

# North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board



Thursday 19 September 2019

17.00 – 19.00

Venue: Colin Milburn Lounge, Durham County Cricket  
Club, Emirates Riverside, Chester-le-Street, DH3  
3QR

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome from the Chair and apologies** (5.00pm)
2. **Declarations of interest** (5.00pm)
3. **Minutes of the last Board Meeting held on Thursday 25 July** (5.00pm)  
The Board will be asked to agree the Minutes.
4. **SEP Delivery Plan update** – paper attached (5.05pm)  
Helen Golightly to present to the Board.
5. **Strengthening LEPs Review - outstanding matters** - paper attached (5.15pm)  
Helen Golightly to present to the Board.

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

6. **Funding update and decisions** – paper attached (5.25pm)  
Paul Woods to present to the Board.
7. **Local Industrial Strategy** – paper attached (5:40pm)  
Richard Baker and Victoria Sutherland to present to the Board.
8. **Brexit preparations** – paper attached (6:30pm)  
Richard Baker to present to the Board.
9. **Any Other Business** (6.55pm)
10. **Next meeting** is Thursday 28 November 2019 from 5-7pm

**19 September 2019**

**ITEM 4: SEP Programme Delivery Update**

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

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

**2.0 Highlights and points to note since the last meeting**

Business Growth

- Fourth Growth Hub Connector now in post to deliver the High Potential Startups programme which is already exceeding expectations having received over 120 expressions of interest.
- Further funding call opened as part of Rural Growth Network programme
- The North East LEP areas performed better than any other region except London and West Midland in attracting FDI during 2018/19.

Innovation

- Project pipeline prioritisation applications have been endorsed by the Innovation Board in July, leading to a draft pipeline of 26 projects that will be supported in being developed.
- Project calls opened for both the Innovation Project Development Fund and Incubator Support Fund, with calls closing on 11 October 2019.
- Second call for Innovation Vouchers from the INVITE project is now open

Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

- 142 Enterprise Advisers (EAs) have been recruited from a broad range of both large employers and SMEs, with 114 matched with a school or college.
- Phase 2 of Ford Next Generation Learning is rolling out to three new schools in this academic year; additional staff are now in place to facilitate this and a study visit to Nashville is being finalised
- Planning is underway for phase three of the successful Live Work Stay communications campaign.

Transport

- Ongoing discussions with DfT in relation to Tranche 2 of the Transforming Cities Fund; Full Business Case to be submitted by the end of November 2019.
- An expression of interest to become a Future Mobility Zone was not shortlisted by DfT and work on this project has been closed as a result
- Metro Asset Renewal Programme is progressing with 188 of 270 projects now completed. Programme completion expected March 2021.

#### Investment and Infrastructure

- LGF budget for 2019/20 is £28m, current forecast outturn £27.7m with £3.7m grant claimed in quarter 1.
- Newcastle City Council has formally launched The Biosphere on the Helix, which received over £8.6m LGF support.
- Sunderland City Council announced the creation of 300 new jobs by online retailer Ocado in the first new office on Vaux – ‘The Beam’ where £10m LGF has supported site infrastructure and servicing.
- The new bus / metro interchange in South Shields supported with £9.4m LGF opened on time in August.
- Review of the NEIF is ongoing, including an ex ante and development of appropriate project pipeline
- Progress being made in bringing forward Business Cases for three EZ sites: Royal Quays, Holborn 2 and North Bank of Tyne

#### Strategy and Policy

- Draft LIS propositions have been developed and active engagement is underway with partners and local authorities
- Helped to organise DataJam, a two-day event between 16-17 September 2019 at Newcastle Helix, bringing together those with expertise in data, digital and service design in hacks, workshops and unconference sessions
- New post holder for Health and Life Science lead to start on 16 September 2019
- Energy for Growth funding call opened for capital and revenue support. Energy Catalyst MOU finalised and agreed. Rural Energy Officer will take up post on 7 October 2019

#### Communications

- There continues to be strong growth in the number of followers across LEP’s social media (3.4% on Twitter and 11.2% on LinkedIn since June). The North East LEP remains the most followed LEP in the country on Twitter.

### **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 2019*



# North East Strategic Economic Plan Programme Delivery update

19 September 2019

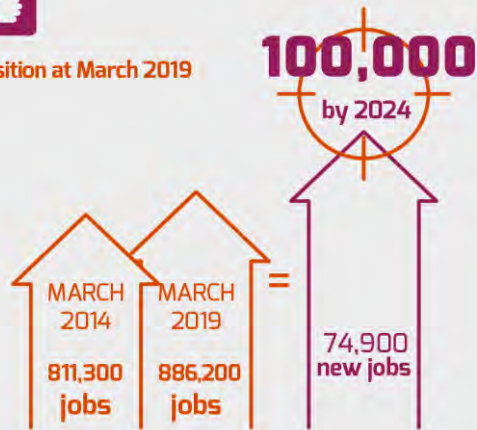


# Performance against Strategic Economic Plan targets since 2014 (Last updated Jul 2019)

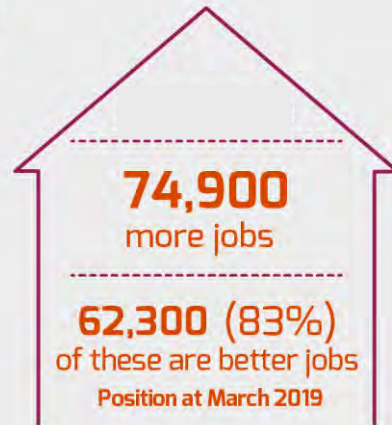
**Target** Increase the number of jobs in the North East economy by 100,000 by 2024



Position at March 2019



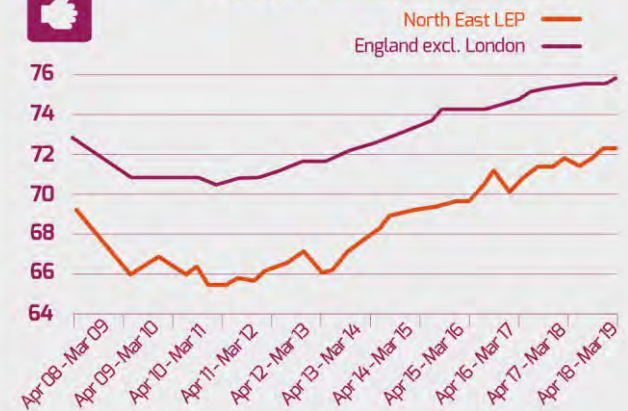
**Target** 70% of all jobs created from 2014 will be better jobs



