

**North East**  
Local Enterprise Partnership



# Annual Delivery Plan 2021/22



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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 2021 to March 2022. It will be shared with government and we will report progress in our End of Year Report 2021/22.**

The document will be subject to change, as the North East LEP responds to economic challenges and opportunities as we move through the year. Our 2020/21 Annual Delivery Plan was subject to significant change as we responded to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring our delivery to be agile and flexible. We anticipate having a similar approach to delivery during 2021/22 as we continue to recover. All of our delivery has been reviewed with COVID-19 recovery implicit in its actions.

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. The current version of the Strategic Economic Plan sets out actions for delivery up to December 2021, which leaves us with another three years of delivery until 2024. We will update the evidence base during 2021 so we understand our post-COVID-19 baseline with a view to setting the regional economic strategy in early 2022.

## **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, four areas of strategic importance and our strategy, policy and analysis agenda.

## **2021/22 action plan**

Here you will find a list of everything we will strive to achieve in 2021/22. We will report our progress on this in May 2022.

## 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.

COVID-19 will continue to play a significant part in our thinking and activity during 2021/22 as we emerge from the pandemic. 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 wanted to drive 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 December 2020, employment in the North East had increased by 71,500 since 2014. This was driven by increased employment in better jobs of 88,600 (equivalent to 124% of the total net change).

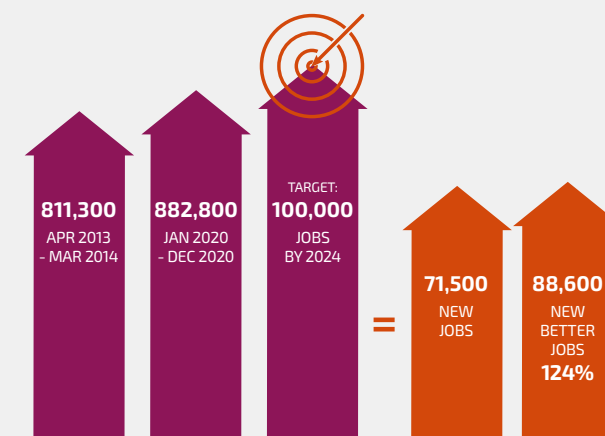
Most furloughed workers are officially classified as employed and, as a result, the impact of COVID-19 on the North East labour market is not yet clear. We will continue to monitor the region's progress to economic recovery using a range of datasets.

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) and you can keep up to date with our progress on the [North East Datahub](#).

### Progress:

By December 2020, employment had increased by 71,500. This had been driven by increased employment in better jobs of 88,600 (equivalent to 124% of the total net change)



Source: Annual Population Survey - Workplace Analysis (Nomis)

# COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan

**North East Covid-19**  
Economic Response Group

**North East**  
Local Enterprise Partnership

**neca**  
north east combined authority

**NORTH OF TYNE**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

on behalf of business:

**CIBI**

on behalf of regional universities:

**Newcastle University**

COVID-19 hit the North East economy and it hit it hard. An economic shock of this nature required a response of the same scale. In September 2020, the North East Economic Response Group published its response plan to government. This page is a summary of that plan.

## Our goal

To return to pre-COVID-19 levels of growth and sustain 100,000 more and better jobs in a greener and more inclusive economy.

## Asks of government

- Significant devolution of resources and powers to reflect scale of COVID-19
- £2.8bn to directly unlock half of required 100,000 additional jobs quickly
- Accelerated confirmation of existing business cases, including Transforming Cities funding
- Commitment to joint working in areas where the North East can lead the national recovery, specifically low carbon energy
- Flexibility within national programmes to allow for maximum leverage of local and national resources

## Our plan

- To keep people in jobs and training
- To support businesses and sectors to restart and recover
- To support the transition of our communities and places as they adapt to living with COVID-19
- To build the future economy by maximising the potential of our existing assets and exploring new opportunities
- To invest in digital and transport connectivity

## Our challenges

<b>97 %</b>	of businesses impacted by COVID-19
<b>30%</b>	reduction in footfall in city/town centres
<b>36,500</b>	more people on unemployment benefits
<b>32%</b>	of workforce furloughed at its peak
<b>108,000</b>	of workforce still furloughed in August 2020

## Our values

-  To have a greener more sustainable economy
-  Level up the North East economy
-  To be innovative and think bigger
-  To do the right thing locally for our region
-  Be a trusted partner for government
-  For the impact of our recovery to reach all of our communities

## Our achievements

We responded quickly to the pandemic in March 2020 by committing £5m of our resources to support businesses. Throughout the year we established 12 schemes that were focused on supporting businesses that government funding did not reach.

A highlight was the Crowdfunder scheme which supported 128 businesses that collectively received funding of more than £470k. This is estimated to have safeguarded 433 jobs.

## 3. Governance and transparency

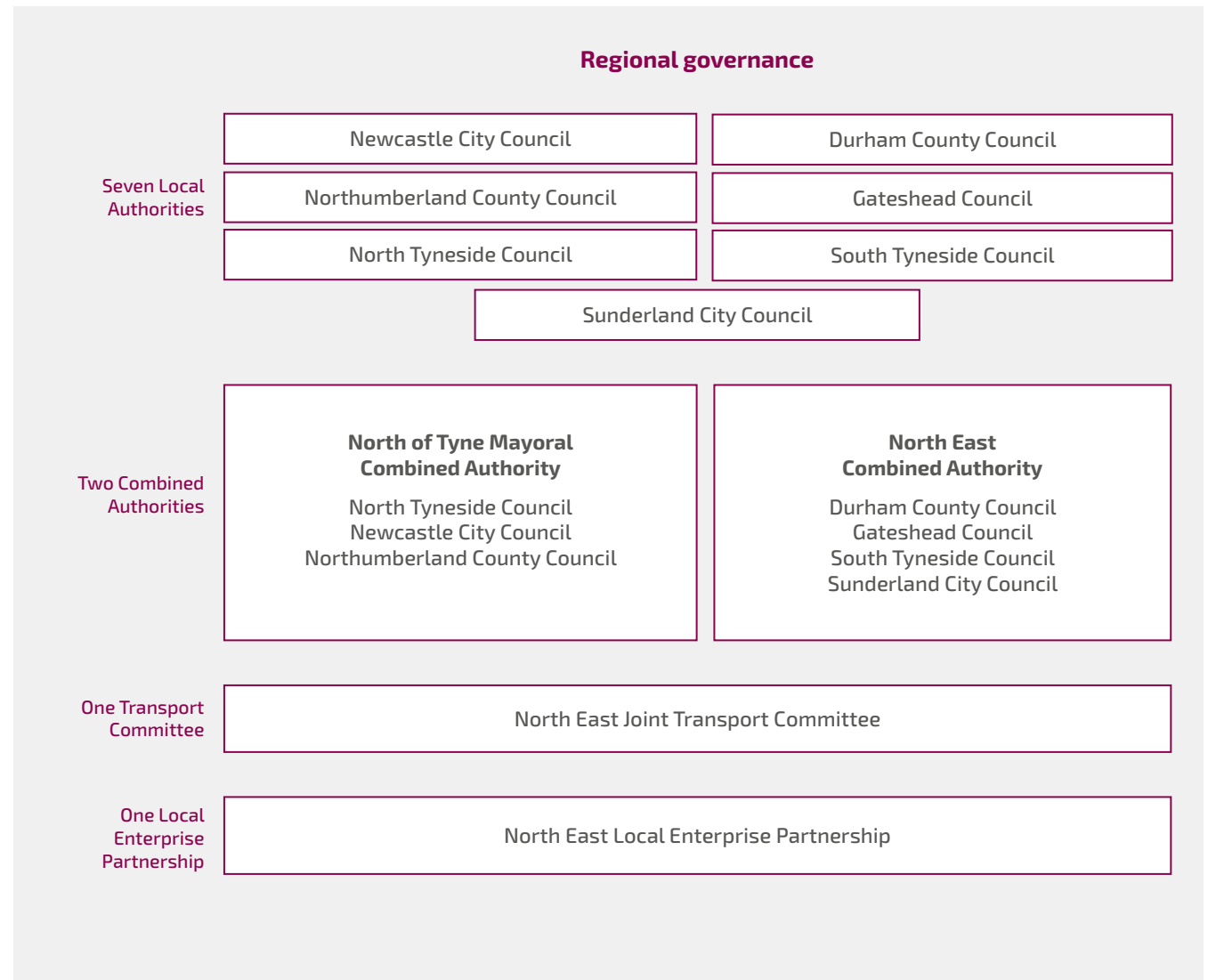
We are committed to robust, transparent and fair governance at every level of our operations.

