

**North East**  
Local Enterprise Partnership



# Annual Delivery Plan 2020/21



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# 1. Introduction

**This Annual Delivery Plan sets out what the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) intends to deliver in the financial year from April 2020 to March 2021. It will be shared with government and we will report progress against our delivery in our End of Year Report 2020/21.**

The document may be subject to change, as the North East LEP responds to economic challenges and opportunities as we move through the year. Where there are changes to timelines or objectives, we'll update the document and share an updated version with government and on our website, highlighting the amendments clearly.

Within this Delivery Plan you will find:

## **Our plan and objectives**

We published our North East Strategic Economic Plan in 2014 and updated it in 2016 and 2019. We set a clear ambition to create 100,000 more and better jobs for our region by 2024 and report regularly on our progress towards achieving this.

## **Governance and transparency**

We ensure that a robust and transparent governance structure underpins our work and that it complies with all the recommendations within the national LEP review, published in 2018.

## **Our delivery programme**

We have provided detailed insight into the work of our five delivery programmes.

## **2020/21 action plan**

Here you will find a list of everything we will strive to achieve in 2020/21. We will report our progress on this in May 2021.



## 2. Our plan and objectives

### The North East Strategic Economic Plan

The North East Strategic Economic Plan sets out our ambition for the North East as a place of work and opportunity. This is shared by regional business leaders, local government and education and supported by a wider community of partners, whose contribution to its development and delivery is central to its success.

2020/21 will see us face significant challenges as we respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19. But our direction of travel remains the same - we want more and better jobs for our economy and we want to return to pre-COVID-19 levels of growth.



### Creating more and better jobs

In 2014, when the North East Strategic Economic Plan was first agreed, we committed to fostering new opportunities for our residents and businesses by driving forward a modern, diverse and entrepreneurial economy, which is agile in the face of change, as well as competitive, resilient and inclusive.

We have one clear and simple ambition: to deliver more and better jobs for the people who live and work here.

Between 2014 and 2024, we want to grow the number of jobs in the region by 100,000, with at least 70% of the new jobs being better jobs, defined as those in managerial, professional and technical roles.

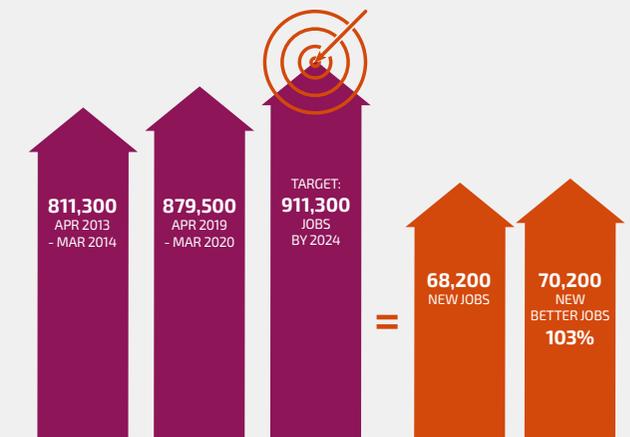
We have made good progress against this ambition. As of March 2020, the number of jobs in the North East had increased by 68,200 since 2014. This was driven by an additional 70,200 better jobs (equivalent to 103% of the total net change).

We anticipate that these figures will be significantly impacted by COVID-19. The data from the end of March acts as the baseline, against which we can assess the impact of our region's economic recovery, which we will continue to monitor.

We have also identified four targets focused on other long-term objectives. To demonstrate our progress, we aim to reduce or close the gap in our performance compared to England (excluding London). By making this comparison in employment rate, economic inactivity rate, productivity and private sector employment rate, we aim to deliver both positive change in our region and help rebalance the national economy.

You can read the North East Strategic Economic Plan in full at [northeastlep.co.uk](http://northeastlep.co.uk).

**Progress:**  
By March 2020, the number of jobs had increased by 68,200. This had been driven by an additional 70,200 better jobs (equivalent to 103% of the total net change)



Source: Annual Population Survey - Workplace Analysis (Nomis)

## 3. Governance and transparency

**We are committed to robust, transparent and fair governance at every level of our operations.**

**The North East LEP's Assurance Framework sets out how funding decisions are made.**

### Regional governance model

The North East LEP plays a key role in regional governance and works with two combined authorities - the North East Combined Authority and the North of Tyne Combined Authority - and seven local authorities.

The North East LEP's accountable body transferred from the North East Combined Authority to the North of Tyne Combined Authority on 1 April 2020.

### Regional governance

Seven Local Authorities

Newcastle City Council

Durham County Council

Northumberland County Council

Gateshead Council

North Tyneside Council

South Tyneside Council

Sunderland City Council

Two Combined Authorities

North of Tyne Mayoral  
Combined Authority  
Covering  
North Tyneside Council  
Newcastle City Council  
Northumberland County Council

North East  
Combined Authority  
Covering  
Durham County Council  
Gateshead Council  
South Tyneside Council  
Sunderland City Council

One Transport Committee

North East Joint Transport Committee

One Local Enterprise Partnership

North East Local Enterprise Partnership

### North East LEP governance

The North East LEP Board is a business led, private, public and education partnership. It is supported by four advisory boards. The four advisory boards provide strategic guidance for the programmes of work within the Strategic Economic Plan and provide oversight for the main Board.



North East LEP Senior Management Team

### Investment assurance and governance

The North East LEP follows a robust Assurance Framework.

Our [Assurance Framework](#) sets out how we make decisions and ensures value for money when investing in projects across the North East LEP area.

The Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme is managed in accordance with the North East Local Assurance Framework.

The Local Assurance Framework was last refreshed in April 2019 with updates including:

- The latest requirements set out in the 'National Local Growth Assurance Framework' published in January 2019
- How we remain fully compliant in the context of the 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' report that followed the Ministerial review into LEPs (July 2018).

The Assurance Framework is a live document and is updated annually. The updates will be published on the North East LEP website.

The main North East LEP Board receives an operational performance report at every meeting, which shows progress against each programme of delivery and highlights any concerns.

All project funding decisions are taken by the North East LEP Board or, where appropriate, under delegated authority by the North East LEP Investment Board.

The Investment Board is programmed to meet on six occasions in 2020/21. It receives programme monitoring reports on a regular basis and is presented with the programme dashboard. This is submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The Investment Board determines new project funding allocations under its delegation or otherwise agrees to make recommendations to the main North East LEP Board.



Andrew Hodgson, North East LEP Chair

## 4. Our delivery programme

### Fund management

We manage four funding streams:

- The Local Growth Fund – a £270.1m programme targeted at job creation
- The North East Investment Fund – a £55m evergreen loan fund sourced from Regional Growth Fund 3 and Growing Places Fund
- The Enterprise Zone Fund – covering 21 sites; to date a total investment of £86m, unlocking £166m of private sector investment
- The North East's allocation from government's Getting Building Fund – up to £47m for local infrastructure projects that will create jobs and help the region recover from COVID-19.

We also work closely with regional partners and government in the allocation of £500m of European Structural Investment Funding into the North East.

