

North East Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday 22 June 2015 at 2.00pm

Meeting to be held at Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UZ

www.northeastca.gov.uk

AGENDA

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1. Appointment chair/vice-chair	1 - 4
2. Apologies for absence	
3. Declarations of Interest	
Please remember to declare any personal interest where appropriate both verbally and by recording it on the relevant form (to be handed to the Democratic Services Officer). Please also remember to leave the meeting where any personal interest requires this.	
4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 24 March 2015	5 - 14
5. LEP annual report	15 - 34
6. LEP overview of funding	35 - 44
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8. Forward plan and work programme	55 - 92
9. Dates and time of next meeting	
2:00pm on Tuesday 21 July 2015 – Sunderland	

Contact Officer: Brenda Joyce Tel: 0191 2116144 E-mail: brenda.joyce@newcastle.gov.uk

To All Members

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North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 22nd June 2015
SUBJECT: Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair
REPORT OF: Monitoring Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to invite the Committee to appoint its Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee appoints its Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Background Information

- 1.1 The North East Combined Authority (the Authority) is created pursuant to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (LDEDCA 2009) and by the Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland Combined Authority Order 2014 ('the Order') which came into force on 15 April 2014.
- 1.2 The Authority is required to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3 On 29 April 2014 the Authority appointed the Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising of two Members from each of the Constituent Authorities with 14 Members of the Committee in total.
- 1.4 At its meeting on 29 April 2014 the Leadership Board agreed that the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair should be delegated to the Scrutiny Committee.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The Committee is invited to appoint its Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Information on the appointment of the Committee's Chair and Vice-Chair will be made available to all interested parties and published on the North East Combined Authority's website.

4. Potential Impact on Objectives

- 4.1 This appointment will assist the Scrutiny Committee to discharge its functions.

5. Finance and other resources

- 5.1 There are no direct financial or resource implications for the Authority in relation to the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee

6. Legal

- 6.1 The appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee complies with the requirements under the Constitution of the Authority.

7. Other Considerations

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7.1 Consultation / Community Engagement

The proposal set out in this report is the result of the decision of the Leadership Board which includes representatives of the seven constituent Councils.

7.2 Human Rights

There are no human rights implications identified at this stage.

7.3 Equalities and Diversity

There are no specific equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

7.4 Risk Management

There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

7.5 Crime and Disorder

There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7.6 Environment and Sustainability

There are no specific environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

8. Background Documents

- The Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland Combined Authority Constitution;
- The report to the 16th June 2015 meeting of the North East Leadership Board titled "Appointment of Committees and Sub-Committees and their Membership, including Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, Appointment of Co-opted Members to the Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board, Appointment of Co-opted Independent Members of the Governance Committee and Appointment of External Auditor."
- Draft minutes of the 16th June 2015 meeting of the North East Leadership Board.

9. Links to Plans in the Policy Framework

- 9.1 This report has no direct links to plans in the Policy Framework.

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10. Appendices

There are no appendices to this report

11. Contact Officers

Vivienne Geary, Monitoring Officer.

E-mail address: Viv.Geary@northtynside.gov.uk Tel: 0191 643 5339

Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk

12. Sign Off

Monitoring Officer ✓

Head of Paid Service ✓

Chief Finance Officer ✓

North East Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

24 March 2015

(2.00 - 4.18pm)

Meeting held Newcastle Civic Centre

Present:

Councillor: Wright (Chair)

Councillors: Armstrong, Crute, Daley, Dillon, Eagle, Glindon, Graham, A Lower, Maxwell, S Pearson, Snowdon and Tyler

41 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. She went on to welcome the BBC journalist, Mark Easton, and a camera crew on behalf of Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Mark Easton advised that the BBC was present for the devolution item; the North East Combined Authority was at an interesting stage of development, especially considering the current consultation on the 'devolution prospectus'. The BBC would film general shots of the meeting and pick up on the conversation.

Apologies were received from Councillor Meling.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Eagle declared an employment related interest and informed committee that he had dispensation to attend this meeting.

43 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2015

The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 February were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Chair requested that a glossary be provided for each agenda item in the future; this would be added to the standard report template used by report authors.

VARIATION TO AGENDA ORDER

RESOLVED – That Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members agreed to change the order of agenda items to accommodate the presence of the BBC and to enable the item on devolution to be taken first.

44 DEVELOPING A DEVOLUTION PROSPECTUS FOR THE NORTH EAST

Submitted: Report of Monitoring Officer to summarise outline proposals that could form the basis for discussions with government and other stakeholders (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes) to secure a devolution of power, funding and responsibilities to deliver the North East Combined Authority's objectives and the shared agenda for growth in the future.

It was recommended that the Committee consider the outline proposals and comment on these as the basis for North East Combined Authority's (NECA) to engage with government ministers and other stakeholders.

To provide a comprehensive overview Rob Hamilton (Newcastle City Council's Economic Development Principal Advisor) gave a presentation which covered the following:-

- The national debate
- The current position of NECA and recent developments
- Playing to our strengths
- The North East economy
- Delivering change
- Devolution for the North East – developing a 12 point prospectus
 - 1) A North East Investment Fund
 - 2) Enhanced responsibility for the delivery of European Funding
 - 3) Government guarantee to deliver the existing City Deals
 - 4) A Housing Investment Fund and devolution of North East assets
 - 5) Investment in our major transport infrastructure
 - 6) The creation of an integrated public transport system
 - 7) Support to secure and enhance international connectivity
 - 8) A fully devolved Work programme
 - 9) Devolution of skills funding
 - 10) New powers to help North East business to grow
 - 11) Powers and funding to support our vibrant culture and visitor economy
 - 12) An integrated approach to public service delivery

The key messages:

- NECA was committed to a shared agenda for growth – through working in partnership with NELEP and other key regional stakeholders.
- Devolution to local areas held the key to a more resilient national economy and to bring about change, the North and its constituent economic areas needed much greater autonomy over the drivers and the proceeds of growth.
- Combined Authority areas in particular need greater control over the decisions that could drive economic growth. They needed to be able to control their own budgets across a variety of policy areas and have the opportunity to implement bespoke and innovative models, including raising their own revenue, to deliver on their aspirations.
- Combined Authorities already had the right framework in place to not only take on more devolved powers and responsibilities but to lead on

collaborative arrangements across the North to become a globally competitive economic powerhouse.

- It was expected that the Government would work with the North East to ensure devolution to support growth.

It was important to get Members' thoughts on whether the proposals were focused in the right areas. Committee was informed that recent local stakeholder events had also considered these broad questions.

Member comments, questions and points raised

- In response to a question members were advised that there was no guarantee of funding from the government or Europe at present. Most funding was allocated on an annual basis and NECA wanted to move to a minimum multi-year basis. It was essential that guarantees were confirmed. European funding in the North East amounted to £0.5billion and pulling out of the EU would have an enormous impact.
- The "Investment in our major transport infrastructure" prospectus made no mention of the old Leamside line. This missed the opportunity to have some sort of rail link with Washington.

Rob Hamilton agreed about the importance of the line and said work was going on to look at the benefits of using it. There was also a commitment that High Speed (HS) trains would come into the region (although not the HS track) so there needed to be increased capacity on the network; Leamside could provide this.

- The Chair asked if the devolution proposals should include health and social care.

Rob Hamilton advised that it would be a profound change to move to a new model eg. the Manchester model, but there was appetite to explore options. His approach would be to adopt a two stage process – better integration in the short term and then, looking at a more radical approach, if this was effective elsewhere in the country.

There was agreement that there was a lack of local democratic mandate in health but also concerns that the Manchester model could possibly cause fractures in the NHS.

- There were currently several disparate funding streams with a plethora of rules. Although Rob Hamilton confirmed that the aim was for a single pot, a Member pointed out that this was not made clear in the paper (Appendix 1 to Item 6). Rob Hamilton said that he had noted concerns that report and presentation should be sharper.
- The issue of the population numbers and possible lack of critical mass was raised.

It was confirmed that there was a population of 2million in the Combined Authority area and in this way NECA was one of the largest. The North East was also a coherent geography to work with. With regard to the referendum for an elected regional assembly in 2004, it was suggested that this was seen as an additional layer of bureaucracy. The Combined Authority had to ensure that it was seen as a mechanism for integrated delivery at the local level to get public support. A BBC poll in November 2014 had suggested that 85% of people in the North East supported improvements to powers and responsibilities in the region.

- The government had abolished the Regional Spatial Strategy five years ago. If the Combined Authority was planning to tackle economic growth it would need to have a strategic dimension to add to the local development plans currently in place.

It was suggested that there were strong advantages to a regional plan. However, the soon to be adopted Newcastle/Gateshead Joint Plan had been an enormous amount of work and other local plans had to be adopted by the constituent local authorities to balance the need for growth as well as protecting communities. A regional plan was a possibility in the future.

- It was maintained that the term ‘devolution’ had negative connotations and that it should be made clearer, in a positive way, that NECA wanted more power. Also, as the agenda developed it would be very useful to know what would be in the short/medium/long term and where the funding would come from; in this way the ‘devolution prospectus’ would not look like a wish list. A type of matrix to illustrate what/when/how etc. was needed. The Chair asked that some sort of spreadsheet be prepared to outline the issues/topics raised.
- This was a really exciting time and the prospectus was a very good start on something that could bring striking change. Although members considered that the questions were right, it was pointed out that there was no mention of a figure head in the paper. In Manchester the agenda being worked towards was predicated on an elected mayor. The North East could potentially have 7 ‘leaders’ and there was a danger that it lacked a figure head. This should be included in the document as an additional question that should be asked.

At present, Greater Manchester Combined Authority would have an elected mayor, although Sheffield and Leeds would not.

- On other themes, the issue of air passenger duty was important. The North East Investment Fund was a good idea but this was also a good opportunity for the area to have a North East Investment Bank; this could raise capital and lend to the benefit of the region; it could also provide an opportunity for the region to cushion itself from future changes in interest rates; this also needed to be included in the paper.

In response to this point, Rob Hamilton stated that access to finance was crucial. The JEREMIE Fund (Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises) had been successful and strong arrangements were in place

going forward. A strong factor in favour of the bank was that it would generate local investment eg. the German model.

The risks of not proceeding with the 'devolution deal' included that all the main political parties had made a commitment to further devolution; it was evident, from cities like Manchester and Sheffield, that these places were at the top of the list for investment; NECA had to come forward as a region now, and had to be seen to 'play in the premier league' now.

With regard to moving forward, the feedback would be collated and assessed after the election; the outline proposals would form the basis of early discussions with Greg Clark MP, in preparation for negotiations with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Members were asked to submit any further comments or questions at:

www.northeastca.gov.uk/devolution

RESOLVED – That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that:-

- a) The next iteration of the prospectus should include details on spatial planning and also a future regional bank.
- b) That the Leadership Board be recommended to –
 - sell the prospectus in terms of decision making and local power; and,
 - provide information on the sequencing of priorities from future single pot funding.

45 **NELEP - UPDATE ON KEY PRIORITIES**

Helen Golightly (Chief Operating Officer, North East Local Enterprise Partnership - NELEP) offered the apologies of Paul Woolston (NELEP Chair) who could not attend the meeting today. She went on to provide a verbal update on the LEP and informed Committee that it had recently moved, from setting the strategic policy direction to delivering an ambitious plan for long term and sustainable economic growth.

A defining moment in the LEPs journey had been the publication of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). The plan articulated how the NELEP met the challenges set out in Lord Adonis's Independent Economic Review, bringing partners from the private and public sector together to make the North East a place where more businesses invest, grow and prosper. It focussed on six themes, innovation; business support and access to finance; skills; economic assets and infrastructure; employability and inclusion; and transport and digital connectivity, with common ambition of growth. (The NELEP Board was comprised of 18 members with at least two members championing each theme and the themes were all at different stages of maturity and development).

Since its launch in March 2014, the Economic Plan had become the core of the work, attracting £330m in funding from Government as part of the North East Growth Deal. The Growth Deal would enable the region to attract substantial private and public investment and deliver up to 5,000 jobs. The challenge for the LEP in facilitating delivery was that there was absolute reliance on partners to deliver.

The LEP also had a role with the North East Investment Fund of £55m; this was a Capital Loan Fund supporting projects that specifically encouraged local economic growth and create jobs.

The European funding programme was a further area of activity for the LEP although this was an evolving landscape at the moment. The government was in the final stages of signing the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) which would bring great opportunities for economic growth in the next year.

Members' comments and questions

- In reply to a question about where the LEP sat with regard to the devolution agenda, Helen Golightly said that this would depend on government policy going forward. However, the LEP and the Combined Authority were now working closely and looking to ensure there was no duplication.
- It was confirmed that the LEP was subject to Freedom of Information requirements.
- Members expressed concerns that a written report had not been provided by the LEP; written papers helped attendees to frame their thinking in advance of meetings. It was suggested that the legal role of the Combined Authority, as the accountable body, should be reaffirmed.
- It was also pointed out that details of financial information and matched funding would be useful for Members at future meetings.

Helen Golightly advised Members that she had been asked to attend and provide an overview but would be happy to provide further information.

The Monitoring Officer stated that there would be clarity in the communications going forward. As the accountable body, it would also be useful to invite Paul Woods (NECA Chief Finance Officer) to meetings with the LEP.