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

### Regional governance model

We play a key role in regional governance and work with two combined authorities - the North East Combined Authority and the North of Tyne Combined Authority - and seven local authorities.

Our accountable body is in the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

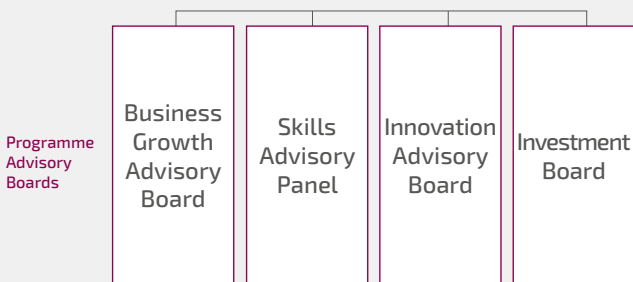


### North East LEP governance

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.

The North East LEP Board is chaired by Lucy Winskell, OBE who replaced Andrew Hodgson OBE in September 2020.

#### North East LEP Board



North East LEP Senior Management Team. From left to right: Alan Welby, Richard Baker, Helen Golightly, Jen Robson, Colin Bell, Michelle Rainbow.

### 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 programme is managed in accordance with the North East Local Assurance Framework.

The Local Assurance Framework was last refreshed in October 2020 and remains compliant with the Government's 'National Local Growth Assurance Framework' 2019.

The Assurance Framework is a live document and is updated annually. The updates are 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 2021/22. It receives programme monitoring reports on a regular basis and is presented with the programme dashboard. This is submitted quarterly to the government. The Investment Board determines new project funding allocations under its delegation or otherwise agrees to make recommendations to the main North East LEP Board.



Lucy Winskell, OBE, North East LEP Chair

## 4. Our funding programmes

### 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 across the region with £166m planned investment
- The Getting Building Fund – £47m of 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



### HM Government

While the six year 2015-21 Local Growth Fund (LGF) programme budget of £270.1m was fully spent by 31 March 2021, we have used local funding flexibilities and freedoms over this period to resource other regional initiatives on a temporary basis. This has allowed funds to be returned to support core LGF projects when needed in future years. Some were unable to complete on time due to COVID-19 related disruptions. Consequently, we have programmed a tail of expenditure, using residual funds over the next 2-3 years, with £15m programmed in 2021/22 to ensure the smooth and full completion of the LGF programme.

This includes several bespoke capital and revenue projects introduced in support of the North East COVID-19 Recovery Plan, including:

- A Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) infrastructure programme that is supporting 14 VCSE-led capital projects to enhance green community infrastructure and learning facilities for young people
- An extension of the Scaleup North East business support initiative for a further two years
- An innovation challenge programme.

Strategic infrastructure projects are ongoing including:

- The development of the 150ha International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP)
- The £300m Gateshead Quays Arena, Exhibition and Conference Centre
- The reclamation and dock infrastructure works on the Northumberland Energy Park.

In total the LGF programme has 24 live projects that are not financially complete, with many more completed that are reporting performance data annually, to help inform the final evaluation of the programme in 2024/25. In June 2021 an interim programme evaluation is planned to be completed.

#### LGF Budget

Residual LGF Programme Resources

#### LGF Legacy Funds

#### Forecast Total

Capital	£16,000,000
Revenue	£1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,000,000</b>



An artist's impression of the NewcastleGateshead Quays arena-led regeneration scheme on the banks of the NewcastleGateshead quayside



An aerial image of International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) in Sunderland/South Tyneside showing three of the site's completed buildings

# Getting Building Fund



## HM Government

In July 2020, the North East LEP was allocated £47m from the Getting Building Fund over two years for investment in shovel-ready infrastructure projects to help stimulate jobs and support economic recovery. We brought forward a wide-ranging package of projects that were able to be substantially completed in Spring 2022. We selected projects that support a green economic recovery and/ or contribute to the ambition to create more and better jobs.

They include:

- Innovative energy projects including the UK's first robotics and autonomous systems test and validation centre for offshore wind in Blyth
- Development of the InTEGRel Customer Energy Village in Gateshead to demonstrate technologies to enable housing decarbonisation
- Public realm works to support town and city centre regeneration in North Shields, Bedlington, Newcastle and the construction of high-quality new office space in Durham and South Shields.
- Purpose built learning and recreation centre for young people at a project known as NU Futures.

In 2021/22 we plan to spend £23.5m of GBF grant plus temporary funding swaps returning to the programme amounting to £36m.

### GBF Programme Budget 2021/22

GBF Funds	Forecast Total
Capital - Grant	£23,500,000
Capital - Temporary swapped funds returned	£12,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£36,000,000</b>



An artist's impression of Bedlington Town Centre regeneration



An artist's impression of The Glassworks in South Shields



An artist's impression of Newcastle City Centre Transformation

## Other funding programmes



### North East Enterprise Zones

The North East Enterprise Zones 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 2017. 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 onto these sites in the coming years.

To date, our investment of over £68m in the Enterprise Zone sites has achieved £194m of follow-on investment. As of the end of 2020/21, more than 1,850 people are employed across 59 businesses that are now operating on our Enterprise Zone sites. By the end of 2021/22 our Enterprise Zones will be home to more than 3,000 jobs and we will have invested around £100m in the sites, unlocking more than £210m of follow-on investment.