The North East LEP has the governance, accountability and programme management expertise to manage other funds in the North East region, as they emerge and are allocated.

## Local Growth Fund (LGF)



2020/21 is the final year of the six year £270.1m LGF programme. Government has allocated a budget of £14,550,627, for the 20/21 period, which is fully committed against projects approved in previous years and is forecast to be fully spent. Using treasury management flexibilities, we plan to bring back LGF funds from temporarily funded projects in previous years, to support an additional projected £3,600,000 of capital and revenue expenditure within the LGF Programme.

The LGF programme is cross cutting and supports the delivery of all five thematic programmes set out in the January 2019 North East Strategic Economic Plan, which covers the delivery period 2019-21. Overall the LGF programme is focussed on tackling market failures and competitive weaknesses.

Through working with partners, we aim to quicken the pace and scale of investment across the North East, focused on our business and infrastructure investment opportunities and needs.

### LGF budget

The 2019/20 budget has been fully spent with no funds rolling forward into 2020/21. The budget allocation from MHCLG for 2020/21 is £14,550,627. Planned expenditure from approved and pipeline projects is estimated at £16.55m capital with a further

£1.6m on revenue costs. The revenue costs, together with forecast capital expenditure over and above this year's MHCLG budget allocation, are planned to be met from programme balances using resources returning to the programme from temporary project funding swaps in previous years.

There are 23 live projects and six pipeline projects scheduled to be approved by Autumn 2020. In addition, several new projects are expected to come forward to utilise funds recovered from projects that have underspent. These projects will be selected in the context of, and in support of, the North East COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

2020/21	Capital £	Revenue £	Total £
LGF 2020/21 Grant	14.55m	£0m	14.550m
Programme balances	2m	1.6m	3.6m
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>16.55m</b>	<b>1.6m</b>	<b>18.15m</b>
Forecast expenditure from contracted projects	15.75	1.6m	17.35
Forecast expenditure from pipeline projects	0.8	0	0.8m
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>16.55m</b>	<b>1.6m</b>	<b>18.15m</b>

### Communications and engagement

A rolling communications plan sets out opportunities to promote achievements from funded projects and the North East LEP website sets out information on all funded projects. Funding opportunities and guidelines are published on the North East LEP website. There is a dedicated Local Growth Fund programme [page](#).

### Monitoring and evaluation

Grant claims and monitoring for live projects is undertaken on a quarterly basis. We have revised standard quarterly monitoring forms to capture information on the impact that COVID-19 is having on projects. A Programme Operations Group reviews quarterly monitoring returns and undertakes quality checks. Project verification visits are held following a project's financial completion.

Projects with delivery challenges are reported in the first instance to the North East LEP's Technical Officer Group. Where necessary remedial action will be agreed by the Board or delegated approval sought to a variation to contract.

Key programme and project milestones are monitored throughout the year. A summary is set out on the next page.

**2020/21 LGF Programme milestones****Year five of six delivery – key milestones**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>
<b>Quarter one</b>		
<b>Programme milestones to be achieved by the North East LEP</b>		
Investment Board Programme Update	Report on draft 2019/20 outcome data, general update and COVID-19 impacts on funded projects.	13 May 2020
LEP Board Funding Report	Programme progress update including delegated decisions.	28 May 2020
<b>Notable project milestones to be achieved by partners</b>		
IAMP	Two new factories commence production.	30 June 2020
Jade Business Park	First new factory commences production.	30 June 2020
Hordon Rail Station	Work completed and project formally launched.	29 June 2020
Swans CFI Phase 2	Refurbishment works complete and additional workspace available.	30 June 2020
<b>Quarter two</b>		
<b>Programme milestones to be achieved by the North East LEP</b>		
Quarter 1 20/21 Monitoring Return to MHCLG	Latest project financial and performance data reported.	21 August 2020
Investment Board Programme Update	Reports on pipeline projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jarrow Business Centre</li> <li>• Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure</li> <li>• Scale Up North East 2</li> <li>• Extension to North East Rural Growth Network.</li> </ul>	8 July 2020
Investment Board Programme Update	General programme update and pipeline project decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North East Ambition 2</li> <li>• Patternshop Building, Newcastle</li> <li>• Team Valley, Gateshead.</li> </ul>	17 September 2020

**Notable project milestones to be achieved by partners**

South Shields Metro Training and Maintenance Depot	Learning Centre component completed.	12 July 2020
Institute of Technology North East	National funds approved and work to enhance and equip learning facilities to commence.	1 July 2020
Gateshead Quays	Planning permission obtained for regional arena, conference and exhibition centre.	September 2020
Integra 61 site, Bowburn	First new building completed.	September 2020

**Quarter three****Programme milestones to be achieved by the North East LEP**

Quarter 2 2020/21 Monitoring Return to MHCLG	Latest project financial and performance data reported.	20 November 2020
Investment Board Programme Update	General programme update and projects for decisions.	12 September 2020 14 November 2020
MHCLG	Six monthly review of programme.	September 2020
LEP Board Funding Report	Programme progress update including delegated decisions.	1 October 2020 3 December 2020

**Notable project milestones to be achieved by partners**

Institute of Technology North East	All facilities improved and equipment installed.	31 December 2020
South Shields Metro training and maintenance depot	New Nexus training centre and depot fully completed.	October 2020
Central Gateway Phase 2, Newcastle	Works commences to improve access to western Dock area.	November 2020
East Pilgrim Street, Newcastle	Construction of Bank House commences.	30 November 2020
Scale Up North East	Phase 1 programme completed.	31 December 2020

## Quarter four

### Programme milestones to be achieved by the North East LEP

Quarter 3 2020/21 Monitoring Return to MHCLG	Latest project financial and performance data reported.	26 February 2021
Investment Board Programme Update	General programme update and projects for decisions.	14 January 2021 11 March 2021
LEP Board Funding Report	Programme progress update including delegated decisions.	28 January 2021 25 March 2021
Annual Performance Review with MHCLG	Date to be agreed with MHCLG.	January 2021
Evaluation reports	2020/21 evaluation work programme completed.	31 March 2021
Quarter 4 2020/21 Monitoring Return to MHCLG	Latest project financial and performance data reported.	28 May 2021

### Notable project milestones to be achieved by partners

Gateshead Quays	Planning permission obtained for arena and exhibition centre.	February 2021
Transforming Cities Fund programme	Barras Bridge transport scheme fully completed.	31 March 2021
East Pilgrim Street	Public realm works commence.	January 2021
Northumberland Energy Park Phase 1	Reclamation and infrastructure works substantially completed.	31 March 2021
Northern Access Corridor, Newcastle	Phase 2/3 completed.	31 March 2021
Central Gateway, Newcastle	Western dock access works completed to Central Station.	31 March 2021
High Potential Startups programme	Cohort 3 of Start Up Accelerator completes.	31 March 2021

**LGF activity during 2020/21:**

The following table sets out all live projects in the LGF programme split by:

- Contracted projects that are in progress and have LGF budget allocations in 2020/21 to be drawn down
- Pipeline projects that are developing final business cases for determination during 2020/21.