- The Chair asked what could be done to ensure the region retained highly skilled talent and how many jobs had been created in recent years. Helen Golightly informed the meeting that 33,000 jobs had been created but this was not only because of the LEP/SEP. With regard to the types of jobs, the value of the jobs etc. the LEP Chief Economist could provide analysis about closing the gap.
- The Chair advised that a much fuller report was required for this Committee to do justice to its role.

It was agreed that an update report for information from the LEP on the six themes be included on the next agenda for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

46 METRO PERFORMANCE UPDATE AND GOVERNANCE OF NEXUS

Report of Monitoring Officer to provide an update on performance of the Tyne and Wear Metro and the options being considered for reform of the constitutional arrangements (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

A copy of a report of Chief Executive for the Thematic Lead for Transport and the Managing Director (Transport Operations) on 'Monitoring Nexus' Performance' - from the meeting of the NECA Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee on 29 January 2015 – was attached to the covering report as Appendix 1.

Tobyn Hughes (Nexus Managing Director Transport Operations) was in attendance to update Members on performance and to explain measures being put in place to improve service performance. Raymond Johnson (Nexus Director for Rail and Infrastructure) was also in present at the meeting.

Members were advised that there were three delivery agents working on behalf of the Combined Authority – Nexus (for the Tyne and Wear area), and Durham and Northumberland councils for their respective county areas. The new role of Managing Director Transport Operations was created partly to manage Nexus but also to start to develop a plan of integration. Tobyn Hughes said that part of the job was to work very closely with all seven local authorities and to work towards integrating transport operations.

Tobyn Hughes highlighted the following issues in the report and confirmed that, although Nexus ran and managed the metro system (and was involved in transport planning), the trains were operated by German firm DB Regio via a seven year funding arrangement with DfT. This arrangement was extendable by two years so a discussion would be required regarding going forward.

A number of factors had contributed to recent reports on performance, including low rail adhesion problems, the age of the metro fleet, the availability of drivers and significant power failures.

Smart ticketing – this was a success in the wider North East area and, other than Oyster, NESTI now had the most smart cards in use. A pay-as-you-go travel scheme would be launched in the near future at the best possible price.

Metro reinvigoration - the delivery of the programme was going well and it was expected to be effectively delivered for the fifth year running.

Quality Contracts Scheme (QCS) – Nexus continued to work on this and was making progress through the stages of the statutory process.

Appendix 2 of the covering report was a copy of a report on the 'Governance of Nexus' to the meeting of the NECA Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee on 26 February 2015. The paper related to Nexus going forward with the Combined Authority and how it could better enmesh and align with its policies and priorities.

Members' questions, comments and points raise

- A Member asked what had been done to alleviate bad press regarding leaves and other low rail adhesion problems. Tobyn Hughes stated that anytime customers were let down the organisation deserved bad press.

Raymond Johnson advised that this was a national problem which impacted more on smaller trains. Although there was an ongoing exercise to reduce vegetation around the Metro network a rail head treatment train had been introduced to mitigate against risks where possible.

- The issue of the single track line between Pelaw and Hebburn was raised. The track duelling scheme remained important to Nexus although these particular tracks were owned by Network Rail. The Metro 2030 Strategy set out new potential routes etc. and this work was being fed into wider transport work of the Combined Authority. It was anticipated that a more detailed rail strategy would be developed over the next 12 months covering the entire Combined Authority area.
- In response to a question about why the track had been taken up on the Leamside Line, Tobyn Hughes advised that this was carried out by Network Rail. This was due to parts of the track being stolen. It was most likely to feature in any strategy coming forward; as the East Coast Main Line became more well used the region would need to look at reopening other lines for local usage.
- Nexus continued to face challenges with regard to better communication with users about disruptions (although social media was used). An in-house review with Deutsche Bahn (the parent company of DB Regio) was looking at how to ensure that customers got timely information in the future, rather than no or misleading information.
- Nexus viewed the appointment of Sharon Kelly (the new interim MD of DB Regio) as a very positive step and believed her management would make a difference to effectively delivered services.
- With regard to value for money (VFM), Tobyn Hughes informed committee that the DB Regio had gone through a tendering exercise and that he believed it had been awarded the contract as it had offered the best VFM. He could not say whether an in-house bid would have done better; however, under any circumstances, an aging fleet, infrastructure improvements and staffing issues etc. would have had to have been dealt with.
- Nexus was asked if DB Regio had made improvements to workforce planning and whether or not there was an apprenticeship scheme.

Raymond Johnson replied that, although Nexus was not entirely satisfied, some actions had been put in place. For example:-

- drivers were required to give one months' notice but training for new drivers lasted for six months

- staff opting for elective surgery could not be factored into the planning
- it was now more difficult to predict retirement ages due to flexible working practices
- following a peak in the attrition rate, the processes were quickly reviewed and the company now had the capacity to train 24 drivers
- DB Regio now had a 'batch' of driver they could call on over the next two years

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Tobyn Hughes and Raymond Johnson for attending the meeting. She went on to say that the Committee would like to focus on performance monitoring to help ensure achievement of objectives and it was agreed that Nexus should come back to a future meeting. Councillor Wright concluded by stating that it would be helpful to have another opportunity to look at governance to enable the Members to gain a better understanding.

Following a question about the QCS draft plan, Tobyn Hughes informed attendees that the QCS Board would be scrutinising this in July. However, there was an abridged version which he agreed to share with Members.

47 **FORWARD PLAN & WORK PROGRAMME**

Report of Monitoring Officer to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the current Forward Plan and to review the annual work programme (previously circulated copy attached to the official minutes).

Members of the Scrutiny Committee for the 2015/2016 municipal year would be consulted on new items to be added to the work programme, in addition to the items listed below to be carried forward.

- 6-monthly updates on the 3 priority themes
- Good practice examples of sub-regional scrutiny and accountability models, including links to Manchester CA as the most developed of the CA
- Budget and policy framework: Strategic Economic Plan, Growth Plan , Local Transport Plan
- Developing relationships with partners and delivery organisations
- Forward Plan items
- Proposal for policy review

'Transport related barriers to employment' was considered a good topic for a policy review and this could contribute to the North East Transport Plan. A report would be included on the first agenda of the new municipal year (June).

The proposal that the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) be approached to develop a bespoke development session for Members; it was envisaged that this would be delivered in June. The Chair requested that scrutiny officers also be invited to attend the session.

RESOLVED – That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the items to be carried forward into next year's work programme, endorsed the outline proposal for

a policy review topic for the year ahead and agreed in principle to hold a development session to be designed for scrutiny members and officers by the CfPS.

48 DATES AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

2015/16 Proposed NECA Scrutiny Dates (all meetings 2 pm)

22 June - Durham

21 July – Sunderland

8 September – Gateshead

20 October – Newcastle

9 February – South Tyneside

22 March – North Tyneside

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 22nd June 2015

SUBJECT: North East Local Enterprise Partnership
Annual Review 2014 - 15

REPORT OF: Chief Executive of the North East
Local Enterprise Partnership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on key activities and achievements of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership in 2014/15.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to note the scope of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership's remit and the key achievements during 2014/15.

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Background Information

A representative from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership was asked to attend the meeting held on 24th March 2015 to informally meet the members and provide an overview of the Partnership's activities. The Committee requested that a written paper was provided to a future meeting.

2. The North East Local Enterprise Partnership

The primary role of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP) is to facilitate the delivery of the North East Strategic Economic Plan to create 'More and Better Jobs, for and within the North East. The North East LEP works closely with partners and key stakeholders locally, regionally and nationally to ensure the optimum is achieved for the North East's local economy. The Plan was submitted to Government in March 2014 and has been very positively received.

The Plan has six key themes, each of which is championed by members of the North East LEP Board:

- Transport and Digital Connectivity – Councillor Forbes and David Land;
- Economic Assets and Infrastructure – Councillor Watson and Michael Bellamy;
- Employability and Inclusion – Councillor Davey and Andrew Hodgson;
- Skills – Andrew Hodgson and Councillor Davey;
- Business Support and Access to Finance – Paul Varley, Gill Southern, Jeremy Middleton and Councillor Watson;
- Innovation – Arnab Basu, Peter Fidler, Gillian Hall, Mayor Redfearn and Councillor Malcolm.

The North East LEP's six key communication messages encapsulate the scope of activities within the six themes. These key messages are:

- Delivering the North East Economic Plan
- Delivering more and better jobs
- Creating economic growth through partnership
- Championing the North East in global markets
- Bringing investment to the North East
- Creating the right environment for business growth

The Annual Review document covering the last year is attached as appendix 1 for information to provide an insight into the scope and achievements of the team, with partners. More information can be found at: www.nelep.co.uk

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3. Finance and other resources

- 3.1 The North East LEP has secured substantial funding from Government, and indicative funding from Europe, to aid the delivery of the North East Strategic Economic Plan's objectives. The North East Combined Authority is the Accountable Body to hold the North East LEP's funding on behalf of the North East LEP, and to ensure public probity is maintained.

4. Legal

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5. Other Considerations

5.1 Consultation / Community Engagement

Relevant stakeholders will be consulted on the issues and proposals.

5.2 Human Rights

There are no human rights implications identified at this stage.

5.3 Equalities and Diversity

There are no specific equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

5.4 Risk Management

There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

5.5 Crime and Disorder

There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

5.6 Environment and Sustainability

There are no specific environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

6. Background Documents

- North East Independent Economic Review Report, April 2013 – Lord Andrew Adonis
- The North East Strategic Economic Review, March 2014

7. Links to Local Transport Plans

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 7.1 It is important that the Local Transport Plans strategically fit and are aligned to the priorities set out in the North East Strategic Economic Plan. This is achieved by the role Councillor Forbes has in championing Transport and Digital Connectivity for and on behalf of the North East LEP Board and his Portfolio lead position for the North East Combined Authority.

8. Appendices

Delivering More and Better Jobs – The North East Local Enterprise Partnerships Review (March 2014 – March 2015)

9. Contact Officers

Bob Paton – Chief Executive of the North East LEP

Helen Golightly – Chief Operating Officer of the North East LEP

10. Sign Off

Monitoring Officer ✓

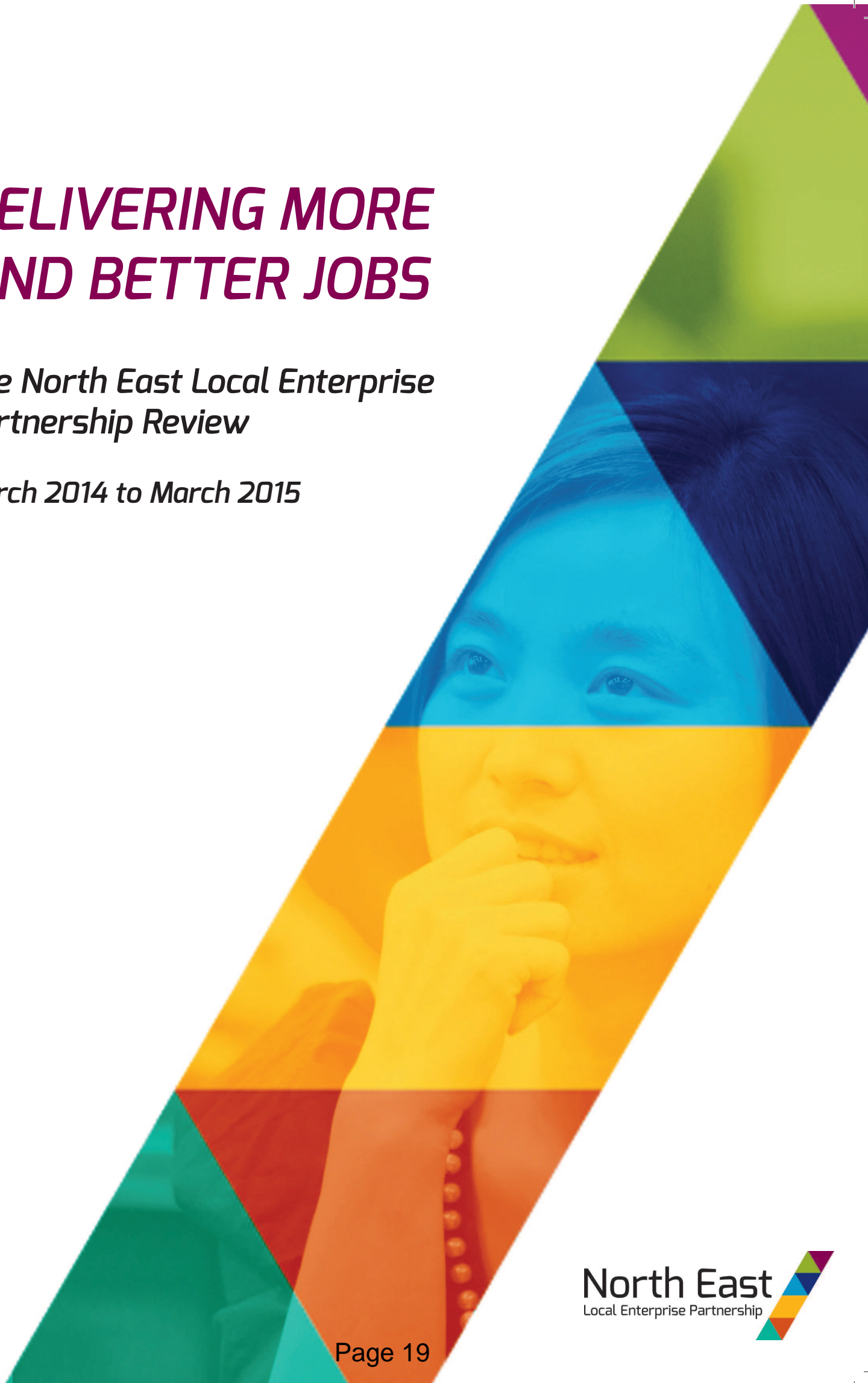
Head of Paid Service ✓

Chief Finance Officer ✓

DELIVERING MORE AND BETTER JOBS

***The North East Local Enterprise
Partnership Review***

March 2014 to March 2015



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WELCOME

Welcome to our 2014 - 2015 Annual Review

Over the last twelve months we've seen real change happening in the North East. With record employment levels - now at 70.2% - and the largest employment rate increase in the country at 3.2%, we are rapidly closing the gap and realising the North East's potential.