	Cumulative actuals 2020/21	Forecast for 2021/22
EZ Funding allocated	£129m	£10m
EZ Funding spent	£67m	£22m
Follow-on investment	£212m	£26m
Jobs on EZ sites	1,857	1,200



### North East Investment Fund

In 2021/22, the North East Investment Fund will continue to be delivered with most activities related to the following projects:

- The Skills Academy for Sustainable Manufacturing and Innovation in Washington
- Repurposing works to enable the Driving the Electric Revolution Centre North East to be accommodated in suitable premises (this is a consortium project led by Newcastle University, with £3.24m investment from the North East Investment Fund).
- North East Property Development Fund - providing investment in small scale residential and commercial property development up to £2m. Having proven successful since 2017, the fund was extended in 2021 by £10m for a further three years.
- Solar Capture Technologies Ltd – a small business based in Blyth, specialising in photovoltaic technology. Support from the North East Investment Fund has been made to integrate a new production line to significantly increase output to sectors including automotive and offshore/subsea. Work will complete during 2021/22.

We expect a limited number of new investments to be made, subject to demand and availability of funds.

### Transition to the Commercial Property Investment Fund

In 2021/22, our focus will be on delivering the procurement of a fund manager for the Commercial Property Investment Fund and launching the programme in March 2022. Three pilot projects will be contracted with funding from the Getting Building Fund, which is due to be spent by end of March 2022.

### European Funding

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.

Agreement has been reached between the EU and UK Government to allow the delivery of projects to continue through until the end of 2023.

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

Type of Funds	Indicative North East allocation (£m)	Committed funds	Remaining funds
ERDF	£263.2m	£242.6m (92%)	£20.6m (8%)
ESF	£224.7m	£216.7m (96%)	£8m (94%)
EAFRD	£10.5m	£5.8m (55.6%)	–£4.7m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£498.4m</b>	<b>£465.1m</b>	<b>£33.3m</b>

## Funding programmes – key milestones and target dates

Milestone	Funding source	Description	Target dates
<b>Quarter one</b>			
Gateshead Quays		On-site works commence on Arena, Exhibition and Conference centre.	April 2021
Investment Board programme updates		Quarterly programme updates and projects for decision including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GBF programme reserve projects approved</li> <li>• Project pipeline Fund</li> <li>• Updated EZ financial modelling</li> </ul>	13 May 2021
LEP Board Funding Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on programme progress update including delegated decisions</li> <li>• Proposal of LEP resources to be used for Project Development Fund, CPIF programme and residual NEIF</li> <li>• Updated EZ financial modelling</li> </ul>	28 May 2021
Project Development Fund launched		Call for projects	June 2021
North East Inward Investment Fund		First investment project secured	June 2021
Commercial Property Investment Fund (CPIF) Programme		Launch the procurement of a fund manager	June 2021
<b>Quarter two</b>			
Jarrow Business Centre		Project completion	30 June 2021
Investment Board Programme Update		Quarterly programme updates and projects for decision	8 July 2021
LEP Board Investment Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report Programme progress update including delegated decisions</li> </ul>	22 July 2021
Pattern shop		Main contractor on site	July 2021
CPIF Pilot projects		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract CPIF pilot projects</li> </ul>	August 2021
<b>Quarter three</b>			
Investment Board Programme Update		Quarterly programme updates and projects for decision	16 September 2021
Northumberland Energy Park		Main contractor infrastructure works completed	October 2021
Follingsby Enterprise Zone (EZ)		Occupier of Follingsby Max site becomes operational	October 2021
LEP Board Investment Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report Programme progress update including delegated decisions</li> <li>• Decision on CPIF fund manager appointment</li> </ul>	3 December 2021
Supply Chain North East and Scaleup North East 1		Completion of both business support programmes	31 December 2021
<b>Quarter four</b>			
Investment Board Programme Update.		Quarterly programme updates and projects for decision	17 January 2022
LEP Board Funding Report		Report Programme progress update including delegated decisions	17 March 2022
CPIF		Soft launch	31 March 2022
Port of Sunderland		Infrastructure works completed	March 2022

## North East LEP Funding programme risks 2021/2022

At the outset of the financial year 2021/22, 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
Non compliance with National Assurance Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible withholding of future years spend by MHLCC</li> </ul>	Severe	Low	High	Chief Executive	Annual review and action plan to adhere to new requirements
Annual Performance targets under perform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reputational impact</li> <li>Financial impact on EZ pooling arrangement</li> </ul>	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Programme Managers	<p>Projects KPI/budget forecast reviewed to take account of likely COVID-19 impact.</p> <p>Review of EZ financial forecasts to account includes contingencies to account for delayed performance</p> <p>Projects challenged for 'otimism bias' and project level risks monitored</p>
Impact of COVID-19 and economic recession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disruption to project plans and impact on projects/ or organisational sustainability</li> </ul>	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Programme Manager	COVID-19 impact monitored to ensure risks can be mitigated
Slippage with the launch of the Commercial Property Investment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reputational impact</li> <li>Projects identified in the pipeline could be affected and/or delayed</li> </ul>	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Programme Managers	Weekly meetings set up with CPIF Delivery Team including external advisors (appointed in April 2021) - timeline in place
Outcome of Business Rate Review by Government leads to substantial loss of future Business Rate Income from Enterprise Zone sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial risk that capital financing costs are not met</li> <li>No surplus generated for use in future for regional economic development activities</li> </ul>	Severe	Moderate	High	Chief Executive	<p>EZ pooling agreement provides some financial cover.</p> <p>Continue close engagement with Government"</p>

### Funded projects: status

Apart from pipeline projects under mini programmes such as the CPF pilot, all projects in current funding programmes have Board approval. The complete list of projects is outlined below along with their status.

Project Name	Strategic Economic Plan theme	Funding programme source	Project Status – In progress or completed / ongoing monitoring
East Pilgrim Street	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF	In progress
Scale Up North East (inc. Supply Chain North East)	Business Growth	LGF	In progress
Innovation Project Development fund	Innovation	LGF	In progress
Incubator Support programme	Innovation	LGF	In progress
Skills R&D programme	Skills	LGF	In progress
Patent Development Fund	Innovation	LGF	In progress
Cluster Development Fund	Business Growth	LGF	In progress
EZ Development Fund	Investment and Infrastructure	EZ	In progress
Jade Business Park (inc A19/A189 Seaham Murton interchange)	Transport	LGF/EZ	In progress
International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP)	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF/EZ	In progress
High Growth Potential Start Ups	Business Growth	LGF	In progress
North East Rural Growth Network	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF	In progress
Electric Vehicle Charging Hubs	Transport	LGF	In progress
Energy for Growth Programme	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF	In progress
North East Inward Investment Fund	Business Growth	LGF/NEIF	In progress
North East Ambition - Project 2	Skills	LGF	In progress
Jarrow Business Centre	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF	In progress
Newcastle Central Station Gateway - Stage 2	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF	In progress
Northumberland Energy Park Ph.1	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF/EZ/GBF	In progress
VCSE Infrastructure programme	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF	In progress
River Tyne Economic Development	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF	In progress
Green Energy accelerator	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF/NEIF	In progress
Skills and Digital Development Fund	Skills	NEIF	In development