**LGF project status and LGF budget forecast**

Category	Project name	Strategic Economic Plan theme	Forecast LGF budget 2020/21 (£)
<b>Contracted projects that are in progress and have LGF budget allocations in 2020/21 to be drawn down.</b>	Centre for Innovation in Formulation (CIF)	Innovation	108,630
	Netpark Infrastructure Phase 3	Innovation	54,000
	North East Rural Growth Network	Investment and Infrastructure	917,778
	Horden Rail Station	Transport	1,719,639
	National Centre for Healthcare Photonics	Investment and Infrastructure	410,027
	River Tyne Economic Development	Investment and Infrastructure	58,936
	Traffic movements along A185/A194/A19 (The Arches) - Stage 2	Transport	599,877
	South Shields Metro Training and Maintenance Skills Centre	Transport	2,806,290
	A19 North Bank Tyne (Swans) - Stage 2	Investment and Infrastructure	6,603
	Jade Business Park (inc A19/A189 Seaham Murton interchange)	Investment and Infrastructure	1,255,006
	International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP)	Investment and Infrastructure	6,073,629
	East Pilgrim Street	Investment and Infrastructure	1,309,000
	Scale Up North East (inc. Supply Chain North East)	Investment and Infrastructure	1,095,000
	Institute of Technology North East	Skills	954,983
	High Potential Startups	Investment and Infrastructure	237,105
	North East Ambition Education Challenge	Skills	599,841
	Skills Research and Development	Skills	100,000
	Morpeth Station Gateway	Transport	8,500
	Central Gateway Phase 1	Transport	241,984
	Central Gateway Phase 2	Transport	3,200,753
	Weetslade Transport Corridor	Transport	60,375
	Innovation Development Fund	Innovation	416,832
	Incubation development fund	Innovation	1,190,716
	Energy for Growth programme	Innovation	1,091,631

## LGF project status and LGF budget forecast

Category	Project name	Strategic Economic Plan theme	Forecast LGF budget 2019/20 (£)
<b>Pipeline projects that are developing final business cases for determination during 2020/21.</b>	Scale Up North East 2	Investment and Infrastructure	0
	Jarrow Business Centre	Investment and Infrastructure	165,000
	Pattenshop, Stephenson Quarter	Investment and Infrastructure	240,000
	Team Valley Industrial Units	Investment and Infrastructure	400,000
	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	Transport	500,000
	North East Ambition 2	Skills	0
	North East RGN Programme extension	Investment and Infrastructure	318,000

## 2020/21 LGF programme risks

At the outset of the financial year 2020/21, the following programme level risks have been identified. These risks are monitored on a regular basis by the Technical Officer Group.

Risk description	Consequence	Estimated cost impact	Probability (%)	Risk impact level	Risk owner	Action(s) to avoid or reduce risk
1. Underspend on LGF budget 2020/21	Possible partial withholding or loss of budget	Severe	Low	High	S73 Officer – accountable body	Regular project monitoring/temporary accountable body project swaps
2. Non-compliance with national Assurance Framework	Possible withholding of future years' LGF by MHLG	Severe	Low	High	Chief Executive	Annual review and action plan to adhere to any new requirements/post accountable body transfer review and update
3. Change in the LEP accountable body	Impact on continuity of programme management. Delays with Grant Funding Agreements and variations	Limited	Moderate	Moderate	Chief Executive	Regular joint review meetings with accountable body officers
4. Annual performance targets under-perform	Reputational impact	Limited	Moderate	Moderate	Programme Manager	Project KPI/budget forecasts reviewed to take account of likely COVID-19 impacts. Projects challenged for 'optimism bias' and project level risks monitored
5. Prolonged restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic/ deep economic recession	Disruption to project plans and impact on project and/or organisational stability and sustainability	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Programme Manager	COVID-19 impacts monitored quarterly on each project. Flexibilities offered to projects to mitigate impacts

### LGF programme forecast outputs 2020/21

All projects are required to submit quarterly and annual data monitoring forms. These are subject to verification checks and reported on a regular basis to the Technical Officer Group and Investment Board. A selection of national and local key performance indicators from current activities are set out below.

### LGF programme forecast outputs 2020/21

Key performance indicators	2020/21 forecast
Gross jobs	1,480
Number of apprenticeship/traineeship opportunities created	155
Number of established/new businesses accommodated	52
Commercial floorspace constructed (m2)	23,254
Site reclaimed, re-developed or assembled (ha)	27
Follow-on investment (£)	164m
New build training/learning floorspace (m2)	3518
Number of learners at NVQ Level 3 or above	482
Number of business receiving non-financial support	418
Number of business receiving financial support	298
Total length of newly built roads (km)	3.3
Total length of resurfaced roads (km)	2.2
Total length of new cycleways (km)	3.6
Construction jobs	500
Number of education establishments engaged	90
LGF expenditure % of annual budget	100

## Other funding programmes



### North East Enterprise Zones

The North East Enterprise Zones (EZs) were created to support economic growth by developing sites with key attributes to help businesses start up, grow and expand.

Our Enterprise Zones have been developed across two rounds: round one beginning in 2013, and round two in 2016. Many of our round one sites now have businesses operating on them, with the majority of our round two sites in the process of investing in the infrastructure required to allow businesses to move on to these sites in the coming years.

To date, our investment of over £86m in the Enterprise Zone sites has achieved £166m of follow-on investment. As of the end of 2019/20, more than 1,650 people are employed across 50 businesses that are now operating on our Enterprise Zone sites. By the end of 2020/21 our Enterprise Zones will be home to more than 2,000 jobs and we will have invested more than £100m in the sites, unlocking more than £178m of private sector investment.

	Up to 2019/20	Forecast for 2020/21
EZ funding spend	£86.2m	£15.2m
Follow-on investment	£166m	£12.6m
Jobs on EZ sites	1,659	400



### North East Investment Fund

The North East Investment Fund is a loan fund supporting capital projects that encourage local economic growth and create jobs in our area.

It has been operating since 2012, utilising £25m of Growing Places Fund and £30m of Regional Growth Fund to invest on a sustainable basis in capital infrastructure projects which generate economic growth and job creation in line with the North East LEP objectives.

It has invested £69m in 31 projects, including money that has been repaid into the fund.

During 2020/21 we will be recommending that Board agree refocusing the fund as a commercial property investment fund model.

If approved, an OJEU compliant procurement of a fund manager will be undertaken to facilitate the launch of the new fund.



HM Government

### Getting Building Fund

The North East has been awarded up to £47m from government's Getting Building Fund to start local infrastructure projects that will help the region recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will be spent on shovel-ready projects that can be delivered by 31 March 2022.



European Union  
European Structural  
and Investment Funds

### European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF)

The 2014-2020 European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) was created to inject more than £500m into the North East. Although the funds are held by government, the North East LEP plays an important role to ensure these funds are used to deliver both the European goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and support the delivery of the North East Strategic Economic Plan.

