

# North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board



Thursday 22 July

17.00 – 19.00

## AGENDA

*Item 6 is confidential as it contains commercial information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation and it is not for wider circulation.*

1. **Welcome from the Chair and apologies** (5.00pm)
2. **Declarations of interest** (5.00pm)
3. **Minutes of the last Board meeting held on Thursday 27 May 2021** (5.00pm)  
Board will be asked to agree the Minutes.
4. **Skills, employment, inclusion and progression update and discussion** - presentation attached (5.05pm)  
Michelle Rainbow to present to the Board.
5. **Annual Delivery Plan progress update** - paper attached (5.55pm)  
Helen Golightly to present to the Board.
6. **Funding decisions and update** - confidential paper attached (6.10pm)  
Paul Woods to present to the Board.
7. **Chair and Chief Executive update** - paper attached (6.30pm)  
Lucy Winskell and Helen Golightly to update the Board.
8. **Any Other Business** (6.40pm)
9. **Date and time of next meeting - Thursday 30 September from 5 - 7pm**

# Item 4

## Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

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Michelle Rainbow, Skills Director

North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board  
July 2021

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# Content

- SEP – an overview of key themes
- Skills Advisory Panel – role and remit
- Local Skills Report
- Research
- SEP – delivery and key delivery aims for 21/22
- Areas of focus – what's new?
  - Technical education reforms and skills white paper
  - Sector skills
  - Apprenticeships, Kickstart, National Youth Employment – House of Lords Select Committee evidence
  - DWP – mid-life MOT
  - Workforce skills investment
  - Digital exclusion

# Strategic Economic Plan: Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

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**Our ambition is that demand for skills and quality of jobs continue to improve leading to higher productivity and improved social mobility.**

- All individuals have a good understanding of the employment opportunities available and the pathways to access them
- Employers have strong links with education and training providers
- All partners understand the link between skills, productivity and living standards.

# The Strategic Economic Plan: Programmes of Delivery

<b>Deliver North East Ambition</b>	Build on the success of the Gatsby Good Career Guidance Benchmark pilot with schools, colleges and employers delivering outstanding careers guidance from primary education to employment.
<b>Deliver Education Challenge</b>	Work with partners to support school leaders, teachers and governors to reduce the gap between our best and lowest performing schools and to ambitiously aim that all students have the opportunity to be educated in good or outstanding schools.
<b>Improve skills progression</b>	Improve skills progression by encouraging the provision of high quality opportunities to learn through further and higher education (FE/HE) and other providers.
<b>Increase youth employment</b>	Increase youth employment by creating and building pathways for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people into education, training and employment and helping young people understand why skills development is beneficial.
<b>Improve labour market activation</b>	Encourage the commission of holistic approaches that include employers and the integration of services so people facing health barriers are fit for work, have a clearer path to career progression, and that organisational culture prioritises wellbeing to reduce excessive workload and stress.
<b>Ensure connected communities</b>	Increase social mobility and economic activity by working with partners to increase access to digital skills.
<b>Help deliver Fuller Working Lives</b>	Reduce inactivity levels in our older workforce and help older employees develop new skills, encourage flexible employment and offer specific support to those out of the labour market.

# North East Ambition: Delivering outstanding careers advice for each and every student

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Supporting the whole range of schools in our region to achieve quality careers provision in each and every school and for each and every student.

- Careers Benchmarks: Primary Pilot
- Enterprise Advisor Network: Supporting employer links to schools
- Adoption of Good Careers by all secondary schools and colleges
- Build on work with our SEND schools and our college hub
- Build on work with the third sector and voluntary sector.

# Education Challenge: Reducing the gap between the best and lowest performing schools

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Giving all our young people the opportunity to be educated in good and outstanding schools. Through supporting school leaders, teachers and governors:

- **Teaching and learning through applied context:** Support the development and delivery of careers in the curriculum
- **High quality teacher CPD:** Improve teachers' understanding of regional labour market information and higher education needs
- **School leadership:** Support partners to promote and recruit governors into North East schools.

# Progression: Encouraging the provision of high quality opportunities

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- Using asset mapping to target future investment in FE, HE and other provision
- Exploring a regional pilot for an employability framework
- Working with partners and employers to implement good quality T-Levels and shape the roll out of T-Levels
- Work with Apprenticeship Growth Partnership to shape post-levy apprenticeship delivery
- Work with the HE sector on graduate retention.

# Economic Inclusion: Improving living standards and balancing economic growth

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A focus on:

- Connected communities
- Creating a healthy ageing workforce
- Improving adult basic skills
- Supporting people with disabilities or health conditions get into or return to work
- Supporting progression from low pay
- Responsive to economic shocks.

# Skills Advisory Panel

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# Governance

## North East Skills Advisory Panel

*“Skills Advisory Panels aim to bring together local employers and skills providers to pool knowledge on skills and labour market needs, and to work together to understand and address key local challenges.”*

- Skills Advisory body to main LEP Board
- Oversight of delivery of regional skills, inclusion and progression programmes and projects.
- Reporting into government and National Skills and Productivity Board.
- Leading the ‘people’ strand of the COVID-19 Economic Response.

# Response to COVID-19

- Collate and collect monthly data and intelligence
- Provide detailed response to government regarding efficacy of interventions
- Develop detailed evidence based input into deal document – education leavers, young people in the labour market, adults in at risk sectors, recent claimants, digital exclusion
- Education partners – to support transition – Summer 2020 & 2021
- Detailed understanding – impact on apprenticeships, traineeships
- Web platform – real-time vacancies, training opportunities, labour market information and careers guidance
- Submission to national working groups, for eg. Youth Employment groups, House of Lords Select Committee

# Extracts from the Deal Document

- Support our Skills Advisory Panel to provide a single point of co-ordination between government, regional agencies, education, local authorities (and business)
- Use local resources and assets to maximise the impact of the nationally designed job recovery programmes
- NoTCA – delivery of the AEB and the North of Tyne School Improvement strategy
- Implement a good work pledge – with CA's, LA's, LEP, CBI, TUC, Chamber
- Maintain outcomes from EU funded employment and skills programmes
- Scale-up short-term, flexible and responsive employability support for all ages
- Grow North East Ambition – excellence in careers provision, meaningful employer engagement and future skills curriculum development
- World class environment curriculum to schools and colleges
- Maximise local delivery of – kickstart, traineeship, apprenticeship schemes

# Skills Advisory Panel Local Skills Report

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# SAP priorities – Local Skills Report

To provide a clear and consistent view of local skills needs across areas in a relevant and engaging format for local partners. Reports are a key source of local skills information that enable cross-area comparison and feed local intelligence to the National Skills and Productivity Board and central government

- Produced by all SAPs by end of March 2021 – updated annually with a fuller version refresh every two years [North East Local Skills Report March 2021](#)
- Next iteration – early 2022.
- Local Skills Reports set out each area's unique skills landscape, their progress, successes and challenges and future plans.
- Have an annex of core indicators
- Signed off by the SAP Chair.

# SAP Priorities - Local Skills Report

DfE 'Vision' – SAPs to influence investment priorities

**Acting as engagement tool** – to engage, influence and rally employers and providers in the North East

**Being a 'go-to' document for everything local-skills related** – existing and new information into a consistent document

**Clearly setting out key skills needs** – visible to partners

**Feeding intelligence to nation SPB and central government** – to aid understanding of needs and priorities of local areas to build a national picture

**Offering valuable insight and evaluation** – outline future skills plans to plug key skills gaps

# Skills Advisory Panel - Research

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# Research & Evaluation

## Research Projects underway or completed (Skills)

- Assets and capability map (provision and assets)
- Deep dive – demand for skills – offshore wind, tourism, health and social care.
- Methodology for assessing future skills needs (model- green economy and health and social care)
- Parental engagement research
- Learn by design (effective careers resources for primary age)
- Digital exclusion
- Supply / demand – green energy retrofit

# Research & Evaluation

Evaluation of LEP Skills programme underway or completed

- Gatsby Good Career Guidance benchmarks – [final evaluation](#)
- North East Ambition – Phase 1
- Primary Pilot – [Year 1 Report](#)
- Shared Learning – common purpose
- ONE Vision – data

Data Capture & Resources

- ESFA datacube
- Virtual work experience framework [Work Experience \(northeastambition.co.uk\)](#)
- Power BI – ONE Vision career aspirations
- North East Opportunities (job vacancy site) [North East Opportunities](#)
- North East Ambition portal & toolkits [Home | North East Ambition](#)

# SEP – key delivery aims for 2021 / 2022

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## Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

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

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.

#### Deliver North East Ambition:

Continue to facilitate the partnerships between businesses and educators to reduce the gap between skill 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.

#### Deliver Education Challenge:

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 businesses, 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.

	<p>Promote the concept of fusion skills regionally .</p> <p>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> <p><b>Improve skills progression:</b></p> <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>
<p><b>Increase youth employment:</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Improve labour market activation:</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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> <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>
<p><b>Ensure connected communities:</b></p>	<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>

# Focus – what's new? Shaping the future

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# Technical Education & Skills for Jobs White Paper

- Technical Education reforms include :-
  - T-levels
  - Apprenticeships
  - Traineeships
  - Institute of Technology
- Skills for Jobs White Paper
  - 2021 Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), National Skills Fund (apprenticeship) Lifetime Skills Guarantee
  - 2022 Higher Technical Qualifications, expanded IoT's, Strategic Development Fund
  - 2023 24 T- levels, T-levels aligned to UCAS, HTQ rollout (Digital, Construction, Health and Science)
  - 2024/25 Lifelong Loan Entitlement, Credit transfer

# Sector skills

## Sector Skills working groups

- Energy and Offshore Wind
- Health and Life Sciences
- Digital

## Being developed with strategic partners

- Advanced manufacturing
- Construction
- Health and social care

New role within the team focussing on developing sector skills, working closely with stakeholders, partners and existing sector groups.

# Youth Employment

- Apprenticeships / traineeships
  - North East data - [Data Hub/Skills data](#)
  - Apprenticeship working group
- Kickstart
  - North East data
  - Kickstart campaigns;
    - \* National campaign - [.GOV.UK Kickstart campaign](#)
    - \* North East LEP - [young people campaign](#)
    - \* North East LEP - [business campaign](#)
- [House of Lords Youth Unemployment Select Committee](#)
  - Evidence
  - Discussion and future working groups

# DWP – mid-life MOT

Mid Life MOT Pilot – a holistic approach to skills, health and finance with a cohort of individuals aged 50+ to ensure their skills, knowledge and expertise were able to be retained effectively within the labour market.

