

THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC MEETING

North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board



Thursday 28 September 2017

17.00 – 19.00

Venue: The Word, National Centre for the Written Word, Market Place, South Shields NE33 1JF

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome from the Chair and apologies (5.00pm)**

- 2. International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) (5.05pm)**
Presentation by Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council

- 3. Minutes of the last Board Meeting held on Thursday 27 July 2017 (5.35pm)**
The Board will be asked to agree the Minutes.

- 4. Delivery Plan** – Paper attached (5.40pm)
Helen Golightly to present to the Board, followed by Hans Moller looking back over his two years as Innovation Director.

- 5. Funding Updates (6:10pm)**
 - (a) **Local Growth Fund Update and decisions** – paper attached
 - (b) **Enterprise Zone Update** – verbal update
 - (c) **Housing Infrastructure Fund Update** – paper attached
 - (d) **Cultural Regeneration Fund Update** – paper attached

Helen Golightly and Paul Woods to present to the Board.

Item 5 is confidential as it contains commercial information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation and is not for wider circulation.

- 6. North of Tyne Devolution** – Verbal update (6.50pm)

- 7. Any Other Business**

- 8. Date and Time of next meeting – Thursday 30th November from 5 - 7pm**

FOR INFORMATION - The NECA Leadership Board and Committee Papers can be found at: <http://www.northeastca.gov.uk/programme-scheduled-committee-meetings-municipal-year-201617>

North East Strategic Economic Plan

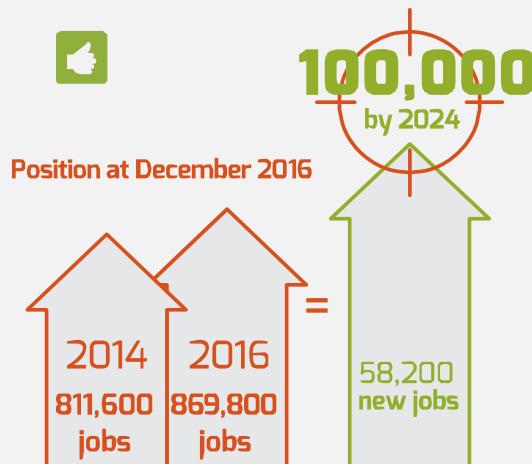
Programme Delivery update

September 2017



Performance against Strategic Economic Plan targets since 2014 (Last updated May 2017)

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



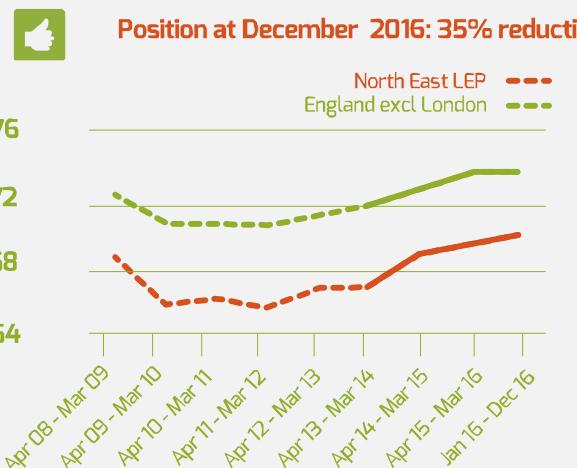
Target 60% of all jobs created from 2014 will be better jobs



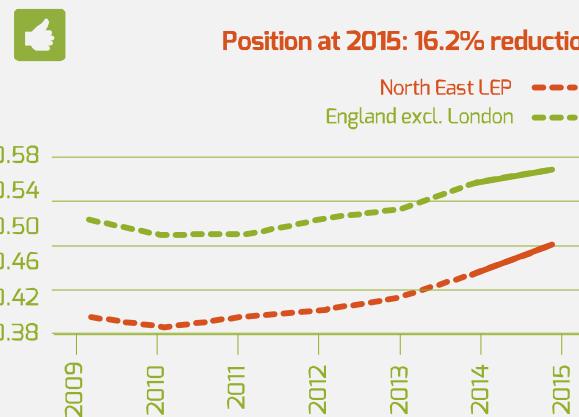
Reduce the gap in GVA per full time equivalent
Target 50% reduction in gap by 2024



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



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



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



Innovation Programme | Lead: Hans Moller

Goals

Our vision is for the North East to take its place as an innovation hot spot in Europe – an exemplar in ‘smart specialisation’ and open innovation systems and practice. Our aim will be to encourage business growth and social development by creating an environment in which new products and processes can improve performance or solve challenges, embed new technologies and promote cross-sector learning and development for the economy.

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Ecosystem development – provide business support, expertise, share knowledge and increase partnership learning				
Set up and deliver the Innovation Observatory project	Durham University was awarded the Innovation Observatory project and a MoU developed. Funding challenges have delayed the progress; however Durham has now appointed a Phd student to support the project which is being actively supported by the other universities. Work on developing the Innovation Dashboard and understanding the innovation ecosystem in the North East has continued with an update due to the Innovation Board in September 2017.	Long-term funding is still to be confirmed although university lead is progressing. Information developed is not shared or not shared in a way which meets business need.	Hans Moller with Durham Uni	A
Set up a programme to support the development of a stronger network of incubators and innovation hubs	The Super-Network programme is running. The project is ERDF funded and aims to bring together different networks. An application to extend this has been submitted and has been successful at first stage. The full Local Growth Fund application to support incubator development has been submitted for final approval.	Funding is not secured after the initial 3 year funding period for the Super Network although an application has been submitted. SuperNetwork is not adequately embedded in other activities.	Hans Moller	A
Communicate the proof of concept funding landscape to business	Venturefest, Finance Camp and Challenges have been successfully delivered in 2016/17. Planning is underway for the 2017/18 activities. North East Fund proposals include funds to support innovative and early stage businesses. LEP is undertaking discussions with fund managers for additional engagement.	The funds fail to deliver against a shared understanding of innovation projects. Project pipeline is not strong enough to support the level of investment available.	Hans Moller	G
Established North East Innovation Leadership	The refresh to the LEP Innovation Board, establishing Programme Delivery Board and Strategic Steering Group has now been implemented with the first meeting of the Delivery Board on the 21 st September. New members for the Digital and Health and Lifescience Sectors are being sought to complete the Board membership.	Innovation Leadership is not recognised or understood by partners- a particular risk of this is presented during the changeover in Innovation Director post Lack of understanding of North East strengths results in poor/ not strategic project development.	Hans Moller	G
Secure support for relevant national Science and Innovation Audits	The North East LEP has supporting the successful submission of Science and Innovation audits for the Bio-economy in the North and Subsea and Offshore. The Round 3 application has been revised in light of Government feedback and resubmitted to a short deadline. The outcome if this is expected in autumn 2017.	Key areas of North East strengths are not covered in other relevant national Science and Innovation Audits.	Hans Moller	G