We worked with a wide range of partners to produce our ESIF Strategy that can be found [here](#).

By the 31 March 2020, the Managing Authorities believe that the North East had secured 99.3% of our notional ESIF funding into the North East. You can see how our notional allocation will be allocated below:

Type of Funds	Indicative NE allocation (£m)	Committed funds (%)	Remaining funds
ERDF	£263.2m	£249.2m (94.7)	-£14m
ESF	£224.7m	£239.8m (106.7)	£15.1m
EAFRD	£10.5m	£5.8m (55.6)	-£4.7m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£498.4m</b>	<b>£494.8m (99.3)</b>	<b>£3.56m</b>

## Five programmes of delivery

We have five programmes of delivery. These set out our initiatives and projects that will deliver the ambitions of the North East Strategic Economic Plan.

The five programmes are:



**Business Growth**



**Innovation**



**Skills, Employment,  
Inclusion and Progression**



**Transport  
Connectivity**



**Investment and  
Infrastructure**

The delivery action plans that detail the outputs of each programme by 31 March 2021 can be found at the back of this document and the North East LEP Board are fully cited on progress.

## Monitoring and evaluation

The North East LEP commissioned consultants Steer Economic Development (Steer-ED) to undertake an interim evaluation of the North East Strategic Economic Plan over a three-year period, 2019 to 2021.

The evaluation enables the North East LEP to closely understand how the North East Strategic Economic Plan has been delivered, how successful it has been in achieving its strategic objectives and to evidence what has worked well and what can be improved in future delivery. Over the course of this project, the evaluation will assess the effectiveness and impact of delivery, review programme performance and assess the effectiveness of the North East LEP in the varied roles it plays in supporting the economy.

Moving into the final year of the interim evaluation, Steer-ED will collate and review performance data about existing projects, highlight specific best practice case studies and make recommendations to support improvement in programme management and project delivery. Steer-ED also set out an indicative framework and recommendations for data collation and measuring impact in light of future funding streams, and support embedding evaluative practice across programmes and projects in preparation for the final evaluation of the North East Strategic Economic Plan, which is to be commissioned this year for the period of 2021-2024.

## 5. Delivering added value through strategic leadership, intelligence, co-ordination and partnership working

The North East LEP's role in leadership, co-ordination, intelligence, communications and collaborative activities is underpinned by the strength of our partnership.

Examples of our strategic, partnership activity is described below. There are many more examples set out in the detailed Action Plan for 2020/21 which can be found at the end of the report.

### Strategic Leadership

#### Areas of Strategic Importance

We continue to develop the North East LEP's leadership capacity to support the four areas of strategic importance identified in the Strategic Economic Plan:

-  **Energy**
-  **Digital**
-  **Health and Life Sciences**
-  **Advanced Manufacturing**

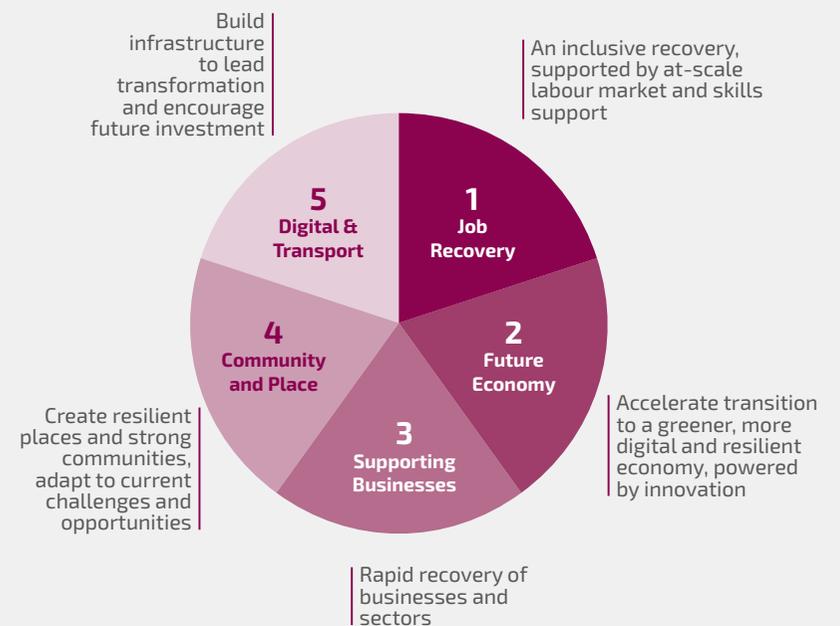
#### North East COVID-19 Economic Response Group

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the biggest economic shock of our lifetimes, with no straightforward recovery. Such a thing requires a strong, collective response to return our region to positive economic growth. A response that not only focuses on the impacts of COVID-19, but which identifies opportunities for our businesses to take advantage of. And that is what the North East COVID-19 Economic Response Group has been working on and will continue to work on as our region recovers.

The Group is made up of North East Local Enterprise Partnership, North East and North of Tyne Combined Authorities, the CBI on behalf of business, North East Joint Transport Committee and regional universities.

Our recovery plan is being structured around five key areas, that are detailed opposite.

#### The pillars of our response plan



## Intelligence and communications

### Our Economy

Our Economy presents an overview of the North East LEP area economy and how it is changing over time.

Our Economy is published annually and provides a comprehensive look at data relating to the North East economy. It features indicators relating to our programmes of delivery and a specific topic. In 2019, it examined what makes the North East a competitive place and in 2020, it focussed on the economic geography of the North East, with maps and charts showing the diversity and interconnected nature of our region. The 2021 Our Economy will be critical in reviewing the economic impact of COVID-19.

### Research, evidence and evaluation

We continue to commission and support a wide range of research and evaluation projects including providing the evidence to underpin the development of proposals for a North East Free Trade Zone, an evaluation of the North East Ambition Career Benchmarks, and exploration of opportunities through mine energy deployment.

We are working closely with a number of regional universities to develop strategic relationships and this has led to a number of new avenues of research, for example developing a collaborative relationship to inform regional economic policy around the Good Work agenda.

### Business intelligence gathering

Through the Business Growth Programme, North East Growth Hub produces a weekly intelligence report to provided government with real time insights into North East businesses issues and sentiment in relation to economic shocks such as COVID-19 and changes in the business environment such as EU Exit.

Intelligence is gathered through a variety of sources including surveys, social listening and direct business interactions undertaken by our Growth Hub Connectors, local authorities and the wider business support provider network.

### North East Data Hub

The North East Data Hub is a website that makes regional economic and transport data available and accessible. Launched in March 2018, the Data Hub publishes data from a range of sources using simple tools and provides easy-to-understand commentary. We continue to develop the site's functionalities, broaden the range of data available and promote the Data Hub across the region. The site now includes a repository of research and publications about the North East economy that have been commissioned by North East Data Hub partners.

### North East Economic Evidence Forum

The North East Economic Evidence Forum brings together partners from across the region, national research organisations and government to identify the evidence needs of the region, review emerging findings and disseminate research. The Group delivers collaborative research and engagement activities to contribute to regional and national debates on key topics and support the LEP in its critical analysis of the North East evidence base. We will continue to use the Forum to ensure we have the evidence that the North East needs to inform policies and investments.