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



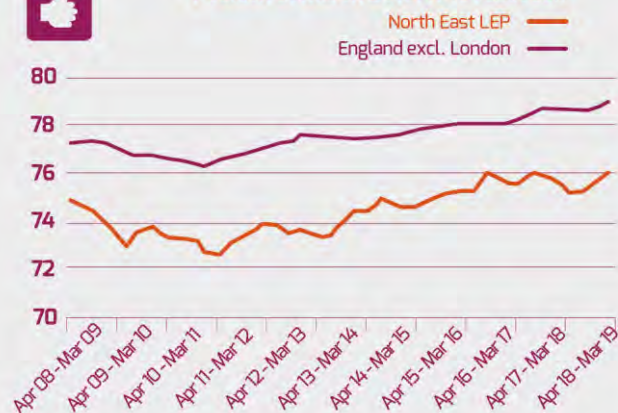
Position at March 2019: 28% reduction



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



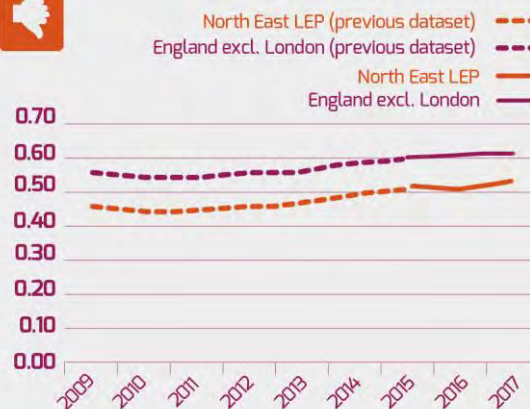
Position at March 2019: 17% reduction



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



Position at 2017: 5% increase



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



Position at 2017: 29% reduction



# 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
<b>1. Raise levels of business growth ambition</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1.1 Research, develop and implement a strategy designed to increase businesses' ambition to start up, grow, scaleup and improve</li> <li>- 1.2 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultants, Add Seociasts work well underway to design business growth and innovation ecosystem, engaging with programme advisory boards and expert panel. Aligned to development of the LIS. Started research collaboration with Northumbria University.</li> <li>- Financial and Professional Services group met 10 September to consider LIS and sector needs, an emergent project to retain talent within the sector and collaboration to support emerging and existing scaleups.</li> </ul>	Colin Bell	G
<b>2. Increase demand for external business support and finance</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2.1 Provide access to business start-up support, finance and information through the North East Growth Hub online portal and the national Business Support Helpline</li> <li>- 2.2 Provide one-to-one impartial brokerage to established businesses and high potential start-ups through our Growth Hub Connectors</li> <li>- 2.3 Provide intensive account management and managed brokerage to businesses that are scaling up or have the potential to do so</li> <li>- 2.4 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Baseline for Growth Hub awareness being established from which we will set penetration targets for future years. On target to achieve KPIs for the year. At the time of reporting:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-YTD 9,400 light touch intervention achieved (63% of annual target)</li> <li>-YTD 86% achieved for Customer Satisfaction survey</li> <li>-YTD 12.5% rated 5* for Provider Satisfaction</li> <li>-YTD 19% of clients took up recommended providers</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Fourth Connector and Project Coordinator appointed early August to deliver the High Potential Startups programme. KPIs: YTD 186 medium intensity interventions, 34% of annual target</li> <li>- Scaleup North East and Supply Chain North East continue to deliver quality programmes against target. Scaleup North East redesign underway to improve delivery, including response to initial findings of the interim evaluation. Initial findings of interim evaluation. From our 'high intensity' programmes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-YTD 186 business engaged/assisted; 34% of annual target</li> <li>-GVA increase per business forecast at £1.6m</li> <li>-GVA per employee increase forecast at £15,618</li> <li>-Jobs increase forecast per business at 12, of which are better jobs 36%</li> </ul> </li> <li>- RGN programme contracted to deliver 100%+ of jobs target. No change since last report. 42 projects complete/underway. 100% grant committed; 76% programme spend; 71% programme jobs created/safeguarded (227 against lifetime target 321 jobs). Business case prepared for further £1m LGF to support rural businesses. New funding call released 9th September.</li> <li>- RDPE Growth Programme: 47 projects contracted. Under-programming increased to £2.4m due to 66% drop out rate. Proposed National Reserve Fund national call is expected in September 2019 subject to Ministerial approval. We have a strong pipeline evidenced</li> <li>- Continued engagement of Connect Service with Rural Connect to ensure businesses located in rural North East have access to Growth Hub information and guidance.</li> <li>- North East Fund: £25m capital released for 163 investments. Over £30m private sector funding has been co-invested. £1.4m has already been returned by the funds, enabling £1m to be repaid to the EIB.</li> </ul>	Colin Bell	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
<b>3. Ensure the support of external business support and finance matches the needs of businesses and the economy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3.1 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</li> <li>- 3.2 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</li> <li>- 3.3 Work with private and public partners to design and develop a range of interventions to drive productivity improvement and the adoption of digital technology</li> <li>- 3.4 Ensure peer mentoring and peer-to-peer leadership development is available to support businesses to scale and improve productivity</li> <li>- 3.5 Work with partners to increase the density of high potential start-ups in the North East</li> <li>- 3.8 Continue to develop the North East Growth Hub Business Support Provider Network to encourage collaboration and the sharing of good practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultants, Add Seocliasts continue to review Business Growth and Innovation Ecosystem. Findings challenged by national expert panel in London 12th Sept and reviewed with the Growth Hub Provider Network 17th Sept. Joint working session late Sept with the programme advisory boards.</li> <li>- Terms of reference signed off and task and finish group membership being designed.</li> <li>- Quality assurance process automated and operational through the CRM system.</li> <li>- Supply Chain North East supporting companies to adopt digital technology through Generator, one of the four delivery partners.</li> <li>- Productivity proposition in development through the LIS, supported and evidenced by the work in train to develop the business growth and innovation ecosystem framework with Add Seocliasts consultants.</li> <li>- Resource to deliver the Be the Business mentoring programme in the North East secured (in collaboration with Manchester Growth Company).</li> <li>- Following launch of campaign, initial demand for High Potential Startups exceeded expectations with over 120 Expressions of Interest received (during the holiday season) of which we will select 25 founders to join the programme. Supplier appointed to deliver the accelerator element and cohort 1 commences late October. Fourth Growth Hub Connector and Project Coordinator joined the team in early August as part of the programme delivery team. <a href="http://www.highpotentialstartups.co.uk">www.highpotentialstartups.co.uk</a></li> <li>- Six scaleup partners delivering Scaleup North East with programme improvements underway.</li> <li>- In total, 156 business on programme since January 2018. 678 jobs created - 133 this financial year of which 80% are 'better jobs'.</li> <li>- North-East internationalisation strategy in development via LIS process</li> <li>- Growth Hub Provider Network meeting on 26th June focused on energy sector and the business and innovation ecosystem framework. Further engagement session to test the ecosystems framework findings on 17th Sept, bringing together innovation and business support providers.</li> </ul>	Colin Bell	G
<b>4. Improve the region's economic resilience</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4.1 Use the North East Growth Hub to distribute up-to-date information on business support and finance options available to support Brexit preparations</li> <li>- 4.2 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</li> <li>- 4.3 Work with partners to inform the business support and finance funding mechanisms that will replace the European Structural Investment Funds</li> <li>- 4.4 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working with BEIS to develop Growth Hub delivery capacity to support Brexit readiness, 'Get Ready for Brexit' campaign and roadshow and to enhance intelligence gathering mechanisms.</li> <li>- Supply Chain North East continues to support businesses to diversify into new markets to spread risk.</li> <li>- Working with Growth Hub Provider Network, innovation providers and financial and professional business services intermediaries to develop evidence base and future framework, as reported elsewhere in this update.</li> <li>- Rapid response taskforce and response plan in place.</li> </ul>	Colin Bell	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
<b>5. Grow inward investment in the region</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 5.1 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</li> <li>· 5.2 Establish and follow a clear target driven, lead generation model that is focused on the SEPs areas of strategic importance and support service sectors</li> <li>· 5.3 Have a robust account management system, led by local authorities, to share knowledge and investment opportunities with key partners</li> <li>· 5.4 Develop and deliver an integrated marketing plan to raise the profile of the North East as a place to invest and locate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The North East LEP area performed better than any UK region except London and West Midlands (when measured as new jobs created through FDI per 100,000 working age population).</li> <li>· Hub and spoke delivery model continues with Invest North East England (INEE) providing the strategic inward investment service for the LEP area working with the seven local authorities, the two combined authorities, and other partners. INEE is first point of contact with DIT Investment Services and the DIT Northern Powerhouse teams. INEE's lead generation contract has been re-awarded to OCO Global. OCO will concentrate on generating leads from Digital Tech companies in London and the SE and Ireland. They will also source leads from some advanced manufacturing sub-sectors. OCO will use their international links to source opportunities from overseas.</li> <li>· INEE (through NECA) continues to deliver the DIT Key Account Management Programme (KAM) through circa £153k of DIT Northern Powerhouse funding. NECA sub contracted with six local authorities to deliver this, with excellent results. DIT now signed contract for 2019/20. INEE working with local authorities to access key information gleaned from account management activity.</li> <li>· INEE communications and marketing plan developed with input from the North East LEP and the seven local authorities. This is reviewed and updated regularly.</li> </ul>	Guy Currey	A