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Build a strong collaborative relationship with InnovateUK, UK Research and Innovation and across the Catapult Network	The relationship with Innovate UK has continued to strengthen following a meeting with Ruth McKernan (Chief Executive) and appointment of Dean Cook (Regional Manager) to the Innovation Board. The national cross-catapult initiative has not been successful but the local cross-catapult work continues and LEP relations with Innovate UK remain strong.	Relationship is not maintained with key investment opportunities missed or focused on other areas of the country.	Hans Moller	G
Innovation Infrastructure – Projects and Programmes for Innovation				
Support the delivery of key innovation projects as set out in the SEP	LGF innovation projects are progressing and reported separately to the Board. A number of ERDF Innovation Projects have formally launched or moved to the next stage of the application process. The proposal for LGF to support project development has been submitted and positively received.	Projects are delivered without meeting the Innovation Programme strategic objectives.	Hans Moller	G
Establish at least one test bed facility	The LEP has supported the 5G test bed development project using LGF. This has been used to establish a project team with a lead and support officer appointed and due to start in September/October 2017 respectively.	Government do not back this.	Hans Moller	G
Set out long term North East Innovation Infrastructure needs	This work is being scoped.		Hans Moller	G
Smart Specialisation – Focus on four key sectors				
Produce four Smart Specialisation strategies	The Digital/Data and Health and Life Science strategies have been completed. The appointment of a lead for Health and Life science has been made to lead this area of work. The Subsea and Offshore working group has been re-established to take this forward aligned with the Science and Innovation Audit work. The parameters for a new strategy are to be agreed at the meeting in September. Following discussions with a range of local partners the LEP will establish a new advanced manufacturing working group in autumn to lead the work.	All strategies are not completed or do not bring together the right sector lead partners.	Hans Moller	A
Establish the Data for Growth project	The Data for Growth report was agreed at the December Innovation Board meeting. Delivery is embedded in the 2017/18 work programme with key milestones available with proposals to develop the key direction in autumn.	Lack of clear lead partnership to deliver against Data for Growth delays progress.	Hans Moller	A
Establish a challenge approach for the Health Quest North East project	The Health Quest North East Project has been developed as a proposal due to the lack of funding available it has been agreed to approach the aspiration through alternative approaches. It has been included within a wider ERDF application and alternative approaches which would achieve a similar aim have been developed to overcome the lack of funding available for the established model.	Funding for project is not secured.	Hans Moller	R

Business Growth Programme | Lead: Colin Bell

Goals

By 2024, our business growth programme will have made a significant impact on our employment and business density targets. We will do this by:

- Increasing the number of Scale Up businesses in the North East LEP area by 50%, creating an 6,000 additional jobs
- Securing growth in inward investment averaging 4,000 new jobs each year.

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Scale Up North East – more high growth businesses will help us to secure economic resilience and increase private sector employment				
Develop the Scale Up North East programme to include the four elements below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have submitted our Scaleup Plan for BEIS which will help in developing the Business Case for continued funding for Growth Hubs. • We continue to represent LEPs and Growth Hubs nationally on the Scaleup Taskforce chaired by Margot James MP. • LGF has now been secured by RTC North Ltd. • ERDF decision expected early November 2017. • Recruitment for a Programme Director and Scaleup Partners has commenced. • Mobilisation activity is happening at pace. Initial priorities include recruitment and communications planning. 	Potential delay to the programme beyond January 2018 due to ERDF decision-making processes outside of the LEP's control.	Colin Bell	G
(1) Inspire leaders by encouraging and facilitating peer mentoring and introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth through Mentoring has made 14 matches in year with a current pipeline of 10. • Although we are extremely happy with the quality of mentors and mentees we are behind the curve on reaching our target of 50 matched during 17/18. • Our pool of mentors has grown to 15 with active conversations taking place with another 7 potential mentors. Initial feedback is very encouraging with a high satisfaction score. • In June we held our first mentors workshop, facilitated by Dr Amy Stabler of Northumbria University. • In July, Northumbria University commence a research project to explore the processes by which mentoring relationships support mentees' leadership development. 	Attracting quality mentors and recruiting suitable mentees at the rate required to hit our target of 50 matched 17/18	Colin Bell	A

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Manufacturing Growth Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with contractual arrangements, this programme has now closed. Thirty seven companies have benefitted from the programme and 24 interventions are complete. Of the completed interventions we forecast that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.7 new jobs will be created per business Average turnover will increase by £955k per business GVA will increase by £317k per business An independent evaluation is being commissioned. The evaluator will report to the Business Growth Board as part of the evaluation contract. 	<p>Original intended output of 'number of companies supported' has not attained although impacts have been exceeded with respect to job creation and additional GVA forecasts.</p> <p>Evaluation contract will be kept tightly on track in order to inform development and mobilisation of the Scaleup North East programme.</p>	Colin Bell	G
Captured Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered by Newcastle University, The 'Captured Programme' continues to support micro and small business owner/managers. 47 small businesses are involved to date through six cohorts, four of which are complete with two still active. Two additional cohorts are scheduled for later this year. 	Failure to bring enough companies onto the programme, both micro/small businesses and managers from large businesses.	Colin Bell	G
The Experience Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Experience Bank will match businesses with Non-Executive Directors (NEDs). The service will go live 27th September, led by The Experience Bank. The programme will integrate with the Growth Hub Scaleup programme. An advisory board has been identified and is tentatively in place 	<p>Attracting high quality Non-Executive Directors.</p> <p>Identifying and engaging with businesses looking for a NED.</p> <p>Delays to The North East Fund, could impact demand.</p>	Colin Bell	A
(2) Work to maximise Access to Finance in the North East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project Team and Project Board have proceeded to the point where the final contractual documents require signature from EIB. President of the EIB Werner Hoyer has confirmed the Bank's desire to press on with a range of UK projects including The North East Fund. Currently EIB officials are in discussion with HMT to formalise the various assurances given by Chancellor Philip Hammond in the aftermath of the Referendum in June 2016 and more recently in his Mansion House speech, when he said that "I am engaged with the EIB and will provide the assurances it needs to sustain the flow of EIB and EIF funding to UK businesses and projects". Therefore we remain confident that progress in securing the EIB investment in the North East Fund will be achieved. 	Brexit and General Election could impact on delivery timescale of North East Fund.	Colin Bell	A

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
(3) Encourage the adoption of digital technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist digital technology support is being incorporated into the Scaleup North East programme. The Scaleup North East programme is now in mobilisation phase. See Scaleup North East above. John Barnett is the Adoption of Digital Technology Champion on Business Growth Board. 	Challenges in recruiting high profile business leaders to engage in scaleup activity – risk to be incorporated into Scaleup North East programme management.	Colin Bell	G
(4) Support business growth focused on the smart specialisation areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scaleup Partners being recruited to provide coverage across areas of smart specialisation. Advanced manufacturing strategy is in progress. Research is being commissioned to support the development of an Automotive Strategy which will provide focus for how the North East can support national Industrial Strategy. 	The extent to which recommendations are put forward and incorporated into the Scaleup North East programme depends on the success of these sector groups.	Colin Bell	G
Continuously improve the North East Growth Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Growth Hub digital platform continues to exceed targets generating 3,202 referrals to provider websites in the year to date. Work is underway to develop the Growth Hubs scaleup customer journey which will see the enhanced use of content and lead generation technology. Content is not having the desired impact. A content strategy review has commenced. Content will be critical to engaging with scaleup companies. 	<p>Growth Hub doesn't effectively generate leads.</p> <p>Apathetic providers are unaware of the level of leads the growth hub is providing them with.</p> <p>Uncertainty regarding the long-term funding position.</p>	Colin Bell	G
North East Growth Hub – A single access point for business information, advice and financial support				
Encourage the Business Support Providers' Network to collaborate and offer seamless support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chaired by Paul McEldon, the last network meeting took place 25th July with positive engagement of providers on the theme of the impact of Brexit on the business growth ecosystem. See Growth Hub Content below. We are deepening this engagement through establishing a Business Growth Board led working group (chair Paul McEldon) to develop recommendations on what the future funding and business support ecosystem should look like. This work will inform our existing discussions with BEIS and DCLG to develop a forward funding mechanism. 	Lack of engagement of providers impacts on content and referrals.	Colin Bell	A