### Communication

As well as a corporate communications plan, every project and programme delivered by the North East LEP has a communications plan which translates our work, partnerships and messages into content that relates to our audiences. We follow the Paid, Earned, Shared and Owned model, ensuring value for money and maximum reach and engagement. All communications activity is monitored regularly.

## Coordination

### The North East EU Exit Implementation Group

In January 2020, the North East Brexit Group reformed as the North East EU Exit Implementation Group. The Group is focused on preparing businesses for the end of the transition period, ensuring we are ready to take advantage of new opportunities for trade and campaigning for positive changes to domestic policy.

The Group provides a collective, single voice to contribute to and influence the on-going national dialogue around the UK transition. It is made up of members from business representative organisations, the education sector, trade unions, local and combined authorities

### Provider Network

Through its Business Support provider network, the North East Growth Hub works with providers to align their collective activities and programmes to the needs of businesses and the economy.

The provider network is chaired and governed by providers themselves and has enabled them to quickly adapt their offer in a coordinated manner and against a shared framework to COVID-19 and EU Exit.

## Partnerships

### Working with education

Our primary pilot is the first at-scale careers work in a primary setting, our work with schools and FE partners is recognised both nationally and internationally as being innovative aiming to provide every young person with the skills and knowledge to enable them to succeed and our partnership with Common Purpose and the Universities, allows us to develop new strategies to encourage graduates to live, work and stay in the region.

### Free Trade Zone

In August 2019, the Government announced it would be inviting up to 10 sites across the UK to bid to become a Freeport when the UK leaves the European Union (EU).

The North East LEP submitted its initial response to the government and we, together with partners intend to move forward with plans to establish a regional governance structure to prepare for a bid for a North East Free Trade Zone when the application process launches in the Autumn.

### Rural Growth Network

Jen - to check

The Rural Growth Network is a rural focussed investment programme consisting of **Strategic Infrastructure scheme and Rural Business Growth Fund**.

The North East Rural Growth Network spans Northumberland, Durham and Gateshead and aims to stimulate economic growth and create jobs in rural locations.

### Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):

As an intergovernmental organisation which brings together 37 developed economies, the OECD co-ordinates intelligence and evidence based policy ideas to improve the performance of economies. Following the input to our Local Industrial Strategy summit in 2019 about its work on regional competitiveness, we will continue to build our relationship with the OECD to support the response to Covid 19 and our wider regional strategy.

### World Trade Organisation (WTO)

As the UK completes its transition from membership of the EU single market and customs union it will be important that businesses are informed about global trade arrangements. Through the EU Exit Group we have reached out to the WTO and will embed understanding of WTO rules through a combination of information provision and training.

### INVITE

Innovation requires connections between different sectors, companies and organisations. These are often across different countries that are not always easy for individual companies to navigate. The INVITE project was launched this year with partners from Greece, Luxembourg, Germany and Belgium, testing a new approach to linking SMEs from different countries to address identified challenges through an open innovation approach.

### NP11

The NP11 was established in the Northern Powerhouse geography in a formal capacity to champion the North East's economic growth. The group brings together the 11 northern LEPs and we continue to work alongside colleagues to promote northern growth, raise our profile, attract investment and realise our economic potential.

### The LEP Network

We will continue our active engagement through meetings and events with the LEP Network. This includes sharing good practice through regular contact with Network's colleagues, engagement sessions and meetings. It is also a mechanism to allow us to work closely with other LEPs.

## **6. Our 2020/21 Annual Delivery plan actions**

# Annual Delivery Plan – Action Plan 2020/21

## The five Strategic Economic Plan programmes

### Business Growth

2020/21 priority	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
<p><b>Continue to develop the Growth Hub's capacity to stimulate higher levels of demand for business startup, growth, scaleup and productivity support:</b></p>	<p>Generate 17,000+ referrals to the Business Support Provider Network.</p> <p>Double the capacity of the Growth Hub to deliver one-to-one diagnosis and impartial brokerage to 1,000+ businesses.</p> <p>Provide account management to 350 businesses that demonstrate scaleup potential and increase GVA per Employee by an average of £2.5k.</p> <p>Introduce five additional sector-based Growth Hub Connectors to expand reach and focus on the North East's areas of opportunity.</p> <p>Develop thematic toolkits available through <a href="http://northeastgrowthhub.co.uk">northeastgrowthhub.co.uk</a> that aggregate and simplify support in areas that support and encourage business engagement in startup, growth, scaleup and productivity improvement. Each toolkit should look to attract over 1,000 visitors, 250 engagements and referrals to the Business Support Provider Network.</p>
<p><b>Create a simplified and impactful business support ecosystem that supports the recovery and levelling up of the North East economy:</b></p>	<p>As part of the development of future regional economic strategy, work with government, NP11 and the North East Business Support Provider Network to develop a simplified future ecosystem model targeted at levelling up regional business birth rate, productivity, internationalisation and scaleup performance.</p> <p>Continue to develop the North East Business Support Provider Network as a mechanism of simplifying and aligning providers to business and economic priorities, sharing best practice, encourage collaboration and cross referrals.</p>
	<p>Introduce a business resilience health check through the North East Growth Hub to support 200+ businesses to prepare for COVID-19 recovery and UK transition.</p> <p>Deliver Kickstarting Tourism and COVID-19 recovery ERDF grant programme to 400+ businesses.</p> <p>Work with government to mobilise 40 peer networks to support businesses to recover from COVID-19, engaging 320+ participants.</p> <p>Provide up to date information, guidance and insights to businesses through the North East Growth Hub COVID-19 and UK transition toolkits. Monitor impact of the information via measurement of engagements, time on page and referrals to the North East Growth Hub Provider Network.</p>



## Innovation

2020/21 priority	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
<b>Stimulate new business opportunities through the North East Open Innovation Challenge:</b>	<p>Deliver a North East Open Innovation Challenge framework to stimulate innovation activity in the region, including a pilot which will provide finance to 10 projects to support the regional COVID-19 recovery response by March 2021.</p> <p>Continue to deliver an Open Innovation programme through the INVITE Project by August 2020, taking learning from European partners to shape our North East Challenge programme. This programme will be closed by October 2020, with learning used to inform the North East Open Innovation Challenge design.</p>
<b>Prioritise a regional pipeline of projects to form a Strategic Investment Programme:</b>	<p>Support the production of investment-ready business cases for regionally significant projects, engaging partners using the established quarterly reporting process throughout 2020/21.</p> <p>Host at least two events in partnership with the Innovation SuperNetwork to support businesses to prepare for emerging funding calls throughout 2020/21.</p>
<b>Continue to support our businesses to capitalise on local research and innovation capability including through the COVID-19 recovery response:</b>	<p>Commission a research project that identifies emerging market opportunities for the North East by December 2020.</p> <p>Produce a plan for maximising the use of regional assets and capabilities to increase share of the identified emerging market opportunities and support the COVID-19 recovery by March 2021.</p>
<b>Increase private sector investment into growing innovation businesses:</b>	<p>Develop an action plan for engaging with the private sector and investors to increase private sector investment in the North East to be endorsed by the North East LEP Board and rolled out by January 2021.</p>
<b>Engage with partners to identify emerging opportunities and drive business growth through an Innovation Delivery Partnerships (IDP) approach:</b>	<p>Deliver an IDP pilot programme which will target five niche emerging market opportunities. This will test and refine the IDP concept and produce a model for successful partnerships by October 2020.</p>
<b>Coordinate regional partners to provide enhanced innovation support activity:</b>	<p>Improve the North East business support landscape by forming a consortium of providers to help roll-out of the co-developed model for Business Growth and Innovation Support by December 2020 to grow innovative businesses and support the COVID-19 response.</p> <p>Produce a comprehensive Innovation Framework which will be used as an engagement and coordination tool to realise North East innovation strengths, priorities and opportunities by October 2020.</p>

## Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

	2020/21 Activity	2020/21 Key deliverables
	Continue to engage with 95 schools and colleges through our four career hubs in order to intensively support the schools and colleges involved to continue to make rapid progress against the eight Good Career Guidance benchmarks	Three Regional Career Leader network meetings, that bring together over 100 of the region's Career Leaders, as well as other key stakeholders in order that they can network, share best practice and access resources and CPD  Ten Opportunities Bulletins, highlighting a variety of resources, events and activities that will enable the schools and colleges to further develop and enhance their career's programmes.
	Continue to deliver the Career Benchmarks; Primary Pilot, including working with the 70 schools involved to develop their careers related learning programme and make progress against their version of the eight Career Guidance benchmarks.	A minimum of three hub meetings per academic year, which offer targeted support to enable the schools and colleges to accelerate progress against the eight benchmarks  A minimum of one 1:1 meeting with each school and college, including a follow-up report that provides details on progress, and plans for the forthcoming year.
<b>Deliver North East Ambition</b>	Allow the development of true partnerships between SMEs and educators in the drive to lessen the gap between skill supply and skills demand.	A minimum of three regional hub meetings, as well as two full network meetings  A minimum of one 1:1 meeting with each school to discuss progress and the action plan for continued accelerated progress against the benchmarks.
	Support 145 businesses to engage with education through a variety of projects that make up NEA	Working with partners to provide teacher externships in businesses ; A new opportunities bulletin specifically for business leaders, which will be distributed at least 10 times per year. Continue to deliver STEM Ambassador network across the region industry leaders.
	Continue to act as an advocate of the eight Good Career Guidance benchmarks and offer strategic leaders regionally and at a national level	Maintain our influence through a number of national working groups, steering groups.  Deliver presentations to various audiences at regional and national conferences and events  Host learning visits to the region from delegates outside the North East of England.

<b>Deliver Education Challenge</b>	Deliver the Opportunity North East Careers and Business Engagement Pilot.	Deliver the first year of the ONE Pilot across 16 ONE Vision schools identified by the Department for Education.
	Deliver a successful Phase 2 of the Ford Next Generation Learning partnership.	Support the Phase 2 expansion of the FNGL partnership in each of the new schools and colleges and through the Industry Alignment team establish new relationships with local communities, including employers and industry sector organisations to support action planning and implementation of the action plans.
	Education Governance Champions.	Strengthen the LEP's role as a School Governance Champion organisation, work with recruiting organisations and further develop a regional communications strategy to actively promote the positive impact effective governance has an educational outcomes. Produce at least three case studies with a focus on the benefits of diverse governance.
	Supporting Continuing Professional Development across education in the North East.	Alongside partners develop an approach to, and offer of, continued professional development both school and business facing to increase the impact of business and education engagement.
<b>Improve skills Progression</b>	Improve skills progression and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on skills provision including apprenticeships as part of the regional economic recovery plan	Develop an investment priority strategy based on the asset map summary report of FE, HE and other provision in education and training.
		Continue, alongside key partners to develop a fusion skills pilot to promote the concept of fusion skills regionally based on international research in support individuals to recognise and record their skills.
		Continue to promote apprenticeships across all levels and to achieve a growth in the number of high quality apprenticeships undertaken.
		Protect existing apprenticeships and incentivisation to increase the number of apprenticeships available.
		Enable adults of all ages to access careers advice, retraining and reskilling in order to transition in to stable or growing sectors (based on regional LMI).
		To continue to support the role out of T-levels in the North East and to work with curriculum leads in specialist technical education from September 2020 through the North East Institute of Technology.
Continue to look for opportunities to fund an HE careers pilot.		
Deliver our annual 'Live Work and Stay' campaign highlighting the benefits for recent graduates and skilled workers to stay in the region.		

<p><b>Increase youth employment</b></p>	<p>Continue to support youth employment initiative and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on youth employment</p>	<p>Continue to work with partners to reduce unemployment for young people, to encourage training and through robust labour market intelligence provide opportunities for young people to enter key growth sectors. Continue to learn from best practice examples, including Generation NE and Durham Works and support the continued funding of these important schemes.</p> <p>Continue to encourage ESF projects providing critical support to support young people enter the labour market.</p> <p>Develop programmes of careers guidance, education and skills support for education leavers and young people aged 16-24 to prevent NEET figures increasing.</p> <p>Continue to highlight the importance of digital skills across education, training and re-skilling.</p>
<p><b>Improve labour market activation</b></p>	<p>Improve labour market activation and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on employment</p>	<p>Continue to work with partners and potential funders to find a way to deliver targeted support for people facing health barriers to employment, building on and incorporating the lessons learned from projects such as the Mental Health trailblazer and Working Links.</p> <p>Short term, flexible and responsive support for those closest to the labour market</p> <p>Grow the number of apprenticeships by promoting access courses and information regarding the benefits of an apprenticeship.</p>
<p><b>Ensure connected communities</b></p>	<p>Ensure digitally connected communities aligned with economic response to COVID-19</p>	<p>Prioritise the delivery of the digital strategy, workforce theme focusing on accessible and inclusive digital skills provision including those skills that employers tell us are a priority as part of the recovery.</p>