# 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
<b>Stimulate new business opportunities through the North East Open Innovation Challenge</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support growing activity to foster open innovation between large corporates, public sector and innovation-led SMEs in the region with a clear brand</li> <li>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</li> <li>Support best practice for open innovation events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the scoping sprint to understand regional appetite for open innovation challenges is underway with event planned for winter 2019.</li> <li>Innovation vouchers have been issued for pilot 1 wave 1, of the INVITE project and the second call is currently open.</li> </ul>	Alan Welby	G
<b>Prioritise a regional pipeline of projects to form a Strategic Investment Programme</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a prioritised list of regional, large scale pipeline projects</li> <li>Align with activities undertaken by our Combined Authorities</li> <li>Focus on large-scale collaborative projects that have the capacity to have significant impact for the regional economy and create jobs</li> <li>Innovation Board will play a challenge and support role, holding regional partners to account for progress in developing the evidence base and business plans and delivering pipeline projects</li> <li>Develop a programme to address identified place-based gaps to supporting business growth</li> <li>Coordinate an approach to securing funds for pipeline projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the close of the call, the task and finish group agreed a draft pipeline of 26 projects, which was endorsed by the Innovation Board on 16 July.</li> <li>Economic Director representatives attended the task and finish group to agree the draft project pipeline.</li> <li>Assessment criteria approved and utilised in prioritisation of projects submitted. This will be retained for assessment of future projects.</li> <li>Reporting approach has been developed, and will be taken to Innovation Board for agreement on 23 September 2019.</li> <li>Project feedback sessions have been arranged with leads from all projects, and the majority have been carried out. Next call for project development funding to be launched in September 2019.</li> <li>Specification for procurement has been drafted and discussed with partners. Expected to launch in early October.</li> <li>Hosted workshop with SuperNetwork to launch the second wave of Strength in Places call. Ongoing active support is being provided to wave one priority projects.</li> </ul>	Alan Welby	G
<b>Support our businesses to capitalise on local research and innovation capability</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen collaboration between businesses and innovation assets such as universities, catapults and national centres of excellence</li> <li>Enhance the co-ordination between businesses, sectors and innovation assets</li> <li>Support our innovation assets to successfully secure national funding to run regional programmes</li> <li>Work with service delivery partners such as the NHS and local authorities to take-up and roll-out new delivery approaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial demonstrator asset base mapping exercise complete. Next stage is to undertake engagement and verification of evidence.</li> <li>Engagement with universities undertaken through SuperNetwork. Full programme to be developed by Spring 2020.</li> <li>Applications have been received from catapults and universities for project development funding. LEP providing support for Strength in Places fund development, both waves one and two.</li> <li>Engagement is underway, with key partners aware of open innovation challenge development activity being developed.</li> </ul>	Alan Welby	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
<b>Increase private sector investment into growing innovation businesses</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support VentureFest and FinanceCamp</li> <li>Develop new approaches to lever private funding from outside the region</li> <li>Develop an open innovation challenge to drive increased collaborative investment</li> <li>Work with universities to continue to grow spin-out success, including through Northern Accelerator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Innovation team continues to work closely with the SuperNetwork, and will support FinanceCamp in November.</li> <li>Initial review of access to finance provision completed providing a baseline understanding of current provision, high level demand and some gaps. Working with the Business Growth Team and Access to Finance Task and Finish Group has been developed to oversee and guide further activities.</li> <li>The Open Innovation Challenge development is underway as reported under Activity 1. This will develop an approach that will support increased private sector investment.</li> <li>Alan Welby continues to attend the Northern Accelerator Board to support the development of the project. Northern Accelerator was also selected as a priority partner as part of the Pipeline Prioritisation Process.</li> <li>Work is on-going looking to identify routes to increase spin-out activity with Universities, including through ERDF funded projects.</li> </ul>	Alan Welby	G
<b>Engage partners to identify and drive business growth through an Innovation Sectors and Competencies Programme</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and prioritise regional innovation sectors and competencies, including assessing where these align with the Industrial Strategy and North East Local Industrial Strategy</li> <li>Put robust governance in place to identify priority areas</li> <li>Ensure buy-in and engagement with private sector</li> <li>Develop a portfolio of projects and programmes</li> <li>Identify leads and capacity to drive activity</li> <li>Improve alignment of innovation activities to skills and business growth programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The regional sectors and competencies study taken forward with the Policy and Strategy Team to inform the Local Industrial Strategy has been completed with Technopolis providing a final report.</li> <li>Unconventional Connections has been commissioned to develop an initial Innovation Delivery Partnership (IDP) model that will be reported to the Innovation Board on the 23rd September as part of developing a full model by the end of the year.</li> <li>The development of the Innovation Delivery Partnership is the proposed route to ensure oversight of the niche competencies. A proposal for monitoring IDP development is being developed for the 23rd September Board meeting.</li> <li>Partners are being engaged through the development of the Innovation Delivery Framework with a launch event being prepared for early 2020</li> <li>A series of draft propositions have been developed as part of the LIS development process.</li> <li>Initial alignment has been undertaken in joint work with Business Growth, Investment and Policy and Strategy Teams.</li> <li>Additional activities required to progress alignment with skills team.</li> </ul>	Alan Welby	G
<b>Coordinate regional partners to provide enhanced innovation support activity</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting the delivery of a programme of innovation support for regional businesses</li> <li>Ensure activity is aligned through successful partnership brokered by the Innovation SuperNetwork</li> <li>Support businesses to increase their investment in RDI</li> <li>Strengthen our links with national and international hubs and networks to generate commercial returns for local businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adds Consulting commissioned to lead review. Adds have provided a interim report which was endorsed by the Innovation Board. A series of workshops is in place for the next stage of development during September.</li> <li>LEP team continues to work closely with the Innovation SuperNetwork team and have delivered a series of shared events including the Strength in Places Fund workshop and the Business Growth Innovation Practice sessions.</li> <li>The challenge of increasing business RDI is being considered as part of the Innovation Delivery Framework.</li> <li>Alan Welby has arranged a series of meetings with Innovate UK, BEIS and the catapults to engage national partners in the development of the Innovation Delivery Framework and introduce the IDP model.</li> </ul>	Alan Welby	A