During this period the North East LEP has also evolved – moving from a focus on strategic leadership to delivering an ambitious plan for long term and sustainable economic growth.

A defining moment in this journey was the publication of our Strategic Economic Plan. The plan articulates with clarity and purpose how we will meet the challenges set out in Lord Adonis's Independent Economic Review, bringing partners from the private and public sector together to make the North East a place where more businesses invest, grow and prosper. It demonstrates how through leadership, innovation and investment we will overcome the barriers and drive growth across the North East. Focussing on six themes, innovation; business support and access to finance; skills; economic assets and infrastructure; employability and inclusion; and transport and digital connectivity, it sets out plans to realise a common ambition of growth.

Since its launch in March 2014 the Economic Plan has become the core of our work, attracting £330m in funding from Government as part of the North East Growth Deal. The Growth Deal was a significant achievement for us and the North East. Through it we secured the fourth highest Growth Deal in the country – endorsing our approach and providing investment for innovation, skills, business support, transport, developing our economic assets and supporting inclusive growth. It also enables us to attract substantial private and public investment and deliver up to 5,000 jobs.

The North East innovation story is also gaining momentum – including the appointment of our first Innovation Director – Hans Möller. Two more national Catapult centres, Satellite Catapult and Digital Catapult, are located in the area, Science Central's the 'CORE' has opened its doors this year, and we continue to invest in innovation projects including new hyperbaric testing facilities on the banks of the Tyne – the first commercial facility of its kind in the world, the first FabLab in the North East and a new centre for innovation in formulation.

The £460m European funding programme will bring great opportunities in the next year. Through our European Strategy we will continue to help shape and influence how these monies are invested, ensuring that they support the vision of the Economic Plan.

We will also be launching JEREMIE 2 and the North East Growth Hub. Building on the success of JEREMIE1, JEREMIE2 will provide £160m in venture capital funding to support North East businesses invest and grow. The Growth Hub will streamline information on business support and access to finance, with a strong focus on collaboration and peer to peer support.

Improving our approach to inward investment as a region is also a priority. Bringing together the public and private sector is essential to its success - we've made a good start but there's more to do and we will continue to drive the agenda.

We have achieved a lot - through our small, dedicated and talented executive team and alongside our board members and partners, - the challenges and opportunities of the last 12 months have been met with enthusiasm and commitment. The next year looks extremely busy and we will continue to build the momentum and deliver more and better jobs for the North East.

Paul Woolston
Chair

Helen Golightly
Chief Operating Officer

WHAT WE DO

ACHIEVING THE NORTH EAST'S ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

Strategic Economic Plan

In March 2014 we submitted the North East Strategic Economic Plan to Government.

The Economic Plan is at the core of our work. It sets out how we can transform the North East economy creating long term growth and delivering more and better jobs for everyone. Focussing on six key themes it creates a common ambition for all North East businesses and organisations.

Innovation

Creating competitive advantage through innovation - building a platform for local businesses to contribute to their own future with the support to excel in whatever area they choose.

Business Support & Access to Finance

Providing the framework for business to access the information, advice and finance they need to thrive and grow.

Skills

Improving the North East skills base - making sure every subsequent workforce has the right skills to support business growth and to move forward in the most self-sufficient way.

Economic Assets and Infrastructure

Developing the areas in which businesses can invest and grow, and people can train and excel.

Employability & Inclusion

Sourcing the skills from within the North East by supporting those who can't easily access training and employment.

Transport & Connectivity

Creating the best networks - connecting the North East to the national and international economy.

The plan was been produced with the potential of the North East firmly in mind. Drawing on a strong evidence base and building on the recommendations of the North East Independent Economic Review led by Lord Andrew Adonis. It details how we will work, together with partners, businesses and communities in an innovative, proactive and cohesive way to deliver detailed plans for each of its six cross cutting themes, creating the right environment for growth and investment across all sectors.



European Funding Strategy

Submitted to Government in June 2014, our European Funding Strategy has been developed with a wide range of partners, and is a key tool for delivering the Economic Plan.

Focussing on creating smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the European Funding Strategy sets out a framework for ERDF, ESF, EAFRD and Youth Employment Initiative funds for principal themes: Innovation; SME competitiveness; Broadband infrastructure; Low carbon and green infrastructure; Employability; Social inclusion; Skills.

A North East LEP Area Shadow ESIF Sub Committee has been established to inform local strategic thinking and approval of local European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) project applications. Chaired by Paul Woolston it brings together partners to drive forward the Strategy's objectives and outcomes.

WHAT WE DO

EVALUATING THE NORTH EAST ECONOMIC GROWTH & POTENTIAL

Understanding a Changing Economy

Understanding the North East's economy, growth and potential is a central part of our work. By analysing the latest economic data and identifying trends we are able to ensure that our plans are founded in evidence, can be monitored and achievable.

In the last year we have seen record figures for the North East economy – with record high employment, now at 70.2%, economic output and labour productivity levels. Not only this but GVA per head and labour productivity (GVA per hour worked) grew at one of the fastest rates in the country. And this growth is being sustained. Over the last two years 50,000 more people are employed in the North East and 24,000 fewer unemployed people, with unemployment falling by 2.1% to 7.8% - the lowest level since 2008. There are also 44,300 fewer people claiming out of work benefits, a 46% decline and 26,000 more people active in the labour market.

Most significantly we are closing the national gap in employment rate; since 2012 this has fallen from 4.3% to 3.1% and excluding London we have the largest employment rate increase in the country at 3.2 percentage points (3.3 for London), with a growth rate of 4.7% in comparison to 2.7% nationally. The majority of this growth is from the private sector. Private sector jobs now make up almost four fifths of all employment in the region, a proportion which is steadily increasing and is now comparable to the UK total.

It is not just that we are creating more jobs though. A lot of these jobs are better jobs in that they are being created in higher value added activities. This is represented through the productivity figures in which Gross Added Value (GVA) and hours worked grew by 14% between 2009 and 2012. No other region has had a greater increase. Growth in high value added manufacturing and other sectors such as scientific and technical sectors explains a great part of this - for example labour productivity in manufacturing went up by 50% in the last seven years.

More productive jobs will help create sustainable growth for the North East economy. This will be achieved through higher wages, with wages for low, medium and high earners already catching up with the rest of the country, More productive workers are also helping private firms go further, with the North East being the only English region to have a consistently positive trade balance in the last three years - i.e. we export more than we import - making the North East a great to be an employer and to be employed.

A Responsive Strategy For Growth

Understanding the North East's economic growth and potential has enabled us to develop responsive strategies to maximise the economic potential. One area that is particularly pertinent is improving the local skills supply. With a growing economy there is increasing demand for high skilled labour, but our current skills base has a greater proportion of lower skilled and unskilled people. And, whilst we have above average GCSE attainment 5+ A to C grades, including English and Maths, the area has relatively lower A level attainment and the second lowest application rate for further education in the country.

We have used detailed analysis of the current skills provision and sector growth and job forecasting to prioritise skills provision, investment and resource to create frameworks through European funding. Our programmes, such as the North East Skills Pilot and apprenticeship support, will help the skills supply be responsive to both economic and employment needs, ensuring employers in key sectors are able to react to future growth opportunities.



Delivering more and better jobs

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership is responsible for the delivery of the North East Strategic Economic Plan - a plan that will ensure the local economic ambition can and will grow. Through delivering the Strategic Economic Plan we will make the North East a place where more businesses invest, grow and prosper, delivering more and better jobs for everyone.

The economic plan is the core of our business - it creates a common ambition that is clearly defined, evidenced based, grounded and achievable. We win investment to support it and with partners champion its potential locally, nationally and internationally.

Through the economic plan we will provide better support for business growth, encourage innovation, improve skills and employability and deliver better infrastructure across the North East.

Bringing investment to the North East

We champion the North East, working with partners to win investment, including:

£330m North East Growth Deal - £290m funding secured in July 2014 and an additional £40.6m in January 2015 to support capital projects across the North East.

£460m* European Structural and Investment Funds - funding for the 2014 - 2020 European Programme to support the delivery of the economic plan through shared vision and understanding providing a framework for more investment in line with the European aspiration for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

£55m North East Investment Fund - a capital loan funding that includes £25m Growing Places funding and £30m Regional Growth Fund.

£175m City Deals - £90m Newcastle and Gateshead City Deal to support infrastructure programme across key sites and Sunderland and South Tyneside City Deal including £5m for an International Advanced Manufacturing Park and £80m for a new bridge over the River Wear.

*approximate due to fluctuations in exchange rates



NORTH EAST STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN



Supporting business growth:

Providing the framework for businesses to access the support, guidance and finance they need to grow.

Leadership - providing leadership through the Business Support Board
North East Growth Hub - delivering a new digital service to help businesses find the support and finance they need to start, grow and prosper.
Access to Finance - ensuring funding streams are available and fit for purpose
Rural Growth Network - supporting rural business needs

Encouraging innovation:

Creating competitive advantage through innovation – matching what’s needed with what’s possible.

Leadership - providing leadership through the Innovation Board
Super Innovation Network - growing the North East’s highly engaged and pro active innovation networks
Competitive advantage through smart specialisation – catalytic competitions to understand and encourage sector growth potential through innovation
Em capital investment - investing in capital projects through the North East Growth Deal

Improving skills:

Improving the North East skills base, working with partners to close the skills gap.

Leadership - providing leadership through the Employment and Skills Board
North East Education Challenge - working with partners to raise educational attainment in North East schools
Skills Pilot - ensuring skills provision meets the skills needs of business
Em capital investment - investing in capital projects through the North East Growth Deal
Youth Employment Programme - driving up youth employment
Apprenticeship Hub - supporting more businesses employ apprentices

Delivering better infrastructure:

Working with partners to create the best infrastructure networks.

Em capital investment schemes - investing in capital projects and transport schemes through the North East Growth Deal
North East Enterprise Zone - managing and supporting investment in the North East Enterprise Zone
North East Investment Fund - funding capital projects across the North East

Building a stronger future together

The success of long term economic growth for the North East will be driven and delivered by businesses and organisations working together to achieve a common goal: We work with our partners to deliver projects and programmes that will create the right environment for growth.

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership area covers County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland. Find out more at www.northeastlep.co.uk or follow @northeastlep

FUNDING

SECURING FUNDING & INVESTMENT FOR GROWTH

North East Growth Deal

In July 2014 we secured £289.4m funding to the North East through the North East Growth Deal as well as an additional £40.6m in January 2015.

The total £330m Growth Deal provides a substantial funding package to take forward our plans for growth and to support the delivery of the Economic Plan. The investment will create up to 5,000 new jobs and bring in an additional £130m in public and private investment.

The £330m is the fourth highest allocation in the country and provides funding for each of the themes within our Economic Plan, investing in projects around innovation, skills, business support, transport, developing economic assets and supporting inclusive growth. The Deal will deliver more and better jobs by:

Investment in economic assets and transport

Funding for a comprehensive package of investment to ensure the North East has the infrastructure and facilities to support inward investment and regional growth. For example, allowing companies involved in supplying Hitachi Rail Europe to locate close to its new facilities at Merchant Park, and a project to create rural 'enterprise hubs' providing flexible workspace for small businesses.

Investment in Innovation

Funding for a number of projects to support technological advances in key industries, helping the North East achieve its innovation vision and become an exemplar in Smart Specialisation and open innovation. For example, Sunderland Enterprise and Innovation Hub, which will provide the first 'FabLab' in the North East.

Investment in business support

Funding for a new North East Growth Hub to ensure that North East businesses get access to the right support, advice and guidance and at the right time.

Investment skills

Funding and commitment to support improving educational attainment and training available to local people in skills which are important for growing sectors including advanced manufacturing, offshore and subsea, and low carbon energy technologies.

We have been working with partners to develop full business cases and delivery plans for each of these projects.

Sunderland South Tyneside City Deal

In June 2014 we signed the Sunderland and South Tyneside City Deal in partnership with Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils.

The Deal provides investment of £5m for the development of an International Advanced Manufacturing Park and more than £80m to build a new bridge over the River Wear.

The Deal will bring around 5,200 new jobs to the area and an estimated £295m in private sector investment in advanced manufacturing.



FUNDING

INVESTING IN THE NORTH EAST'S FUTURE



North East Investment Fund

Since 2012 our North East Investment Fund has invested £55m in capital projects across the North East LEP area.

The capital loan fund, which supports projects that specifically encourage local economic growth and create jobs, is a combination of £25m Growing Places funding and £30m Regional Growth Fund allocation.