## Transport Connectivity

2020/21 priority	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
<b>Delivery of the Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 1 programme and part of Tranche 2 programme following funding award</b>	<p>All Tranche 1 schemes will be delivered in full by early 2020/21.</p> <p>The first Tranche 2 schemes by March 2021, as part of a three- year prioritised programme.</p>
<b>Completion of the Metro Asset Renewal programme</b>	<p>Track Renewals - Crossgates, South Shields completed May 2020. Rail Renewal in Central Area Tunnels.</p> <p>QEII Bridge to Gateshead Stadium. Heworth to Pelaw by August 2020. Network wide track alignment for platform - track interface alignment by November 2020.</p> <p>Network wide renewal of Overhead Line Equipment - paused from April - June due to COVID-19 working restrictions but planned to resume in late June.</p> <p>Completion of Station refurbishment at Monkseaton, West Monkseaton, Cullercoats, Shiremoor, Palmersville, Benton and Longbenton.</p> <p>Radio and RTMS (Railtraffic Management System) closed out and support contracts in place.</p> <p>Renewal of critical point motors - to complete in late 2020.</p> <p>Continued fleet investment – to improve reliability of current Metro Fleet.</p> <p>Occupation of Nexus Learning Centre expected end of July 2020.</p>
<b>Continue to progress and deliver the LGF Transport programme;</b>	<p>LGF transport schemes to be delivered by the of the financial year.</p>
<b>Deliver the Go Ultra Low North East programme</b>	<p>Delivery of 11 rapid charging hubs.</p> <p>Provide targeted support and advice to SMEs about the potential benefits of switching to a low emission vehicle.</p> <p>Deliver 10 Electric Vehicle rapid charging posts for use by the taxi industry, funded by the OLEV Taxi Fund by December 2020.</p>
<b>Deliver Emergency Active Travel Funding (Tranche 1) and bid into Tranche 2) and deliver active travel schemes</b>	<p>Deliver schemes by August 2020 (Tranche 1) and March 2021 (Tranche 2) subject to bids being successful.</p>

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**Continue to develop the regional North East Strategy and align it with the Covid-19 economic recovery plan**

Publication of a 15-year Transport strategy setting the direction for transport in the region. Production of an accompanying implementation plan by mid-2021.

**Use transport to drive innovation and business growth**

Continue to use transport as an enabler, linking people to employment opportunities, generating economic growth and business investment. Produce a pipeline of schemes to support economic recovery.

Continue to improve transport connections, making it quicker and easier to transport goods and freight, enabling the economy to grow. Produce a pipeline of schemes which will support economic recovery following the lockdown period.

Seek investment for the East Coast Mainline to provide the capacity and line speeds to meet existing and future requirements.

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## Investment and Infrastructure

SEP Activity	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
<p><b>Manage the already secured North East LEP funding effectively:</b></p>	<p>Programme managers to attend each North East LEP Investment Board and submit quarterly progress monitoring dashboards.</p>
	<p>Monitor programme level risks via the Technical Officer Group.</p>
	<p>Submit quarterly performance monitoring returns to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding the Local Growth Fund (LGF) and Enterprise Zones.</p>
	<p>Key infrastructure outputs by March 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure works completed on Intgra 61, Bowburn - over 1,000 jobs</li> <li>• Infrastructure works on Jade Business Park progressed - over 80 jobs</li> <li>• Infrastructure works on Northumberland Energy Park phase one complete- 15 ha. land reclaimed</li> <li>• Completion of phase one infrastructure works on IAMP - three new buildings operational with 200+ jobs.</li> </ul>
	<p>Fully spend the 2020/21 annual LGF budget of £14.5m.</p>
<p><b>Coordinate partners to develop a regional project pipeline based on spatial economic priorities:</b></p>	<p>Complete the next phase of LGF interim programme evaluation activities by March 2021.</p>
	<p>Ensure that the Local Assurance Framework is adhered to when making funding decisions by maintaining the operational management structures and decision-making accountabilities within the North East LEP.</p> <p>The Enterprise Zone sites below will welcome new businesses that will begin operating from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jade Business Park (Durham).</li> <li>• IAMP (Sunderland and South Tyneside).</li> <li>• Newcastle International Airport (Newcastle).</li> </ul> <p>Have significant infrastructure works underway or complete on four more Enterprise Zone sites, that will be ready to secure private sector investment at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holborn 2 (South Tyneside).</li> <li>• Ashwood Business Park (Northumberland).</li> <li>• Port of Sunderland (Sunderland).</li> <li>• Northumberland Energy Park (Northumberland).</li> </ul> <p>• By March 2021, our Enterprise Zone sites will become home to more than 400 jobs with North East LEP investment having been more than £15m, unlocking 34.7ha of remediated land and more than £12m of private sector investment.</p>
	<p>Develop a strategic project pipeline for the North East building on the work carried out during the development of the Local Industrial Strategy, the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan and LGF pipeline.</p>

**Secure additional investment in the North East including resources to support the Regional Recovery plan:**

Work with our partners and coordinate regional bid activity to secure funding for the region including the Building Growth Funds to support the regional economic recovery. Manage the Getting Building Fund and grant award £47m to projects across the North East by October 2020 for delivery up to March 2022.

Prepare for any future funding throughout the year by developing a project pipeline including making preparations for the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2021.

Make preparations to maximise draw upon ESIF national reserve fund from 2020 onwards across the North East LEP area.

Secure a commercial property fund model, by using the North East Investment Fund funding and commence a procurement of a fund manager by the end of March 2021.

**Increase access to finance for businesses to invest:**

Work with the North East Fund Limited to maximise its investment potential for North East SMEs.

Support North East Finance and North East Access to Finance to optimise use of legacy funding to support North East initiatives.

## Policy, strategy, evidence and analysis

2020/21 priority	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
<p><b>Continue to develop and integrate the suite of strategic documents in the region which take forward the ambitions of the Strategic Economic Plan:</b></p>	<p>Develop and implement the COVID-19 Recovery plan, working with regional partners through the North East COVID-19 Economic Response Group.</p> <p>Complete the discussions with government to understand the next steps for the North East Local Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>Work with the North East Transport Sub-Committee to develop the Regional Transport Plan to be launched in 2021.</p> <p>Collaborate with the North of Tyne and North East Combined Authorities to align and support their strategies and delivery plans.</p>
<p><b>Continue to improve and communicate relevant, high quality and focused analysis and research on the North East economy:</b></p>	<p>Provide timely, accurate and appropriate analysis of economic data to North East LEP staff, boards and partners to help inform decision-making.</p> <p>Increase access to good quality, relevant economic analysis on the North East through media commentary on key data releases, ongoing development of the North East Data Hub and publication of research and evidence.</p> <p>Communicate actively with government about the economic assets and circumstances of the North East, seeking to inform policy.</p> <p>Publish the "Our Economy 2020" report by June 2020.</p> <p>Assist North East LEP staff, boards and partners to undertake research and evaluation that will inform their decision-making.</p> <p>Strengthen the North East Economic Evidence Forum's role in ensuring evidence is informing the delivery of economic priorities of the region.</p> <p>Build collaborative relationships with North East universities to strengthen deployment of academic knowledge into regional policy and delivery.</p> <p>Increase access to good quality, relevant research on the North East economy, including evaluation of interventions.</p>
<p><b>Influence key public policy agendas impacting on our region through collaboration and the publication of evidence:</b></p>	<p>Continue collaborative working through the EU Exit Implementation Group to ensure positive outcomes as the UK completes the transitional period and new domestic policy is developed including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-ordination, monitoring and publishing data and intelligence about North East economic impacts on places and sectors</li> <li>• Influencing activity, including meeting and preparation of policy submissions in key areas including trade facilitation, immigration, science and research and funding</li> <li>• Supporting interventions through North East LEP programmes to support and advise businesses and people to adapt to new requirements</li> <li>• Development of specific projects which can address key issues such as a North East Free Zone proposal.</li> </ul>

**Influence key public policy agendas impacting on our region through collaboration and the publication of evidence**

Continue to work collaboratively with Northern Powerhouse partners as a leading participant in the NP11, and within wider structures of co-operation including by:

- Providing NP11 leadership on Innovation
- Active support for the Net Zero North and Trade and Investment workstreams
- Develop new work on evidence and strategy with NP11 Secretariat
- Co-ordination of North East engagement with the Northern Powerhouse working LA Economic Directors and North East Transport and Inward Investments Teams.