# 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 teh 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 parterns 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 achivement, providing a strong base to build on in future years.

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
<b>Deliver North East Ambition</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a primary school benchmark pilot that could influence the national careers strategy</li> <li>- Adoption of the Gatsby Good Careers Benchmarks by all secondary schools and colleges</li> <li>- 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 67 out of 70 schools in the primary pilot have completed the initial audit and baseline results have been analysed.</li> <li>- Initial meetings with all pilot schools are underway, meetings include an analysis of school's action and spend plans. Two initial cluster meeting have been planned for late September.</li> <li>- Work began with the Wave 2 schools careers hubs and a Wave 2 SEND focused careers hub. Year one data identified two benchmarks out of eight where performance has lagged behind the other benchmarks. A series of 1:1 meetings, hub meetings and regional careers leaders meeting designed to address these benchmarks have been circulated to schools in the Network.</li> <li>- North East Ambition project inception meeting was held in August. The meeting was positive with a few action points for both parties. Once the process has been signed off by DWP, the programme can begin to claim outputs, results and funding. The programme has recruited 142 Enterprise Advisers with 114 matched to network schools.</li> <li>- 142 Enterprise Advisers have been recruited from a broad range of both large employers and SMEs. 114 have been matched to network schools and colleges.</li> </ul>	Michelle Rainbow	G
<b>Deliver Education Challenge</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> <li>- 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposal for a LEP enchanced careers focused offer, in coordination with the Tees Valley Combined Authority is under development and will be presented to the Skills Advisory Panel in October.</li> <li>- Phase 2 Ford Next Generation Learning is rolling out to three new schools in academic 2019/20. Staff is in place for the beginning of the academic year, a study trip to Nashville has been finalised.</li> <li>- Phase 2 schools will have the opportunity to undertake a study trip to School 21 in October 2019 to look at project based learning and Oracy. They will also have the opportunity to attend a world leading CPD session on project based learning by the Edge Foundation at Newcastle University. The first round of teacher externship will be delivered by Edge Foundation in Autumn term 2019.</li> <li>- School Governance: As a result of interest from the Enterprise Advisor Celebration Event in June '19 , a draft pathway for Enterprise Advisors to become governors is being developed.</li> </ul>	Michelle Rainbow	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
<b>Improve skills progression</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a list of the region's assets within FE, HE and other providers to inform future investment provision</li> <li>Promote the North East as a potential location to pilot a system to help individuals recognise and record their transferable skills</li> <li>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</li> <li>Support partners to implement good quality T-levels and specialist technical education to widen choices for young people</li> <li>Secure funding to deliver a university pilot project focussing on careers and opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme is developing a business case to secure funding to produce a comprehensive asset and capability study for the region.</li> <li>The LEP and other partners are scoping the pilot programme for transferable skills. The pilot will be influenced by the findings in the Taylor Review. A proposition for a pilot was presented to the Local Industrial Strategy Summit in July 2010.</li> <li>The LEP continues working closely with ESFA on the second phase of the "Fire It Up" campaign to promote apprenticeships, beginning in September.</li> <li>The LEP is coordinating with ESFA to communicate the newly announced structure of T-Levels to partners and to ensure that employers are aware of the function of industry placements as part of T-Levels.</li> <li>The LEP continues to work with the four universities in the region and Universities UK to shape a pilot programme.</li> <li>Phase two of the Live Work Stay campaign, which ran from January to March 2019, showed very strong media engagement. Through organic and paid content on the North East LEP Twitter channel, the campaign was seen 96,700 times and there were 1,115 engagements with campaign content. The two videos have been viewed 46,287 times. Therefore, the LEP has begun planning for a phase three of the campaign, currently expected to run in 2020.</li> </ul>	Michelle Rainbow	G
<b>Increase youth employment</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver Generation North East and the model to prevent youth unemployment</li> <li>Provide specialist intensive support for those most distant from the labour market because of disadvantage, poverty, poor physical and mental health</li> <li>Grow the number of apprenticeships by developing access courses</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generation NE continues to develop its fully digital support offer for young people, it is currently supporting 600 young people across six local authorities and 400 young people supported through the fully digital offer.</li> <li>Durham Works has engaged 6600 young people in County Durham since January 2016. Of the 3312 who have completed the programme to date, 2909 have progressed into employment, education or training. The summer period has seen high levels of recruitment and this is expected to continue during the early part of the autumn.</li> <li>Work is underway on proposals to build on the data work of the SAP and capitalise on policy reforms such as T-Levels, and Institutes of Technology to inform investment in FE based on the asset and capability map through the SAP.</li> <li>The Skills Advisory Panel is scoping the potential of commissioning a study into future digital skills assessment. This model combined with the Asset and Capability study will form an evolving evidence base that can inform investment into schools as well as the Further and Higher education sector. These studies will be closely aligned with the LEP's digital strategy.</li> </ul>	Michelle Rainbow	G
<b>Improve labour market activation</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Ensure support is in place for those that have moved from unemployment or inactivity into work to help them progress and acquire further skills</li> <li>Increase take up of Better Health at Work Awards and similar schemes to employers, to share employment and human resource best practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental Health Trailblazer delivered integrated employment support and psychological therapy to jobseekers with mental health conditions. An evaluation by Behavioural Insights Team was due in July 2019.</li> <li>The national retraining scheme is the government's new programme to help adults retrain into better jobs and be ready for future changes to the economy. The North East is one of the test regions for the scheme. The LEP team facilitated a series of partner meetings with the DfE team responsible for the regional roll-out.</li> <li>There has been an upturn in the numbers of seminars and events in 2018/19 promoting the benefits of BHAWA and sharing HR best practice. The LEP is coordinating with partners on the Good Work agenda, and is attending a series of partner events on Good Work.</li> </ul>	Michelle Rainbow	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
<b>Ensure connected communities</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Provide targeted support for communities and individuals, focusing on those with multiple barriers or protected characteristics, and ensure this is a strategic funding priority</li> <li>· 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</li> <li>· Consideration of digital skills provision and local digital infrastructure must be prioritised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Over £70m of ESF projects are currently live, with many more coming on stream later this year. ESF projects have a strong focus on supporting disadvantaged groups and we expect to see some important results from these projects to help address long term imbalances in future.</li> <li>· There is still a substantial amount of the allocation of European Social Fund not under contract, with a relatively small time to deliver compliant and impactful interventions. In September of the remaining funds, bid had been submitted for approximately £36 million in the Skills for Growth axis and a further 6 million had been bid for under the Inclusive Labour Market axis. In September there is a further call for £11.2 million under the Inclusive Labour Market axis.</li> <li>· 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.</li> </ul>	Michelle Rainbow	G
<b>Help deliver Fuller Working Lives</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 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.</li> </ul>	Michelle Rainbow	G