Between 2012 and 2015 we invested £38m of funds drawing in around £142m of direct economic activity and create around 1,400 direct jobs. In the last year we have committed an extra £18 m which will bring in over £30m in private investment and will create over 1100 jobs.

These projects include:

Neptune Test Centre - £5m investment in a new hyperbaric testing facility on the North Bank of the River Tyne

Live Theatre - £2m investment in Live Works, a new scheme to develop the Newcastle Quayside

Vantec Europe - £1m investment to support the development of a new warehouse facility at Vantec to meet new contract needs

Ravensthorpe Property Developments LLP - £900,000 investment in Portobello Trade Park, the first new speculative light industrial space in Gateshead for more than six years

Arch, The Northumberland Development Company - £1.2m investment in Blyth Commissioners Quay - new contemporary office space for the offshore and energy sector

North Tyneside Council - £5.9m investment for extensive infrastructure works and new incubator space on the Swan Hunters Enterprise Zone site

Arch, The Northumberland Development Company - £1.4m investment in a new hotel development at Commissioners Quay, Blyth

Shepherd Offshore - £4.7m investment for the development of a wet dock to create new testing facilities for the offshore and subsea sectors

A number of projects supported by the North East Investment Fund are already completed and repaying to create more opportunities for funding. These include Blyth Workspace and Teal Farm Park, who welcomed their first tenants this year.

European Funding

The first European Structural and Investment Fund calls for project applications were published in March 2015. Working with Government we have helped shape these local calls to align with our European Strategy and Economic Plan priorities. These initial calls meet the urgent need of funding in specific areas around innovation, business support, employability and youth employment initiative (County Durham only).

Working in partnership with Tees Valley Unlimited we are also developing a new £160m JEREMIE2 venture capital fund.

The new programme will build on the success of JEREMIE1, which has invested around £110m and secured more than £120m investment from the private sector. JEREMIE2 is set to bring together EU Structural funds, legacy returns and financing from the European Investment Bank.

In June 2014 we also negotiated a new Assisted Areas map (areas where Government can offer additional financial support to businesses under European Commission state aid rules) ensuring that areas with the strongest opportunities to drive growth and benefit deprived areas were included.

INNOVATION

CREATING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Driving the Innovation Agenda

We are quickly becoming recognised for our leading edge approach to innovation, driving collaboration within the North East, supporting inward innovation engagement and gaining national recognition and investment. We will continue to champion and drive innovation focussing on leadership, communication and collaboration.

Leadership

In December 2014 we set up a new Innovation Board, bringing innovation partners together to provide strategic leadership. Chaired by Professor Roy Sandbach, its membership includes representatives from innovation hubs and networks, universities and innovation-centric businesses.

In March 2015 we appointed Hans Möller as our first Innovation Director. With more than 25 years experience of leading innovation in IT companies, creating start-ups and establishing Ideon as Sweden's first and most successful science park, he is ideally placed to lead the strengthening of innovation structures and programmes in the North East.

A Collaborative Innovation Platform

In October 2014 we hosted the first Venturefest North East in partnership with Innovate UK and the Knowledge Transfer Network. It provided a new open innovation platform helping to promote and accelerate the commercialisation of innovative ideas. Delivered by Newcastle Science City, the conference brought together over 500 delegates to hear from Innovation experts including Google UK's Product Manager Joe Faith, as well as the opportunity to attend workshops and pitch for finance. We are currently planning Venturefest North East 2015.

Investing in New Innovation Facilities

We have successfully secured funding for all of our six priority innovation projects through our Local Growth Deal, which will be delivered through partners over the next few years. The projects are:

Centre for Innovation in Formulation, led by the Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) and to be based at NETPark.

Low Carbon Energy centre at Newcastle Science City, providing low carbon, low cost energy and electricity for tenants of the site.

Newcastle Life Sciences Incubation Hub to be based at Newcastle University. The Hub will include lab and office space to support businesses in life sciences and related sectors.

NETPark Infrastructure Phase 3, to open up a further 30 hectares of development land at the highly successful innovation park.

Sunderland Enterprise and Innovation Hub, hosted at Sunderland University. The Hub will include the first 'FabLab' in the North East, incubation spaces and workshop, office and laboratory space.

National Centre for Healthcare Photonics, to develop and commercialise photonics based therapies. The facility will be led by CPI part of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult.



Securing an Innovation Led Future

Working with our partners we have helped bring two more national Catapults to the area – Centres for the Satellite Catapult and Digital Catapult. Both are leading the way in pioneering new approaches in their field. The Satellite Catapult offers North East companies the opportunity to tap into the UK's multibillion pound space sector, and the Digital Catapult will lead on projects around the controlled delivery and security of data, helping to deliver new business models which can drive growth from the big data revolution.

Together we have also secured a new University Technical College – the Northern Futures University Technical College - to offer new opportunities for young people to develop the right skills for careers of the future through specialising in Information Technology and Healthcare Sciences.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

GROWING LOCAL BUSINESS

Simplifying Business Support

Making sure businesses get better access to the advice, support and guidance they need is fundamental to our business support and access to finance programme. By providing the framework for business to get the right information at the right time, and by shaping and influencing funding programmes we are helping North East businesses invest, grow and prosper, increasing profitability and employment.

Central to this is a new digital hub. The North East Growth Hub will provide a resource that brings information business and enterprise support and services into one place. It will also have a strong focus on collaboration and peer to peer support.

The Growth Hub is aimed at small and medium sized businesses looking to grow through, for instance, improved productivity, marketing or export and will:

- Offer a comprehensive knowledge centre of business support and sources of finance – a single reference point for support, enquiries and advice
- Connect users to sources of advice, including local business support advisors already working in the region or the National Business Support Helpline
- Support conversations and networking between businesses, business and enterprise support specialists and access to finance websites and networks
- Promote the sharing of information and peer-to-peer mentoring through online community forums
- Allow users to filter content to suit their needs, fully accessible from mobile devices
- Provide a gateway to business news and events, briefings, seminars, conferences and networking opportunities.

We have appointed Escher Group to build and manage the development of the Growth Hub. Escher Group will work with two specialist local partners Cobweb Information and The Roundhouse Design.

A collaborative and demand-led approach is central to developing the Growth Hub, so we are working with local businesses as a significant part of developing the Hub to ensure it is fit for a growing and ambitious economy.

Leadership

Taking a partnership approach to developing better business support is essential. To ensure that local businesses have a leading voice and influence over our business support programme, we have set up a new Business Support Board.

The Board which is Co-Chaired by our Board Members Gill Southern and Paul Varley includes representatives from across the creative, professional services, social enterprise property sectors as well as our universities, colleges and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Board is focussing on driving delivery of four areas:

- Mentoring & business support
- North East Growth Hub
- Access to finance
- Awareness & communication

Growing the Rural Economy

Supporting and growing the rural economy is important if we are to sustain long term growth. One of the key measures that we are achieving this is through the Rural Growth Network.

This additional Local Growth Fund investment will be enable the development of more business support infrastructure in Northumberland, Durham and rural Gateshead, including the community-led network of rural enterprise hubs – the latest of which was launched in Hexham in March 2015. It has also funded a new Strategic Economic Infrastructure Fund (SEIF) providing grant funding for growing rural businesses.

The Rural Growth Network is managed by Northumberland County Council on behalf of the North East LEP.



SKILLS

RAISING THE SKILLS BASE, IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES



Building For The Future

A better skilled workforce with more industry relevant skills is critical to achieving long term growth in the North East economy. Our investment in the skills base in the North East enables businesses to grow and people to progress in work.

Ensuring that we have the right facilities is essential. Through the Growth Deal we have secured funding to improve and upgrade skills facilities across the area. The projects are:

- Tyne Met College: new STEM & Innovation Centre
- South Tyneside College: new facilities for Marine & Offshore Engineering
- East Durham College: investment for rural skills development
- Port of Blyth: new offshore and wind energy training facility
- Northumberland College: new Advance Manufacturing Centre and Enterprise Hub
- Newcastle College: new Newcastle Gateway 24/7 Centre to increase vocational workspace

A collaborative approach

A coordinated and collaborative approach to improving skills will deliver greater impact and sustainability. We have established an Employability and Skills Board that will bring together business leaders, skills and education providers and key public sector partners to oversee and shape the delivery of our skills programme. The new Board will be announced in Spring 2015.

Improving Opportunities For Everyone

Working together with public, private and third sector partners we are developing and delivering a range of skills programmes to improve opportunities and increase North East skills.

Driving youth employment

Generation NE is a £4.5m programme to drive up youth employment across Newcastle, Durham, Gateshead, North Tyneside and Northumberland. It was officially launched in February 2015 and has supported 500 young people so far with over 150 moving into employment and 30 taking up high quality work experience opportunities. The programme has also supported over 100 businesses introduce young people to their workforce.

Driving up attainment

The Education and Skills Challenge will deliver a transformational improvement in education and skills outcomes for all young people across the North East. We are working with an alliance of partners to develop the challenge programme and securing significant commitment to support the challenge from Government and other partners who will invest and align funding to achieve the challenge goals.

Increasing apprenticeships

Currently only 18% of North East businesses employ an apprentice, we are working to increase this to 30% by 2017. Through new Apprenticeships Hubs we are creating more focussed sector specific apprenticeships. The first one, Dynamo's IT Apprenticeship Hub, was launched this year and other hubs are planned in key locations across the North East. We have also developed a new digital hub, North East Apprentices that will provide localised information and support for businesses, apprentices and partners.

Closer links with business

Increasing business involvement in schools is key to raising ambitions and a future skills base. We are delivering an Enterprise Adviser programme, to create a coordinated network of advisers to build stronger links with schools and businesses through mentoring, careers advice and training opportunities, creating connections into school leadership.

Shaping funding for the future

Over the next 7 years, European Social Fund will be spent on skills employability and inclusion activities to deliver the skills priorities in the Economic Plan. The first project calls were announced in March 2015 with more to follow in the summer.

ENTERPRISE ZONE

HELPING BUSINESSES INVEST & GROW

Supporting Growth

Our Enterprise Zone covers 115 hectares of land that has great potential for businesses within the offshore, renewables and automotive sectors. Located close to existing global businesses and established supply chains and supported by excellent infrastructure, our Enterprise Zone is distributed across 10 sites clustered in three areas.

We have created over 1,200 jobs and continue to work with partners to develop our Enterprise Zone sites, attracting new businesses and ensuring they have the right infrastructure in place for investment.

Low Carbon Vehicle Zone

The Low Carbon Vehicle sites cover three sites at Sunderland. Over the last year, the site has successfully secured a significant investment from Vantec who will build a second warehouse on and around the site bringing over 120 new jobs. On a second site a new £6.6m business centre has been completed. Washington Business Centre, at Barmston Developments Turbine Business Park, includes 24 offices & 13 workshop units to support 37 businesses, creating 155 jobs and safeguarding 62. Completed in February 2015, the Centre has already secured its first tenants. A third development - Gateshead College's new Future Technology Centre - a multi million pound research & development centre also opened in July 2014.

Port of Blyth

There are four sites at The Port of Blyth. In the last year the site has secured funding from our North East Investment Fund through Arch, The Northumberland Development Company, to develop the Commissioners Quay site and complete a feasibility study at the East Sleekburn Site. The first development, Blyth Workspace, provides office space to businesses within the offshore, oil & gas sector. The workspace was officially opened in March 2015, with its first tenants already on site. The second development, which has secured £1.4m funding, is a hotel development. A feasibility study at the East Sleekburn, is also near completion. The Study will help determine what investment is needed to transform the former power station site to a key employment site.

Port of Tyne & North of Tyne

The Port of Tyne & North of Tyne sites cover three sites at the Port of Tyne and along the north bank of the River Tyne. This year a key development to build a new £7m subsea research centre, was started at the Neptune Yard site. The centre, due to be complete by Autumn 2015 will bring together oil and gas academics in a world-class research facility. Extensive infrastructure works are also underway at a second site, the former Swan Hunters Ship Yard. The works are essential to allow future development in the site, and will upgrade the roads, electrical infrastructure and drainage infrastructure across the site. Funding has also been secured through our Investment Fund to build a 2,100 cubic meter wet test tank for offshore and subsea, adjacent to global offshore companies located on the site.

Locate North East

Supporting businesses grow and invest is essential to create a stronger private sector for the North East. To support this we have worked with G9 - a group of North East Chartered Surveyors - to develop a new land and property database.

The website, Locate North East England provides a database of strategic land between 2 and 20 acres and property of 10,000 to 50,000 sq ft that is available for rent or sale across the North East.

The site was officially launched in June 2014 and is now maintained by Cargo Creative Ltd with the input of partners, including G9 and the local authorities.

Championing Opportunities

In October 2014, as part of a unique partnership that brought together the private and public sectors, we promoted the North East including the Enterprise Zone at the world-renowned property show MIPIM.

The public/private North East collaboration showcased the investment opportunity which the North East presented to over 3,000 international delegates, in a bid to bring business and jobs to the area.



CONNECTIVITY & ASSETS

MAXIMISING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH BETTER CONNECTIONS



Championing A Strategy For Growth

Working with the North East Combined Authority we continue to champion the critical importance of connectivity for achieving growth and maximising the North East's economic potential.

We also continue to lobby for substantial investment in the North East's road infrastructure. The impact of this work was seen in the Government's Road Investment Strategy which included £350m additional works at the A1 Western Bypass, £290m investment for the dualling of 13 miles of carriageway from A1 Morpeth to Ellingham and works to improve capacity around the new International Advanced Manufacturing Park in Sunderland. We continue to lobby for the full dualling of the A1 North of Newcastle to the Scottish Borders.