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status																				
Provide simplified access to business support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The user journey through the growth hub is lean, the database comprehensive and this is reflected in the level of performance expressed above. Provision of business support in the North East is heavily reliant on EU funding. Therefore, we must start to develop plans as to what the landscape will look like post-Brexit. Work continues to strengthen key areas of growth hub content notably export, with other areas of content are in development (including export and business resilience). BEIS now require Growth Hubs to deliver impact (rather than just signposting) and have specified that Growth Hubs target scaleup businesses (whilst still providing a service to all). We are therefore continuing to work closely with RTC North Ltd and partners to deliver our scaleup plan. Our Growth Hub reporting reflects our high, medium and low intensity interactions with businesses in the North East and the number of scale up businesses engaged. The last provider network meeting was held in collaboration with the FSB (national policy team) and will be used to inform work to review the business support landscape, to be led by Paul McElidon following Business Growth Board on 12th September. The meeting marked the start of our engagement with the provider network to ascertain the potential impacts to business given that the business support provider network is heavily reliant on EU funding. We have significant exposure to EU funding in the North East LEP area with 16 business growth projects currently operation under Priority Axis 3 (Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs) and an additional 12 business growth projects currently operating under innovation and low carbon funds. We are engaged with BEIS and DCLG to develop a forward funding mechanism. These discussions have already begun through the Scaleup Taskforce and Entrepreneurial Review. With regards to EU funding available through ERDF Priority Axis 3 (Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs), the financial position is as follows: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>£m Northumberland/T&W</th><th>£m Durham</th><th>Total</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>65.8</td><td>34.5</td><td>100.3</td></tr> <tr> <td>£ remaining</td><td>4.1</td><td>10.3</td><td>14.4</td></tr> <tr> <td>% remaining</td><td>6%</td><td>30%</td><td>14%</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		£m Northumberland/T&W	£m Durham	Total	Total	65.8	34.5	100.3	£ remaining	4.1	10.3	14.4	% remaining	6%	30%	14%					<p>Post-Brexit, the demise of EU funding will impact on business support provider services given the current reliance on public subsidy for provision.</p> <p>Decision making delays for ERDF is beyond the LEP's control.</p> <p>Lack of engagement of partners and individuals to act as ambassadors for Scaleup North East.</p> <p>The new proposed Shared Prosperity Fund fails to address business support issues.</p> <p>The new proposed Shared Prosperity Fund fails to address local and regional business growth challenges.</p>	Colin Bell	A
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SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Strengthening flows of inward investment – driving growth and employment				
INEE to build the strength, profile and coherence of the North East's inward investment offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2016/17 financial year 84 new inward investments were secured leading to the creation of 6,124 new jobs over the next three years, along with many thousands safeguarded. The INEE Team is developing a new set of marketing collateral which will be used to promote the North East as an investment location to companies in the five key target sectors and a number of significant sub sectors. NECA is responsible for facilitating an increased programme of account management of foreign direct investors located in the North East, delivered by Local Authority partners and funded through the Department of International Trade (DIT). 	<p>There are three main risks associated with all elements of the inward investment programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Brexit on ability to attract new FDI We no longer have access to financial incentives whereas key competitors do (Sheffield £27m pot for inward investors + same for indigenous. Leeds £13m, Tees Valley £10m, Liverpool £30m). Election and impact on Northern Powerhouse/DIT 	Guy Currey	G
Develop strategic approaches to opportunities, working with key areas of specialism to strengthen supply chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive lead generation work began in March 2017. This work is focusing on generating new investment leads primarily from companies based in London and SE England (but with an additional focus on opportunities in Ireland) in the digital sector as well as financial, professional and business services sector. To date the contract has provided some good leads which the INEE Team is following up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election and impact on Northern Powerhouse/DIT 	Guy Currey	G
Building our trade flows – increase export activity				
Stimulate greater awareness and demand for export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pioneered by Ammar Mirza, we are developing a pilot project to test how the North East can drive trade through the development of a Civic and Commercial relationship with other parts of the world. This comprises work with the Federation of Asian Business (FAB), Northern Powerhouse partners, NEPIC and the Digital Cluster and will focus on the Indian state of Karnataka. A market opportunity report is being developed via FAB and the first visit is planned for November. A return visit from India will coincide with the Great Exhibition of the North. 	Failure of Karnataka agreement to come forward.	Colin Bell	G
Provide an export business support offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced Growth Hub content pages are in development in liaison with Exporting is GREAT partners and Department for International Trade (DIT). Content is due to be finalised in September since the approach was approved by partners in June. DIT has been invited to join the Business Growth Board. The ERDF-funded export support programme managed delivered by North East World Wide continues to perform well. The new content will go live at the end of September 2017. Further partnership work continues to engage DIT with local partners and drive referrals to DIT. 	<p>Growth Hub content is delayed due to limited capacity of Exporting is GREAT partners.</p> <p>DIT activity is constrained by budget restrictions. This may impact on the content coming forward to the LEP.</p>	Colin Bell	A

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Early response and managing change – rapid response to economic shocks				
Develop a response plan with partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Business Growth Board future ecosystem group will consider what support is required to support businesses manage the impacts of Brexit. Connections have been made with the Environment Agency and local authority resilience officers to develop a partnership to support business resilience and continuity management. This partnership is preparing content for the growth hub. The LEP continues to monitor current planned closures, particularly Coty (Northumberland) and Walkers (County Durham). In both cases employee engagement is believed to be strong and North East supply chain risk minimal. A procedure is now in place internally to ensure rapid response to Government-led initiatives and funding in response to flooding or other major shocks. 	<p>Effective coordination between partners is essential.</p> <p>New projects to be funded under ERDF fail to address potential impacts to supporting business post-Brexit.</p>	Colin Bell	G

Skills Programme | Lead: Michelle Rainbow

Goals

Our vision for 2024:

- Providers and education establishments provide a mix of world class academic, technical and professional education, apprenticeships and higher level apprenticeships in all of the growing areas of our economy, ensuring that those entering the labour market have the right skills to thrive
- That skills supply underpins business growth and talent is retained in the region
- Every young person can identify routes into work, supported through experience and exposure to the world of work and inspiration. We want them to understand that life and work experiences, alongside career and formal qualifications, are incredibly valuable
- A reduction in inactivity levels in our 50+ workforce, as skills investment enables older workers to remain in work.