The North East LEP Mid Life MOT pilot project had 2 primary objectives.

- Test an approach to training a pilot group of community-based SMEs and organisations to support delivery of the Mid Life MOT while also embedding digital inclusion into support.
- Identify opportunities and implement interventions to continue to support SMEs and individuals to utilise and benefit from the Mid Life MOT, beyond the life of the pilot project.

Next steps – working with DWP to develop a business case for a national roll-out based on the findings of the pilots across England

# Workforce skills investment

Employers – major investors in learning & skills and this investment is crucial for economic recovery and future prosperity.

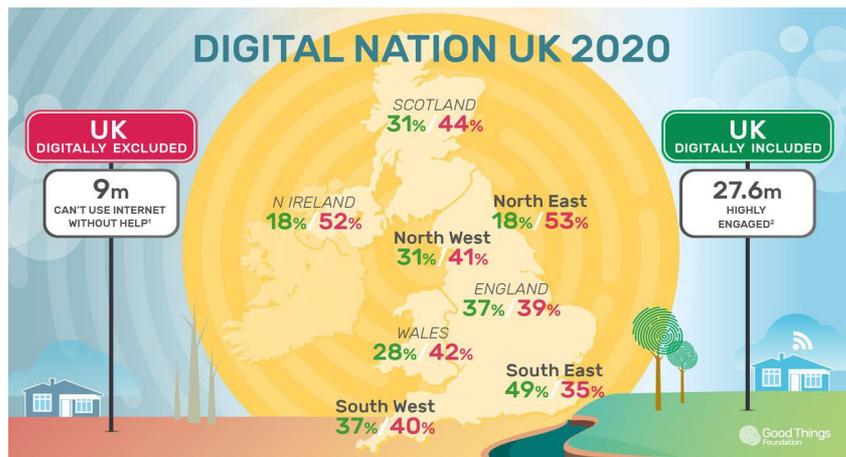
- [LWI research published July 2021](#)
  - Employers investment in skills was declining prior to the pandemic and there were questions about quality and impact of training
  - Access to training is highly unequal – low paid, low qualified workers less opportunity.
  - Employer investment fell sharply during the pandemic – low wage workers and young people particularly impacted.
  - Government investment can reinforce inequalities – AEB, National Skills Fund, apprenticeship level, tax relief methodology.

Ongoing discussions with BEIS – support / incentivisation for SMEs to invest more and utilisation of skills within existing workforce.

# Digital Exclusion – SAP focus

Existing challenge, exacerbated and highlighted during the pandemic

- Good Things Foundation [The digital divide - Good Things Foundation](#) –



- IPPR North research - focus primarily on the **social impacts** of digital exclusion in the region, including health and wellbeing, financial hardship, social exclusion, and lack of access to a whole range of services.

# Digital Exclusion

- SAP commissioned research (NSC) focus on the **economic and skills-related impacts** of digital exclusion covering:
  - Digital skills - How lack of digital skills impacts on digital exclusion across the whole range of contexts how weaknesses can be addressed through policy interventions.
  - Education and skills context - The nature and extent of digital exclusion / inequality within the education and skills system in the region (schools, colleges, training providers), how this impacts on the ability of various groups of people to engage and achieve in education, and how weaknesses can be addressed.
  - The research could also potentially explore the impact of digital exclusion on access to employment and employment support, via research with a small sample of employment support providers (in addition to schools, colleges, training providers).
  - Report – August 2021
- Outcome - along with IPPR North and partners and stakeholders to develop a single, regional digital inclusion strategy – Accelerator Fund
- Next steps SAP & LEP Board in September – presentation by NSC on findings and recommendations.

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22 July 2021

**Item 5: Annual Delivery Plan Progress**

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 This report provides a summary of the progress against the Annual Delivery Plan 2021/22, with further details available in *Appendix 1*.

1.2 Summary of current positions of Annual Delivery Plan deliverables:

Annual Delivery Plan Progress - summary table

Programme	Number of key deliverables	Key deliverables by RAG status				Key deliverables by progress status			
		G	A	R	N/A	Complete	In Progress	Overdue	Not Started
Business and sector growth	59	48	8	0	3	1	47	0	11
Innovation	17	9	8	0	0	1	16	0	0
Skills, employment, inclusion and progression	25	20	2	0	3	0	19	0	6
Investment and infrastructure	18	15	3	0	0	0	18	0	0
Transport connectivity	23	22	1	0	0	0	23	0	0
Policy, strategy, evidence and analysis	14	13	1	0	0	0	14	0	0
	156	127	23	0	6	2	137	0	17

**2.0 Highlights and points to note since the last meeting**

Business and Sector Growth

- Significant announcements of investments totalling billions of pounds and many thousands of jobs including Nissan/Envision, Smulders, Xplor, Equinor/SEE.
- Mine Energy white paper published
- BEIS funded Made Smarter Programme launched
- 4 x BEIS funded Peer Networks recruited and started.
- Programme Manager for Advanced Manufacturing Sector appointed.
- Team expanded with additional 2x Growth Hub Connectors, 2 x Business Support Officers, 2x Local Energy Programme Managers.
- Project Manager appointed to lead the Growth Hub Triage team

Innovation

- UK Community Renewal Fund applications submitted for Challenge North East and Future Markets Acceleration Programme. 5 out of 10 applications successful at Stage 1 appraisal and submitted to MHCLG.
- Innovation ecosystem assessment tool finalised and operational to gather baseline for eleven Innovation Delivery Partnerships.
- Economic markets foresight project underway and to target.
- Covid 19 Challenge supported 16 SMEs with £79k grant funding to develop solutions and 7 SMEs allocated a total of £121k.

- Over 50 expressions of interest received in response to the call for innovation project pipeline.
- Innovation Toolkit published on North East Growth Hub

#### Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

- The North East LEP submitted a response to the House of Lords Youth Unemployment Committee, which was incorporated feedback from the Skills Advisory Panel. Following our submission, Michelle Rainbow was invited to present at the House of Lords [evidence session](#) on 8 June 2021, chaired by Lord Shipley of Gosforth. The overarching focus was on challenges facing young people in finding high quality employment in the local area post Covid. The Committee specifically asked for further evidence regarding what we have learned from the launch of the Career Benchmarks: Primary Pilot, and our view on whether careers education should begin at primary school.
- The North East LEP is one of 10 LEPs to be awarded a £200k Effective Transition Fund project by the Careers Enterprise Company (CEC), following a competitive bidding process. The project will engage with 6 Hub schools (3 mainstream and 3 SEND specialist schools) to provide a cohort of 100 young people, at risk of NEET and with SEND, with additional support throughout KS4 to help raise aspirations for apprenticeships and support them to secure a sustained, positive destination when they finish year 11.
- The North East Ambition website has been redesigned to have a [business](#) and education landing page. There is a section highlighting the benefits of volunteering as a governor. First discussion with Inspiring Governance regarding available data linked to school / college governance.
- Featured in national campaign and video to accompany online training (Education Training Foundation) showcasing the importance of careers to FE workforce. Highlighted as an exemplar in national strategic guidance for whole college approach to careers.

#### Transport

- Key marketing and communication activities are well underway for the regional 'Go Smarter, Go Active' marketing campaign which aims to promote our cycling and walking infrastructure to explore our region, improving health and boosting the local economy
- Work on developing a Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership, is underway in collaboration with bus operators, the seven local highway authorities and Nexus.

#### Investment and Infrastructure

- Project Accelerator Fund first call opened, with strong interest shown in initial review point. Call will close on 23 August 2021, with remaining applications considered at the September meeting of the Investment Board
- Five CPIF pilot projects brought forward for consideration demonstrating the strong level of interest and demand for the scheme.
- Project with City of London Corporation on Finance for Sustainable Growth launched on 6 July 2021, which aims to improve the awareness of the region's sustainability related investment opportunities with investors in London.

#### Strategy, Policy and Analysis

- The North East Trade and Export report 'Global North East: Driving growth in North East trade and exports' was launched in June, summarising our opportunities and priorities for enhancing North East trade and export outcomes
- WE have published commentary and analysis on the latest employment data reflecting SEP KPI's, and on the impact of Covid and EU Exit
- A number of significant research and analysis activities are underway including Our Economy 2021, plus new research projects on NP11 data and intelligence and in support of our programmes of delivery and strategic importance
- We have actively engaged with Government policy activities and consultations in a number of areas including the LEP Review, Tourism delivery, Subsidy control

### Communications

- The 2020/21 Annual Review was published alongside four blogs by LEP Board members.
- There continues to be growth in the number of followers across the LEP's social media (0.7% on Twitter and 2.8% on LinkedIn). The North East LEP remains the most followed LEP in the country on Twitter.
- The story with the most impressions on Twitter related to publication of the white paper on the Case for Mine Energy.