Alongside our partners and Government we have produced an interim plan to set out how connectivity across Northern England can be unlocked. The plan has informed the Government's 'Transport for the North' report which includes a comprehensive range of measures for road, rail, air and port networks including:

A £2.7 billion investment to introduce new 140mph InterCity trains on the East coast Mainline

New and better trains on all Northern franchise services

Consideration of re-opening of the Leamside Line - building on from the findings of our feasibility study

An upgrade of the A1 to provide continuous motorway standard between London and Newcastle

A single unified smart ticketing system across the North

A recognition of the strategic importance of Newcastle airport

Building Infrastructure To Serve And Connect

Major investment has been secured for essential improvements and upgrading of the North East road infrastructure.

Through the North East Growth Deal we have secured funding for our priority projects that were set out in our Economic Plan. The 16 wide ranging schemes include £75m works for extending major junction improvements, new park and ride facilities and sustainable transport improvements. We are working with the North East Combined Authority to develop detailed project plans for each of the schemes. The nine projects funded through the Growth Deal and are due to start next year are:

- Northern Access Corridor: A189/A191 Haddricks Mill
- Newcastle Central Metro Station Refurbishment
- A19/A194/A1300 Lindisfarne Roundabout
- Newcastle Central Station to Stephenson Quarter
- A191 Junctions (Coach Lane and Tyne view Park)
- A19 Employment Corridor (Silverlink North)
- A1 Corridor Scotswood Bridgehead
- A1056- A189 Weetslade roundabout
- Local sustainable transport fund package.

A further six schemes have been awarded £31m from the Local Major Schemes fund.

These projects will build on the current works that are being delivered across the North East.

In summer 2014 contractors started work to widen around four miles of the A1 Western Bypass to adding more capacity on the A1 between Lobley Hill and A184 Gateshead Quays junction.

A preferred option for multi-million pound A19.A184 Testos junction improvement scheme was also secured. The work, which will involve raising the A19 carriageway and carrying it over the existing roundabout, will begin next year.

COMMUNICATIONS

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR GROWTH

A Partnership for Growth

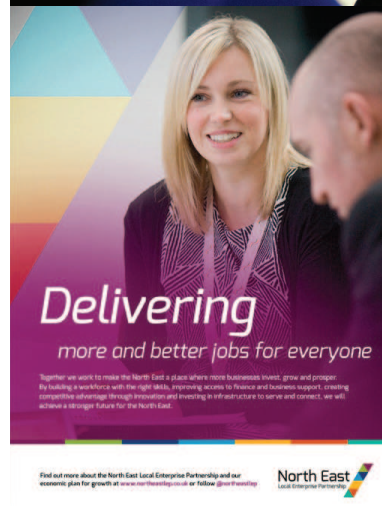
The success of long term economic growth for the North East will be driven and delivered by businesses and organisations working together to achieve a common goal.

Building up strong relationships and networks across sectors and industries is essential to achieving this. Developing excellent and responsive communications is an important part of this journey so we have worked to improve both our brand and communication channels.

Building a stronger brand

Working with local SMEs and stakeholders we developed our understanding of the issues and potential of our communications activity. Using the research we have created a stronger and more holistic brand and visual identity.

By refreshing our visuals, including new photography to create a stronger representation of North East business and its people and defining our key messaging around the organisation and programmes, we have strengthened our communications. Through the new identity we can create a better understanding of our ambitions and work helping us amplify our messages, build stronger relationships as well as support the delivery of programmes and projects set out in our Economic Plan.



Creating Clear and Responsive Communications

Making sure that we have the right communication channels has been a priority in developing our communications. Central to this has been the development and launch of a new website. Launched in November 2014, the new site creates a clear, accessible and comprehensive overview of our work, enabling us to better champion the North East potential and promote the substantial work that is being delivered across the North East to create more and better jobs. It will also support the delivery of projects within our Economic Plan, providing a platform for developing stronger innovation networks, increasing apprenticeships and improving access to business support.

We continue to support and encourage better engagement with partners, stakeholders and the wider business community. Key to this has been the appointment of Sarah Hall Consulting Ltd to provide PR and social media support. We also continue to champion the North East's offer through publications such as the national Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering and Low Carbon Vehicle brochures as well as national and local events such as MIPIM UK, the North East Property Show and Venturefest North East.

Engagement with all our stakeholders is central to our work. Through our new Boards we are ensuring that the local business voice is represented and influences the delivery of our work, as well as through a range of groups that we have set up such as the Sustainable Growth Advisory Group and the North East LEP Area Shadow ESIF Sub Committee. We also have held events with stakeholders and businesses to help develop our plans including a series of European funding workshops and SME events to support the development of the North East Growth Hub.



www.northeastlep.co.uk
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North East
Local Enterprise Partnership



North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Item :

DATE: 22nd June 2015

SUBJECT: North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) - Funding

REPORT OF: Chief Finance Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an opportunity to consider the funding of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, as well as the activity of the NELEP, which is set out in a separate report on this Agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee considers the report on the funding of the NELEP.

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Background Information

- 1.1 NECA was formally established on 15 April 2014 and took on the financial accountability role for the Central Government money that the NELEP is responsible for (e.g. Local Growth Fund and Regional Development Grant) on April.
- 1.2 For transparency and comparability purposes the statement on the use of funds by the LEP will be included on a full year basis in the 2014/15 Accounts for NECA. A summary of the Financial Information for 2014/15 is set out in Appendix A.

2. NELEP Expenditure and Funding for 2014/15

- 2.1 The NELEP annual report highlights the substantial funding that the NELEP has helped to secure for the region. The £330m in funding as part of the North East Growth Deal mainly relates to spending from 2015/16 onwards.
- 2.2 Capital investment in 2014/15 on projects funded from the North East Investment Fund amounts to £19.9m and information about projects is set out the LEP Activity report (page 9)
- 2.3 Revenue spending on activity to deliver the North East Investment Programme and other activity to support the Strategic Economic Plan is set out in sections 2, 4 and 5 of Appendix A and amounted to £1.390m. This includes some costs of support from council staff providing services to the LEP.
- 2.4 In terms of revenue funding, £0.250m is provided by the authorities in the Combined Authority, on an equal contribution basis, with matching funding from Central Government and other sources amounting to £1.131m .

3. Future Years

- 3.1 Funding and Activity is increasing significantly in 2015/16, with a local Growth Funding programme of £53.910m to deliver. This significant increase in activity requires additional capacity to deliver and this is reflected in an increase in the NELEP and NECA corporate budgets

North East Combined Authority

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4. Potential Impact on Objectives

4.1 The expenditure / investment for capital monies help to secure the Strategic and Economic Plan objectives.

5. Finance and Other Resources

5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

6. Legal

6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from these recommendations.

7. Other Considerations

7.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

Not applicable

7.2 Human Rights

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

7.3 Equalities and Diversity

Not applicable

7.4 Risk Management

Not applicable

7.5 Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

7.6 Environment and Sustainability

Not applicable

8. Background Documents

8.1 None

9. Links to the Local Transport Plans

9.1 None

10. Appendices

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10.1 Appendix A - NELEP Revenue and Capital Outturn 2014/2015

11. Contact Officers

11.1 Paul Woods, Chief Finance Officer, paul.woods@northtyneside.gov.uk

Glossary

SEP- Strategic Economic Plan

DCLG – Department for Communities and Local Government

BIS – Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

ERDF – European Development Fund

RIEP- Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership

NEIF - North East Investment Fund

UKTI – UK Trade & Investment

Sign off

- Head of Paid Service ✓
- Monitoring Officer ✓
- Chief Finance Officer ✓

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Appendix A

North East Local Enterprise Partnership

NELEP Revenue and Capital Outturn 2014/2015

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The 2014/2015 financial year provided the continuation of North East Investment Fund activity, confirmation of the North East Growth Deal and significant work in preparation for the delivery of the North East's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) commencing in 2015/2016. Each area of activity is outlined further below with explanatory information on any variances noted.

Revenue

2. NELEP Core Activity

- 2.1 The LEP core budget covers mainstream LEP operational activity and activity in preparation for the Strategic Economic plan delivery phase, which began in April 2015. Table 1 below provides a summary of the budget against actual spend with supporting notes provided below.

Table 1 – LEP Core Activity Budget

Area	Budget £	Actual £	Variance £
Expenditure			
- Employees	506,074	398,702	(107,372)
- Supplies and Expenses	75,071	126,798	51,727
- External Support	194,455	268,962	74,507
Gross Expenditure Budget	775,600	794,462	18,862
Income			
- Local Authority Contributions	(250,000)	(250,000)	0
- DCLG LEP Grant Funding	(250,000)	(250,000)	0
- DCLG SEP Grant	(250,000)	(250,000)	0
- BIS Capacity Grant Funding	(25,600)	(25,600)	0
- Other Misc. Income	0	(9,784)	(9,784)
Gross Income Budget	(775,600)	(785,384)	(9,784)
2014/15 Net Budget (Surplus) / Deficit	0	9,078	9,078
Prior Years Balances	(249,299)	9,078	(240,221)

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- 2.2 Employees - The LEP Director and Economic Strategy Manager posts became vacant early in the financial year which has resulted in an underspend in 2014/2015. This team capacity gap was filled through the use of additional external support as required, this expenditure is included within the External Support budget.
- 2.3 Supplies and Expenses – Expenditure included within this area includes general LEP running costs for example IT equipment, travel expenses, recruitment, accommodation and support services. The additional spend in this budget area mainly relates to recruitment activity for new posts within the LEP Team and the creation of the SEP Boards, travelling expenses and IT resources.
- 2.4 External Support – External Support has been utilised to obtain specialist knowledge where required and support capacity demands on the NELEP core team, this has included secondments from BIS, LA7 and also consultancy commissions for specific tasks. The overspend in this budget area reflects the reduced capacity noted in the Employees budget above and also contributions to the Transport and UKTI related work of the Combined Authority.
- 2.5 Funding to support the above activities was provided from a number of sources as shown in table 1 above, and detailed below.
- 2.6 The seven constituent Local Authorities provided a total contribution of £250,000 for 2014/2015.
- 2.7 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) provided core funding of up to £250,000 and a further £250,000 to support the development of the Strategic Economic Plan.
- 2.8 The capacity grant funding of £25,600 was the third year of a three year total allocation of £76,800 provided by BIS. The grant was used for the purposes of promotion and business engagement.
- 2.9 Overall, the LEP Core Activity for 2014/2015 generated additional expenditure of £9,078, which will be met from LEP balances held from prior years.

3. ERDF Policy & Strategy Co-ordination and Skills Advice

- 3.1 In addition to the Core Team resources the NELEP are provided with staffing support through two initiatives; ERDF Policy & Strategy Co-ordination supports two posts who are employed by Northumberland County Council and a Skills Advisor post is employed by Newcastle City Council this is funded through their City Deal.

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4. Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP)

- 4.1 A legacy allocation from the RIEP fund was provided to NELEP during the 2013/2014 financial year. The original allocation totalled £280,789, of this £192,043 remained at the beginning of the 2014/2015 financial year. Expenditure in 2014/2015 totalled £102,392, this supported; marketing materials and publications, brand development and events delivery.
- 4.2 A RIEP balance of £92,576 remained at the end of the financial year and is available for use in 2015/2016 and beyond.
- 4.3 Table 2 below provides a summary of expenditure against the budget plan.

Table 2 – RIEP Budget

Budget Area	Budget £	Actual £	Variance £
Expenditure			
- Press & PR Advisory	45,000	41,437	(3,563)
- Events	48,000	21,803	(26,197)
- Marketing	50,000	13,266	(36,734)
- Digital	47,000	25,886	(21,114)
Gross Expenditure Budget	190,000	102,392	(87,608)
Income			
- RIEP Allocation	(190,000)	(99,467)	90,533
- Other – Events Contributions	0	(2,925)	(2,925)
Gross Income Budget	(190,000)	(102,392)	87,608
Net Budget (Surplus) / Deficit	0	0	0

5. North East Investment Fund (NEIF) - Programme Delivery Budget

- 5.1 The NEIF comprises the NELEP Growing Places Fund (GPF) allocation and also the Regional Growth Fund (RGF). This revenue delivery budget provides the resource to support the NEIF programme. Table 3 provides a summary of the budget with commentary provided below:

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Table 3 – NEIF Programme Delivery

Budget Area	Budget £	Actual £	Variance £
Expenditure			
- Employees	47,025	47,209	184
- Accountable Body Costs	78,031	67,793	(10,238)
- External Support	237,108	270,545	33,437
- Appropriation to Capital Fund	21,710	107,303	85,593
Gross Expenditure Budget	383,874	492,850	108,976
Income			
- GPF Programme Management	(68,306)	(62,783)	5,523
- RGF Programme Management	(293,858)	(322,764)	(28,906)
- Interest on GPF Balances	(21,710)	(82,679)	(60,969)
- Interest on RGF Balances	0	(24,624)	(24,624)
Gross Income Budget	(383,874)	(492,850)	(108,976)
Net Budget (Surplus) / Deficit	0	0	0

- 5.2 The expenditure budget provides for an additional full time post within the core LEP team to support and develop NEIF activity. Accountable budget support provided through Sunderland City Council includes, programme coordination, finance, legal, audit, procurement and meeting minuting services.
- 5.3 Due to the diverse and sometimes specialist nature of the projects applying for support from the NEIF the appraisal, due diligence and loan documentation has been supported by extensive external support from property, assurance and legal external advisors. In addition, a project to develop a NELEP investment appraisal and prioritising model tool and also an NE Ex-Anti evaluation are funded from this budget area.
- 5.4 All NEIF expenditure is externally funded through the revenue grant allocations provided with the Growing Places and Regional Growth Fund.
- 5.5 The interest on balances has accrued from the holding of GPF and RGF cash funds. The interest sums will be transferred to respective capital funds to support future activity. The Interest generated is higher than anticipated due to fund beneficiaries drawing down funds more slowly than originally forecast when setting the budget.