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
North East Ambition - A programme of activity centred around the Good Career Guidance benchmarks.				
Support secondary schools and colleges who wish to adopt the benchmarks	<p>Schools and colleges are achieving the Benchmarks. Widely acknowledged as transformational activity, DfE expected to announce new careers strategy, including the career benchmarks in Autumn 2017.</p> <p>Good Career guidance is being introduced as part of the Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>Regionally the work of the pilot has been scaled up to become North East Ambition and this was launched over the summer to start in September 2017. In line with this the secondment and funding for the facilitator, has been secured until end March 2019.</p> <p>A follow-up event is scheduled for late October and the careers lead from every secondary school and college will be invited. This event is the first of a regional, termly career leaders network. Working groups continue for SEND, Destinations and LMI. A new working group focussing on colleges and the technical reforms met for the first time in July and will meet again in October.</p> <p>Our work has attracted international attention. On 27th September we will host a visit from the Fundacion Bertelsmann (Spain) who are interested to see how a region has been able to significantly impact national policy and achieve position change.</p>	<p>Changes in government personnel and policy may mean national roll-out is delayed. This does not materially affect the North East.</p>	Michelle Rainbow	G
Ensure all secondary schools have access to Enterprise Advisers	<p>110 Enterprise Advisers recruited at Tier 1 and Tier 2. Recruitment campaign continues to target under-represented sectors but very good take up recently from digital and professional services sectors</p> <p>Target of 70 matched schools with EA's achieved in July 2017 and training and networking events for new Enterprise Advisors will take place throughout September. The strategy we adopted to ensure carefully matching has been successful, not only are we leading the way nationally now in terms of successful matches made between Enterprise Advisors and schools / colleges but they are sustained matches.</p>	<p>Changes in government and policy may mean a change to the funded element of the programme</p>	Michelle Rainbow	G

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Develop and deliver the Pupil Mentoring programme	<p>Mentoring is particularly effective where students need extra support and evidence demonstrates that where mentors have been able to work with young people GCSE results improve, NEET figures improve and student behaviour and attendance improves. For schools to achieve a benchmark each and every student has to be engaged. Mentoring programmes are available to support schools with this. RTC North and Young Enterprise are co-ordinating their delivery activities across the region with input from local authorities, EAs and other support organisations.</p> <p>The ChangeNow programme working specifically with SEND students is now underway partnering with Leonard Cheshire Disability organisation to ensure that 'each and every' student has the opportunity for meaningful encounters of employment and work experience.</p>	The foundations are now in place for a further roll-out in Autumn 2017. Schools signed up and full delivery will take place from the start of the Autumn term.	Michelle Rainbow	G
Develop and roll out a pilot Primary Schools Benchmark programme	<p>Some funding has been sourced. Seeking further funding to facilitate delivery of the pilot. On-going discussions with Department for Education / Career & Enterprise Company and others. Meetings are scheduled throughout the summer with various education foundations, trusts and charities to seek a primary funder.</p>	A lack of funding may mean the benchmarks do not commence in September 2017	Michelle Rainbow	A

Excelling in technical and professional education - Working with providers, education establishments and businesses to develop the capacity and facilities to provide world-class academic, technical and professional education.

Encourage more and higher level apprenticeships with a key sector focus	<p>Apprenticeship Growth Partnership meetings continue and the focus of the AGP is :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To assess the impact of changes to the delivery of apprenticeships on employers - To promote Higher and Degree level apprenticeships with employers - To promote the benefits of apprenticeships to employers <p>The LEP is supporting the national campaign to raise awareness and promote apprenticeships to employers, young people, schools and parents.</p> <p>Collective concerns have been raised the AGP regarding the development of new standards and associated issues. A number of businesses and sector organisations are in dialogue with the Institute of Apprenticeships regarding specific issues. A priority for the LEP is to monitor the KPIs regarding uptake of apprenticeships, particularly in key sectors against national performance.</p> <p>The LEP has developed a web page within the Growth Hub offering links to support, events and advice to businesses wishing to take on an apprentices as well as guidance regarding the apprenticeship reforms.</p>	Apprenticeship reforms may create some uncertainty and therefore apprenticeship numbers may slow. However public sector targets and levy spend may mitigate this decrease in overall numbers.	Michelle Rainbow	G
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SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Promote higher skills	<p>Sector strategies being developed with key sector groups, including smart specialisation and enabling sectors. Working in partnership with sector groups including health and life sciences, digital, advanced manufacturing and construction to date.</p> <p>Technical Qualifications (T-Levels). The proposed implementation of the recommendations from the Sainsbury Review is hoped to bring a step change to the provision and quality of technical education. The plan is that 15 new T-level course will replace the 13,000 qualifications currently offered. The design of the routes will be closely aligned with apprenticeships so students can progress on to higher or degree apprenticeships.</p> <p>Gatsby Foundation will be working with the LEP regarding a routes-ready pilot which we are anticipating will go live early in 2018. We are proposing, in collaboration with Gatsby, to commission a deep dive review into the technical education sector, defined as levels 3-5 that provides education and training for technician occupations" in the North East LEP region; specifically focussing on the capacity of the sector to deliver relevant vocational and technical skills for the future employment base in the area.</p> <p>The North East LEP region has growing demand for technician skills; both in terms of replacement and newly created jobs, and occupations in this sector also aligns with some of the areas of opportunities that have identified as priority growth areas for the region. While there is some excellent quality provision of technical education in the region, there is work to be done to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) appropriate technical education pathways are available reflecting the evolving labour market for technician level skills, and; (ii) The review will provide intelligence to help the sector make investment decisions regarding infrastructure to deliver this provision (i.e. facilities and teaching staff). 		Michelle Rainbow	G
Develop an approach to spousal support	This is part of an overall strategy for inward investment and development is on-going and initial discussions with NGI have been positive.		Michelle Rainbow	G
Higher Education - Working in partnership with our four universities, colleges and employers to support economic growth and to ensure we have job ready graduates with the skills needed and high quality opportunities for them.				
Support universities spin-outs and start ups	Work is currently underway to evidence how many of the regions start -up businesses are university spin-outs or graduate start-ups, and the type of skills support these businesses require either from universities or external organisations.		Michelle Rainbow	G

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Support universities to retain graduate talent in the North East	<p>Working with sector organisations to articulate demand for graduate level skills and working with universities to consider future provision and opportunities.</p> <p>Communications campaign being developed to encourage graduate retention in the region with case studies profiling opportunities in key sectors.</p> <p>Discussions underway with Universities UK regarding the career benchmarks and university career guidance. Proposal for a pilot / joint working submitted and we continue to work with Universities UK to refine an approach. A meeting is scheduled in early October with representatives of the four universities in the North East LEP area to explore this further.</p>		Michelle Rainbow	G
Support universities to develop knowledge transfer partnerships	Working with the Business Growth and Innovation Programmes to understand how the universities and their R & D can support economic growth and benefit businesses and wider communities in the North East.		Michelle Rainbow	G
Education Challenge - To reduce the gap between our best and lowest performing schools and to target that all schools in the North East achieve 'good' or 'outstanding' OFSTED rating.				
Develop and deliver an Education Challenge programme	<p>Governance</p> <p>Communications campaign planned for Autumn 2017 term to raise the profile and showcase case studies of good practice in school governance.</p> <p>Working in partnership with Academy Ambassadors to recruit business leaders to join the boards of Academies. Establishing a strong board of directors for every academy trust is central to ensuring the North East has strong trusts able to deliver good quality education for our young people.</p> <p>The LEP will continue to engage DfE with regard to the announcement of the 75million Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund, part of which includes National Professional Qualifications for school leaders</p> <p>Placement opportunities for teachers and lecturers - Over 2016/17 a number of pilot placements for teachers (STEM) were sourced in businesses throughout the region. Learning / best practice from this pilot is being shared and further funding is being considered.</p> <p>Next Generation Learning UK</p> <p>As part of the Education Challenge we have been researching international examples of good practice in raising attainment in schools through high quality business engagement in education.</p> <p>The Academies of Nashville approach has proven to be one of the most impactful models globally with 12 of the lowest performing schools in the US being transformed into some of the highest performing in terms of attainment and attendance. The model places regional / economic needs and employer engagement at the heart of the improvement process. The model has been adapted successfully to 25 states in the US.</p> <p>The North East LEP has been selected to partner with Edge Foundation and Ford Next Generation to lead and deliver the first international translation of this model.</p> <p>We will work with three schools and business partners in the region to test elements of this successful model and adapt it for the English education system. A delegation from the North East will be funded to visit Nashville in late September to begin this work, which will support the definition and delivery of the North East Education Challenge.</p>	<p>Once the proposition is fully developed we will further engage with potential funders and start the recruitment of prospective school governors.</p> <p>Through the LEP Network we are part of a national working party with DfE</p> <p>We are looking to expand the opportunities to a wider cohort and are currently considering funding methods to do this.</p>	Michelle Rainbow	G

