

Brexit

The North East's key messages

The North East is open for business

- The North East remains committed to the ambitious growth targets within our Strategic Economic Plan
- Our plans include a strong focus on attracting, retaining and supporting inward investment and skilled migrants
- During Brexit negotiations, the economic interests of the North East should be clearly considered; the region must not be disadvantaged through any new immigration or trade arrangements.

We need a strong ongoing relationship with the European Union (EU)

- Exports are a major part of the North East economy and an unusually high proportion (58%) go to Europe; we need to continue to enjoy frictionless, barrier-free, trade in key sectors – including automotive and passenger vehicle manufacturing; pharmaceuticals, energy and oil and gas, and digital services, financial and professional services, higher education and health care.
- The North East has been successful in attracting inward investment over many years; we need to ensure the continued success of existing foreign-owned companies and secure future flows of inward investment.
- The North East needs a continued free flow of skilled individuals to allow the region's future growth and workforce needs to be met, while EU nationals currently living in the region must continue to be able to do so
- Universities and researchers must be able to collaborate productively with EU partners, while there should be no barriers to the recruitment of EU students

Post-Brexit, the UK must develop new policies that

- Provide the long-term public-sector investment needed to deliver the North East's priority of more and better jobs. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund – and other economic development, rural, research and regeneration funds – need to provide resources at least comparable to current levels. This should include replacement of ERDF and ESF funding
- Support our businesses to take advantage of new opportunities and increase international trade with the EU and beyond
- Support our residents to gain the skills they need to fulfil their potential and meet the needs of our key growth and employment sectors
- Provide businesses with effective access to finance and other support that enables them to start up and scale up
- Protect workers' rights, so that they do not fall behind those across the rest of Europe
- Protect our unique natural assets whilst enabling our rural and coastal communities to flourish.

