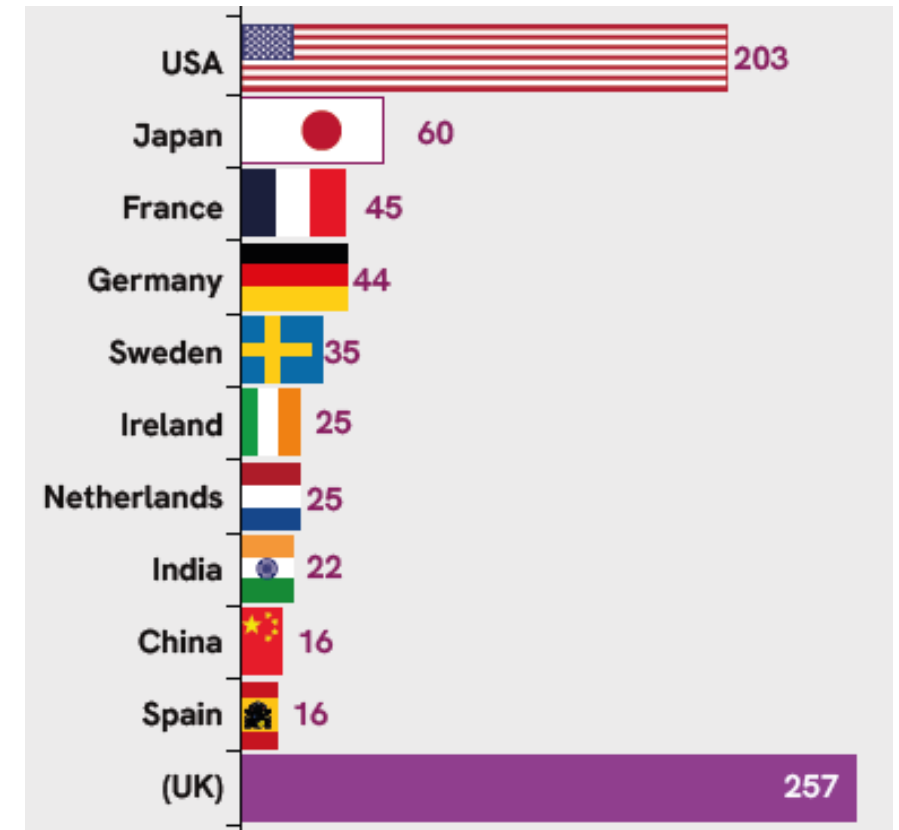
Inward Investment Trends & Impact

Page 124



Strategic Markets

- Target the markets and sectors that will be the priorities
- To date, key countries for inward investment have been the US, Japan and Europe ... but seeing some changes
- Opportunities ahead around Middle East, China and India to build on US, Nordics and Japan existing activity
- Sectors:
 - LGP sectors
 - Specialisms and sub-sectors e.g. semiconductors, AI, advanced therapies



Global Trade Goals

Refresh our existing short-term goals and explore a renewed focus on:

- Continuing to attract and secure investments into the North East that creates good quality jobs in our key sectors
- Creating more opportunities for North East businesses through the deepening of strategic relationships with other countries
- Directly targeting potential inward investors, understand their requirements, and assist in overcoming barriers to investing in the North East economy
- Leverage key opportunities such as AI Growth Zones to attract investment to the North East, generating increased opportunities and better benefits for our local communities



Secure more investment in the North East that leads to good quality jobs.



Expand our relationships with other countries to build links and opportunities for North East businesses.



Engage with potential inward investors; understanding their needs and helping them overcome barriers to locating in the region through an inward investment fund.



Implement refreshed Access to Finance/Regional Wealth programmes.

Forward look

Proactive sector outreach – mapped against key territories and supply chain analysis

National and international event programme:

- Black Hat , Riyadh
- Space Expo, Glasgow
- World Health Expo, Dubai
- SXSW, Austin (TGN)
- DPRTE, Farnborough
- Wind Energy Hamburg (with TV)

Site Selectors – two-day tour of the region, tell the story of the North East

UKREIIF 2026 - North East Pavilion

- **Creative industries/thriving cities:** Mayoral Dev. Zone Riverside Sunderland & Durham Innovation District.
- **Home of the Green Energy Revolution:** Opportunity for £3bn of external investment in offshore wind
- **The AI Growth Zone:** Accelerate delivery of the £30bn to unlock infrastructure and new investment

The Great North

- TGN brand as a resource
- Mayoral delegation to India 2026
- Programme manager in post

Thank you