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
	50+ Workforce – retrain, regain, retain - To reduce inactivity levels in our older population by helping to develop their skills and make in-work transitions as the labour market changes.			
Develop a Fuller Working Lives (FWL) strategy	We have considered the FWL report from DWP, the Industrial Strategy and IPPR's FWL recommendations for the North East and have commenced the development of a North East Fuller Working Lives Strategy.		Michelle Rainbow	G
Understand and provide focus on work force skills for the older workforce to maintain their position within the labour market as skills' needs change.	<p>We wish to understand better the barriers, opportunities, unconscious bias and other factors with employers and to do so we have an event planned for September 2017 with HR Directors / CIPD members to raise and discuss the challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>We will be conducting a survey of our network early in the summer to canvas the opinions of a wider employer audience and use the findings of that survey to inform the discussion and debate during the September event. CIPD, Sage and Newcastle University have offered to host the event.</p> <p>Good Progress is being made against these objectives, the above event is titled 'Unlocking the value of your Older Workforce' – in partnership with CIPD NE branch. The event will be supported by the DWP's lead Economic Advisor for Fuller Working Lives and by Aviva, the government's 'independent business champion'.</p> <p>The event will launch the conversation with our business community regarding the key themes of retain, retrain and regain.</p> <p>In October we launch a small pilot in partnership with DWP and the National Careers Service. The pilot will test if LEPs acting as a broker organization between employers and the National Careers Service can improve the take up of the NCS offer for older workers (aged 50 and over). The pilot will run for a period of six months initially.</p> <p>Finally we plan to refresh the membership of the task and finish group to reflect more fully business engagement, particularly those demonstrating evidence of good practice.</p>		Michelle Rainbow	G

Employability and inclusion | Lead: Michelle Rainbow

Goals

Strengthening our employment rate is key to our economic resilience. Ensuring local people are prepared and fit for work and have access to good quality employment opportunities will improve their lives and ensure that businesses can recruit and retain the people they need in a changing labour market

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Fit and well for work - support people with health conditions to find and maintain employment				
Support primary care professionals in helping people access support to get them back into work	<p>Health and Wealth – Closing the Gap in the North East. The report has been produced and shared with partners with 10 recommendations clearly articulated to bring about transformational change.</p> <p>An ESF call is expected to be launched week beginning 11th September to support up-skilling and re-skilling of employees working in the Health and Social Care sector. The North east LEP will hold an event to promote the launch (date tbc).</p>	Partners do not embrace and take forward	7 LA Chief Executives Michelle Rainbow	G
Use initiatives to provide more joined up support for individuals with moderate mental health issues return to work.	The Mental Health Trailblazer is piloting integration of employment and mental health services. The programme targets support to long-term unemployed residents with depression and anxiety acting as barriers to work. By the end of July 2017, the programme had a total of 130 participants, 18 participants to date have moved into employment. Due to the late start of the project an extension is being sought from DWP to allow delivery to continue to March 2019. If approved, this would ensure a full two years of delivery and provide the optimum opportunity of achieving the performance projection of 1500 participants.	The delays from DWP in allowing the programme to launch is still having an impact on underspend and performance, but should be corrected by project variance and extension.	Northumberland County Council	G
Work with employers to improve take up of the Better Health at Work Award Scheme.	Development of project in initial stages. A review of alternative provision / awards is being undertaken to avoid duplication. The Programme Leader for BHAWA, based at the TUC is part of the Fuller Working Lives Task & Finish Group and will be delivering a seminar about BHAWA and how employers can access it. Referral to the award will be o-going as a suggested means that employers can hope to 'retain' holder workers.		Michelle Rainbow	G
Continue to address the importance of in work progression and job equality	<p>A number of ESF calls have been launched by DWP which focus on up-skilling and re-skilling those in work to aid job progression – with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups. The calls are focussed in the following areas:</p> <p>Digital Skills – £20m ESF call Health & Social Care Skills - £5m ESF call North East Ambition - £3m framework call + £3m skills development ESF call</p> <p>The North East LEP held two events (14th August and 5th September) to promote the calls. These were very well attended and feedback very positive. Click here for access to papers for the event.</p>	Poor response to the calls due to restrictions placed on ESF applicants. E.g.: the requirement to have all match funding confirmed at full application stage which restricts the ability to source private match during the course of the project delivery.	Michelle Rainbow	G

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Youth Employment - develop pathways for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people to help them move into education, training and employment				
Create and scale up initiatives that adopt innovative and agile approaches to meeting local needs	<p>Generation North East has been operational since July 2014 and the programme has supported 3996 young people, of which 1775 have moved into employment to date, 1030 of those gaining employment have now sustained employment for 6 months or more.</p> <p>Delivery of Generation NE now covers the full North East LEP /NECA geography and has been positively received by JCP. Support includes digital support and participants have the opportunity to access mock interviews via Skype and support to create CVs and complete application forms.</p>	Application for any suitable future calls for projects through ESF will be considered as a means to extend the programme.	Michelle Rainbow	G
Deliver the Durham Works project	Project is progressing to schedule and is funded by ESF and the Youth Employment Initiative (both are European funded programmes). Future funding streams post 2018+ to support those aged 15-24 is being explored for County Durham. As at end June 2017, there were 2485 verified participants which is on profile for the overall project.	Risk of not securing future ESF funding	Durham County Council	G
Ensure young people have the access to support and skills required to progress employment.	<p>Newcastle College Group secured funding from ESFA / ESF for this project. The project commenced delivery in late 2016 and runs to July 2018 with the aim of supporting 1300 young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. There are particular concerns regarding complementarity of service delivery against the Durham Works Youth Employment Initiative in Durham area which is being carefully monitored by the ESFA and local partners.</p> <p>The LEP held a Provider Network meeting on 23rd May to help the 11 ESFA funded employment providers collaborate and work together to provide the best service and employment outcomes for its clients, including young people. Local partners offered to support the group by socialising and promoting their offer, subject to that their collective offer is clear and coherent to businesses, clients and referral agencies. We are awaiting their response to this request. Next meeting has been moved back to later in September due to delays in getting the cohesive offer from providers to inform the meeting.</p> <p>Work is on-going to secure future funding for employment services for young people</p>	<p>Collaboration across service providers is voluntary. The service contracts awarded by ESFA and others have targets which must be achieved to draw down funding; making it challenging to collaborate and cross-refer clients to more appropriate services.</p> <p>Uncertainty about future funding, in particular ESF funding</p>	Michelle Rainbow	A
50+ workforce retrain, regain, retain - Reduce inactivity levels in our 50+ workforce, by reconnecting older people to work				
Develop and implement a 50+ workforce strategy in partnership with key stakeholders.	Development of project in initial stages. As described in the Skills section of this report, the challenge is Retain, Regain and Retrain. The first stage, Retain, will involve working with employers to 'retain' their existing older workforce. Regain – a pilot will commence with the National Careers Services and DWP in Autumn 2017 Retrain – a number of the ESF projects have older clients as a focus in their provision.		Michelle Rainbow	G