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6. NELEP Revenue Balances

6.1 Table 4 below shows the NELEP revenue balances as at 31st March 2015.

Table 4 – Revenue Balances

Budget Area	Opening Balance £	Use in 2014/2015 £	Closing Balance £
General Reserve	249,299	9,078	240,221
RIEP	192,043	99,467	92,576
GPF Revenue Allocation	188,754	62,782	125,972
TOTAL	630,096	171,327	458,769

7. North East Enterprise Zone

7.1 The NE Low Carbon Enterprise Zone is located across four local authority areas; Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland and Sunderland. Business rates growth generated on these designated sites accrues to the benefit of the NELEP for a 25 year period, 2014/2015 was the second year of the zones life.

7.2 Analysis of the business rates generated to date is shown in table 5 below. This funding is available to support future NELEP activity; primarily additional Enterprise Zone site development works to future enhance this income stream in the coming years.

Table 5 – NE Enterprise Zone Business Rates Growth

Local Authority Area	2013/2014 Business Rate Growth £	2014/2015 Business Rates Growth £	TOTAL to Date £
Newcastle	311,765	330,041	641,806
North Tyneside	14,316	54,942	69,258
Northumberland	11,913	26,307	38,220
Sunderland	695,693	652,913	1,348,606
Sub Total	1,033,687	1,064,203	2,097,890
EZ Costs	0	(8,950)	(8,950)
Interest on Bal.	N/A	3,425	3,425
TOTAL	1,033,687	1,058,678	2,092,365

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Capital

8. North East Investment Fund

- 8.1 During 2014/2015 the North East Investment Fund provided capital investment of £19.9m to the region, bringing the total investment from the fund to £27.9m.
- 8.2 The £55m investment fund, made up of £25m Growing Places and £30m Regional Growth Funding is now fully allocated, with some projects supported through loan commencing their repayments.
- 8.3 Projects supported during the financial year included; development of light industrial units at Portobello Trade Park Birtley, test tank facilities on the North Bank of the Tyne to enhance the NE Enterprise Zone, Centre for Innovation and Growth at Durham University, site infrastructure works at the former Swan Hunters site and SME office accommodation in Jesmond.
- 8.4 A summary of the NEIF position to the 31st March 2015 is shown below in table 6.

Table 6 – North East Investment Fund Summary

	Growing Places Fund £m	Regional Growth Fund £m	NEIF Total £m
Capital Allocation	24.75	29.30 *	54.05
Prior Year Drawdown	(6.12)	(1.90)	(8.02)
2014/15 Drawdown	(7.95)	(11.92)	(19.87)
Bal. to Drawdown by Approved Projects	10.68	15.48 *	26.16
Repayments Rec'd	1.88	1.15	3.03
Interest on Balances	0.35	0.04	0.39
Total	12.91	16.67 *	29.58

* £8m of the Regional Growth Fund allocation is to be received in 2015/2016.

- 8.5 To date four fund beneficiaries have commenced repayments, these are Mecaplast (Peterlee) Ltd, Durham County Cricket Club, Sunderland City Council and Hellens Developments, the latter repaying in full on their Teal Farm Park Starter Units development. Repayments to 31st March 2015 totalled £3.03m comprising £2.778 principal and £0.248m interest. In addition interest generated from the holding of cash balances in 2014/2015 totalled £0.107m as noted at section 4.5 above, bringing the total to £0.39m.

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 22nd June 2015

SUBJECT: Transport Related Barriers to Education, Employment and Training - Proposal for Review

REPORT OF: Specialist Transport Planner

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to consider a proposal for policy development on the issue of transport related barriers to education, employment and training. This review will contribute to the Transport Plan for the North East, which is due to be completed in mid-2016. The review will focus on how transport-related barriers could be addressed to deliver better employment opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members consider the proposal for a review as part of the committee's work programme for 2015/16.

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Background Information

- 1.1 Transport limitations often pose a significant barrier to those who wish to access education, employment and training.
- 1.2 Research indicates that transport barriers are most acute for young people, residents in areas of high deprivation and those who live in more rural areas. For example, people on low incomes, including unemployed people and other claimants of health and work-related benefits, are particularly reliant on local public transport services yet often find that the cost of fares constitutes a disproportionately high percentage of their expenditure unless they are entitled to some form of concession.
- 1.3 The most recent Department for Transport National Travel Survey (NTS) (2011) found that 49% of households in the lowest income quintile do not have access to a car or van compared to the national average of 25% and 9% for the top income bracket. Furthermore, transport plays a major role in the decision making process about whether to apply for, accept or stay in employment. Around 40% of jobseekers say that a lack of personal transport or poor public transport is a key barrier preventing them from getting a job.¹
- 1.4 One key accessibility issue identified by surveys of job seekers and incapacity benefit claimants is a general lack of provision of off-peak travel, particularly at night, which inhibits them from taking up part time employment.²
- 1.5 Relating specifically to young people, around one fifth of young people who want to take part in education or training say that transport costs are a barrier to their participation.³
- 1.6 As well as being a problem for employees, transport barriers have an impact on employers by reducing the potential labour pool available to them.

2. Particular Transport Related Barriers

- 2.1 The main transport barriers affecting young people, residents in areas of high deprivation and those who live in more rural areas include the following (please note this list is not exhaustive):

¹ Passenger Transport Executive Group (2011): 'Total Transport'

² Kent Jobcentre Plus District Implementation Team (2010): 'Existing evidence and measures to tackle accessibility problems'

³ Department of Education (2010) Barriers to education and training

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- 2.2 Rise in the cost of transport: Public transport costs have risen considerably in recent decades - these costs have a disproportionate effect on those on lower incomes and without access to a car. Between 1986 (when bus services were deregulated) and 2009, bus fares in England rose by around half in real terms.⁴ This restricts where people look for jobs and their availability for interview and can impact the level of wages they accept and subsequently any prospective job opportunity. This is particularly the case for jobseekers who may (initially at least) only be able to secure relatively low-paid work so that public transport fares assume a disproportionately high percentage of their expenditure – perhaps to the point where accepting a job ceases to be worthwhile.
- 2.3 As budgets have been reduced, one area which has been hit is the schemes which formerly existed to help 16-18 year olds with travel costs – such as the former Nexus “Teen Travel” scheme, which offered a 50% fare discount. Whilst particular bus operators in the NECA area do offer their own individual schemes, there is currently no subsidised multi-modal scheme. This has been exacerbated by the removal of the Educational Maintenance Allowance which provided a financial resource to 16-18 year olds accessing education or training. A survey of Association of Colleges members in 2011 showed that the impact of ending EMA would be particularly felt in terms of transport.
- 2.4 Availability of transport: As public transport usage has declined nationally, the extent of the commercial bus network has been reduced. Furthermore, changes in the locations of employment and training sites have meant that they are often in more dispersed locations and on the outskirts of towns and cities, where public transport availability is more limited. The reduction in availability of transport is most acute for residents in rural areas without access to a car and is exacerbated by reductions in funding for rural bus provision (see below).
- 2.5 Diminishing public funds: Although the rise in the cost of transport and availability are fundamental barriers, they have been worsened by the public funding cuts which have been experienced in recent years, resulting in many bus services being withdrawn or reduced in frequency. Research by the Campaign for Better Transport⁵ has found that, since 2010, overall local authority funding for bus services has been cut by 15 per cent (£44m) with more than 2,000 routes being reduced or withdrawn entirely across the country. Some authorities (including Hartlepool and Darlington) have withdrawn all funding for supported bus services. Within the NECA area, Northumberland and Durham have reduced their levels of secured service subsidy by 29.8% and 15.3% respectively over that period, whilst seeking to maintain essential service provision. Funding

⁴ PTEG report 2009: The effect of bus fare increases on low income families

⁵ Buses in Crisis, 2014

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has been increased in Tyne and Wear, but only by Nexus making use of its financial reserves.

- 2.6 Changes in Working Patterns: As markets evolve and customer expectations change, so do patterns of working. The traditional working day from 9-5 on a Monday to Friday is no longer the norm. A combination of new business locations outside town/city centres, changes in working hours and limited public transport provision outside those peak hours has created a significant barrier for those people working in these industries, in particularly those who don't have access to a car.

3. Initiatives in the NECA Area

- 3.1 A summary of the Welfare to Work element of Northumberland County Council's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) project is set out below:

- 3.2 Northumberland County Council's previous and current LSTF projects have aimed to overcome transport barriers for people accessing work and training and opportunities. During LSTF 1 this work concentrated on improving access to work in South East Northumberland. During the current LSTF year the project adds value to existing activity and extends support for young adults to acquire new employability skills and addresses travel to work barriers in rural areas of Northumberland. Beneficiaries of the project include job seekers, those seeking to acquire work skills, existing employees and people with additional needs or difficulties needing support to access employment.

The Welfare to Work package of measures delivered by LSTF (Go Smarter Northumberland) aims to help expand the travel horizons of those seeking employment or training opportunities, whilst contributing to a low carbon travel culture, the package includes the following schemes however it does not stand alone and is supported by the whole of the Go Smarter Northumberland project:

TravelRight

TravelRight works with JobCentre Plus and Work Programme Providers throughout Northumberland to ensure job seekers are fully informed of the transport options available to access employment and training opportunities. The scheme offers personalised travel planning and where appropriate includes Travel Training and a Travel Buddy Scheme to help people with their commute. During the first three years of LSTF the TravelRight service delivered 757 travel training sessions, 91% of applicants wanted training as general support to widen their choice of travel options and to extend their job search horizons. The most

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significant travel barriers to work identified are (in priority order, more than 100 mentions)

1. Cost of travel
2. Journey takes too long
3. Journey times do not match work start or finish times
4. Journey times do not fit work pattern (shifts/weekend working)

This service is also used to promote the wider project offer leading to referrals to scooter and bicycle loans and the distribution of free bus tickets.

Three Travel Buddies have also been trained but no-one requested their services. This required the development of a new Travel Action Planning training course which has (non QCF) accreditation from One Award. This will be used for training in schools and in workplaces in future.

Wheels to Work Scooter Loans

Scooter loan service delivered by Northumberland Learning and Skills Service aims to help individuals who live in an area of limited public transport, or work shifts of unsocial hours or cannot take up a job because of transport difficulties. The loan is for up to 6 months but this could be extended depending on circumstances. There is a small monthly rental fee and a provisional or full driving licence for a motor cycle required. The loan is supported with free; route planning; Compulsory Basic Training; vehicle insurance; breakdown cover; full servicing and safety equipment (helmet, jacket & gloves). 19 scooters were loaned as part of LSTF 1 however the project experienced issues due to the urban geography of the initial LSTF period and has now been expanded to cover the whole of Northumberland

Cycle Maintenance Training

The Cycle Maintenance Project delivered as part of the Go Smarter project is delivered by Northumberland Learning and Skills Service. It offers free, non-accredited community learning activities geared at adults and family groups. This provides cycle users with training which gives them the basic skills to maintain their bike including safety checks, lubrication and puncture repair. There were 51 adult learners who commenced learning in the 13/14 academic year who completed during 2014/15. There were 38 enrolments during 2014/15. Retention and success rates are 100%.

The project also offers accredited training – formal training to a nationally recognised City and Guilds qualification in Cycle Mechanics. The project now also offers training for the NVQ in Performing Engineering Operations which covers cycle maintenance skills expected in a commercial environment. 57 adults have commenced accredited

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training. Retention rates are 95%. Results are awaited from the awarding body and it is expected that the final success rates will be around 93%. The apprenticeship programme is a minimum of a one year programme for training as a Cycle Mechanic. There have been 4 starts and training is planned to complete during 2015/16.

Free Bus Tickets

Job seekers starting employment and travelling to employability training sessions can receive free tickets for public transport to contribute towards initial travel costs before they receive their first salary payment. During the first 3 years of LSTF 1568 weekly and daily discounted bus operator tickets were issued to people.

Cycle Centre

The Go Smarter project offers a range of support including route planning information, sessions to improve cycle skills and confidence, Dr Bike and Cycle loans to support those wishing to cycle to work. The scheme is concentrated in South East Northumberland and is available to job seekers and those in employment.

School Travel Planning

The school element of the project concentrates on secondary schools and aims to ensure that more young people leave school with knowledge of and information about planning and managing their independent travel and the use of sustainable travel to access work.