# 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
<b>Ongoing transport project delivery</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued infrastructure renewals on the Metro system to promote system reliability</li> <li>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</li> <li>Delivery of the Local Growth Fund transport programme and the Local Sustainable Transport Fund capital programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project and Programme Management of circa 270 individual projects within the Metro Asset Renewal Programme. Funding of £352m confirmed with investment to date of £312m. 188 Projects completed and closed out, 76 Projects in progress at 3rd July 2019. Funding / Programme completion 31 March 2021.</li> <li>Regional Transport Team are currently working to progress the procurement of Contractor who will install the units and operate the network. Slight delay in issuing tender market due to procurement issues; tender now planned to go out at the end of September 2019</li> <li>Delivery of the LGF transport programme is progressing well with a number of schemes now complete. Project progress and expenditure continues to be monitored closely.</li> <li>A number of promoters have submitted 12 month completion evaluation reports. Deadlines for the submission of 12 month completion and 5 year completion evaluation reports has been circulated to all scheme promoters</li> </ul>	Philip Meikle	G
<b>Secure funding from Transforming Cities Bid and commence delivery</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A high-quality bid, that secures significant funding for the sustainable transport network</li> <li>Begin a programme of sustainable infrastructure interventions in public transport, walking and cycling</li> <li>Develop the foundations of an innovative new mobility ecosystem with digitally based ticketing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline Business Case for Tranche 2 of Transforming Cities was submitted to Government and discussions with DfT are ongoing</li> <li>Full Business Case for Tranche 2 funding due to be submitted by end of November 2019.</li> <li>Delivery of schemes funded through Tranche 1 of Transforming Cities is progressing to schedule and on budget.</li> </ul>	Philip Meikle	G
<b>Deliver better connectivity through improved infrastructure</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interventions on the local Strategic Highways Network, including major junction projects and commencement of A1 improvements</li> <li>Roll out of the first trains in the Metro fleet replacement programmes</li> <li>Commissioning of electric vehicle filling stations and charging clusters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highways England current work programmes for strategic highways improvements are on schedule:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A19: Construction on Testos/ Downhill Lane has commenced, which will create a free flowing A19 between North Yorkshire and Northumberland.</li> <li>-A69: two junction schemes in the Hexham are due to commence to improve flow.</li> <li>-A66: Planning for the dualling scheme is progressing with route announcements due in 2020.</li> <li>-A1: Western Bypass improvements at Coalhouse-Birtley and at Scotswood-North Brunton due to commence in 2020/21. A1 in Northumberland, Consultation started on the Alnwick – Ellingham dualling. Due to start alongside Morpeth-Felton dualling and north of Ellingham junction improvement schemes in 2020.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Evaluation in progress to determine the preferred tenderer for Metro Fleet replacement. Contracts are expected to be awarded in January 2020 following DfT approval of Nexus' Final Business Case and this will lead to the first new train being delivered in late 2021.</li> <li>The Sunderland filling station has now opened and has been well received. Work on the Newcastle station is due to commence imminently. The first phase of charging clusters have started to be installed and should be finalised by this Autumn. The second phase of the clusters are currently going through Planning and installation should commence early Autumn.</li> </ul>	Philip Meikle	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
<b>Develop a future transport investment pipeline</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of the North East Transport Plan including supplementary thematic strategies designed to support our economy</li> <li>- Continued participation in Transport for the North and Rail North to identify pan-Northern connectivity priorities</li> <li>- A pipeline of schemes matched to targeted funding solutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The development of the North East Transport Plan continues: vision statement and objectives are being drafted alongside stakeholder engagement plan.</li> <li>- The NE Regional Transport Team 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..</li> <li>- Project pipeline for inclusion in the Transport Plan is being developed</li> </ul>	Philip Meikle	A
<b>Improve national and international connectivity</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivery of the programme of interventions outlined in the Newcastle Airport Masterplan to grow routes and foster wider business growth in associated sectors</li> <li>- Agreement with Northern Powerhouse Rail and others on approach to East Coast Mainline improvements</li> <li>- 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Masterplan 2035 adopted by Newcastle International Airport's Board and published. Major car park redevelopment underway and new Meet and Greet facility opened. Lufthansa route to its Munich hub to commence in February 2020 with other route development work ongoing, but commercially confidential.</li> <li>- Nexus are currently engaged in development work with Network Rail and TfN in projects including Northern Powerhouse Rail (1st SOBC completed, refreshed SOBC under development,) making the ECML HS2 and NPR ready (Initial future capacity analysis complete).</li> <li>- Work is ongoing and we continue to liaise regularly with local ports</li> </ul>	Philip Meikle	G
<b>Use transport to drive innovation and business growth</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> <li>- Collaborative work with tourism agencies to strengthen the offer for business and visitor tourism</li> <li>- Collaborative work to develop supply chain and skills development programmes linked to transport and logistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Future Mobility Zone Project closed - DfT did not shortlist the North East FMZ proposition.</li> <li>- 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</li> <li>- Work is ongoing with the next meeting of the Skills Working Group scheduled for the autumn</li> </ul>	Philip Meikle	G