## **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report and *Appendix 1*.

*Appendix – Annual Delivery Plan – progress update*

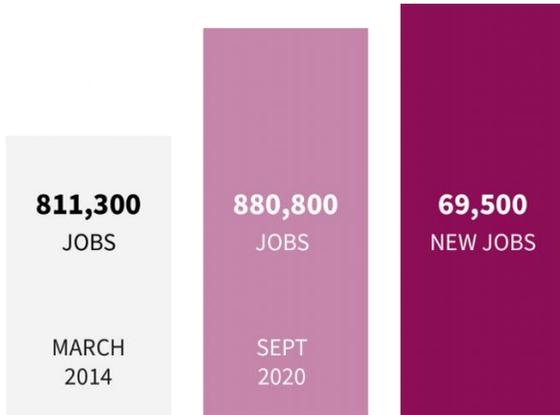


# Annual Delivery Plan – progress update



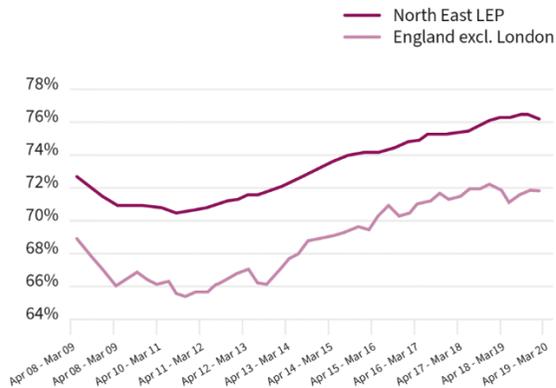
**Target** Increase jobs by **100,000** by 2024

Position at September 2020  
**69,500 increase**



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

Position at September 2020:  
**21% reduction**



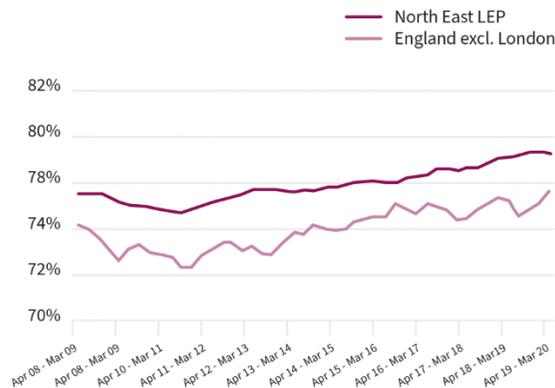
**Target** 70% of all jobs created from 2014 will be better jobs

Position at September 2020  
**113%**



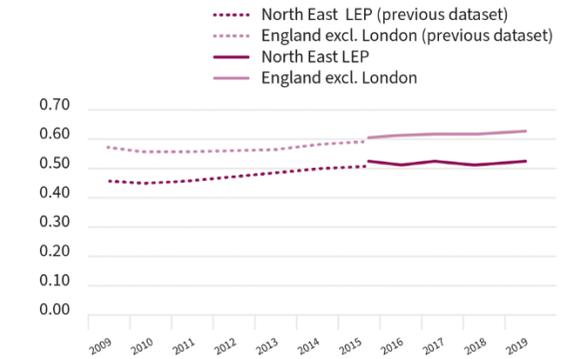
**Target** Reduce the gap in economic activity for people aged 16-64  
**Target** 50% reduction in gap by 2024

Position at September 2020:  
**23% reduction**



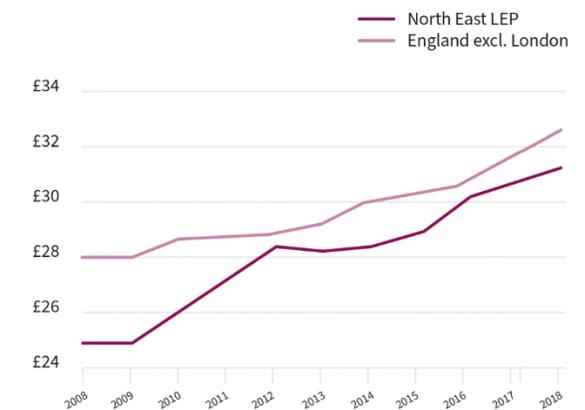
**Target** Reduce the gap in private sector employment density  
**Target** 50% reduction in gap by 2024

Position at 2019: **14% increase** (compared to 2015)



**Target** Reduce the gap in GVA per hour worked  
**Target** 50% reduction in gap by 2024

Position at 2018: **19% increase**



## Business and sector growth | Lead: Colin Bell

### Vision (in SEP)

To be a growth orientated, dynamic and productive environment where businesses invest, grow and thrive. At a time of change, we want business leaders to be inspired and supported to achieve their goals through strengthened leadership, innovation and trade, resulting in:

- An increase to the density of scaleup businesses in the North East by 50% from 2014 to 2024. These businesses will deliver 6,000 new jobs into the North East economy
- The attraction of new businesses who invest in the North East and create 4,000 new job per year between 2014 and 2024

We want more businesses to actively seek, and find with ease, the support and finance they need to grow and to strengthen the visibility of opportunities for investment in our economy.

### Highlights in current period:

- Significant announcements of investments totalling billions of pounds and many thousands of jobs including Nissan/Envision, Smulders, Xplor, Equinor/SEE.
- Mine energy white paper launched
- BEIS funded Made Smarter launched.
- 4 x BEIS funded Peer Networks recruited and started.
- Programme Manager for Advanced Manufacturing Sector appointed.
- Team expanded with additional 2x Growth Hub Connectors, 2 x Business Support Officers, 2x Local Energy Programme Managers.
- Project Manager appointed to lead the Growth Hub Triage team

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<b>Raise levels of business growth ambition</b>				
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.	6,001 light assists completed to date (34% progress against annual target).	Jen Robson	G	In Progress
<b>Increase demand for external business support and finance</b>				
Increase the capacity of the North East Growth Hub to deliver: -915 Medium Intensity Interventions -580 High Intensity Interventions to businesses with scaleup potential, This support will deliver: -750 additional jobs of which 490 will be better jobs -21.9million additional GVA	We are on track for predicted quarter one stats. We have achieved: - 198 Medium Intensity Interventions (22% of annual target) - 106 High Intensity Interventions (20% of annual target) - 224 additional jobs (30% of annual target) of which 100 are better jobs (20% of annual target) - £8.1m of additional forecast GVA created (37% of annual target)	Siobhan Finnon	G	In Progress
Introduce a triage team to service inbound enquiries and carryout outbound lead generation and intelligence gathering activities.	Triage team in place; actively managing inbound enquiries and making outbound lead generation and intelligence led calls.	Helen Lee	G	Complete

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
Integrate the sector teams and sector delivery plans with the North East Growth Hub.	<p>Each Growth Hub Connector has been assigned a sectoral responsibility, they will work closely with their sector leads to support business engagement and the delivery of sector development plans.</p> <p>Responsibilities are assigned to each of our key sectors as well as enabling sectors and sectors that need focused support to recover from Covid (e.g. hospitality, retail etc...) Type your updates here</p>	Helen Lee	G	In Progress
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>A new segmentation, diagnostic and brokerage model designed to modernise business support and move to a more transformative approach has been designed and agreed by the Business Growth Board.</p> <p>The model has been presented to BEIS and several other LEP's/GH's including TVCA who have expressed an interest in working with us on this development through the North East Growth Hub Cluster.</p> <p>Related project in development to consider Inclusive Growth. Pilot project in development which will feed into the APPG for Inclusive Growth.</p> <p>Development will start September/October.</p>	Colin Bell	G	In Progress
<b>Ensure the support of external business support and finance matches the needs of businesses and the economy</b>				
Work with government and regional partners to support the development of, and transition to, a new business support and sector development landscape.	<p>Work continues through our National Growth Hub Cluster Lead role to support Government to modernise the business support landscape.</p> <p>Business Growth &amp; Sector Director is supporting Govt to consider the alignment of national business support offer with the Growth Hub network.</p> <p>Helen Lee, Siobhan Finnon and Jen Robson are all involved in working groups to support this work.</p> <p>As the landscape is currently under review (through levelling up whitepaper and LEP reform) its difficult to move forward recommendations and actions.</p>	Colin Bell	A	In Progress
Continue to lead the North East Growth Hub Cluster and work closely with government to support the development of the national Growth Hub network.	Continue to lead the NE Growth Hub Cluster nationally. Development include collaboration with TVCA on Made Smarter, Peer Networks, EU Exit support and the implementation of a new approach to segmentation, diagnosis and brokerage.	Colin Bell	G	In Progress
Deliver 26 government funded Peer Networks to support approximately 280 businesses to improve their productivity performance.	Deliver has been brought inhouse (through GH Connectors) to add value to and intensify the GH delivery model. We have also integrated Peer Networks with Made Smarter. The first 4 cohorts have been recruited and will start w/c 13 July.	Colin Bell	G	In Progress
Expand the Growth Hubs Mentoring for Growth Programme with the aim of supporting 100 businesses to unlock their growth potential.	Re-engagement with mentors. Workshop on 8 July to gain mentor feedback and commitment to expanded mentoring offer to support high growth, growth and early stage mentees. Cross-company mentoring in early stage development.	Helen Lee	G	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
Work with sector teams to ensure that the business support ecosystem meets sector specific firm level needs.	<p>Reviewing sector governance structure to ensure greater consistency private sector leadership and stronger relationships with Govt.</p> <p>Reviewing the approach to Clustering across each of our priority sectors to ensure a consistent approach and that cluster organisations effectively support the development of the sectors and implementation of regional economic strategy.</p> <p>Working with Govt sector teams on the transition from Sector Deals to Sector Visions and aligning plans accordingly.</p>	Colin Bell	G	In Progress
Deliver 11 Local Growth Fund Cluster Development Fund projects.	Most projects remain on track, an small extension has been provided to 2	Colin Bell	G	In Progress
<b>Improve the region's economic resilience</b>				
Develop Peer Networks in the sectors most effected by COVID-19 (hospitality, retail, tourism) to support businesses to recover	<p>Peer Networks being developed to target businesses in hospitality, retail and tourism in partnership with DMO's and Business Improvement Districts.</p> <p>As many of these sectors are reopening and experiencing significant resource issues (staff and supplies) many are struggling to find the time to commit to Peer Networks and deferring to September/October.</p>	Colin Bell	A	In Progress
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>We have added a triage function which enhances our ability to respond rapidly to economic shocks through proactive and targeted outbound communication and intelligence gathering. Our triage team will conduct outbound targeted telephone surveying to provide more depth to intelligence gathering.</p> <p>We continue to work with Local Authorities and delivery partners to produce intelligence reports that monitor, 'hot topics' and the current business and economic environment.</p> <p>To support intelligence gathering we will continue to run and adjust our business surveys. We will adjust intelligence gathering activities to reflect the economic environment and/or to collect specific intelligence required by Govt.</p> <p>The LEP's policy and strategy team continue to add to intelligence gathering through the analysis of economic data and other data sources such as social listening and Google Mobility data.</p>	Siobhan Fannon	G	In Progress
Run bespoke workshops and support services to educate businesses on specific issues/changes related to EU transition.	We are working with our cluster partner Tees Valley Combined Authority to establish the workshop topics we will focus on in quarter two.	Siobhan Fannon	A	In Progress
Continue to work as part of the North East Economic Response Group to develop and inform regional response.	Updated regional business and sector grow project pipeline as part of NE ERG plan.	Colin Bell	G	In Progress
<b>Grow inward investment in the region</b>				