Aykley Heads - Plot C office development	Investment and Infrastructure	GBF	In progress
Tyne Dock Enterprise Park (Holborn 2 EZ site)	Investment and Infrastructure	GBF/EZ	In progress
InTEGReL – Community Energy Village (CEV)	Innovation	GBF	In progress
North Shields Town Centre Public Realm	Investment and Infrastructure	GBF	In progress
Newcastle City Centre Transformation Phase 2	Investment and Infrastructure	GBF	In progress
Sunderland Smart City Infrastructure	Investment and Infrastructure	GBF	In progress
Robotics and Autonomous Systems Test etc, Blyth	Innovation	GBF	In progress
Gateshead Quays/Urban Core Infrastructure	Transport	GBF	In progress
Bedlington Town Centre Regeneration	Investment and Infrastructure	GBF	In progress
The Glassworks, South Shields	Investment and Infrastructure	GBF	In progress
NU Futures, Newcastle	Skills	GBF	Completed build / ongoing monitoring
Swans Energy Park, Wallsend	Investment and Infrastructure	GBF	In progress
Hillthorn EZ site Development	Investment and Infrastructure	GBF	In progress
CPIF Pilot programme	Investment and Infrastructure	GBF/NEIF	In progress
SASMI	Investment and Infrastructure	NEIF	In progress
North East Property Fund (FW Capital) extension	Investment and Infrastructure	NEIF	In progress
Solar Capture Technologies	Innovation	NEIF/LGF	In progress
Project Accelerator Development Fund	Investment and Infrastructure	EZ surplus / NEIF	In development
North Bank of Tyne (Neptune) EZ	Investment and Infrastructure	EZ	In progress
Ashwood Business Park	Investment and Infrastructure	EZ	In progress
Holborn 1 EZ	Investment and Infrastructure	EZ	In progress
Port of Sunderland	Investment and Infrastructure	EZ	In progress

**Live projects reporting matched funding only in 2021/22**

Gateshead Quays	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF/GBF	In progress
Transforming Cities	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF	Completed
Weetslade Roundabout	Investment and Infrastructure	LGF	Completed

**NEIF projects which are repaying loans (and reporting outputs):**

World Wheel Company (+outputs)	Investment and Infrastructure	NEIF	In progress
Tyne Pressure Testing	Investment and Infrastructure	NEIF	Completed/repayments
Durham University	Investment and Infrastructure	NEIF	Completed/repayments
Boiler Shop	Investment and Infrastructure	NEIF	Completed/repayments
NEIMME	Investment and Infrastructure	NEIF	Completed/repayments

**NEIF projects which are only reporting outputs:**

Shepherds	Investment and Infrastructure	NEIF	Completed/monitoring
Crowdfunder	Investment and Infrastructure	NEIF	Completed
Newcastle Airport EZ	Investment and Infrastructure	EZ	Completed/monitoring
Follingsby EZ	Investment and Infrastructure	EZ	Completed/monitoring
Blyth Estuary EZ	Investment and Infrastructure	EZ	Completed/monitoring
Ramparts EZ	Investment and Infrastructure	EZ	Monitoring
Turbine Business Park EZ	Investment and Infrastructure	EZ	Completed/monitoring

**Communications**

A communications plan is updated quarterly and sets out opportunities to report on progress and promote the achievements of funded projects.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

Project funding claims and monitoring returns for live projects are undertaken on a quarterly basis across all programmes. For financial projects, annual performance data is collected, for a relevant period, to allow the full impact and benefits to be monitored against the objectives of the project business case. A Programme Operations Group reviews project monitoring returns and undertakes quality

checks. Project verification visits are held following project financial completion and final audit.

Projects are reported in the first instance to the North East LEP Technical Officer Group. Where remedial action or significant variations to contracts are required these are escalated to the Board for approval.

Key programme and project milestones are monitored throughout the year and reported quarterly for each funding programme to the Investment Board.

In January 2020 Steer Ed consultants were appointed to undertake a joint interim evaluation of progress so far on the LGF and EZ programmes, a final report is scheduled to be received by the end of June 2021.



### Funding Programmes – Key Performance Indicators

Each of our funding programmes monitors a different set of nationally prescribed performance indicators. We also capture and monitor data on a few other local indicators relevant to the North East Strategic Economic Plan.

#### Summary of programme KPIs for 2021/2022

Programme Performance Indicators	Total: all programmes 21/22
Gross Jobs	3,167
Number of apprenticeship/traineeship opportunities created	110
Number of established / new businesses accommodated	57
Commercial Floorspace Constructed (m2)	208,283
Commercial Floorspace refurbished (m2)	7468
Site reclaimed, re- developed or assembled (ha)	32.1
Follow on investment on site	224m
New build training/learning floorspace (m2)	4,773
Number of learners at NVQ Level 3	126
Number of business receiving non-financial support	412
Number of business receiving financial support	67
Total length of newly built /improved roads / cycleway(km)	5.5
Research and Development facility floorspace (sqm)	4,292
Improved public realm/ green spaces (sq m)	135,628
Construction Jobs	1,708
Number of education establishments engaged	138

## 6. Our 2021/22 Annual Delivery plan actions

This section of our report is focused on our delivery actions and priorities for 2021/22.

Our workplan is focused around five programmes of delivery that set out initiatives and projects that will deliver the ambitions of the North East Strategic Economic Plan. They are:



**Business and  
sector growth**



**Innovation**



**Skills,  
employment,  
inclusion and  
progression**



**Transport  
connectivity**



**Investment and  
infrastructure**

We are committed to Strategy, Policy and Analysis and have developed a programme of work to ensure our work is informed and evidence led.

Good governance is important to us to ensure transparency, so we have a set of actions we deliver to ensure this.

Communications is central to our delivery and is a golden thread across all programmes and actions.

# Annual Delivery Plan – 2021/22

## The five Strategic Economic Plan programmes

### Business and sector growth

Activity	Key deliverables - between April 2021 and March 2022, we will:
<b>Raise levels of business growth ambition</b>	<p>Deliver ongoing communications activity to encourage business engagement with the North East Growth Hub and to inspire businesses to start and grow their businesses The communications activity will deliver 17,850 light touch interventions.</p>
<b>Increase demand for external business support and finance</b>	<p>Increase the capacity of the North East Growth Hub to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 915 medium intensity interventions</li> <li>• 580 high intensity interventions to businesses with scaleup potential.</li> </ul> <p>This support will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 750 additional jobs, of which 490 will be better jobs</li> <li>• 21.9million additional GVA</li> </ul>
	<p>Introduce a triage team to service inbound enquiries and carryout outbound lead generation an intelligence gathering activities.</p> <p>Integrate the sector teams and sector delivery plans with the North East Growth Hub.</p> <p>Introduce a new approach to business segmentation, diagnostic, and brokerage that better identifies and focuses on account management through the Growth Hub Connectors and Scaleup Partners, with the businesses who can deliver impact.</p>
<b>Ensure the supply of external business support and finance matches the needs of businesses and the economy</b>	<p>Work with government and regional partners to support the development of, and transition to, a new business support and sector development landscape.</p> <p>Continue to lead the North East Growth Hub Cluster and work closely with government to support the development of the national Growth Hub network.</p> <p>Deliver 26 government funded Peer Networks to support approximately 280 businesses to improve their productivity performance.</p> <p>Expand the Growth Hubs Mentoring for Growth programme with the aim of supporting 100 businesses to unlock their growth potential.</p> <p>Work with sector teams to ensure that the business support ecosystem meets sector specific firm level needs.</p> <p>Deliver 11 Local Growth Fund Cluster Development Fund projects.</p>
<b>Improve the region's economic resilience</b>	<p>Develop Peer Networks in the sectors most effected by COVID-19 (hospitality, retail, tourism) to support businesses to recover.</p> <p>Continue to gather and develop weekly intelligence reports to inform government and regional stakeholders on the state of business and to identify issues early.</p> <p>Run bespoke workshops and support services to educate businesses on specific issues/changes related to EU transition.</p> <p>Continue to work as part of the North East Economic Response Group to develop and inform regional response.</p>