# 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
<b>Manage the already secured North East LEP funding effectively</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest the £270m Local Growth Fund (LGF) grant into transport, infrastructure for strategic science parks and employment sites, plus skills and business growth activities</li> <li>Maximise the loan investment opportunity for the £55m North East Investment Fund (NEIF)</li> <li>Progress delivery of the 21 Enterprise Zone sites' infrastructure programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In quarter 1 all LGF programme key tasks set out in the Delivery Plan were achieved. In addition work commenced, as approved by the Board in May, on bringing forward four initiatives to redeploy the LGF de-committed funds</li> <li>Commercial Property Fund pipeline development and procurement process in train. Procurement of Evaluation Study due to go out in next month.</li> <li>NEIF project repayment broadly in line with expectations. One project close to early repayment. Two in discussion about variation to payment profile.</li> <li>Discussions with BEIS on release of GPF conditions positive with report national Financial Committee due in late September to inform next stage of review.</li> <li>New EZ reporting process due to be implemented for Q2 19/20. LEP Investment Board have forward plan of Local Authority partners attending future meetings to update on site delivery progress and issues</li> <li>EZ Applications for Royal Quays, Holborn 2 and North Bank of Tyne have been delayed and now expected to come forward for decision in November 2019</li> <li>Outstanding funding agreements for EZ Development Funding being progressed, Newcastle Airport site A feasibility funding approved</li> </ul>	Helen Golightly	G
<b>Coordinate partners to develop a regional project pipeline based on spatial economic priorities</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process and timetable for preparing an updated project list to be set out in line with the LIS proposition development</li> <li>Spatial narrative to be informed by the LIS propositions and pipelining work</li> <li>Awaiting detail of UKSPF consultation from Government which should inform this work</li> </ul>	Helen Golightly	A
<b>Secure additional investment into the North East</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure UK government funding linked to delivering the Industrial Strategy into the region</li> <li>Secure the notional allocation of European Structural Investment Funds into the region with partners</li> <li>Work with public and private sector partners to develop and secure funding for strategic projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pipelining work for LIS underway with a series of propositions that will be included in the LIS submission to Government.</li> <li>Four North East Expression of Interest submissions into the Future High Streets Fund have progressed to the next stage of application; Blyth; Sunderland; South Shields; and Bishop Auckland. Additionally, the Government have also announced that Blyth and Bishop Auckland will be taken forward as part of the new 'Town Deals' funding.</li> <li>Details awaited from Government on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is expect pre-Summer Recess</li> <li>Approximately 64% of ERDF funds are formally contracted (as at July 2019), alongside 58% of ESF and 28% of EARFD</li> </ul>	Helen Golightly	G



What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
<b>Increase access to finance for business to invest</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effectively deliver the North East Fund</li> <li>Identify gaps and market demand for new business finance models</li> <li>Develop business finance mechanisms to meet the need of North East businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£21.6m capital has been released to the funds for 132 investments. The number of different SMEs supported is good; with the Small Loan Fund getting back on track after a slow start, and the Innovation Fund supporting businesses through incubator programmes. Fund managers must ensure representation throughout the region, and marketing efforts centre on communicating in all local authority areas. Over £30m private sector investment against a total investment exceeding £40m.</li> <li>Review of the NEIF has involved North East Commercial/Industrial Property Market Assessment ongoing including an ex ante and development of appropriate pipeline.</li> </ul>	Helen Golightly	G

# 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
<b>Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) development and delivery</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of external interim evaluation over period 2018-2021</li> <li>Establish processes for embedding lessons from monitoring and evaluation into LEP decision making</li> <li>Development and delivery of comprehensive SEP communications plan</li> <li>Prepare for next scheduled review in 2021</li> <li>Secure alignment with other regional plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation Action Plan is currently being worked through the Programme Managers Group. Evaluations for the projects such as the Growth Hub as currently being scoped to align with overall SEP evaluation</li> <li>Programme monitoring data has been mapped and process for centralising is being developed through the programme managers group. Two workshops have now been held with LEP SMT and programme managers. This work will continue with programme managers group the point of co-ordination</li> <li>Key products related to the SEP have been produced including the SEP, summary documents and a video. The SEP is now an organising framework for the LEP website and is featured in all key communications activity</li> <li>The evaluation and monitoring arrangements are in place and active with a full interim evaluation report due in 2021. The Board has considered the annual report findings for 2018-19. Discussion has begun about the forward progress for the SEP update in 2021 informed by the evaluation and taking into account wider policy changes such as the Local Industrial Strategy and Transport Plan.</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	Richard Baker	G
<b>Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) development</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree and develop a vision and objectives for LIS</li> <li>Develop a robust and open evidence base</li> <li>Identify and develop core propositions</li> <li>Dialogue with Government on the LIS propositions</li> <li>Delivery of the engagement plan. Ensuring that it is co-produced with government and partners, and according to the government time table</li> <li>Approval of the LIS, taking through the required governance mechanisms</li> <li>Manage the various governance mechanisms including LIS Steering Group, Working Group and papers that are required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A draft vision has been developed and included in the May 2019 Board report as part of completion of the LIS.</li> <li>Outline KPI's have been produced, but will be confirmed as part of the completion of the LIS. A factor to consider is the framework developed by the Industrial Strategy Council. A meeting with the Chair will be held on 25 September</li> <li>Draft propositions have been developed and active engagement is underway with partners and local authorities.</li> <li>Informal discussion with Government has been ongoing throughout the LIS development process. Formal engagement on priorities and propositions will commence in September 2019</li> <li>Meetings have been held with a range of Boards and other structures. The Summit held in July 2019 provided a platform for wider stakeholder engagement.</li> <li>Government have established a broad template and livery. Process of accountability has been agreed, managed by the Working Group and Steering Group, and involving LA7 structures and finalisation at the LEP Board</li> <li>There is an active process of engagement with Government which is facilitating co-creation, and has enabled confirmation of the evidence base. The key next stage is to submit and confirm propositions which will commence in September 2019</li> </ul>	Richard Baker	G
<b>Economic analysis and commentary</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide timely, accurate and appropriate analysis of data</li> <li>Effectively communicate key messages from data using the most suitable mode of dissemination</li> <li>Develop new methods of accessing, collating, analysing and presenting data</li> <li>Identify opportunities to work with or provide guidance and training of other people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have provided analysis to help inform the development of the Local Industrial Strategy and analysis of key data released over the last two months including monthly labour market statistics, quarterly trade in goods statistics and population estimates. Currently undertaking analysis of the North East labour market and the factors influencing it for consideration at the October Skills Advisory Panel meeting</li> <li>Annual plan for communicating economic data about the region currently under development. All statistics on the North East Data Hub are currently up to date. Additional content and functionalities are currently being developed. We have issued monthly press releases on regional labour market statistics (August and September)</li> <li>LEP has helped organise DataJam North East, a two day event that will be held on 16 and 17 September at the Helix and will bring together those with expertise in data, digital and service design in hacks, workshops and unconference sessions.</li> <li>Initial discussions have taken place on the development of a GIS system. Next step is to undertake more detailed research into the demand for and parameters of the project</li> <li>Have inputted into projects being led by DWP Digital (in relation to project for DCMS/DfE), Sunderland University and Bank of England and provided guidance to new LEP staff on availability of data</li> </ul>	Victoria Sutherland	G