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Active inclusion – increasing levels of economic activity in our economy for those individuals with multiple barriers to employment, which are furthest from the labour market.				
Build capacity in the voluntary and social enterprise sectors to support people who are excluded from work.	<p>Gateshead Council has been awarded ESF / ESFA funding £2million to support third sector organisations who will work with 1000 unemployed learners. This project is performing extremely well and has been well received by the voluntary and community sector. The Council have asked ESFA to extend their project, to post July 2018 but this is not yet confirmed.</p> <p>A further £19 million worth of contracts have been issued by Big Lottery's Building Better Opportunities programme to support those furthest away from the labour market. This will support 4500 individuals on pathways to employment.</p> <p>As above, the leads for these contracts form part of the Provider Network Group and as such are working toward producing a guide that is clear and coherent to businesses, clients and referral agencies which will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	Securing additional ESF/Big Lottery funding currently being considered at a national level. No date has been given for a decision as yet.	Michelle Rainbow	A
Provide targeted support to those with protected characteristics.	An ESF call is expected to launch week beginning 11 th September which has a focus on supporting those with protected characteristics who are furthest away from the labour market.		Michelle Rainbow	G
Seek to address long term imbalance within the work place and key sectors that relate to gender, discrimination and disadvantage.	Development of project in initial stages.		Michelle Rainbow	A
Adopt a community-led local development approach within our communities suffering from significant deprivation.	Projects are currently at Funding Agreement stage and are ready to go live soon.	Projects are progressing as planned.	7 Local Authorities Chief Executives	G

Economic assets and infrastructure Programme | Lead: Helen Golightly

Goal

We must supply the right land and develop our critical infrastructure and sites to support the growth of our industrial strengths and clusters, accommodate the changing structure of the economy, foster innovation and deliver the housing required for our changing population.

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Develop Local Plans which support North East economic ambitions				
Develop 7 local authority statutory Local Plans	<p>Local Authorities are progressing through the stages of plan preparation. Local authorities have a duty to cooperate and the seven local authorities have all signed an MOU of cooperation.</p> <p>Local Plans adopted to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle and Gateshead joint core strategy adopted • North Tyneside local plan adopted July 2017 <p>Local Plans in development are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham – the local plan process was paused to assess the implications of the Housing White paper, the next stage is to consult on preferred options • Sunderland and South Tyneside are working through the plan preparation process • At its Council meeting on 5 July 2017, Northumberland County Council agreed to formally withdraw the Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy from the independent examination process. 		7 LA Chief Executives	A
Securing investment – to deliver strategic employment and housing sites				
Develop a robust pipeline of sites for business development and housing investment	<p>The initial sites' local authorities pipeline is in place. It needs to be reviewed and updated by Local Authorities and the HCA ready for investment.</p> <p>The LEP will embed the local authorities' pipeline into a North East strategic investment project pipeline to utilise for future funding and investment opportunities.</p>		7 LA Economic Directors Helen Golightly	G
Secure businesses on the phase one and phase two Enterprise Zone (EZ) sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on round 1 EZ sites is progressing. • Round 2 sites were launched in April 2017 except the IAMP which is 2018. • The EZ financial modelling for rounds 1 and 2 has been updated and has been externally tested by Cushman and Wakefield, this has resulted in greater consistency in the assumptions about business rateable values; a more realistic approach to the assumptions about the pace of additional income from new development; and has enabled income figures to be verified. Cushman and Wakefield have also confirmed a broadly positive picture for the market for the types of properties proposed to be built on the Enterprise Zone sites in the North East. • A revised investment model using business rate income has been developed to inform local agreements. 		Helen Golightly	G

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Collaborative development of spatial planning framework for the North East, supporting the SEP				
Publish a North East Development Framework	The 7 Local Authorities have produced a brief for the spatial planning framework and a scoping report was discussed at the Economic Directors Group on the 15 th September. Further work will continue through the LA7 Housing and Planning group on updating the relevant Duty to Cooperate documents.		7 LA Chief Executives	G
Explore a collaborative approach to strategic mitigation to deliver the mitigation hierarchy set out the National Planning Policy Framework	The LA7 Housing and Planning group are assessing a collaborative approach.		7 LA Chief Executives	A

Transport and connectivity Programme | Lead: Helen Mathews

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
North East Transport Delivery				
Deliver transport LGF schemes	On-going monitoring of the programme, reported and assured through the Heads of Transport meeting and Economic Directors. Schemes at various stages of delivery, risks being actively managed.	Project's slip outside LGF funding window.	Helen Mathews	G
Continue to roll out flexible public transport ticketing	<p>Work continues with Transport for the North (TfN) and partner authorities in relation to the development of a specification for an Account Based Ticketing (ABT) Back Office. This will allow customers to use bank cards and mobile devices to pay for their journey by touching in at the point of entry and exit from the network. This will be in partnership with the major Bus operators, although progress in agreeing the terms of engagement has been slow.</p> <p>ITSO (the National Standards body for Smart Ticketing) is seeking to support a Host Card Emulation (your phone becomes your POP Card) trial on Tyne and Wear Metro, with a view for trials to commence in November. A "Proof of Concept" test on Nexus' test system is scheduled for Mid-September</p>		Tobyn Hughes	G
Continue joint management working of our transport system	<p>Discussions have commenced with regard to Boxing Day and New Year's Day services. In the Franchise Agreements both Northern and TransPennine Express have to consider the provision of Boxing Day services. For each operating area Rail North has asked the respective Train Operating Companies to propose both do minimum and do more options for further consideration</p> <p>Northern have a commitment to provide 60 Boxing Day services and the Rail North Sub Group is looking at the geographical share of such services. A main concern raised on behalf of NECA, was the current situation with Sunderland station which is closed on Boxing Day meaning that Metro services cannot serve that station. It was agreed by the Group that a service to open up Sunderland station should form part of the do minimum option. The longer term goal will be to have a Boxing Day service similar to Sunday services</p> <p>As part of the Rail North do minimum requirement, consideration is to be given to include New Year's Day services for the NE region. The implications with regards to the provision of any Metro services on that day will need to be considered.</p>		Helen Mathews	G