- 3.3 Additional initiatives have been introduced in parts of the NECA area, using Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) funding to assist residents affected by transport-related barriers to employment.
- 3.4 **Scooter Hire:** Unemployed residents who have received an offer of a job or training and who have no private transport available and no feasible public transport option can hire a scooter from £15 per week. The cost includes necessary training and safety equipment and the scooter hire is available for 3-6 months. Scooter hire is currently available within Tyne and Wear and Northumberland (see above paragraph 3.2), and there are aspirations to introduce an equivalent scheme in Durham. In Tyne and Wear, the scheme is delivered by ADAPT who, since May 2014, have received 285 enquiries and had 32 scooter loans. For the majority of enquiries, Adapt identified that the journey would be possible by public transport and therefore referred the enquiry to JobCentrePlus and the jobseekers ticketing programme supported by Go Smarter and Nexus (see below).
- 3.5 **Job Seekers Voucher Scheme:** Operated by Nexus and available within

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Tyne and Wear, jobseekers and employees starting a new job can receive up to 4 weeks fully funded public transport tickets for travelling to work and training. There is also a 1 day ticket available for travel to interviews. In 2014, a total of 5,450 travel vouchers were distributed to Job Centres and other employment agencies.

4. Proposed Terms of Reference for a Review

4.1 The review could include:

- An assessment of current activity (such as the schemes cited above) and consideration of how such projects can be maintained in the future (LSTF revenue funding is currently due to end in March 2016).
- Ways of improving efficiency through joint working to help mitigate the potential impact of future spending cuts (especially for revenue-based schemes and supported bus services).
- Alternatives to conventional public transport, such as community transport and taxis, to help maintain accessibility.
- Ways in which employers could help in addressing the transport-related barriers to employment (e.g. by promoting car sharing or home working)
- An exploration of the different dimensions across the NECA area (e.g. the particular needs of rural areas).

4.2 The methodology and approach to the review could involve the Committee forming smaller member groups to attend site visits etc. It is also likely that each individual local authority would contribute their own case studies by detailing existing work in their locality or exploring new options.

5. Next Steps

5.1 If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee decides to undertake a review as proposed above, the Leadership Board will be notified of the intended review as part of the overall work programme and evidence gathering sessions will be programmed into scheduled Overview and Scrutiny meetings.

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6. Potential Impact on Objectives

- 6.1 Reducing transport-related barriers to employment will assist in the Combined Authority in delivering its objective to maximise the area's opportunities and potential.

7. Finance and other resources

- 7.1 There are no direct finance implications arising from this report.

8. Legal

- 8.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

9. Other Considerations

9.1 Consultation / Community Engagement

Relevant stakeholders will be consulted on the issues and proposals.

9.2 Human Rights

There are no human rights implications identified at this stage.

9.3 Equalities and Diversity

There are no specific equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

9.4 Risk Management

There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

9.5 Crime and Disorder

There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

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9.6 Environment and Sustainability

There are no specific environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

10. Background Documents

10.1 None.

11. Links to Plans in the Policy Framework

11.1 This report has no direct link to plans in the Policy Framework.

12. Appendices

12.1 None.

13. Contact Officers

13.1 John Bourn, Senior Specialist Transport Planner, Regional Transport Team, John.Bourn@newcastle.gov.uk Tel 0191 2778972

Kim Farrage, Specialist Transport Planner, Regional Transport Team, Kim.Farrage@newcastle.gov.uk Tel 0191 2778971

Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk

14. Sign Off

Monitoring Officer ✓

Head of Paid Service ✓

Chief Finance Officer ✓

Glossary

LSTF – Local Sustainable Transport Fund

EMA – Education Maintenance Allowance

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North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 22nd June 2015

SUBJECT: FORWARD PLAN & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT OF: MONITORING OFFICER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Forward Plan for the current 28 day period and to endorse the Annual Work Programme for 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the Forward Plan in relation to the development of the Committee's Work Programme and endorses the draft Work Programme for 2015/16.

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1. Background Information

- 1.1 The Forward Plan is a document which lists the decisions that the North East Combined Authority committees intend to take in the coming months. The Forward Plan contains specific information relating to each decision, including the date the decision will be made, a brief explanation of the topic, the consultation to be undertaken, and contact details of the author.
- 1.2 Details of each decision are usually included on the Forward Plan 28 days before the report is considered and any decision is taken.

2. Role of Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.1 One of the main functions of this Committee is the review and scrutiny of decisions made by the North East Leadership Board (NELB), the Transport North East Committee (TNEC), Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee (TWSC) and Nexus. Durham County Council (DCC) and Northumberland County Council (NCC) are also subject to overview and scrutiny in relation to transport functions delegated to them, as is the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) to the extent of the NECA's role as its accountable body. One of the ways this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of those various decision making bodies
- 2.2 In considering items in the Forward Plan, the Scrutiny Committee should determine whether scrutiny can add value in relation to the decision being made.
- 2.3 To this end, the most recent version of the Forward Plan is attached marked Appendix 1.

3. Annual Work Programme

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee's draft Annual Work Programme is attached as Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The work programme has been drafted to allow the committee to have an overview of all performance, decision-taking and developments within the NECA, as well as being focused and flexible to allow for new issues and recognising the capacity of the scrutiny committee to respond in a timely way to emerging developments throughout the year.

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- 3.3 The NECA Scrutiny Committee obtains work programme items from the following sources:
- a) Items submitted by Members of the Committee (and including items referred by other members of the combined authority)
 - b) The Budget and Policy Framework
 - c) The Forward Plan
 - d) The three Thematic Leads
 - e) Evidence for any policy review
- 3.4 Members of the Scrutiny Committee were invited to submit items to be included in the work programme. The following items have been submitted:
- (a) A suggestion that the Scrutiny Committee may wish to look at the opportunities for sharing the delivery of services between authorities has been submitted. This could involve reviewing the progress currently being made with the sharing of services across the seven authorities within the NECA three key priority areas.
 - (b) Apprenticeship provision across the Combined Authority area.
 - (c) Strategic Planning – partnership and collaboration in joining up local development planning frameworks to support devolved decision making.
- 3.5 Members are asked to consider the inclusion of the above items in the draft work programme.
- 3.6 Member Development – The draft Work Programme includes reference to a development session on 13th July. A key focus for the session will be to provide members of the Scrutiny Committee with an understanding of their roles and how scrutiny at the Combined Authority level can add value, given the multiple challenges facing local government, the wider public sector and communities.
- Specific objectives:
- Understanding the new system and the role of scrutiny
 - Reviewing examples of successful scrutiny and lessons learnt from cross-authority scrutiny and Combined Authorities
 - Effective scrutiny of Economic Development issues
 - Role of Scrutiny in growth initiatives

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 In considering the Forward Plan, Members are asked to consider those issues where the Scrutiny Committee could make a contribution which would add value.
- 4.2 If the Scrutiny Committee determines to review or scrutinise a decision notified in the Forward Plan, a meeting of the Committee will be arranged to allow scrutiny members to carry out their role in a timely way.
- 4.3 The draft work programme will be refreshed and updated at each meeting of the scrutiny committee throughout the year.

5. Potential Impact on Objectives

- 5.1 Development of a work programme and review and scrutiny of decisions in the Forward Plan will contribute towards the development and implementation of the policy framework of the NECA, Nexus and NELEP as well as providing appropriate challenge to decisions taken.

6. Finance and Other Resources

- 6.1 No financial or other resource implications are identified at this stage. The financial impact of any proposals or recommendations should be taken into account and any significant implications should be reflected in any considerations and comments made by the Scrutiny Committee.

7. Legal

- 7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from these recommendations.

8. Other Considerations

8.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

Not applicable

8.2 Human Rights

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

8.3 Equalities and Diversity

Not applicable

8.4 Risk Management

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Not applicable

8.5 **Crime and Disorder**

Not applicable

8.6 **Environment and Sustainability**

Not applicable

9. **Background Documents**

9.1 None

10. **Links to the Local Transport Plans**

10.1 None

11. **Appendices**

11.1 None

12. **Contact Officers**

12.1 Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk

Sign off

- Head of Paid Service ✓
- Monitoring Officer ✓
- Chief Finance Officer ✓

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Forward Plan of Decisions

Published 10 June 2015 *

The Forward Plan for the North East Combined Authority (NECA) is prepared and published by the Monitoring Officer for the purpose of giving the 28 day notice of decisions that are planned to be taken by the NECA, its committees or a Chief Officer, which impact on the key areas of the NECA, namely Transport, Economic Development, Regeneration, Skills and Inclusion.

Unless otherwise indicated, if you require any further information or wish to make representations about any of the matters contained in the Forward Plan, please contact the appropriate officer as detailed against each entry at least 7 days before the meeting.

***The most recent entries are referred to as “NEW”.**

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
A. North East Leadership Board (NELB)							
A 1.	All ordinary meetings	NELB	Update reports from Thematic Leads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development and Regeneration; • Employability and Inclusion; and • Transport 	All	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	<p>Economic Development and Regeneration: Beverley Poulter Lead Policy Officer Sunderland City Council beverley.poulter@sunderland.gov.uk 0191 561 1150</p> <p>Employability and Inclusion: Janice Rose Economic and Inclusion Policy Manager Northumberland County Council janice.rose@northumberland.gov.uk 01670 624747</p> <p>Transport: Mark Wilson Regional Transport</p>

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
							Principal Advisor mark.wilson@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 5679
A 2.	16 June 2015 Annual Meeting	NELB	Membership of the Combined Authority and its committees. The report will include other related matters.	Corporate issue	The consultation process will involve all constituent local authorities and partner organisations	Constitution	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtynesid.e.gov.uk And Victoria Miller Democratic Services victoria.miller@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 5118
A 3.	16 June 2015 Annual Meeting	NELB	Review of the Constitution and the Operating Agreement	Corporate issue	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtynesid.e.gov.uk
A 4.	16 June 2015 Annual	NELB	Programme of Meetings	Corporate issue	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Victoria Miller Democratic Services victoria.miller@newcastle.gov.uk

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
	Meeting						0191 211 5118
A 5.	16 June 2015 Annual Meeting	NELB	NECA Devolution Proposals Update	Corporate Issue	A series of meetings with local and regional stakeholders as well as MPs and House of Lords members took place in March 2015 to test the initial proposals. NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee were also consulted.	Developing a Devolution Prospectus for the North East Combined Authority – report to Leadership Board 20 January	Caroline Winter Policy Manager 7 North East Local Authorities 0191 211 5058 caroline.winter@newcastle.gov.uk
A 6.	16 June 2015 Annual Meeting	NELB	The Appointment of an Interim Head of Paid Service for the Combined Authority The Leadership	Corporate issue	The Leaders and Elected Mayor as well as the Chief Executives of	To be confirmed in the report to the Leadership Board	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer Viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk 0191 643 5339

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			Board will be required to appoint an Interim Head of Paid Service to the Combined Authority		the Constituent Authorities will be consulted on this item.		
A 7.	July 2015 - date to be confirmed	NELB	Financial Monitoring Update – Outturn 2014/15	Corporate issue	The budget and capital programme for the 2014/15 was subject to consultation during the year and regular update reports to the Leadership Board.	2014/15 Budget (Leadership Board 29 April 2015)	Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer paul.woods@northtynes.gov.uk 07446936840
A 8.	September 2015 - date to be confirmed	NELB	Annual Report and Accounts	Corporate issue	The draft accounts will be subject to a period of public inspection and also subject to review by the External	Annual Report and Accounts 2014/15 Report of the External Auditor on the Statement of Accounts 2014/15	Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
					Auditors.		
A 9.	September /October 2015 - date to be confirmed	NELB	Draft Budget 2016/17 and Transport Levies.	Corporate issue	The budget for 2016/17 will be subject to consultation in advance of the formal agreement in winter 2016.	To be confirmed	Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer paul.woods@northtyneside.gov.uk 07446936840
A 10.	January 2016	NELB	Budget 2016/17 and Transport Levies	Corporate issue	The budget for 2016/17 will be subject to consultation.	Reports to NELB and other committees of the Combined Authority.	Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer paul.woods@northtyneside.gov.uk 07446936840
A 11.	Any future meeting	NELB	Project Approvals This is a standing item, which will include the approval of any funding or contractual arrangement that may be necessary from NECA for	The projects could relate to any of the thematic theme areas - Transport; Economic Development and Regeneration	Any, where necessary.	To be confirmed	Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer paul.woods@northtyneside.gov.uk 07446936840

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			<p>projects to proceed. This includes projects where funding is allocated directly to NECA or projects where funding is approved by the NELEP Board, where the approval may also be necessary from NECA in its role as accountable body. The report may include information about projects approved under delegated arrangements in between formal meetings, to enable projects to proceed in a timely fashion to achieve the outcomes of the Strategic Economic</p>	<p>; or Employability and Inclusion.</p>			

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			Plan.				
B. Transport North East Committee (TNEC)							
B 1.	July 2015 - date to be confirmed	TNEC	Go Ultra Low city scheme – update on the proposed NECA bid and request for a Delegated Decision to approve the final bid before the submission deadline of 31st August Report for approval	Transport	Widespread consultation has taken place with strategic partners in developing the proposed bid	Guidance advice from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles on the Go Ultra Low City Scheme can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/go-ultra-low-city-schemeguidelines-for-bidders	Mark Wilson Head of Transport Policy Mark.Wilson@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 5679
B 2.	July 2015 - date to	TNEC	Transport Vision for the North East – outlining the	Transport	Wide public consultation will take place	To be confirmed	Mark Wilson Head of Transport Policy