What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
<b>Delivery of research and evidence programme</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a centrally co-ordinated research programme</li> <li>- Develop appropriate mechanisms to support teams and programmes to deliver high quality research and evidence projects</li> <li>- Co-ordinate collaborative projects with NE Universities to support evidence development across LEP programmes</li> <li>- Maintain the North East Economic Evidence Forum and continue to develop its role and remit</li> <li>- Establish a research and evidence brand and presentation approach for findings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the process of developing a centralised programme of research, evidence and evaluation functions across programme teams. Initial model has been discussed by programme directors. Scoping out appropriate processes and mechanisms to deliver the centralised programme of research, evidence and evaluation. Research programme is continually updated and reflective of programme teams priorities.</li> <li>- An audit was completed in 2018, this will be updated at start of 2020 as part of the research programme. Ongoing exploration and development of procurement mechanisms i.e. university IAA</li> <li>- Working closely with Northumbria University and Durham University to set up programme of activity. Initial conversation with Newcastle University. Hosted initial workshop with Northumbria University to set up research programme on themes including internationalisation and entrepreneurship. Scoping workshops with Durham University to be held later this year.</li> <li>- Evidence Forum meeting cycle in place for 2019. Engagement with the group is positive. Durham University have confirmed their representative on the evidence forum. Working with the Chamber and others to determine their research priorities and alignment</li> <li>- Initial scoping meeting to discuss strategy has been held. This will progress into end of 2019. Findings of evaluation reports have been circulated to relevant partners.</li> </ul>	Emma Ward	G
<b>Informing public policy in priority areas</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confirmation of scope and activity of LEP public policy action</li> <li>- Brexit monitoring and preparation</li> <li>- Strengthen and co-ordinate engagement with the northern powerhouse and its constituent activities</li> <li>- Support and promote approaches which can deliver enhanced devolution to the region to support the economy</li> <li>- Move forward a co-ordinated approach to public policy and development related to infrastructure</li> <li>- Monitor other parliamentary activities across the economic infrastructure agenda and develop agreed approaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LEP Board had agreed a prioritised framework for public policy activity in July 2017 focused on Brexit, Industrial Strategy and devolution. This will be updated in early 2020 when the position with respect of Brexit is clearer. Additional work is undertaken on a responsive basis when opportunities are identified to promote regional priorities</li> <li>- The North East Brexit Group and Infrastructure group continue to meet on a regular basis. Monitoring of business perceptions continues through the Brexit Group and the Growth Hub Connectors. Intelligence informs the Brexit Toolkit online. Meetings to take forward projects on inward investment and skills have been set up to shape these key projects.</li> <li>- Active monitoring and engagement with Northern Powerhouse is taking place and the LEP has visibility of and engagement with key Government processes and other Northern structures including NP11 and Convention of the North</li> <li>- Initial work has been done to examine devolution development in other areas. Once priorities are established, further communication and co-ordinated action will be undertaken</li> <li>- Strong engagement was taken forward with the NIA during 2019 around the National Infrastructure Assessment. The SEP includes a priority to build a fuller infrastructure agenda and evidence base. A collaborative evidence base project is being scoped drawing together GIS mapping from a range of partners to provide initial evidence for this work</li> <li>- Resources have been identified to create a post to support work in this work. Recruitment will commence in September 2019. A range of documents have been produced on an ad hoc basis linked to Brexit and other policy processes. A more strategic approach will follow on from resource development</li> </ul>	Richard Baker	G
<b>Digital programme</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Secure agreement from the North East LEP Board to a North East Digital Strategy</li> <li>- Create a governance structure to oversee delivery of the work programme</li> <li>- Develop an agreed communications plan to promote NE Digital development</li> <li>- Develop and begin delivery of an active pipeline of projects to under themes of data; infrastructure and connectivity; creative production and application; and workforce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strong networks built in early stage development of the digital strategy. Steering Group appointed, delivery group appointment in process. Emerging Strategy tested with SMT and presented to Innovation and Main LEP Boards</li> <li>- Steering Group Terms of Reference under development, Steering Group appointed. Delivery Group Terms of Reference under development, Delivery Group appointment in process</li> <li>- Executive Summary in production, launch event scheduled for 3 October, comms campaign designed for Autumn 2019.</li> <li>- Overarching evidence base to be included in strategy launch event messaging. Theme-specific evidence bases to be further developed in advance of each Delivery Group inception. Launch messaging to include campaigns on each theme. Later comms activity to be included in the remit of the delivery groups.</li> </ul>	Laura Partridge	G

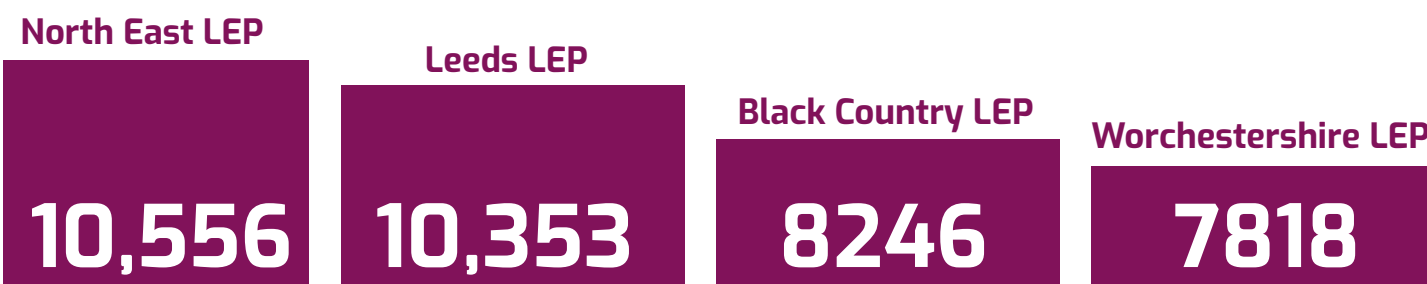
What we will deliver	Progress update and current position	Lead	Progress Status
<b>Health and life sciences programme</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit a LEP Health and Life Sciences Lead</li> <li>Develop and update health and life sciences evidence base</li> <li>Working with the Steering Group refresh the project pipeline in the context of the evidence base and the aims and objectives of the Strategic Economic Plan and Local Industrial Strategy</li> <li>Health and life sciences eco-system development</li> <li>Develop an influencing plan to promote and develop NE Life Sciences development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resources in place facilitating two year appointment including contributions from CPI and AHSN NENC alongside LEP core finance. Recruitment complete. Postholder commencing on Monday 16 September</li> <li>Overarching evidence base reviewed in 2018 linked to update of SEP and publication of Life Sciences brochure. Additionally, specific report on NE Advanced Manufacturing completed with First for Pharma, NELEP and CPI in 2017. Contribution to NHTA Science and Innovation Audit on Northern Life Sciences content completed in 2018 providing wider evidence base and links to other northern assets</li> <li>Project Pipiline work last done in November 2018. Ongoing updates at Steering Group and comprehensive review to be completed after appointment of Lead. Initial work done with skills and business growth, leading to actions to support clusters by Business Growth programme.</li> </ul>	Katherine Forbes	G
<b>Energy for growth programme</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain active regional governance and profile for energy</li> <li>Develop an active Offshore Energy Cluster to promote growth working with TVCA &amp; other partners</li> <li>Develop the NE Energy Catalyst partnership and its programme of work</li> <li>Accelerate delivery of regional energy initiatives, linked to the BEIS Local Energy programme</li> <li>Engage actively with wider governance and political structures to embed Energy for Growth strategy</li> <li>Integrate Energy for Growth and its priorities with skills, business growth and innovation delivery programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offshore working group informed regional offshore wind cluster structure which is now in place. Group now informing regional participation in a 'Global Underwater Hub' concept under development by Subsea UK, and wider 'blue economy' strategy.</li> <li>Energy for Growth Strategy launched online, LEP sponsoring CBI energy conference in October. Forward communications plan under development. Offshore wind GVA &amp; job creation study for NE supply chain underway, completion due October 19. Outputs to inform offshore wind cluster development activity</li> <li>Offshore wind cluster structure spanning NE and TV now in place. Initial Management Group meeting to determine development priorities to take place during September. Regional interventions being aligned to LEP Skills and Business growth programmes, including a future skills needs assessment.</li> <li>Catalyst MOU finalised and agreed, and shared regional work programme being developed by partners. Initial bid activity agreed among partners for first IDP in response to Strength in Places Fund wave 2. Future IDPs to be informed by shared partner work programme. Seed communications support secured via LGF, partners agreed early communications priorities which are now being developed, including shared collateral &amp; messaging. Panel opportunities being explored for CBI and NP11 energy conferences</li> <li>Next mine energy taskforce meeting scheduled in October to be attended by regional and national partners, agenda to define interventions needed to enable delivery, and potential routes to funding these interventions (e.g. NEYH hub). Rural energy officer appointed, start date agreed 7th October. Synergies with local authority, combined authority and Borderlands priorities being explored. Initial Rural Community Energy Fund projects identified</li> <li>Feedback provided into draft NP11 energy strategy, and outline programme for November NP11 energy conference in Hull. Various North East speakers secured to represent the region at the event. North East LEP attended Borderlands masterplan workshop in Glasgow. Ongoing dialogue and input, particular via Northumberland County Council to explore rural energy synergies with NE Energy Strategy</li> <li>Offshore wind identified as focus for initial future skills needs assessment, to determine a sector model. North East LEP skills team facilitating Offshore Wind Cluster skills task and finish group. Energy Programme Lead facilitating discussions between Offshore Wind Growth Partnership and Business Growth team on delivery of a national pilot 'fit for offshore wind' business support programme</li> <li>Energy for Growth funding competition launched in the region, with up to £150k for 50% match funding of capital or revenue project development support. Successful projects to be determined during October 19</li> </ul>	Andrew Clark	G