## Deliver annual key sector development plans



### Energy

Activity	Key deliverables - between April 2021 and March 2022, we will:
<b>Accelerate delivery of energy projects within the region, helping deliver growth and net zero.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operationalise the Energy for Growth Accelerator.</li> <li>Convene stakeholders to agree the North East masterplan approach.</li> <li>Tactically promote heat networks High Potential Opportunity, heat study, mine energy white paper.</li> <li>Coordinate regional local authorities in delivery of local authority delivery 2 programme.</li> <li>Support capacity building in local authorities for retrofit delivery.</li> <li>Complete rural community energy fund delivery and evaluation.</li> <li>Complete feasibility for retrofit skills proposition and determine roles in delivery.</li> </ul>
<b>Coordinate our energy innovation &amp; demonstration assets to develop and showcase solutions to global challenges.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise bids for North East future energy system today £50m+.</li> <li>Establish the Energy Catalyst SME support model.</li> <li>Launch the Energy Catalyst SME network and partner network.</li> <li>Plan and schedule the Energy Catalyst summit.</li> <li>Forward comms plan for Catalyst, increase awareness and influence nationally and internationally.</li> </ul>
<b>Support growth, investment and cluster development in key energy sectors.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devise targeted inward investment process, and initial targets</li> <li>Agree, together with Energi Coast, ownership and workplan for wider offshore wind cluster development priorities</li> <li>Agree with stakeholders and coordinate the LEP's role in supporting the electric vehicles and battery sectors</li> <li>Convene stakeholders to agree and promote a low carbon heat cluster approach</li> <li>Agree regional recommendations on UK content and channels to feed these into</li> <li>Support mobilisation of the Global Underwater Hub in the North East and effective connections into networks</li> </ul>



### Digital

<b>Work with partners on the North East Digital Ambition, by developing and publishing goals, strategic priorities and a plan that supports them.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise and publish the North East's digital ambition.</li> <li>Agree strategic priorities.</li> <li>Mapping how stakeholders can contribute to the achievement of the North East Digital Ambition.</li> <li>To carry out a research study exploring rates of digital Sector business start-up and scaleup and what's either enabling or inhibiting growth.</li> <li>The intelligence generated from these actions will be used to inform the development of a digital sector action plan.</li> <li>Review and implement new governance structure.</li> </ul>
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## Health and life sciences

### Modernise and grow pharmaceutical manufacturing in the region

- Finalise business case for funding pharma manufacturing and innovation facility and identify funding sources.
- Develop supply chain development programme to move forward recommendation of gaps analysis and support diversification. Generics manufacture - also look at wider supply chain and supply and demand dynamics.
- Develop a sector skills framework to support development of an appropriately skilled workforce to enable growth
- Support Industrial Digitisation through Made Smarter Hub
- Develop an inward investment proposition around our advanced manufacturing strengths.
- Refresh first for pharma study to understand trajectory of businesses in the sector and to understand needs, barriers, and opportunities for growth

### Increase the number of innovative health and life sciences business that are born, grow and scale in the region

- Support the formation of university spinouts
- Support the formation of corporate and NHS spinouts
- Support existing businesses to diversify into Health and Life Science Sector
- Develop a skills framework to support the development of an appropriately skilled workforce to enable growth
- Promote the region via Ageing HPO and expand HPO approach via IDP's to promote regional strengths e.g., Diagnostics, Rare Disease, Advanced Delivery Systems.

### Broker access to a range of expert support and services across the health and care sectors through the Innovation Pathways

- Develop Innovation Pathway brokerage system including the mapping and gapping of supply and informing Innovation funding pipeline.

### Develop our ecosystem

- Progress priority LGF pipeline projects that demonstrate greatest contribution towards programme go
- Carry out study to assess if property and infrastructure can meet the needs of industry
- Carryout freight logistics study
- Develop base line data for sector and publish on data hub



## Advanced Manufacturing

### Develop the competitiveness of the North East's Advanced Manufacturing sector.

- Working with government and Tees Valley Combined Authority to lead the development of a North East Made Smarter adoption programme which will support 100 manufacturers to adopt industrial digitisation technologies.
- Following the mobilisation of Made Smarter we will establish an Advanced Manufacturing steering group
- The steering group will then work with the LEP to develop an Advanced Manufacturing Sector plan/strategy.



## Innovation

Activity	Key deliverables - between April 2021 and March 2022, we will:
<b>Stimulate new business opportunities through the North East Open Innovation Challenge</b>	<p>Bid for, and aim to deliver three innovation challenges with proposed themes of decarbonising the circular economy, crime reduction in rural areas and health innovation.</p> <hr/> <p>Develop the Challenge North East website so that it can evolve into a site that not only educates and informs about the benefits of the challenge process but becomes a platform to host and facilitate challenges in different sectors.</p> <hr/> <p>Position innovation challenges as a route to new business opportunities and growth.</p>
<b>Prioritise a regional pipeline of projects to form a Strategic Investment Programme</b>	<p>Work with at least ten regional partners identified and assessed via an expression of interest process, to champion and develop investment-ready business cases for innovation projects and support them to secure funding and private sector investment.</p>
<b>Continue to support our businesses to capitalise on local research and innovation capability</b>	<p>Identify opportunities for collaboration and facilitate relationships between businesses and innovation assets.</p> <hr/> <p>Facilitate access to research and capabilities that will help businesses increase innovation activity and facilitate knowledge transfer.</p> <hr/> <p>Inform and help shape emerging national innovation strategy.</p>
<b>Increase private sector investment into growing innovation businesses</b>	<p>Support mechanisms to increase investment in R&amp;D and innovation through relationships and collaboration including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the promotion and launch of the City of London Corporation Interconnector</li> <li>• Facilitating the preparation of an investment plan for Venture North</li> <li>• Supporting the evolution of the Northern Accelerator programme.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Contribute to the development of proposals for the successor to the North East Fund, ensuring the needs of the region's innovators are met.</p>
<b>Engage with partners to identify emerging opportunities and drive business growth through an Innovation Delivery Partnerships (IDP) approach:</b>	<p>Submit bids proposals to the UK Community Renewal Fund for a project to develop further and deliver at pace the IDP approach.</p> <hr/> <p>If successful deliver the proposals in line with funding award(s).</p> <hr/> <p>If unsuccessful, work with partners to explore the opportunities to continue to develop the IDP approach, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To continue to support the current and future potential IDPs</li> <li>• Develop and test the approach which is anticipated to include an assessment tool and benchmarks framework.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Undertake an economic markets foresight analysis project to identify emergent global market opportunities for the North East.</p>

**Coordinate regional partners to provide enhanced innovation support activity:**

Facilitate connections and collaboration between national and regional partners including Innovate UK, NP11 and the Innovation SuperNetwork to boost innovation activities.