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Combined and local authorities, the LEP, the Department for International Trade and private sector will work together with a shared ambition of securing maximum inward investment into the North East</li> <li>· Establish and follow a clear target driven, lead generation model that is focused on the SEPs areas of strategic importance and support service sectors</li> <li>· Have a robust account management system, led by local authorities, to share knowledge and investment opportunities with key partners</li> <li>· Develop and deliver an integrated marketing plan to raise the profile of the North East as a place to invest and locate</li> </ul>	<p>Final confirmed full-year success figures in the North East for 20/21 are as follows: a total of 68 inward investment projects resulting in 2,935 jobs. Of these, 53 were FDI projects leading to 2,713 jobs, the rest were new UK companies locating in the North East. Of the FDI successes, 12 were from USA, 6 each from Japan, France and Sweden and 5 from Ireland, with investments from 11 other countries making up the total.</p> <p>2021/22 has got off to a fantastic start with significant recent announcements of investments totalling billions of pounds and many thousands of jobs. These have been in a number of sectors and include Nissan/Envision, Smulders, Xplor, Equinor/SEE. Amazon is creating another circa 1,500 jobs at Gateshead and a large business services project creating 1,225 jobs is shortly to be announced. Depending on which year these and other projects on our pipeline are allocated to, 21/22 could be one of the best years on record for new investments.</p> <p>INEE is planning a northshoring campaign to attract business services and digital companies to relocate/expand to the North East from London and the SE. This will be launched in September. Other key areas of focus for the Team in 21/22 will be on electrification, offshore renewables and biopharma.</p>	Guy Currey	G	In Progress
<b>Deliver annual key sector development plans</b>				
<b>Accelerate delivery of energy projects within the region, helping deliver growth and net zero</b>				
Operationalise the Energy for Growth Accelerator	Programme Managers start 12 July 2021, framework discussions underway with LAs	Andrew Clark	G	In Progress
Convene stakeholders to agree the North East masterplan approach	Initial paper on energy masterplan taken to EDs and recommendation to proceed given. Setting up follow up meeting with LA energy and planning leads.	Josh Sawyer	G	In Progress
Tactically promote heat networks High Potential Opportunity, heat study, mine energy white paper	Mine energy white paper launched to good reception, HPO finalised and presented to DIT overseas posts. Potential Ministerial visit in July Heat event being developed for September.	Andrew Clark	G	In Progress
Coordinate regional local authorities in delivery of local authority delivery 2 programme	All bids approved pending South Tyneside due to thresholds on EPC rating being triggered. Supply chain development opportunities being facilitated.	Andrew Clark	G	In Progress
Support capacity building in local authorities for retrofit delivery	LAs being supported with retrofit coordinator training via Retrofit Academy. LEP feeding into NTCA retrofit framework development work.	Andrew Clark	G	In Progress
Complete rural community energy fund delivery and evaluation	Fund fully allocated to projects. Evaluation brief with TVCA to go out to procurement.	Josh Sawyer	G	In Progress
complete feasibility for retrofit skills proposition and determine roles in delivery	Procurement complete, project up and running, expected to complete end of year	David Lynch	G	In Progress
<b>Coordinate our energy innovation and demonstration assets to develop and showcase solutions to global challenges</b>				
Finalise bids for North East future energy systems today £50m+	North East FEST pipeline review sessions taking place with each Energy Catalyst board member. Refreshed pipeline almost complete.	David Lynch	G	In Progress
Establish the Energy Catalyst SME support model	Engagement with Northumbrian Water, Northern Powergrid and Northern Gas Networks underway. Innovation Director engaged around possible integration with future Challenge North East agenda delivered by Innovation SuperNetwork.	David Lynch	G	In Progress
Launch the Energy Catalyst SME network and partner network	Both networks live with 'Partner Network' and 'Charter' documents complete to formalise process. SME network document in development.	David Lynch	G	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
Plan and schedule the Energy Catalyst summit	Initial meetings with communications team have taken place, agenda and scope for summit drafted. Seeking collaboration from SME and Partner networks.	David Lynch	G	In Progress
Forward comms plan for Catalyst, increase awareness and influence nationally and internationally	Initial discussions will communications team to identify priorities such as COP26, national exposure and dissemination of Energy Catalyst research and intelligence.	David Lynch	G	In Progress
<b>Support growth, investment and cluster development in key energy sectors</b>				
Devise targeted inward investment process, and initial targets	Initial discussions held regarding the approach for the offshore wind sector	Andrew Clark	G	Not Started
Agree, together with Energi Coast, ownership and workplan for wider offshore wind cluster development priorities	Input fed into Energi Coast future strategy development exercise, including role of the LEP.	Andrew Clark	G	In Progress
Agree with stakeholders and coordinate the LEP's role in supporting the electric vehicles and battery sectors	Energy team now attending EV North, supporting Newcastle Uni in developing battery centre of excellence. Increasing coordination.	Andrew Clark	G	In Progress
Convene stakeholders to agree and promote a low carbon heat cluster approach	Pending outcomes from HPO and analysis of low carbon heat study.	Andrew Clark	G	Not Started
Agree regional recommendations on UK content and channels to feed these into	Pending Energi Coast strategy development work	Andrew Clark	G	Not Started
Support mobilisation of the Global Underwater Hub in the North East and effective connections into networks	Ongoing participation in the GUH implementation board	Andrew Clark	G	In Progress
<b>Work with partners on the North East Digital Ambition, by developing and publishing goals, strategic priorities and a plan that supports them</b>				
Finalise and publish the North East's digital ambition	Will commence once Private Sector Digital Strategy Board in place	Colin Bell	A	Not Started
Agree strategic priorities	Will commence once Private Sector Digital Strategy Board in place	Colin Bell	A	Not Started
Mapping how stakeholders can contribute to the achievement of the North East Digital Ambition	Will commence once Private Sector Digital Strategy Board in place	Colin Bell	A	Not Started
To carry out research study exploring rates of digital Sector business start-up and scaleup and what's either enabling or inhibiting growth	Research study started including action research through the delivery of a High Potential Start up and Peer Network Cohorts targeted at product based digital businesses.	Colin Bell	G	In Progress
The intelligence generated from these action's will be used to inform the development of a digital sector action plan	Will commence once Private Sector Digital Strategy Board in place	Colin Bell	A	Not Started
Review and implement new governance structure	Working with the existing Digital Steering Group to develop future Governance model and the creation of a Private Sector Digital Strategy Board	Colin Bell	G	In Progress
<b>Modernise and grow pharmaceutical manufacturing in the region</b>				
Finalise business case for funding pharma manufacturing and innovation facility and identify funding sources	Outline business case expected mid-July	Karen Burgess	G	In Progress
Develop supply chain development programme to move forward recommendations of gap analysis and support diversification. Generics manufacture - also look at wider supply chain and supply and demand dynamics	Business case expected mid-July	Karen Burgess	G	In Progress
Develop a sector skills framework to support development of an appropriately skilled workforce to enable growth	Report published outlining current and future skills requirements for medicines manufacturers. Health and life sciences skills group established and action plan for sector skills framework drafted.	Karen Burgess	G	In Progress
Support Industrial Digitisation through Made Smarter Hub	Working with NEPIC to recruit a pharma manufacturing cohort	Karl McCracken	G	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
Develop an inward investment proposition around out advanced manufacturing strengths	Discussions commenced to explore the development of an International Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Park to support the attraction of inward investment.	Colin Bell	G	In Progress
Refresh first for pharma study to understand trajectory of businesses in the sector and to understand needs, barriers and opportunities for growth	Planned activity October 2021 to inform 2022/23 plan.	Colin Bell	G	Not Started
<b>Increase the number of innovative health and life science businesses that are born, grow and scale in the region</b>				
Support the formation of university spinouts	Consulting with key stakeholders to understand opportunities and challenges around academic spin-out in the region	Karen Burgess	G	In Progress
Support the formation of corporate and NHS spinouts	Consulting with key stakeholders to understand opportunities and challenges	Karen Burgess	G	In Progress
Support existing businesses to diversify into Health and Life Science Sector	Activity to be planning in coming months	Karen Burgess	N/A	Not Started
Develop a sector skills framework to support development of an appropriately skilled workforce to enable growth	Established health and life science skills group and in process of planning a consultation event in partnership with industry representatives	Karen Burgess	G	In Progress
Promote the region via Ageing HPO and expand HPO approach via IDPs to promote regional strengths e.g. Diagnostics, Rare Disease, Advanced Delivery Systems	Supported Invest North East England team around development of Ageing HPO and in consultation with representatives from relevant organisations around opportunities linked to other regional strengths. Collaborating with innovation team around priority project pipeline.	Karen Burgess	G	In Progress
<b>Broker access to a range of expert support and services across the health and care sectors through the Innovation Pathways</b>				
Develop Innovation Pathway brokerage system including the mapping and gapping of supply and informing Innovation funding pipeline	A series of cocreation session have taken place between AHSN and NE LEP to support the development and integration of the Innovation Pathway and the Business Support ecosystem	Colin Bell	G	In Progress
<b>Develop our ecosystem</b>				
Progress priority LGF pipeline projects that demonstrate greatest contribution towards programme goals	Final business cases expected to be received by end of July	Karen Burgess	G	In Progress
Carry out study to assess if property and infrastructure can meet the needs of industry	Working with key stakeholders across the region to understand current and future requirements and identify opportunities for development.	Karen Burgess	G	In Progress
Carry out freight logistics study	Feasibility study completed in partnership with airport. Positive opportunities identified, working with partners to take a proposition to market.	Karen Burgess	G	In Progress
Develop baseline data for sector and publish on Data Hub	Developed process to capture key data from partners, 6 month review planned and SPA team supporting to develop dashboard to monitor data.	Karen Burgess	G	In Progress
<b>Develop the competitiveness of the North East's Advanced Manufacturing sector</b>				

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
Working with government and Tees Valley Combines Authority to lead the development of a North East Made Smarter adoption programme which will support 100 manufacturers to adopt industrial digitisation technologies	Mobilisation is nearly complete, with procurement of sector organisation (NEAA, NEPIC, and NOF) to work on SME recruitment to the programme. Northumbria and Teesside universities have been procured to deliver the substantive workshop phase of the programme and we have a custom diagnostic tool now in beta testing with selected SMEs. Some technical and contractual issues with BEIS' preferred route to take expressions of interest via the national makesmarter.uk web site, so as an interim measure to protect the project schedule, local systems have been set up to take and respond to SMEs expressions of interest. Strong support from Marketing and Comms with everything from preparation of collateral packs for delivery partners to liaising with BEIS for launch comms. TVCA have recruited a Growth Consultant (equivalent role to Growth Hub Connector) to work full time on the project, and we are now lining up to support the project in the LEP area with existing staff. Overall, the project is around 4 weeks off schedule, but at this stage, this is viewed as recoverable.	Karl McCracken	A	In Progress
Following the mobilisation of Made Smarter we will establish an Advanced Manufacturing steering group	Not yet started	Karl McCracken	N/A	Not Started
The steering group will then work with the LEP to develop an Advanced Manufacturing Sector plan/strategy	Not yet started	Karl McCracken	N/A	Not Started

## Innovation | Lead: Alan Welby

### Vision (in SEP)

Innovation is central to our long-term aim to build a more productive North East, fostering a competitive and embedded business base and solving social and economic challenges in the region and beyond. It is a tool for internationalising our economy, particularly in areas of specialisation, by attracting partners and investors to engage in our science, research and business base and for strengthening the competitiveness of businesses and creativity of communities.