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Develop and expand the Urban Traffic Management and Control Centre (UTMC)	Bid submitted to National Productivity Investment fund for UTMC enhancements as one of nine bids submitted by the region. Responses now unlikely in advance of the autumn statement. Procurement underway for replacement of the UTMC back office system		UTMC team	G
Identify and begin to deliver strategic schemes to enhance connectivity	Heads of Transport developed a strategic project pipeline and project sponsors developing projects as appropriate		Helen Mathews with Heads of Transport	G
Identify and begin to deliver pinch point solutions	<p>Local Authorities have identified schemes for 2017-18 National Productivity Investment Funding, including investment in UTMC. Nine bids submitted on the 30th of June for National Productivity Investment Fund competitive pot for 2018-19 onwards.</p> <p>Development of bids underway for Highways Maintenance Challenge fund future rounds.</p> <p>Two bids from the region were successful in receiving Highways Maintenance Challenge funding – Heworth Roundabout in Gateshead and Rural routes in Northumberland.</p>	Further delays in announcing NPIF outcome and future HMCF round criteria	Helen Mathews with local authority Heads of Transport	G
Identify and begin to deliver a long term project pipeline	Commenced planning to develop an approach to progress a pipeline. Approach to be discussed with Heads of Transport, Economic Directors and the LEP. Meetings held with all LAs and comprehensive Transport Pipeline to be reported to LEP		Helen Mathews	G
Transport Innovation				
Commission the Go Ultra Low Cities Programme	<p>Funding secured through OLEV.</p> <p>Progressing grant funding agreement with DCLG for ERDF funding.</p> <p>Heads of Terms and procurement progressing.</p> <p>Sunderland Council undertaking negotiations on the preferred site.</p> <p>University clarifying outstanding issues on Newcastle site</p> <p>Feasibility study has reported with recommendations for sites for rapid charging clusters.</p> <p>Progress to identify approach to tendering for EV management and maintenance contract continues, market day to be held Oct/Nov</p>		Helen Mathews	A
Regional Transport Planning				
Develop and agree a Regional Transport Plan	Briefings held with Economic Directors and TNEC. Further engagement was held with TNEC members and O&S members with an update to be reported to TNEC in November. Work continues on Walking and Cycling strategy, Key Route Network as daughter documents of the transport plan. Work commenced on NECA wide Air Quality Strategy		Helen Mathews	A
Strengthen the alignment between the transport plan and the planning process	Local Transport Plan to be consulted on with Heads of Planning		Helen Mathews	A

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Explore opportunities presented to us in new legislation	<p>The Bus Fares for Young People task and finish group is to continue exploring opportunities to improve the ticketing offer for young people, in particular, regarding multi modal ticketing, taking into account the findings from the independent consultancy study by SYSTRA Ltd. A co-ordinated approach to eligibility for child and young peoples' fares is being launched jointly in time for the start of the new school term.</p> <p>Discussions are similarly progressing with regard to additional multi-operator and multi-modal ticketing products for under-19s</p> <p>The new Bus Services Act 2017(the Act) offers further opportunities for delivering the emerging NECA Bus Strategy. These will be better understood when the Government publishes regulations and guidance on how to use the Act. Publication is intended for September, subject to Government/Ministerial approval.</p>		Tobyn Hughes	A
Develop transport investment programme	TBC	No identified programme of funding, beyond current LGF	Helen Mathews	TBC
Identify opportunities for improved freight infrastructure	<p>Freight partnership continues, work programme for the year to be agreed by the partnerships.</p> <p>An enhanced Freight and Logistics Report has just been completed by Arups for TfN, North east officers involved in development of the work.</p>		Helen Mathews	G
Improve transport proposals to employment sites (by 2020)	TBC		TBC	TBC
Implement an enhanced public transport offer (by 2020)	<p>Discussions with the Department for Transport (DfT) to date suggest that the government accepts the need for new rolling stock for the Metro system. However a firm position regarding financing options has not yet been reached. DfT are now undertaking further analysis on work undertaken by Nexus and its financial advisors on the range of options including both public and private finance, so that the government can take full account of the comparative costs and value for money analysis.</p> <p>A number of timescales have been slipped to allow for the additional work requirement: the programme now provisionally reflects a contract award in January 2020 with a commencement date of March 2020.</p> <p>Starting the procurement process, scheduled for July 2017, is deferred pending the decision from the DfT's Board Investment and Commercial Committee (BICC) in September at which Nexus has a slot.</p>		Tobyn Hughes	G

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
National and international connectivity				
Develop an initiative to support air, sea and rail transport hubs	<p>International connectivity study has reported which lent strong support to the regional airports and ports.</p> <p>Local Transport Plan developing policies in each of these areas.</p> <p>NECA feedback into the Energy Coast study being undertaken by TfN and road schemes to be submitted as part of the RIS process.</p> <p>Locally work to commence on pipeline of schemes to feed into future opportunities which may come forward as part of the Transport Investment Fund for roads.</p>		Helen Mathews	G
Make our region HS2 ready	<p>It was agreed at TNEC that a report would be commissioned into High Speed station and route options for the region. Budget to be identified to support this work</p>		Helen Mathews	A
Enhance east-west road and rail connectivity	<p>The brief for the Energy Coast Development Corridor has been agreed by partners and is currently out to tender through the Transport for Greater Manchester framework. Tender responses are expected by the end of July and a consultant will be appointed in late August. One of the first pieces of work for the consultant will be to prepare a stakeholder engagement plan, which will set out how local partners, including local authorities, are involved in the work.</p> <p>The key issue for this corridor is understanding the scope of the work and ensuring that overlap with existing studies, such as the North Trans-Pennine study, is limited while delivering benefits for the North East. .</p>	<p>Ensure that the needs of the North East are adequately considered as part of the study</p>	Helen Mathews	G
Digital connectivity				
Map and influence superfast broad band coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North East Digital Leaders Group which brings together the 7 LA Digital Leads and the LEP have developed a comprehensive mapping of superfast broadband coverage Through the Group, mapping of regional cyber-security capacity has also been completed and a plan is being scoped to develop a pilot scheme to promote regional cyber resilience including a regional cyber resilience and innovation centre to complement the work of the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) UK, and a regional response to both the Digital Strategy (2017) and the National Cyber Security Strategy (2016). 		Steve Smith, Northumberland Council Ben Kaner, North Tyneside Council	G

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Develop and begin delivery of 5G test-bed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline concept for the Test Bed articulated and socialised with regional and national partners in the context of UK 5G strategy NE activity on 5G in the National Infrastructure Commission Report Stage 1 MOU signed on 11th May 2016, between the North East LEP, NEXUS, NECA, NewCo (Durham) and the 5G Innovation Centre (5GIC) at Surrey University – the National Centre for Excellence on 5G. MoU facilitates ongoing dialogue between regional organisations, the 5GIC and the Digital Catapult Business case to be developed by Autumn 2017 collaboratively with national partners to position the NE for a national competition including infrastructure plan and first phase 'use' cases Plan to deliver a 5G component of the Great Exhibition of the North to be in place by January 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of UK level policy direction Failure to prepare sufficiently compelling business case in content of UK competition Regional stakeholder management issues Capacity constraints 	Lead – TBC Steering Group R.Baker H.Moller D.Bartlett C.Crawford P.Jackman D.Dunn T.Hardwick	G
Explore the potential to develop fibre-optic connectivity to Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector led consortium of Aqua Comms and Stellium Datacenters plan to build North Sea Connect - a high capacity system connecting the North East to Denmark, with branching potential to Germany and the Netherlands. It will provide the first modern high capacity system crossing the North Sea from the region to mainland Europe, providing unique routing and UK diversity . It will provide with a unique link between the US, Ireland and northern Europe avoiding London. The plan awaits investment and customer demand, but permissions are in place 	Market demand	TBC	G

Strategy, Policy and Analysis | Lead: Richard Baker

Goals

To ensure the LEP places up to date economic analysis, evaluation and evidence development at the heart of its work, and is looked to as a focus for innovative, collaborative and policy oriented evidence development