Work with government and regional partners to support the development of, and transition to, a new innovation business support and sector development landscape.

Work with innovation business support providers to enhance content on, and improve signposting to, schemes on the North East Growth Hub.

Publish an innovation toolkit on the North East Growth Hub. The toolkit will generate 300 referrals to the provider network.

Evaluate the Local Growth Fund programme's Innovation Pipeline Development Fund.

## Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

Activity	Key deliverables - between April 2021 and March 2022, we will:
<b>Deliver North East Ambition:</b>	Support and demonstrate progress and impact as we work with 145 schools and colleges to achieve the eight Good Career Guidance benchmarks.
	Use the experiences and results of an independent evaluation of the two-year Career Benchmarks: Primary Pilot to expand the number of schools using the adapted set of benchmarks as a framework for delivering effective careers-related learning in primary settings to over 100.
	Continue to facilitate the partnerships between businesses and educators to reduce the gap between skills supply and skills demand, through the Enterprise Advisor Network, by engaging with 40 new employers.
	Continue to act as an advocate of the eight Good Career Guidance benchmarks and offer strategic leadership regionally and nationally by delivering 15 regional events to educators and businesses.
	Participate in a number of key working groups and steering groups. Work with 156 businesses and employers to enable them to make effective investments in their workforce. We will support them to navigate the skills ecosystem to access apprenticeships, traineeships, Kickstart, technical education pathways, in-work training, provision of placement and work experience opportunities.
<b>Deliver Education Challenge:</b>	Continue the support offered to One Vision schools, aiming to improve the destination outcomes of a selected cohort through targeted and personalised careers advice and interventions.
	Further develop processes and partnerships with a focus on the strategic use of data to improve progression and career pathways for young people.
	Develop a strategy for the North East LEP to capitalise on our position as the only LEP to be a School Governor Champion. The strategy will encourage other LEPs to recruit business people, particularly from SMEs, to be school governors.
	Support national organisations, including Inspiring Governance, to achieve their KPIs specific to the region including diversity of governing bodies.
	Support the expansion of the Ford Next Generation Learning pilot, to work with Further Education colleges to embed employer-led learning partnerships to provide high quality learning opportunities. Develop a partnership approach to continued professional development for both schools and businesses that encourages and highlights the benefits of closer engagement between business and education. The offer will include curriculum engagement, support to develop meaningful work experience and support for Initial Teacher Trainees to develop understanding of careers learning in subject areas.



<b>Improve skills progression:</b>	Promote the concept of fusion skills regionally .
	Deliver a pilot that demonstrates how fusion skills (STEM and arts and design skills) are critical for success in an A.I. workplace.
	Support eight early adopters to deliver good quality T-levels and specialist technical education.
	<p>Work with partners to analyse data relating to FE to HE transitions, graduate retention trends, post-graduate employment opportunities and degree apprenticeship provision.</p> <p>Use this intelligence to prepare a plan to promote the North East as a location for graduates and skilled workers to stay and thrive.</p> <p>Develop an approach to support the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance community to embed broader technical education in their practise to support progression pathways.</p>
<b>Increase youth employment:</b>	Build on the success of Generation North East and Durham Works to develop future models to prevent youth unemployment, by developing programmes of career guidance, education and skills support for young people ages 16-24.
	Analyse data to establish if there are barriers to entry to apprenticeships and develop a strategy to address any gap in provision in response to this research to share with partners and providers.
<b>Improve labour market activation:</b>	Building on the Mid-life MOT pilot, we will continue to work with DWP 50+ Choices delivery partners to inform development of their activities to help businesses to understand the importance and productivity benefits of a mixed age workforce and access various targeted schemes that can help the upskilling and retention of the key 50+ workforce.
	Focus support for those most negatively impacted by COVID-19 by promoting and maximising the impact of government initiatives such as Kickstart, skills bootcamps, employer grants for apprenticeships and traineeships.
	<p>Provide specialist intensive support for those most distant from the labour market because of disadvantage, poverty and poor physical and mental health, by supporting calls published by the European Social Fund.</p> <p>Inform the replacement investment post-European funding.</p>
<b>Ensure connected communities:</b>	<p>Commission a research project to understand the impact of digital exclusion in our communities and understand the changing nature of jobs due to automation and digitalisation.</p> <p>Work with government, local and combined authorities, the voluntary sector, and businesses to secure funding and resources to ensure that all North- East residents can develop their digital skills regardless of their age, location, or economic status.</p>



## Transport Connectivity

Activity	Key deliverables - between April 2021 and March 2022, we will:
<b>Continue to progress ongoing transport project delivery:</b>	<p>Deliver seven of the eight Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 schemes by March 2022, with the Newcastle Grey Street scheme to be complete by July 2021.</p> <p>Deliver the Active Travel campaign funded through the Active Travel Fund by March 2022.</p>
<b>Receive a final funding award from the Transforming Cities bid:</b>	<p>Seek approval from the Joint Transport Committee for the release of £65million funding to sustainable transport projects which are due to start construction by March 2022.</p> <p>Release £9.8million for the Metro Flow scheme.</p>
<b>Continue to improve and deliver better connectivity through improved infrastructure:</b>	<p>Deliver a funding strategy by the end of December 2021 for the Transport Plan pipeline. This will be maintained and regularly updated to secure forward capital and revenue funding for the pipeline.</p>
<b>Use transport to drive innovation and business growth:</b>	<p>Work with Transport for the North, East Coast Mainline Authorities, MPs, Chamber of Commerce, etc to seek investment from government for interventions that will uplift in the East Coast Mainline's capacity and line speed, north of York.</p> <p>Dependant on the outcome of the Government's Integrated Rail Plan for the North and Midlands and the Restoring your Railways bid for the reopening of the Leamside Line, we will prepare strategic outline business cases for local rail services and an umbrella Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC). This umbrella SOBC will encompass the various projects looking to use the Leamside line to achieve an integrated solution which maximises North East benefits.</p> <p>Continue to support Northumberland County Council to prepare the full business case, or the reintroduction of passenger services onto the Northumberland Line, which is scheduled to be submitted in Autumn 2021.</p> <p>Ensure that pipeline identified in the North East Transport Plan of schemes to support economic recovery is managed as a live programme.</p>
<b>Continue to develop regional Transport Strategies and policies that align with the North East Transport Plan:</b>	<p>Produce a North East Rail and Metro Strategy to complement the North East Transport Plan.</p> <p>Develop and publish a Zero Emission Policy during 2021/22 that sets out our regional commitment to the future of zero emission vehicles.</p> <p>Deliver a strategy by March 2022 that sets out how we will communicate with individuals, businesses and communities across our region to encourage people to make more sustainable transport choices.</p> <p>In collaboration with bus operators, we will produce a Bus Service Improvement Plan, to take advantage of funding available through government's National Bus Strategy.</p>

**Deliver the Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure funded through Local Growth Fund**

Deliver EV charging infrastructure at the seven priority sites as identified in the enabling study undertaken by Urban Foresight to set out a five-year programme of works to ensure that region is in a strong position to support the transition to EVs.