We have an ambition of a collaborative and open innovation eco-system that enables the matching of what is needed to what is possible to drive economic or social value, or both.

We aim to increase the number of innovation active businesses by 550 and increase investment in business research, development and innovation by 50% between 2014 and 2024.

### Highlights in current period:

- UK CRF applications submitted for Challenge North East and Future Markets Acceleration Programme. 5 out of 10 applications successful at Stage 1 appraisal and submitted to MHCLG.
- Innovation ecosystem assessment tool finalised and operational to gather baseline for eleven Innovation Delivery Partnerships.
- Economic markets foresight project underway and to target.
- Covid 19 Challenge supported 16 SMEs with £79k grant funding to develop solutions and 7 SMEs allocated a total of £121k.
- Over 50 expressions of interest received in response to the call for innovation project pipeline.
- Innovation Toolkit published on North East Growth Hub

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<b>Stimulate new business opportunities through the North East Open Innovation Challenge</b>				
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.	Applications for UK Community Renewal Fund were submitted covering these three challenge areas to the five lead authorities. Of these, three applications were approved for submission to MHCLG (Durham, Gateshead and Sunderland). Decisions will be made by Government at the end of July. Although not being taken forward by the NTCA through the UK CRF process, we are in dialogue with the combined authority regarding application for innovation funding for Challenge North East delivery across Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside.	Alan Welby	A	In Progress
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.	Development of the website is progressing and is at scoping stage.	Nicola McIntosh	A	In Progress
Position innovation challenges as a route to new business opportunities and growth.	The evaluation of the Covid-19 Challenge clearly articulates the benefits of innovation as a route to new business opportunities and growth. While the full impact of individual solutions remains to be seen, the shared examples of continued collaboration, potential for further investment from Challenge Supporters, and reported improvements in the quantity and quality of planned innovation activity across both Solution Developers and Challenge Supporters indicates a route forward for a successful regional approach to innovation.	Alan Welby	G	In Progress
<b>Prioritise a regional pipeline of projects to form a Strategic Investment Programme</b>				
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.	The Expression of Interest call closed on 2 July. We received over 50 expressions from 37 unique organisations. These are being assessed by the team and will go to Innovation Board in due course. We are on target to achieve this deliverable.	Rebecca Furness	G	In Progress
<b>Continue to support our businesses to capitalise on local research and innovation capability</b>				

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
Identify opportunities for collaboration and facilitate relationships between businesses and innovation assets	<p>Through our work with the eleven Innovation Delivery Partnerships, we are collaborating with RTC North and Design Network North to bring design events to IDP partners. We are also facilitating inter-IDP relationships.</p> <p>We are investigating how to work more closely with the Knowledge Transfer Network to facilitate relationships between businesses and innovation assets and are actively seeking content for the North East Growth Hub that profile collaborative activities.</p> <p>We are actively facilitating relationships between the IDP partners and the sector programme leads, including through the priority project process.</p> <p>The Innovation Director sits on the Northern Accelerator Board and the Programme Manager sits on the NIC-Rural Enterprise Advisory Board, helping to identify further collaborative opportunities.</p>	Alan Welby	G	In Progress
Facilitate access to research and capabilities that will help businesses increase innovation activity and facilitate knowledge transfer.	<p>Access to research and capabilities is one of the priorities for the IDPs, as reflected in the innovation ecosystem online assessment tool. We are also promoting and will facilitate knowledge transfer through the new Innovation Toolkit on the North East Growth Hub, the content of which is focused around our aims to increase innovation activity and innovation investment. Access to research and capabilities and facilitating knowledge transfer feature in our preparation for a response to the forthcoming Innovation Deal.</p> <p>The Innovation Director has joined the ORBIT Board, Durham University's new enterprise zone located at NETPark.</p>	Alan Welby	A	In Progress
Inform and help shape emerging national innovation strategy.	<p>Building on from the successful roundtable meetings, we are preparing a regional response to the forthcoming Innovation Deal in response to the Innovation Strategy and are in discussion with key stakeholders regarding how we inform and shape the strategy beyond the direct discussions held so far with BEIS colleagues.</p>	Alan Welby	G	In Progress
<b>Increase private sector investment into growing innovation businesses</b>				
Support mechanisms to increase investment in R&D and innovation through relationships and collaboration including: 1. Support the promotion and launch of the City of London Corporation Interconnector 2. Facilitating the preparation of an investment plan for Venture North 3. Supporting the evolution of the Northern Accelerator programme.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Interconnector launched on 6 July. We continue to contribute to the Interconnector as a mechanism to boost innovation activity and investment through relationships.</li> <li>2. Alan Welby continues to support the Venture North team as further details are worked up.</li> <li>3. Alan Welby supports the Northern Accelerator through the NA Board.</li> </ol>	Alan Welby	A	In Progress
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>We continue to inform Investment Team, lead delivery team for successor funding, of emerging national innovation policy that may impact succession planning.</p>	Alan Welby	A	In Progress
<b>Engage with partners to identify emerging opportunities and drive business growth through an Innovation Delivery Partnerships (IDP) approach:</b>				
Submit bids proposals to the UK Community Renewal Fund for a project to develop further and deliver at pace the IDP approach. If successful deliver the proposals in line with funding award(s).	<p>Applications for UK CRF funding were submitted to the five lead authorities, two of which have taken the proposal forward to MHCLG (Gateshead and Sunderland). Feedback has been limited on the unsuccessful applications. The concern of some of the lead authorities appeared to be regarding deliverability although two of the five considered that there were no deliverability risks. We are mobilising the project. Government decision is expected end July.</p>	Dinah Jackson	A	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
If unsuccessful, work with partners to explore the opportunities to continue to develop the IDP approach, including: 1. To continue to support the current and future potential IDPs 2. Develop and test the approach which is anticipated to include an assessment tool and benchmarks framework.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We are planning mobilisation of the project in Gateshead and Sunderland whilst scoping alternative means of bring in capacity building resources from external parties.</li> <li>2. We have completed the design of an online innovation ecosystem assessment tool, to be rolled out across the eleven IDPs during July and August. Progress with designing the benchmarks is underway and will reflect the findings of the baseline assessments.</li> </ol>	Dinah Jackson	G	In Progress
Undertake an economic markets foresight analysis project to identify emergent global market opportunities for the North East.	The project is underway. The first two milestones are met and the project is on target.	Dinah Jackson	G	In Progress
<b>Coordinate regional partners to provide enhanced innovation support activity:</b>				
Facilitate connections and collaboration between national and regional partners including Innovate UK, NP11 and the Innovation SuperNetwork to boost innovation activities.	We are working closely with the ISN in developing the Challenge North East programme for regional benefits. Alan Welby chairs the NP11 response to the forthcoming Innovation Strategy. NP 11 has published 'A Northern Life Sciences Super Cluster'. This is a collaborative piece of work between the NP11 and NHTA.	Alan Welby	G	In Progress
Work with government and regional partners to support the development of, and transition to, a new innovation business support and sector development landscape.	We are liaising closely with BEIS and IUK colleagues to keep pace with Government intentions for innovation support and work to inform discussions with business growth and investment colleagues in particular. The direction of travel is towards science and R&D, but we retain the purview that support for innovation activity is required to level up the region, including through an Innovation Deal. Our work to enhance the innovation programme indicator set provides evidence of need. Our call for priority projects has generated nine proposals for revenue activity to support innovation activity and investment in innovation. These are currently being assessed.	Alan Welby	A	In Progress
Work with innovation business support providers to enhance content on, and improve signposting to, schemes on the North East Growth Hub	Scheme content has been refreshed. A content calendar is in development to support the new Innovation Toolkit on the Growth Hub.	Nicola McIntosh	G	In Progress
Publish an innovation toolkit on the North East Growth Hub. The toolkit will generate 300 referrals to the provider network	Toolkit was published w/c 5 July.	Nicola McIntosh	G	Complete
Evaluate the Local Growth Fund programme's Innovation Pipeline Development Fund.	Expression of Interest closed on 2 July. Evaluation is ongoing of the 50+ expressions (capital and revenue) received. These will inform the regional project pipeline.	Alan Welby	A	In Progress

## Skills, employment, inclusion and progression | Lead: Michelle Rainbow

### Vision (in SEP)

Our long-term ambition in the North East is that demand for skills and the quality of jobs continue to improve, leading to higher productivity. To delivery this, the North East must be a place where:

- Individuals, regardless of age or employment status, have a good understanding of the employment opportunities available in the North East and the pathways to access them
- Employers have strong links with education and training providers leading to responsive provision that meets local needs
- All patterns understand the importance of skills in improving productivity and living standards, with commitment to delivering good working environments for residents

This is an ambition vision that will require substantial changes to deliver. By 2024, our ambition is that these principles are understood across the region and that there has been significant progress made towards their achievement, providing a strong base to build on in future years.