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
	be confirmed		NECA's high-level vision for transport as a basis for instigating wider public consultation Report for approval		following publication of the Transport Vision		Mark.Wilson@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 5679
B 3.	July 2015 - date to be confirmed	TNEC	Transport for the North - an update on the programme to improve the transport network in Northern England Report for information	Transport	To be confirmed	The Northern Powerhouse: One Agenda, One Economy, One North: document published at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/northern-transport-strategy	Mark Wilson Head of Transport Policy Mark.Wilson@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 5679
B 4.	July 2015 - date to be	TNEC	Transport Project Approvals. This is a standing item, which will include the	Transport	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer paul.woods@northtyneside.gov.uk

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
	confirmed And then any relevant meeting		approval of any funding or contractual arrangement that may be necessary from NECA for projects to proceed. This involves projects where funding has previously been approved by the Local Transport Body and where the approval may also be necessary from TNEC, on behalf of NECA in its role as accountable body. Report for approval				07446936840 and Mark Wilson Head of Transport Policy Mark.Wilson@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 5679
B 5. NEW	July 2015 - date to be confirmed	TNEC	QCS Programme Update The purpose of this	Transport	The report has been prepared through Nexus's	To be confirmed	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director (Transport Operations) tobyn.hughes@nexus.o

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			report is to provide an update on the QCS Programme and Workstreams.		internal reporting arrangements.		rg.uk 0191 203 3246
B 6.	July 2015 - date to be confirmed	TNEC	Membership of TNEC	Corporate issue/ Transport	All constituent authorities will be consulted.	Constitution	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk
B 7.	Annually	TNEC	Discharge of Transport Functions by Durham County Council. The report provides an update on the discharge of delegated functions at Durham County Council.	Transport	The report refers to the discharge of delegated functions by officers in Durham County Council in consultation with the relevant cabinet portfolio holder and its contents have already been	The North East Combined Authority Constitution The North East Combined Authority Deed of Operation dated the 29th April 2014.	Adrian J White Head of Transport and Contract Services Durham County Council adrian.white@durham.gov.uk 03000 267455

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
					noted by the Cabinet of Durham County Council.		
B 8.	Annually	TNEC	<p>Northumberland County Council – Public Transport Activity Report on Delegated Functions 2014</p> <p>The report provides an update on the discharge of delegated functions at Northumberland County Council.</p>	Transport	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	<p>Stuart McNaughton Principal Transport Policy Officer Northumberland County Council stuart.mcnaughton@northumberland.gov.uk 01670 624 104</p>
B 9.	Quarterly	TNEC	<p>Capital Programme 2014/15 – Quarter 3 Monitoring Report</p> <p>This report provides the Transport North East Committee with a progress</p>	Corporate issue	Consultation on 2014/15 capital programme with Treasurers and Chief	NECA Budget and Capital Programme 2014/15	<p>Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518</p>

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			update in relation to delivery of the transport related capital programme for 2014/15. This is a requirement of the NECA constitution and is a function delegated to TNEC.		Executives, and capital programme agreed by Leaders in April 2014.		
B 10.	Quarterly	TNEC	<p>Revenue Budget 2014/15 – Quarter 3 Monitoring Report</p> <p>This report provides the Transport North East Committee with a progress update in relation to how the transport related budgets for the delivery agencies for 2014/15 are being managed. This is a requirement of the</p>	Corporate issue	Consultation on 2014/15 budget with Treasurers and Chief Executives, and budget agreed by Leaders in April 2014.	NECA Budget and Capital Programme 2014/15	<p>Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518</p>

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			NECA constitution and is a function delegated to TNEC.				
B 11.	November 2015 - date to be confirmed	TNEC	Draft budget 2016/17 and transport levies	Corporate issue/ Transport	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer paul.woods@northtyne.gov.uk 07446936840
C. Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee (TWSC)							
C 1. Updated	July 2015 - date to be confirmed And then quarterly	TWSC	Monitoring Nexus' Performance 2014/15 and 2015/16 The purpose of these reports is to advise TWSC of	Transport	The report has been prepared through Nexus corporate performance reporting arrangements.	To be confirmed	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director (Transport Operations) tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk 0191 203 3246

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			Nexus corporate performance in respect of service and project delivery such that the Sub-Committee exercises the monitoring and oversight functions in respect of Nexus activities delegated to it from the NECA Leadership Board.				
C 2.	July 2015 - date to be confirmed	TWSC	Nexus Strategic Risks 2015/16 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to TWSC of the strategic risks identified by Nexus for 2015/16.	Transport	The report has been prepared through Nexus internal reporting arrangements.	To be confirmed	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director (Transport Operations) tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk 0191 203 3246
C 3.	July 2015	TWSC	Nexus Policy Framework	Transport	The report has been prepared	To be confirmed	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
	- date to be confirmed		The purpose of this report is to review Nexus policies to develop a comprehensive framework for approval by the NECA.		through Nexus internal reporting arrangements.		(Transport Operations) tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk 0191 203 3246
C 4.	July 2015 - date to be confirmed	TWSC	Go Smarter update - outlining progress with the programme to promote sustainable travel to schools and workplaces within Tyne and Wear Report for information	Transport	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Melanie Carls LSTF Programme Manager Melanie.Carls@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 2116023
C 5. Re-scheduled for	September 2015 - date to be	TWSC	Publicity, Marketing and Promotions Policy The purpose of the	Transport	The report has been prepared through Nexus's internal	To be confirmed	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director (Transport Operations) tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
September	confirmed		report is to seek approval for the Nexus policy on all publicity related activity as the first step in developing the policy framework		reporting arrangements		0191 203 3246
C 6.	July 2015 - date to be confirmed	TWSC	Nexus Governance Arrangements The purpose of this report is to detail Nexus's proposed changes to its internal governance structures.	Transport	The report has been prepared through Nexus's internal reporting arrangements	TWSC Report – 26 February 2015 on Nexus Governance Arrangements	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director (Transport Operations) tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk 0191 203 3246
C 7.	July 2015 - date to be confirmed	TWSC	End Date of Current Metro Concession (confidential report) The purpose of this report is to seek	Transport	The report has been prepared through Nexus's internal reporting arrangements	To be confirmed	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director (Transport Operations) tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk 0191 203 3246

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			<p>endorsement for the proposed end date of the current concession and to provide options for the future concession.</p> <p>The report will be exempt from the publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of The Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely to include commercially sensitive information relating to the Metro Concessionaire.</p>				
C 8.	July 2015 - date to be	TWSC	Membership of TWSC	Corporate issue/ Transport	All constituent authorities will be consulted.	Constitution	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
	confirmed						
C 9.	July 2015 - date to be confirmed	TWSC	Petition – Metro Travel Pass – Time of Use	Corporate issue/ Transport	To be confirmed	Petition	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk
C 10. NEW	September 2015 - date to be confirmed	TWSC	Publicity, Marketing and Promotions Policy The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the Nexus policy on all publicity related activity as the first step in developing the policy framework	Transport	The report has been prepared through Nexus's internal reporting arrangements	To be confirmed	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director (Transport Operations) tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk 0191 203 3246
C 11.	Quarterly	TWSC	Tyne Tunnel Update (confidential report)	Transport	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Michael Murphy Engineer to the Tyne michael.murphy@newcastle.gov.uk

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			<p>The report will provide an update for Members on the operation and management of the Tyne Tunnel</p> <p>The report will be exempt from the publication by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of The Local Government Act 1972</p>				0191 211 5950
C 12.	Quarterly	TWSC	<p>Metro Performance Update</p> <p>It is recommended that the Committee note the report and measures in place to improve Metro performance.</p>	Transport	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	<p>Tobyn Hughes Managing Director (Transport Operations) tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk 0191 203 3246</p>

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
D. Governance Committee							
D 1.	July 2015 and every meeting	Governance Committee	Internal Audit Progress Report The report provides an update on the outcomes from internal audit activity and progress against the delivery of the internal audit plan.	Corporate Issue	Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer	Internal Audit Plan, Final Internal Audit Plan	Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 6511
D 2.	July 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Risk Management The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of a strategic risk and opportunity register for the Combined Authority.	Corporate issue	Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer	Risk Management Strategy	Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 6511

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
D 3.	December 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Budget Update 2015/16 A report for on proposals for the 2016/7 budget.	Corporate issue	The budget would be subject to a period of detailed consultation	To be confirmed	Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518
D 4.	July 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Internal Audit Plan for 2015/16	Corporate issue	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 6511
D 5.	July 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Review of the Draft Annual Accounts/ outturn position	Corporate issue	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518
D 6.	July 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Draft Annual Governance Statement	Corporate issue	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
							City Council Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 6511
D 7.	July 2015 – dates to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Internal Audit Progress Report	Corporate issue	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 6511
D 8.	September 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Annual Report and Accounts	Corporate issue	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518
D 9.	September 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	External Auditor's Report	Corporate issue	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
							.gov.uk 0191 211 6511
D 10.	September 2015 and December 2015 – dates to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Internal Audit Progress Report	Corporate issue	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 6511
D 11.	December 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Annual Audit Letter	Corporate issue	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 6511
D 12.	December 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Draft budget 2016/17 and Transport Levies	Corporate issue	This report will form part of the consultation process	To be confirmed	Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer Paul.Woods@northtyne-side.gov.uk 07446936840

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
D 13.	February 2016	Governance Committee	<p>Accounting Policies Update 2014/15</p> <p>The report will set out the draft accounting policies to be used in the preparation of the 2015/16 accounts, with an explanation of any changes which may have been introduced, and an update on changes to the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. Governance Committee will be asked to approve the policies.</p>	Corporate issue	To be confirmed	Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2014/15	Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
E. Governance Sub-Committee							
	No scheduled meetings						
F. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (O&S)							
F 1. Updated	June 2015 - date to be confirmed	O&S	North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP): an update on key priorities, including an annual report and an overview of funding The purpose of the report is to review the key priorities by the Local Enterprise Partnership.	Corporate matter/ Employability	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Karen Brown Scrutiny Officer karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk 0191 561 1004
F 2.	June 2015	O&S	Policy Review: Transport related	Corporate matter/	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Karen Brown Scrutiny Officer

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
	- date to be confirmed		barriers to employment The purpose of the report is to agree the Scope of scrutiny policy review.	Transport			karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk 0191 561 1004
F 3.	June 2015 - date to be confirmed	O&S	Members' Development Session The purpose of the report is to receive a programme outline for scrutiny development session.	Corporate matter	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Karen Brown Scrutiny Officer karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk 0191 561 1004
F 4.	June 2015 - date to be confirmed	O&S	Scrutiny Work Programme The purpose of the report is to agree the annual scrutiny	Corporate matter	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Karen Brown Scrutiny Officer karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk 0191 561 1004

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			work programme for 2015/16.				
G. Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board (EDRAB)							
G 1.	July 2015 Date to be confirmed	EDRAB	Development of a Regional Inward Investment Function – Resources and Sector Propositions The Advisory Board is requested to provide views and advice to the North East Leadership Board on the development of the function and priority sector propositions.	Economic Development and Regeneration	NECA Elected Members, NELEP	North East Strategic Economic Plan – More and Better Jobs	Beverley Poulter Lead Policy Officer Sunderland City Council beverley.poulter@sunderland.gov.uk 0191 561 1150
G 2.	July 2015 Date to be confirmed	EDRAB	Development of a Regional Investment Plan	Economic Development and Regeneration	NECA Elected Members, NELEP	North East Strategic Economic Plan – More and	Beverley Poulter Lead Policy Officer Sunderland City Council beverley.poulter@sunderland.gov.uk

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			The Advisory Board is requested to provide views and advice to the North East Leadership Board on the development of a Regional Investment Plan			Better Jobs	erland.gov.uk 0191 561 1150
G 3.	July 2015 Date to be confirmed	EDRAB	Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board – Membership Proposals The Advisory Board is requested to agree recommendations to the North East Leadership Board to co-opt additional, non-voting members to the Advisory	Economic Development and Regeneration	NECA Elected Members, NELEP	North East Strategic Economic Plan – More and Better Jobs	Beverley Poulter Lead Policy Officer Sunderland City Council beverley.poulter@sunderland.gov.uk erland.gov.uk 0191 561 1150

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			Board				

Work Programme 2015/16

Date	Items	Lead Officer	Informal Briefings / Development Days
22 nd June (Durham)	Appointment of Chair & Vice-Chair	Viv Geary	13 th July – CfPS Development Day
	NELEP annual report 2104/15	Helen Golightly	
	NELEP overview of funding	Paul Woods	
	Scope of Policy Review – Transport related barriers to employment	John Bourn	
	Forward Plan & Work Programme	Karen Brown	
21 st July (Sunderland)	Thematic Lead Update		
	Policy Review Evidence Gathering		
	NECA Devolution Proposals Update	Caroline Winter	
	Financial Monitoring Update – Outturn 2014/15	Paul Woods	
	Forward Plan & Work Programme	KB	
8 th September (Gateshead)	Thematic Lead Update		
	Consultation on Transport Vision	MW	
	Nexus Performance		
	Policy Review Evidence Gathering		
	Forward Plan & Work Programme	KB	
20 th October (Newcastle)	Thematic Lead Update		
	Policy Review Evidence Gathering		
	Draft Budget 2016/17	Paul Woods	
	Forward Plan & Work Programme	KB	
9 th February (South Tyneside)	Thematic Lead Update		
	Policy Review Draft Report		
	Forward Plan & Work Programme	KB	
22 nd March (North Tyneside)	Thematic Lead Update		
	Policy Review Final Report		
	Forward Plan & Work Programme	KB	