Through LGF funding, priority locations will be delivered by 31 March 2022.

Continue with a system-wide overhead line renewal programme.

Continue to delivery platform compliance works by Autumn 2021.

Continue our cable testing and replacement and the location case re-wiring programmes across the network.

Deliver the track renewals at Tyne Dock in September 2021.

Deliver the switches and crossing renewals at Christon Road (South Gosforth) in February 2022.

Prioritise and deliver lift and escalator half-life refurbishments based on asset condition.

Continue to invest in the current Metro fleet to improve reliability.

Continuation of project development work to progress scoping, surveying and designs to enable future delivery – subject to funding availability, e.g. Pelaw/Prudhoe/Monkseaton switches and crossings, multi-story car parks, Whitley Bay Station canopy and Scada/power mimic replacement.

**Complete Metro Asset Renewal Programme**



## Investment and Infrastructure

Activity	Key deliverables - between April 2021 and March 2022, we will:
<p><b>Continue to manage the already secured North East LEP funding effectively:</b></p>	<p>Report quarterly performance monitoring dashboards to the North East LEP Investment Board.</p>
	<p>Monitor programme level risks via the Technical Officer Group.</p>
	<p>Deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) programme including reporting, as required, performance to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</p>
	<p>Key project infrastructure outputs by 31 March 2022 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jarrow Business Centre – Manufacturing workspace completion</li> <li>• Gateshead Quays – work to commence on £300m Arena, Conference and Exhibition Centre</li> <li>• East Pilgrim Street, Newcastle - ongoing public realm improvement and Bank House office construction</li> <li>• Pattern shop, Stephenson Quarter – 3,238m<sup>2</sup> of refurbished commercial floorspace completed</li> <li>• VCSE infrastructure programme – 14 projects completed delivering 10,800sqm of new/refurbished learning space, 262,000sqm of improved green space and 10 community buildings refurbished.</li> <li>• Northumberland Energy Park Phase 1 – site reclamation completed – 17 ha of development land and new dock facility.</li> </ul>
	<p>Deliver the Getting Building Fund (GBF) programme including quarterly performance monitoring returns to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</p>
	<p>Key infrastructure outputs by 31 March 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public realm improvements in town and city centres totalling 26,229sqm</li> <li>• Construction of new commercial, industrial and retail space totalling 21,200 sqm by 31st March 2022</li> <li>• Support over 1,471 construction jobs</li> <li>• New R&amp;D facilities totalling 3,550sqm</li> <li>• New learning floorspace 1,137sqm</li> <li>• New superfast broadband connections – 1,350</li> <li>• 175 new jobs created and 170 jobs safeguarded</li> <li>• 4.4km of new or improved roads / cycleways.</li> </ul>
	<p>Manage the legacy budget from the LGF programme 2015-21 including £15m (tbc) programmed to support a mix of revenue and capital projects.</p>
	<p>Complete the LGF/EZ programme independent interim evaluation by 30 June 2021.</p>
<p>Complete at least 10 project evaluations, which will be delivered by partners by March 2022.</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>	

<b>Continue to manage the already secured North East LEP funding effectively:</b>	<p>New businesses will begin operating on the Enterprise Zones, including at Follingsby Max in Gateshead.</p> <p>By March 2022, our Enterprise Zone sites will become home to more than 3,000 jobs with North East LEP investment having been more than £100m, unlocking more than £210m of follow on investment.</p>
	<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>• Northumberland Energy Park</li> <li>• Port of Sunderland</li> <li>• Ashwood Business Park in Northumberland</li> <li>• Holborn 2 in South Tyneside.</li> </ul>
<b>Coordinate partners to develop a regional project pipeline based on spatial economic priorities:</b>	<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 previous regional pipeline work.</p> <p>Facilitate prioritisation of shovel ready projects through regional collaboration and make preparations for Government's future funding announcement including the proposed Shared Prosperity Fund.</p>
	<p>Manage the second-year budget of £23.5m of Getting Building Funds across the North East.</p> <p>The North East LEP has allocated up to £8m of additional resources to this programme to add value and to help deliver greater impact.</p> <p>Develop a Project Development Fund to accelerate the volume and quality of shovel ready projects making use of LEP resources (subject to LEP Board approval).</p>
<b>Secure additional investment in the North East including resources to support the Regional Recovery plan:</b>	<p>Work with and support Local Authorities throughout the year to understand plans to bid for funding from the Levelling Up Fund.</p> <p>Deliver the final development phase of the Commercial Property Investment Fund (CPIF) and launch the fund. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure a property fund manager between April 2021 to January 2022</li> <li>• Launch the CPIF programme in March 2022</li> <li>• Contract with several new CPIF pilot programme projects between April and August 2021, with resources from the Getting Building Fund to be delivered by March 2022</li> <li>• Continue to develop the pipeline of projects throughout the year to maximize take up once the fund is live.</li> </ul> <p>Continue to maximise national reserve funding from the European Structural Investment Funding and ensure the full reserve allocation is delivered within the region.</p>
<b>Increased access to finance for businesses to invest:</b>	<p>Work with the North East Fund Limited to maximise its investment potential for North East SMEs.</p> <p>Develop and deliver a regional access to finance programme, which will look at supply and demand within the region and consider the development of the successor to the North East Fund Ltd.</p> <p>Continue to support North East Finance and North East Access to Finance to optimise use of legacy funding to support North East initiatives.</p>

## Policy, strategy, evidence and analysis

### Activity

### Key deliverables - between April 2021 and March 2022, we will:

#### Building and encouraging use of the evidence base:

Strengthen our research, evidence and analysis programme by:

- Supporting the LEP's delivery programmes (Strategic Economic Plan, COVID-19, sectors) and external stakeholders to improve the evidence and analysis underpinning their work
- Co-ordinating a corporate approach to data licences, tools, procurement and visualisation
- Developing tools, advice and support to ensure North East LEP teams and stakeholders can operate to best practice standards in research, analysis and evaluation. Examples include standardisation of quality questions, support with writing research specifications and developing 'how to' guides for using the North East Data Hub.

Strengthen communication and dissemination of key strategy, policy data and research findings by:

- Reviewing and developing the North East Datahub as a key platform for regional evidence and analysis and implementing a marketing plan to increase engagements and usage of the site by 100% from 2,500 yearly visitors to 5,000
- Enhancing the LEP's commentary on key economic issues and evidence in priority areas
- Delivering the Our Economy Programme
- Producing commentary pieces on key pieces of data and analysis, including the main and programme targets identified in the North East Strategic Economic Plan and priority strategy and policy themes.

Driving forward collaboration in research and data by:

- Coordinating the North East Economic Evidence Forum and strengthening the group as a recognised platform for the discussion, collaboration and development of the regional evidence base
- Working with North East universities to build the quality and quantity of research projects to support regional economic development and to help secure new sources of investment
- Working with the NP11, Transport for the North and other northern and national partners to define a collaborative approach which can enhance the North East's access to evidence and data.