### Highlights in current period:

The North East LEP submitted a response to the House of Lords Youth Unemployment Committee, which was incorporated feedback from the Skills Advisory Panel. Following our submission, Michelle Rainbow was invited to present at the House of Lords [evidence session](#) on 8 June 2021, chaired by Lord Shipley of Gosforth. The overarching focus was on challenges facing young people in finding high quality employment in the local area post Covid. The Committee specifically asked for further evidence regarding what we have learned from the launch of the Career Benchmarks: Primary Pilot, and our view on whether careers education should begin at primary school.

The North East LEP is one of 10 LEPs to be awarded a £200k Effective Transition Fund project by the Careers Enterprise Company (CEC), following a competitive bidding process. The project will engage with 6 Hub schools (3 mainstream and 3 SEND specialist schools) to provide a cohort of 100 young people, at risk of NEET and with SEND, with additional support throughout KS4 to help raise aspirations for apprenticeships and support them to secure a sustained, positive destination when they finish year 11.

The North East Ambition website has been redesigned to have a [business](#) and education landing page. There is a section highlighting the benefits of volunteering as a governor. We are collating additional resources to be hosted in the section. First discussion with Inspiring Governance regarding available data linked to school / college governance.

Featured in national campaign and video to accompany online training (Education Training Foundation) showcasing the importance of careers to FE workforce. Highlighted as an exemplar in national strategic guidance for whole college approach to careers.

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<p><b>Deliver North East Ambition</b></p> <p>Support and demonstrate progress and impact as we work with 145 schools and colleges to achieve the eight Good Career Guidance benchmarks.</p>	<p>In the past year, there has been progress made by the schools and colleges, collectively, against 6 of the Benchmarks. Of particular note, are increases to Benchmark 4 and Benchmark 8.</p> <p>Benchmark 4 is a positive as it suggests that schools and colleges have been increasing the amount of time that careers is given within the curriculum. Overall, this is positive and a trend we are keen to see continue but in the context of the pandemic, this is particularly good as this Benchmark would have been at risk due to departments wanting to focus on the catch-up curriculum – to the detriment of careers education.</p> <p>Benchmark 8 is also a positive increase as, because of the deficit in careers education that many young people in key transition years will have faced over the past 12+ months, personal guidance has, arguably, never been more important. It is also one of the more challenging Benchmarks in terms of cost. As a result, it is particularly positive to see it increase during this challenging period for schools and colleges.</p>	Matt Joyce	G	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held a positive meeting with the Department for Education to outline the Pilot and the impact it is having, informing emerging policy.</li> <li>Supported the CDI as they develop their new framework for Early Years-KS2.</li> </ul>	Matt Joyce	G	In Progress
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.	<p>Over the last quarter, we have recruited 10 new Enterprise Advisers (EAs), however, 12 have left the network. For the majority of these the reason for leaving was linked to COVID.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established a new pilot, focussing on a place-based approach, utilising the EA Network to support schools to engage with their local FE providers. The pilot is focussed on Gateshead schools but, if successful, will be rolled out to all other local authority areas.</li> <li>Established a new, private LinkedIn Group for our EA Network. Approximately 150 EA's have been invited to join and engage within this group.</li> <li>Facilitated a SEND event for employers. This was a public business event aimed at inclusion and diversity in the workplace and how businesses can become more confident when engaging and/or hiring people with SEND. Over 40 individuals attended the event including a number of new businesses, which have been followed up for further engagement.</li> </ul>	Matt Joyce	G	In Progress
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have now presented at 4 local authority Headteacher groups, with plans to extend this to the remaining 3 local authority areas in the new academic year.</li> <li>Our college hub members had work featured in the CEC's new publication, 'Careers Leadership in College'</li> </ul>	Matt Joyce	G	In Progress
Participate in a number of key working groups and steering groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated the North East LEP Apprenticeship group, involving the region's FE colleges. During the latest meeting, the ESFA agreed to host an evidence-based focus group to discuss apprenticeship challenges</li> <li>Represented the North East LEP on a Higher Level Skills Roundtable discussion chaired by former Skills Minister, Rt Hon Anne Milton</li> <li>Facilitated North East LEP T-level Stakeholder Group, which involved over 60 delegates from awarding bodies, employers and employer groups and providers. This forum provided an opportunity to feedback on the challenges being faced in terms of providing physical industrial placements for some young people.</li> <li>Facilitated a multi-agency T-level route network meeting for Health &amp; Life Science</li> <li>Participated in a series of deep-dive meetings, organised by the Gatsby Foundation, to explore how Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education's (IFATE) occupational maps can be used/expanded to inform visualisation of progression pathways</li> <li>Facilitated a local CEIAG chair network group, consisting of individuals who chair each of the seven local authorities CEIAG network meetings.</li> </ul>	Matt Joyce	G	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
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.	<p>DWP have approved an extension of the ESF North East Ambition (the pilot) to August 2022 to enable defrayment of £1.6 mil of ESF funding. A further PCR request for an additional £480,000 and extension to December 2023 was submitted in June 21 and is currently undergoing the DWP assessment process.</p> <p>The ESF North East Ambition (expanded programme) commenced in April in partnership with Education Development Trust (EDT) with £1.9m allocated to North East LEP. The Enterprise Coordinator team have established a buddying system with Skills Facilitators employed by EDT to ensure a co-ordinated package of support to SMEs to meet their skills needs and access skills provision.</p>	Matt Joyce	G	In Progress
<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.	Data shows improvement of understanding against all 12 aspects of career knowledge being assessed. There is no significant gap between males and females and assessment scores for students with SEND (20% cohort) are slightly higher than the average. The improvement is due to intensive advice and guidance and targeted interventions that have been put in place. Baseline information (October 2020) showed 24% of students had a Post-16 plan after Cycle 3 this has increased to 92%. Cycle 4 is currently underway with a focus on supporting students in their transition into Year 11.	Neil Willis	G	In Progress
Further develop processes and partnerships with a focus on the strategic use of data to improve progression and career pathways for young people.	Working with a senior lecturer in human-computer interaction at Open Lab, Newcastle University, to consider how we can increase young people's engagement in their own careers related data. Exploring a pilot with the ONE Vision cohort.	Neil Willis	G	In Progress
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.	The North East Ambition website has been redesigned to have a <a href="#">business</a> and education landing page. There is a section highlighting the benefits of volunteering as a governor. Collating additional resources to be hosted in the section. First discussion with Inspiring Governance regarding available data linked to school / college governance.	Neil Willis	G	In Progress
Support national organisations, including Inspiring Governance, to achieve their KPIs specific to the region including diversity of governing bodies.	Currently working in partnership with Inspiring Governance to produce 6 case studies. These will be released each half term next academic year as a regional campaign to increase the recruitment of volunteers.	Neil Willis	G	In Progress
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.	Completed the end of year review with Sunderland College to prioritise focus for academic year 2021-2022. Health & Social Care have reached the point we can direct support to other faculty areas and increase the progress at Northumberland. Supporting a local SME Health and Social Care provider workshop to gather intelligence about barriers and opportunities for engagement.	Neil Willis	G	In Progress
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	Initial Teacher Trainees workshop in development. Agreement with Newcastle University to deliver to full secondary cohort during the academic Year 2021-2022.	Neil Willis	G	In Progress
<b>Improve skills progression</b>				

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
Promote the concept of fusion skills regionally	Project activity not planned until Q3	Kim Smith	N/A	Not Started
Deliver a pilot that demonstrates how fusion skills (STEM and arts and design skills) are critical for success in an A.I. workplace.	Project activity not planned until Q3	Kim Smith	N/A	Not Started
Work with partners to analyse data relating to FE to HE transitions, graduate retention trends, post-graduate employment opportunities and degree apprenticeship provision. Use this intelligence to prepare a plan to promote the North East as a location for graduates and skilled workers to stay and thrive.	We facilitated a meeting with the Heads of Career Services across all four local universities, to discuss possible future collaboration including scoping research into FE to HE transitions and degree Apprenticeship provision. Project activity planned to commence January 2022	Anthea Pratt	G	Not Started
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.	Initial 1-1 meetings have taken place with key national stakeholders and providers have nominated representatives for task and finish group to meet in Sept.	Kim Smith	G	In Progress
Support eight early adopters to deliver good quality T-levels and specialist technical education	Hosted T-level provider group inviting Department for Education to raise awareness of occupational maps and facilitated multi-agency T-level route network meeting for health and life science. Established relationships with senior Civil Servants at Cabinet Office and Rural Payments Agency to explore support for Industrial Placements Established relationships with PVC, DVs and Directors for undergraduate recruitment in Newcastle and Sunderland Universities to explore roles in supporting delivery T-level delivery. Continue to lead research for Gatsby Foundation on good practice from 5 regions as part of national dissemination project  Research project commenced (as part of the North East LEP Energy Academy) to assess the skills needs and training infrastructure required to meet the government's ambition for domestic retrofit.	Kim Smith	G	In Progress
<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.	Durham Works has submitted an application to DWP extend and expand the programme. The North East LEP has provided a feedback report, as part of the DWP appraisal process, in support of the application.  Generation NE programme has now come to an end with no current replacement project that provides the level of support to prevent youth unemployment in the ESF More Developed area. We are closely monitoring the impact of the close of the programme on youth unemployment figures.	Michelle Rainbow	A	Not Started
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.	Project activity planned for Q3	Kim Smith	N/A	Not Started
<b>Improve labour market activation</b>				