SEP Action	Progress/ current position	High level risks	Lead	Status
Strategic Economic Plan development				
Review SEP refresh process	Brief for review developed in order capture learning for future processes including roles of structures, use of evidence, engagement of regional and national partners and capacity. Interviews to take place during September and October 2017	Time elapsed since refresh process reduces level of output from review	Richard Baker	A
Delivery of comprehensive SEP communications plan	Comprehensive plan in place, which includes standardisation of messaging, video animation of key SEP message and a refresh of the 'Smart Spec' brochures		Richard Baker	G
Develop and implement evaluation framework	Evaluation plan currently being developed to include review of key indicators, link to programme KPIs and agreement of evaluation process.		Richard Baker	G
Economic information and commentary				
Produce and promote annual 'state of the region' economic report	Scoping of document produced, which included structure, content, resource requirements and timings. Initial planning for launch event underway.	Lack of resource to produce document in good time	Richard Baker	G
External economic commentary	Calendar of economic commentary linked to national data releases has been developed and is being implemented: recent example ONS labour market data releases		Richard Baker	G
Improve economic evidence availability	On-going review of current and potential external data sources underway. Updated slide-sets for each SEP programme under development – Skills programme complete, Innovation and Business Growth underway. Definition of economic evidence mechanism for Board and sub-Boards, and for partners newsletter under review		Richard Baker	G
Research and evidence development plan	Creation of 'pipeline' of potential research projects (linked to gaps in evidence) in development alongside links to key partners to support future research – to be taken forward following recruitment of Research Co-ordinator role		Richard Baker	A
Informing economic policy nationally and regionally				
Manage key LEP policy contacts in Government and strengthen influencing position	Mapping LEP engagement activities underway, continuing to manage contacts with Government, delivery agencies and research bodies On-going support on engagement with key policy processes including Industrial strategy, devolution deals and Northern Powerhouse	Lack of meaningful engagement with key contacts lead to missed opportunities	Richard Baker	G
Improving the regional economic evidence co-ordination and engagement				
Build engagement with key research and evidence partners	On-going relationship building with key regional, national and international evidence bodies inc Bank of England; NECC; CBI; Universities; ONS; OECD Planning activity to initiate Economic Evidence Forum yet to be started, which will develop collaborative approach to 'pipeline' of research to lead policy or fill knowledge gaps – to be taken forward following recruitment of Research Co-ordinator role		Richard Baker	A

Investment Programme | Lead: Helen Golightly

Local Growth Fund		North East Investment Fund		Enterprise Zone development	
Total funding available	Capital grant funding £270m 2015-21	Total funding available	Capital loan funding £54m evergreen fund	Total funding available	£108m since launch. Including £3.65m of private investment since April 2016
Amount allocated	Over £194 m fully approved or allocated to stage 1 projects £87.2m in pipeline development. 2017/18 budget is on target to be fully spent. £14.3m spent in quarter 1.	Amount allocated	£45m allocated. Over £65m invested through the programme to date with repayments underway. Approximately £8m available to invest.	Amount allocated	1,285 new jobs created with 41 businesses located on the EZ sites. During 2016/17 15 new businesses have located on the site, 2 have left and 408 net new non-construction jobs have been created.
Projects supported	45 major projects approved and a further circa 26 under the Rural Growth Network and Local Sustainable Transport Fund mini programmes. The following projects are coming to this Board meeting for decision: Innovation Project Development Fund and Incubation Development Fund.	Projects supported	25 projects supported over last four years, developing strategic infrastructure in support of economic growth in North East LEP area, including investment in Enterprise Zones and employment sites. New round of promotion undertaken through Project Call. Final payment received for Durham Cricket Club Floodlights Loan. Tyne Subsea Hyperbaric chamber now being installed at Camperdown and will be operational by year end.	Projects supported	The Enterprise Zone sites have attracted significant investment through Round 1 current project applications have been approved for the A19 site and East Sleekburn. Applications are being progressed for Port of Tyne (Royal Quays), Port of Tyne Holborn and Bates/Wimbourne sites. The Round 2 sites launched in April 2017 (in agreement with DCLG, IAMP will launch April 2018). Cushman and Wakefield have completed the review of these assumptions demonstrating a robust financial model. A legal agreement is being developed and a full implementation plan has been finalised.
Issues	44 jobs were reported in quarter 1 17/18, bringing cumulative total to date to 143. The forecast for the whole year will be below target including due to significant jobs forecast on Forrest Park being re-profiled into future years.	Issues	A marketing campaign is being framed to generate greater interest in the fund and a more sustainable pipeline of investment which fits the core funding criteria.	Issues	In the first quarter the Enterprise Zone sites attracted 34 new jobs and 4 new businesses started operating on the site although 4 businesses stopped operating on the site to enable further development work on Swans and reflecting the focus on growth and move-on at the Blyth workspace. Overall performance continues to show slower development, build out and occupation of sites that originally envisaged but a positive financial model and significant interest in the sites.

Communications Update – August 2017

Social Media



Followers: 6,919 (+2.2% on last month)
Reach: 125,041 (Impressions during August)



Followers: 2,071 (+ 1.07% on last month)
Reach: 22,670 (Impressions during August)

Benchmarking against top three LEPs on twitter

6,919



6,619



6,626



6,345



Top Tweets continue to be those where we have referenced another organization, for example Durham Uni's strategy below

Top Tweet earned 3,629 impressions

The Creative Industries Clusters Programme, which will start in 2018, will help catalyse economic growth and provide skills for the future twitter.com/ahrcpress/stat...

1 6 9

Top media Tweet earned 1,892 impressions

@InvestNEEngland has announced that North East foreign investment is second only to London: bit.ly/2i9oDg4
pic.twitter.com/6L6Ps1J46T



6 6

The top three posts for engagement (i.e. someone clicked or expanded the link) during this period were:

Post	Impressions	Engagement	Clicks	Likes
North East Local Enterprise Partnership Looking for a new board membership? The Environment Agency are looking for two people to join their board: http://bit.ly/2iBgOT4 & http://bit.ly/2vzhPfI	762	4.2%	28	4
(Update) by Jen R. August 21, 2017 12:13 pm				
North East Local Enterprise Partnership We've secured a stellar lineup for our next Growth Hub Live event on 15 Sept, featuring: Andrew McMillan, ex John Lewis, Mark Thompson, Ryder Architecture Nicki Clark, BE Group Sarah Pedredia, hedgehog lab Michael Reancy, Gradvrt Plus, a workshop with renowned HR expert Michael Millward, and our outstanding event chair Ammer Mirza. Don't miss out on your free place, sign up now: http://bit.ly/2hYInaW	217	4.1%	6	3
(Update) by Jen R. August 30, 2017 12:04 pm				
North East Local Enterprise Partnership We've got a bank of experienced business leaders ready to mentor growing companies in the North East. Find out how you could benefit http://bit.ly/2ttxCg4	657	3.5%	16	5
(Update) by Jen R. August 23, 2017 4:46 pm				

Press Coverage August 2017

No. Articles

45

Sentiment:

Positive: 46.2%

Neutral: 50%

Negative: 3.8%

Negative story focuses on recent employment stats – including NE as 'zero hours capital'. Includes our quote on recent stats, reference to LEP is not negative, though overall article one in reference to zero hours contracts is

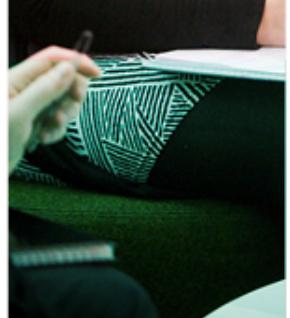
Highlights:

29 August

Growth Hub Live event - Sunderland Echo (not available online)

17 August

North East leads the UK for foreign investment – The Journal



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