# Communications update

## September 2019

Total followers		Followers increased by	Total reach	(Impressions since June)
Twitter	10,556	(+3.4%)	Twitter	285.9k
LinkedIn	4,994	(+11.2%)	LinkedIn	60.1k
		since June		

## Top performing LEPs on Twitter:

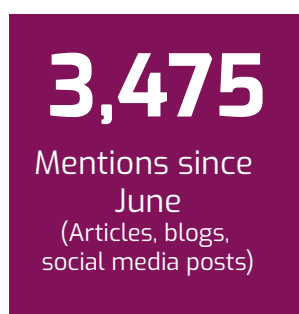


## Top posts:

■ Paid ■ Organic

Twitter	Reach	Responses	Clicks	Retweets
Do you believe in the #NorthEast, its people, places and businesses? We're seeking leading business figures to join our main Board...	47,106	24	249	23
Great to see the launch of Get Help to Retrain in the North East today. Find out more about the National Retraining Scheme, which will help eligible...	80,720	20	0	19
We're looking for an Industry Alignment Support Officer to join our team, to work with our #innovative pilot schools and colleges...	31,378	16	55	16
LinkedIn	Reach	Engagement	Clicks	Likes
Do you believe in the #NorthEast, its people, places and businesses? We're seeking leading business figures to join our main Board...	1,251	7.6%	58	23
The North East has been selected as the first Ford Next Generation Learning community outside of the United States. Find out more about the schools...	620	5.8%	21	10
How can the North East digital sector play a role in bringing #moreandbetter-jobs to our region? Our Digital Programme Lead, Laura Partridge, explains...	733	5.6%	23	16

## Mentions:



## Sentiment:



## Highlights:

In July, we hosted an Engagement Summit where over **350** delegates met to hear more about the Local Industrial Strategy and took part in thematic discussions around the emerging priorities for the specific themes. The event sold out, received excellent feedback from attendees and was trending on Twitter.

## Upcoming events:

**26 September:** North East LEP AGM

**3 October:** Digital Strategy Launch event

## Priority actions for the next two months:

### Action 1:

Lead on the communications and engagement work stream for the development of the North East Industrial Strategy,

### Action 2:

Develop and implement procurement of digital and PR frameworks.

## Website performance summary:

Audience		Top five news pages		views
Visitors	12,651	/news/funding-available-for-energy-for-growth-projects	1125	
Total page views	83,201	/news/north-east-local-enterprise-partnership-seeks-new-private-sector-board-members	480	
Average session duration	2m34s	/news/north-east-brexit-group-initiates-project-to-plan-free-zone-for-the-north-east	441	
		/news/conversation-helen-golightly-new-chief-execu-	354	
		/news/north-east-ambition-lep-leads-way-with-two-new-ca-	336	
Traffic source		Top five pages		views
Organic	6368	Home	15100	
Direct	4988	The-plan	4,836	
Social	1139	About/-executive-team	4,579	
Referral	323	Projects	3,718	
Other	491	About	3,136	
Email	105			



# North East

Local Enterprise Partnership



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**19 September 2019**

**ITEM 5: Strengthening LEP Review –  
outstanding matters**

**1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Board considered a report at the May Board covering a number of governance matters to ensure compliance with the national Strengthening Local Enterprise Partnerships Review. This report considers two of the outstanding matters following the debate:
- To agree a revised quorum to strengthen governance and enable business to proceed at all Board meetings, and
  - To agree a voting mechanism to add clarity to the current Constitution.

**2.0 Quorum**

- 2.1 The LEP Board has been quorate three times in the last two years (twelve meetings). The current quorum is 10 out of 18 members, of which 5 members must be from the private sector and 4 from the public sector. At the Board's workshop in January, members discussed this and informally agreed that a simple majority should be put to the Board. This was not agreed by all members during the written representation procedure following the May Board. I therefore suggest that the quorum should remain 10, of which 4 should be private and 3 public, and that the 3 public sector members should include one member from the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and one member from the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA).

**3.0 Voting**

- 3.1 The Constitution states that "the principle of decision making by the Board shall be that, wherever possible, without the need for a vote." At the May LEP Board it was proposed that where a consensus could not be reached, a simple majority vote would be taken, where the Chair does not have a casting vote. This was also not agreed by all members during the written representation procedure following the May Board.

I therefore suggest that the quorum proposal above should address the concerns raised, whereby there needs to be a proportion of public sector members present, and of those, there would be representation from both NECA and NTCA, and therefore a simple majority of those present addresses the concerns raised.



#### **4.0 Recommendation**

4.1 The Board is recommended to agree:

- I. The proposed quorum as set out in paragraph 2.
- II. The proposed voting as set out in paragraph 3.