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<p>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.</p>	<p>Monthly partnership meeting now established with National Careers Service regional manager to identify opportunities to collaborate on activities to support the upskilling and retention of the 50+ workforce.</p> <p>Met with Enginuity (the sector skills body for the energy sector) to demonstrate their model for retraining the workforce for new roles in the sector. Scoping a proposal to test this model targeting 50+ workforce.</p>	Anthea Pratt	G	In Progress
<p>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>	<p>DWP's Kickstart Scheme aims to create jobs/work placements for 16-24 year olds on Universal Credit who have been unemployed for six months and are at risk of longer-term unemployment. The North East LEP is supporting this initiative with a marketing campaign to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target North East businesses, encouraging them to create full-funded jobs/work placements for 16-24 year olds on Universal Credit and directing them to the North East Growth Hub scheme</li> <li>• Engage with young people and parents to increase interest in Kickstart positions and drive them to the North East Opportunities website kickstart page</li> </ul> <p>Communications have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press release calling on North East businesses to use the Kickstart scheme, including a quote from a business successfully engaging such as Northumbrian Water and Unipres</li> <li>• Employer and Kickstart employee case studies for Northumbrian Water and Unipres</li> <li>• Direct marketing via North East LEP newsletters</li> <li>• Paid Bdaily slot promoting Kickstart</li> <li>• Partner pack for North East LEP networks, including regional trade bodies / organisations</li> <li>• Joint branded social media assets for organic and paid campaigns</li> </ul> <p>We were instrumental in the formation of a group of FE and Independent Training Providers who submitted a collaborative bid for a regional Skills Bootcamp pilot. The successful outcome of the bid was announced by DfE 6/07/2021.</p> <p>We continue to closely monitor the impact of Covid on Apprenticeships and Traineeship – sharing our analysis of the ESFA Data Cube with key stakeholders.</p>	Michelle Rainbow	G	In Progress
<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>We are closely monitoring the roll out of the Restart programme in the region. The contract holder – Reed in Partnership – presented at the June SAP meeting. We have follow up meetings to explore how the delivery model will support those in the community with mental issues and those living in rural communities.</p>	Michelle Rainbow	A	In Progress
<p>Inform the replacement investment post-European funding.</p>	<p>We continue to respond to opportunities to inform and influence national discussions and policies regarding investment in skills in the region.</p> <p>The Skills Team provided a response to a series of questions posed by BIES as part of this Department's strategy development relating to incentivising and supporting businesses to invest more in skilling their workforce.</p>	Michelle Rainbow	G	In Progress
<p><b>Ensure connected communities</b></p>				

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<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>On behalf of the SAP, we have commissioned research into the scale and impact of digital exclusion in the North East. Digital exclusion, where people lack digital skills, connectivity and accessibility, is recognised as most likely to impact the most disadvantaged individuals and communities. We are partnering with the VCSE sector to undertake this research, with VONNE focus on the impact on communities and the LEP focusing on the impact on skills and the workplace. The research will inform an action plan to address the problem.</p>	<p>Anthea Pratt</p>	<p>G</p>	<p>In Progress</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>	<p>A project proposal is currently being develop with key stakeholders to secure funding from the recently launched Accelerator Fund focusing on improving digital inclusion. The proposal will focus on working with key stakeholders to implement the action plan as an outcome of the Digital Exclusion research due to complete in July 2021.</p>	<p>Michelle Rainbow</p>	<p>G</p>	<p>Not Started</p>

## Transport connectivity | Lead: Philip Meikle

### Vision (in SEP)

Our ambition is one of improved, greener and more sustainable transport options, including public transport, cycling and walking.

New mobility solutions will make travel simpler and affordable across our distinctive local economy. Quality infrastructure will make for reliable, fast journeys with connectivity into national and international freight and passenger networks. This network will be the enabler to sustainable growth and opportunity, and to the North East being an outward looking economy attracting trade, investment and visitors from across Europe and the world.

Through the Strategic Economic Plan we have established a strong investment pipeline. Our aim is to continue to deliver continuous improvement in a modern, integrated transport system that underpins our economic ambitions.

### Highlights in current period:

- Key marketing and communication activities are well underway for the regional 'Go Smarter, Go Active' marketing campaign which aims to promote our cycling and walking infrastructure to explore our region, improving health and boosting the local economy
- Work on developing a Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership, is underway in collaboration with bus operators, the seven local highway authorities and Nexus.

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<b>Continue to progress ongoing transport project delivery</b>				
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 2022.	Seven of the eight schemes are still due to complete in March 2022. The first scheme is anticipated to be on site by the end of July 2021. Grant Funding Agreements are still to be agreed with scheme promoters, however this is not a major risk.	Jonathan Bailes / Izzie Broadbent	G	In Progress
Deliver the Active Travel marketing campaign funded through the Active Travel Fund by March 2022	<p>The regional 'Go Smarter, Go Active' marketing campaign which aims to promote our cycling and walking infrastructure to explore our region, improving health and boosting the local economy is being project managed by Transport North East on behalf of the North East Joint Transport Committee. The campaign consists of three projects and supporting comms/promotion activity. External providers have been procured to lead and deliver activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Events management team to plan and lead the summer roadshows, ensuring that all events are safe and secure, and comply with all current Covid 19-guidelines. There roadshows will take place for seven weeks (one week in each local authority) during the summer holiday period.</li> <li>- A cycling training provider who will deliver an extensive cycling programme at each roadshow. Sessions are to be delivered for a range of ages and abilities.</li> <li>- A cartographer who is currently in the process of developing walking and cycling maps for the region.</li> <li>- A specialised marketing company who are currently in the process of designing a suite of itineraries for fun-filled days out across the North East by walking and cycling routes.</li> </ul> <p>Key marketing and communication activities are well underway which has included the launch of a microsite and social branding. These activities will promote the roadshows and assets throughout the summer and aim to engage with as many people as possible. We will continue to promote the maps and itineraries for the rest of the financial year.</p>	Kim Farrage/ Rachelle Forsyth-Ward	G	In Progress
<b>Receive a final funding award from the Transforming Cities bid</b>				

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
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.	In the July JTC meeting, a delegated decision will be sought to release £16.3m of TCF funding for the Sunderland Central Station scheme. Remaining schemes are forecast to deliver business cases in time to start on site by March 2022, however there is still some potential risk attributable to capacity constraints. This is being actively managed and mitigated against through regular meetings with scheme promoters and appropriately programming the resource of independent review consultants to expediate the appraisal process.	Jonathan Bailes / Izzie Broadbent	A	In Progress
Release £9.8million for the Metro Flow scheme.	The first instalment of £1.7m is due to be released shortly following the sealing of a Grant Funding Agreement. The Full Business Case was approved by the Rail Investment Board on the 28 <sup>th</sup> June with an s31 grant payment to follow in July/August 2021.	Jonathan Bailes / Izzie Broadbent	G	In Progress
<b>Continue to improve and deliver better connectivity through improved infrastructure</b>				
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	A funding strategy will be linked closely to the Programme management framework that TNE is preparing. It is intended this will be reported to the Joint Transport Committee in September. Thereafter this document will be managed as a live document staying abreast of major funding announcements from the Government.	Jonathan Bailes / Andrew Dorrian	G	In Progress
<b>Use transport to drive innovation and business growth</b>				
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	Work continues to lobby for improvements in the ECML. The rail industry consultation proposals for a major timetable change on ECML from May 2022 has again highlighted the need for line capacity increases between Northallerton and Newcastle. The two track section is restricting future growth and thus any new train service proposed can only be introduced by removing an existing one. The North East and TfN have both written to the Transport Secretary to express our concerns over the service choices proposed.	Derek Gittins / Harry Nicol	G	In Progress
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.	Transport Consultancy support has been procured to assist with the preparation of the SOBC. Initial work is underway, however the IRP outcomes are required to direct the document details.	Derek Gittins	G	In Progress
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.	Work is still on programme to deliver the Full Business case in the autumn. In tandem progress is being made with both the planning applications for the new stations and the legal orders required to secure permission to allow the infrastructure works to proceed.	Derek Gittins	G	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
Ensure that pipeline identified in the North East Transport Plan of schemes to support economic recovery is managed as a live programme	A Capital Pipeline of schemes was agreed through a Transport Plan. New funding opportunities such as Active Travel Fund Tranche 3 and ZEBRA funding will be integrated into our Capital Programme following potential successful regional bids to DfT. A prospectus and pipeline of schemes which could be delivered through Intra-City funding has been developed and will also be integrated into our Capital Programme subject to agreement of appropriate mechanisms to agree and deliver the Intra-City fund. Transport North East is preparing a Programme Management Framework which will detail how the Transport Plan Programme will be managed and updated including reporting to Joint Transport Committee on progress towards delivery. This framework will be shared with officers in August and will be presented to the Joint Transport Committee in September.	Jonathan Bailes / Andrew Dorrian	G	In Progress
<b>Continue to develop regional Transport Strategies and policies that align with the North East Transport Plan</b>				
Produce a North East Rail and Metro Strategy to complement the North East Transport Plan	Work has commenced on the initial drafting of the Strategy. The outline approach has been discussed at the North East Joint Transport Committee following an informal Steering Group session. A super feedback week is planned for 12 <sup>th</sup> July with a view to guiding the development of a consultation draft for approval by JTC in October. Consultation then to follow through to December and once any revisions made seek JTC sign off of the Strategy in February /March 2022.	Derek Gittins	G	In Progress
Develop and publish a Zero Emission Policy during 2021/22 that sets out our regional commitment to the future of zero emission vehicles	A Zero Emission Policy is being developed for publication during the current financial year.	Kim Farrage / John Bourn	G	In Progress
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	A Transport North East Engagement Strategy will be developed for publication during the current financial year.	Rachelle Forsyth-Ward / Simon Jobe	G	In Progress
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	In collaboration with bus operators, the seven local highway authorities and Nexus, we will develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership, to improve bus services dramatically, growing bus demand to support a green recovery, with the support of funding available through government's National Bus Strategy.	Elizabeth Gilliard / Harry Nicol	G	In Progress
<b>Deliver the Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure funded through Local Growth Fund</b>				
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	A tender exercise to procure a contractor to install, operate and maintain the EV chargers at the 7 identified locations is nearing completion. The exercise was undertaken through a specialised EV framework. It is anticipated that the delivery of the chargers will commence by the end of July 2021. Initial feedback from the market has indicated that the chargers can be successfully delivered by the end of March 2022.	Kim Farrage / John Bourn	G	In Progress
Through LGF funding, priority locations will be delivered by 31 March 2022.	A tender exercise to procure a contractor to install, operate and maintain the EV chargers at the 7 identified locations is nearing completion. The exercise was undertaken through a specialised EV framework. It is anticipated that the delivery of the chargers will commence by the end of July 2021. Initial feedback from the market has indicated that the chargers can be successfully delivered by the end of March 2022.	Kim Farrage / John Bourn	G	In Progress
<b>Complete Metro Asset Renewal Programme</b>				