Horizon scanning and development of new sources of knowledge including:

- Working with national and international inter-governmental partnerships, think tanks and consultancies on strategic evidence and policy activities
- Exploring, accessing, and developing new methods, tools and approaches to data analysis, research and evaluation such as tools like Power BI and new databases available through platform such as Red Flag Alert and Glass.AI.

### **Coordinating and supporting on regional strategy and policy projects**

#### Net Zero

- Develop an evidence base with government and partners to demonstrate plausible pathways towards Net Zero in the North East
- Work with partners across the region to build activities to accelerate regional action towards Net Zero, developing a more sustainable and resilient economy and natural environment

Co-ordinate work within the North East LEP to accelerate the drive towards Net Zero.

#### Internationalisation

- Publish the North East Trade and Export Strategy
- Work with other northern LEPs and the Department for Business and International Trade to ensure that future national and northern powerhouse strategies respond to the North East strategy
- Through a second phase of work, strengthen the evidence base and develop specific proposals identified in the strategy, including:
  - Target exporter development at firm level
  - Align and promote views of market opportunity for the North East with northern, UK and overseas services
  - Define and agree approaches to develop and strengthen the export support ecosystem
  - Improve communication and promote collaboration to enhance trade and exporting.
- Strengthen the alignment between international facing activities in the region, between trade, inward investment, innovation and higher education.

#### Devolution

- Monitor and respond to developments in national government policy relating to devolution, including the LEP review and Levelling Up White Paper
- Support regional partners to secure and implement additional devolution to the region.

#### EU Exit

Through the EU Exit Implementation Group, we will:

- Continue to monitor the impact of new trade arrangements with the EU and report intelligence and insights to government and the LEP team
- Work with the group and sector representatives, produce a report on the impact of EU Exit on key North East sectors
- Provide a platform for joint consideration of future internationalisation approaches for the North East in the context of new trade deals and international policy
- Update the evidence base with latest data about the opportunities and challenges for businesses and sectors
- Identify opportunities and challenges arising from post-EU Exit domestic policy and co-ordinate regional response as required. Focus areas to include the labour market, funding and regulation.

#### Northern Powerhouse

- Through the Northern Powerhouse Co-ordination Group ensure that there is a regional response to the development of the Northern Powerhouse agenda across transport, economic development, energy and intelligence workstreams
- Co-ordinate North East LEP engagement with the NP11
- Working with NP11, Transport for the North and other partners lead the development of a project to assess the opportunities to strengthen the evidence base about the northern economy.

#### New strategy projects

- Continue to scan the environment for the North East region and the LEP, and determine approaches to identified opportunities and challenges
- Monitor development of planning policy and the work of the National Infrastructure Commission to identify issues and opportunities for the North East
- Develop a proposal for a mapping tool utilising GIS systems across the region to strengthen tools supporting development
- Develop and deliver an Advanced Manufacturing strategy
- Continue to support tourism partners to develop a strategic approach to recovery and future growth and development of the sector, including:
  - The development of a statement of intent
  - Responding to the review of Destination Management Organisations
  - Prepare for a future sector vision and possible Action Zone
- Develop a framework for North East LEP action to address inclusion and inequality in the region
- Ensure collaborative structures and work programmes are in place for agreed policy activity and to share intelligence between partners including ongoing support for the Economic Prospects Group working with the Bank of England.

#### LEP public policy actions

- Continue to brief the LEP Board on future policy priorities
- Further develop the approach to public policy set down in March 2021 following the outcome of LEP review process
- Complete stakeholder mapping exercise and identify priority audiences for public policy messaging.



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**Co-ordinating corporate and regional strategy development:**

Work with the Board to agree a strategic approach to future regional economic strategy development including:

- Baselining and updating the economic evidence base in preparation for an update of the North East Strategic Economic Plan and/or other strategic processes
- Evaluate and implement the approach required at regional level to respond to Government's Plan for Growth
- Prepare to support an Economic Review project in advance of any future devolution process.

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Support and co-ordinate activities which support the immediate and longer-term economic response to COVID-19 including:

- Continuing publication of the evidence base
- Support for the actions derived from the COVID-19 Economic Response Group and the Economic Response Plan
- Evaluate, and support discussion about, the impact of the COVID-19 Response Group to support future regional resilience.

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Support the alignment and development of strategic processes led by partners including the North East Transport Plan.

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## Governance

Activity	Key deliverables - between April 2021 and March 2022, we will:
<p><b>Continue to embed the LEP Review recommendations and develop a system of good governance:</b></p>	<p>Update and agree the North East LEP Constitution at the May 2021 North East LEP Board.</p> <p>Hold a public Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Update the Assurance Framework in January 2022.</p> <p>Establish an informal Chair and Sub Board Chairs' group to improve cross programme work and meet on a two monthly basis.</p> <p>Complete a review of the LEP's decision making process, provide a detailed briefing to the team and ensure the information is accessible for reference.</p> <p>Complete an annual review of the sub board membership and update Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Encourage engagement with LEP corporate documents - increase downloads of the North East Strategic Economic Plan, Annual Review and Our Economy by 10%.</p> <p>Twitter followers are currently 12,376, LinkedIn followers stand at 3,889 and engagements over the year were 5,604. We will increase both followers and engagements by a further 15%.</p>
<p><b>Continue the evaluation of the Strategic Economic Plan delivery:</b></p>	<p>Continue to work with Steer Economic Development consultants to deliver and finalise the interim external evaluation of the Strategic Economic Plan. During 2020/21 they will deliver the specific actions agreed as part of the programme for the year including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering a strategic case study of the impact and strategic added value of the work of the COVID-19 Economic Response Group</li> <li>• Undertaking a targeted review of the Local Growth programme as it enters its closing phases</li> <li>• Carrying out the next phase of assessment and stakeholder consultations for the programmes of delivery and areas of strategic importance</li> <li>• Examining the impact of cross-cutting activities of the North East LEP including communications and strategy and policy activities</li> <li>• Assessing the impact of new developments at national level, in particular the publication of the revised Green Book .</li> </ul> <p>Preparing and completing the final report of the three-year interim evaluation project. The final report will also make recommendations on the future evaluation framework in relation to the final evaluation of the Strategic Economic Plan (2014 – 2024).</p> <p>Scoping out the framework and specification for the final evaluation of the Strategic Economic Plan to be contracted up to 2024.</p>

# North East

Local Enterprise Partnership



**North East Local Enterprise Partnership**

1 St James Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4AD | **Tel** 0191 561 5420 | **Email** [info@nelep.co.uk](mailto:info@nelep.co.uk) |  [@northeastlep](https://twitter.com/northeastlep)



[northeastlep.co.uk](http://northeastlep.co.uk)



North East  
**Growth Hub**

[northeastgrowthhub.co.uk](http://northeastgrowthhub.co.uk)



North East  
**Data Hub**

[northeastdatahub.co.uk](http://northeastdatahub.co.uk)



North East  
**Ambition**

[northeastambition.co.uk](http://northeastambition.co.uk)