Develop the North East LEP's policy position with respect of the forthcoming devolution white paper.

Provide a policy response to the Planning White Paper and the National Infrastructure Commission work.

**Continue to develop strategic and developmental initiatives in the region in response to changes in the economic policy environment or as directed by the North East LEP Board**

Work with partners in the Tourism and Culture sectors to support recovery of the sectors and promote long term growth through the Tourism Sector Deal.

Develop an integrated approach to internationalisation across trade, investment, tourism and education as the UK leaves the EU and in response to the impact of COVID-19.

Develop a strategic approach for the key Enabling Sectors identified in the Strategic Economic Plan.

## Areas of strategic importance: Digital, Energy, Health and Life Sciences, and Advanced Manufacturing

2020/21 priority	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
<p><b>Continue to develop and implement the North East's Digital for Growth strategy launched in October 2019</b></p>	<p>Support and develop the work of the Digital Steering Group as the collaborative leadership structure overseeing delivery of the work programme.</p> <p>Continue to build and promote the regional evidence base around the digital sector through specific research projects and the communication of findings from all sources.</p> <p>Develop the implementation plan, including an active pipeline of analysis, communications and projects under the four Digital for Growth themes (Data, Workforce, Digital Collaboration and Enterprise and Infrastructure and Connectivity) including responding to opportunities and challenges derived from COVID-19 impacts and aligned with the recovery plan.</p> <p>Develop an agreed communications plan to promote Digital development in the region focused on evidence, delivery plans and implementation actions.</p>
<p><b>Continue to drive growth in the North East's Energy sector through the implementation of the Energy for Growth strategy launched in August 2019</b></p>	<p>Help ensure active governance and co-ordination for energy activity through the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offshore energy and subsea technology hub, joint work with the Energi Coast cluster, and other sector initiatives</li> <li>• Energy Catalyst partnership</li> <li>• North East, Yorkshire and Humber Local Energy Hub.</li> </ul> <p>Support growth of an active Offshore Energy and Subsea Technology Cluster. Promoting the findings of commissioned research, representing the region, and supporting inward investment and supply chain development activity working with Tees Valley Combined Authority &amp; other partners.</p> <p>Drive forward the work of the North East Energy Catalyst partnership, facilitating delivery of ambitious projects and programmes which showcase solutions to long term global energy challenges in the North East, and which stimulate collaborative innovation to solve short term challenges driving economic and social value.</p> <p>Accelerate delivery a range of local and regional energy schemes as part of the BEIS sponsored Local Energy Programme, taking opportunities resulting from North East engagement in the North East and Yorkshire Local Energy Hub, and other national and regional programmes including initiatives launched in response to COVID-19.</p> <p>Integrate Energy for Growth and its priorities with wider LEP strategies and delivery programmes, the work of our Combined and Local Authorities and wider business and academic communities.</p>
<p><b>Develop and launch a strategy for the Health and Life Sciences sector in the region</b></p>	<p>Work with the Health and Life Sciences Steering Group (HLSSG) to bring forward an evidence-based strategy for growth which sets out evidence of North East assets and opportunities and our agreed vision, objectives and ambitions.</p> <p>Drive forward the development of a pipeline of projects and interventions to support the delivery of the strategy, and where possible build on the momentum generated by Covid-19 in continuing to accelerate innovation in the NHS and pharmaceutical manufacturing.</p> <p>Through the Local Growth Fund, invest in the development of priority business cases for key propositions identified by the Steering Group and regional partners as part of this future pipeline of activities.</p>

<p><b>Cont.</b>  <b>Develop and launch a strategy for the Health and Life Sciences sector in the region</b></p>	<p>Respond to identified needs for a 'Patent Protection Scheme' to support the Life Sciences businesses in the region to survive the impact of Covid-19, thereby stabilising the strategically important business base and assure ongoing and future growth</p> <p>Position the North East to take advantage of the re-shoring opportunities for the pharmaceuticals sector created by Covid-19 and develop a 'North Shoring' proposal and business case to establish the North East as the lead location to catalyse this opportunity on behalf of the UK (which will strengthen the supply chain and provide opportunities for process industries and identify inward investment opportunities).</p>
<p><b>Advanced Manufacturing - Build support for our key manufacturing industries</b></p>	<p>Strengthen co-ordination between the North East LEP and businesses and leadership organisation to support growth and diversification of North East Advanced Manufacturing.</p> <p>Develop infrastructure, innovation and trade facilitation initiatives to support growth and develop in North East Advanced Manufacturing.</p> <p>Promote the Made Smarter programme, promoting industrial digitalisation, as part of a wider approach to Digital Adoption within the region.</p>

## Governance

2020/21 Activity	What we will deliver between April 2020 and March 2021
<b>Continue to implement the LEP Review recommendations:</b>	Update the Constitution to reflect the LEP Review changes by end of May 2020.
	Update the Assurance Framework to reflect our accountable body transfer by August 2020.
	Utilise communications plans to encourage engagement with LEP corporate documents increase downloads of the North East Strategic Economic Plan, Annual Review and Our Economy by 10%.
	The LEP's social media following on Twitter increased by 17.7% to 11,416 during 2019/20 and increased engagements by 40.8% to 26,086. We will increase both followers and engagements by a further 15%.
	Recruit a new Chair for the North East LEP Board transparently and in a way that follows due process and diligence by July 2020.
<b>Continue the evaluation of the Strategic Economic Plan delivery:</b>	Hold a public Annual General Meeting.
	Deliver the final year of the interim external evaluation of the Strategic Economic Plan with Steer-ED consultants.
	Collate and review performance data about existing projects, highlight specific best practice case studies and make recommendations to support improvement in programme management and project delivery.
<b>Implement North East LEP Accountable Body transfer from North East Combined Authority to North of Tyne Combined Authority:</b>	Set out an indicative framework and recommendations for data collation and measuring impact in light of future funding streams.
	Support embedding evaluative practice across the programmes and projects in preparation for the final evaluation of the Strategic Economic Plan to be commissioned at the end of the year for the period of 2021-24.
	Set up all practical arrangements under the new Service Level Agreements for 2020-21 by end of June 2020.
	Review and agree update LEP Scheme of Delegation by end of May 2020.
	Put in place all LEP / NTCA policies and procedures by end of June 2020 and ensure all relevant documentation is on the North East LEP website by end of July 2020.
	Agree SLA for 2021/22 by January 2021 to feed into 2022/23 budget preparation.

# North East

Local Enterprise Partnership



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