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
Continue with a system-wide overhead line renewal programme.	Overhead line contact and catenary wire replacement continuing to programme with 54 hour weekend possessions at around 3 weekly intervals – with most recent completed over 12-13 <sup>th</sup> June and 3-4 <sup>th</sup> July. Further works planned for 24-25 <sup>th</sup> July and a longer 72 hour closure on 14-16 <sup>th</sup> August	David Shields	G	In Progress
Continue to delivery platform compliance works by Autumn 2021.	Main contract works completed bar minor 'snagging'. Localised works and tamping programmed for completion in Autumn 21.	David Shields	G	In Progress
Continue our cable testing and replacement and the location case re-wiring programmes across the network.	Cable testing and replacement scope defined and agreed – being progressed with location case rewires by the internal Capital Delivery team.	David Shields	G	In Progress
Deliver the track renewals at Tyne Dock in September 2021.	Rail supply contract awarded – renewal programme agreed with internal Capital delivery team.	David Shields	G	In Progress
Deliver the switches and crossing renewals at Christon Road (South Gosforth) in February 2022.	Supply contract for component parts awarded – ITT under development for main contract.	David Shields	G	In Progress
Prioritise and deliver lift and escalator half-life refurbishments based on asset condition	ITT for Consultancy contracts to be issued in July to establish scope and strategy for refurbishment works.	David Shields	G	In Progress
Continue to invest in the current Metro fleet to improve reliability.	Ongoing continuous programme of works – progressing to plan	David Shields	G	In Progress
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.	Contract awarded in May for package of switches and crossing designs, Whitley Bay station canopy surveys and structural assessments underway, Northumberland Park Car Park surveys and scoping underway, Scada – initial Consultant report and estimates received and under evaluation. Note: progression beyond design is dependent on funding availability.	David Shields	G	In Progress

## Investment and infrastructure | Lead: Helen Golightly

### Vision (in SEP)

Through focussed and coordinated investments we will address market failures and competitive weaknesses. We will work with partners to quicken the pace and scale of investment across the North East, focusing on our business and infrastructure investment opportunities and needs. Opportunities for job and productivity growth on strategic employment sites, in town and city centres, along strategic transport corridors, in our culture and tourist hubs and in the rural economy will be prioritised.

### Highlights in current period:

- Project Accelerator Fund first call opened, with strong interest show in initial review point. Call will close on 23 August 2021, with remaining applications considered at the September meeting of the Investment Board
- Five CPIF pilot projects brought forward for consideration demonstrating the strong level of interest and demand for the scheme.
- Project with City of London Corporation on Finance for Sustainable Growth launched on 6 July 2021, which aims to improve the awareness of the region's sustainability related investment opportunities with investors in London.

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<b>Continue to manage the already secured North East LEP funding effectively:</b>				
Report quarterly performance monitoring dashboards to the North East LEP Investment Board.	Investment Board received reports on progress of LGF, GBF, NEIF and EZ Programmes at 8 July 2021 meeting. Work ongoing to standardise reporting across the funding programmes.	Helen Golightly	G	In Progress
Monitor programme level risks via the Technical Officer Group.	Programme risk continue to be reported as required to Technical Officer Group (most recent meeting 24 June 2021). Work ongoing to standardise risk reporting across the funding programmes.	Helen Golightly	G	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jarrow Business Centre – Manufacturing workspace completion</li> <li>2. Gateshead Quays – work to commence on £300m Arena, Conference and Exhibition Centre</li> <li>3. East Pilgrim Street, Newcastle - ongoing public realm improvement and Bank House office construction</li> <li>4. Pattern shop, Stephenson Quarter – 3,238m2 of refurbished commercial floorspace completed</li> <li>5. 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>6. Northumberland Energy Park Phase 1 – site reclamation completed – 17 ha of development land and new dock facility.</li> </ol>	<p>Update on key infrastructure projects (numbers below refer to key on left):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Construction works are continuing largely to programme</li> <li>2. Preliminary works underway, including multi-storey car park. Main contractor to start on site has been re-programmed to Q3/Q4 2021/22.</li> <li>3. Progress on Bank House continues as per new programme, public realm works continued to be detailed with phase 1 due to start this year.</li> <li>4. Enabling works have started with view to main refurbishment contract to be let in the Autumn 2021.</li> <li>5. Projects are largely delivering to programme, with some minor delays</li> <li>6. Main contractor works anticipated to be completed by end of 2021, Heads of Terms being agreed with potential end user</li> </ol>	Ray Browning	G	In Progress
<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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public realm improvements in town and city centres totalling 26,229sqm</li> <li>2. Construction of new commercial, industrial and retail space totalling 21,200 sqm by 31st March 2022</li> <li>3. Support over 1,471 construction jobs</li> <li>4. New R&amp;D facilities totalling 3,550sqm</li> <li>5. New learning floorspace 1,137sqm</li> <li>6. New superfast broadband connections – 1,350</li> <li>7. 175 new jobs created and 170 jobs safeguarded</li> <li>8. 4.4km of new or improved roads / cycleways</li> </ol>	<p>Details of KPI progress will be available in early August, when monitoring returns for Q1 2021/22 are expected. Limited outputs are expected during first 6 months of the financial year while build works are taking place.</p>	Ray Browning	G	In Progress
<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>Details of KPI progress will be available in early August, when monitoring returns for Q1 2021/22 are expected. Limited outputs are expected during first 6 months of the financial year while build works are taking place</p>	Ray Browning	G	In Progress
<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>Some delays to timescale, with evaluation is now expected to be completed by September 2021.</p>	Ray Browning	A	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
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.	All investment decisions made during the period were in accordance with the Assurance Framework	Helen Golightly	G	In Progress
New businesses will begin operating on the Enterprise Zones, including at Follingsby Max in Gateshead. 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	Expected that Follingsby Max site will be operational by end of 2021  Details of KPI progress will be available in early August, when monitoring returns for Q1 2021/22 are expected	Ben McLaughlin	G	In Progress
Have significant infrastructure works underway or complete on four more Enterprise Zone sites, that will be ready to secure private sector investment at: 1. Northumberland Energy Park 2. Port of Sunderland 3. Ashwood Business Park in Northumberland 4. Holborn 2 in South Tyneside	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Main contractor works at NEP 1 site are anticipated to be completed before end of 2021. Heads of Terms being agreed with potential end user</li> <li>2. Progress of work at Port of Sunderland is on track for completion by end of financial year</li> <li>3. Plot specific works underway to support two new occupants, who are anticipated to be operational next financial year</li> <li>4. Infrastructure works relating to the site are progressing, with O&amp;M facility for JV related to Offshore Wind expected to be operational in 2022.</li> </ol>	Ben McLaughlin	G	In Progress
<b>Coordinate partners to develop a regional project pipeline based on spatial economic priorities</b>				
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.	Strategic pipeline developed with local authority and transport partners. Will continue to be developed, through activity such as the Project Accelerator Fund and the Innovation Pipeline work being undertaken.	Claire Prospert	G	In Progress
Facilitate prioritisation of shovel ready projects through regional collaboration and make preparations for Government's future funding announcement including the proposed Shared Prosperity Fund	First call for projects is now open for the Project Accelerator Fund, with applications invited from Local Authorities, Transport North East, Nexus and North East LEP delivery programmes. Review point on 1 July 2021 led to four applications being brought forward for consideration at the LEP Board meeting. First call closes 23 August 2021, with applications being considered at the September cycle of the North East LEP Investment Board.	Claire Prospert	G	In Progress
<b>Secure additional investment in the North East including resources to support the Regional Recovery plan:</b>				
Manage the second-year budget of £23.5m of Getting Building Funds across the North East. The North East LEP has allocated up to £8m of additional resources to this programme to add value and to help deliver greater impact.	Highly likely that £23.5m GBF budget will be fully spent during the financial year, with current spend forecasts for projects in the programme totalling over £40m (the balance will be met through previous temporary swapped funding returning and LEPs contribution to the GBF)	Ray Browning	G	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
Develop a Project Development Fund to accelerate the volume and quality of shovel ready projects making use of LEP resources	<p>Restricted first project call open, with bids expected from each Local Authority by the 23 August 2021, for consideration by Investment Board in September 2021.</p> <p>Four urgent applications considered by Investment Board on 8 July 2021 and will be discussed at the LEP Board meeting.</p>	Claire Prospert	G	In Progress
Work with and support Local Authorities throughout the year to understand plans to bid for funding from the Levelling Up Fund.	Outcome of applications into first round of Levelling Up Fund by Local Authorities is expected during Summer 2021. LEP team are continuing to work with partners on potential asks for future rounds.	Helen Golightly	G	In Progress
<p>Deliver the final development phase of the Commercial Property Investment Fund (CPIF) and launch the fund. We will:</p> <p>1. Procure a property fund manager between April 2021 to January 2022</p> <p>2. Launch the CPIF programme in March 2022</p> <p>3. 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</p> <p>4. Continue to develop the pipeline of projects throughout the year to maximize take up once the fund is live.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preparations for procurement exercise are ongoing. Expected that procurement will commence in Summer</li> <li>2. Launch of CPIF programme is on track for March 2022</li> <li>3. Five new CPIF pilot applications were considered at North East LEP Investment Board, and will be determined at the LEP Board in July 2021</li> <li>4. Pipeline of CPIF projects remains strong</li> </ol>	Matthew Ebbatson	G	In Progress
Continue to maximise national reserve funding from the European Structural Investment Funding and ensure the full reserve allocation is delivered within the region.	Government have focused allocation of reserve funds for activity relating to Covid recovery, and the North East has received additional funds for Growth Hub activity and high street investment via the Local Authorities	Helen Golightly	A	In Progress
<b>Increased access to finance for businesses to invest</b>				
Work with the North East Fund Limited to maximise its investment potential for North East SMEs.	After a drop off in demand for funding over the early stages of the pandemic, there has been a sustained period of strong investment activity. The eight-month period from November to June saw an average monthly rate of £2.2m. This compares to an average monthly rate of just over £1m for the seven months from April to October 2020.	Helen Golightly	G	In Progress
<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>	<p>A Strategy for maintaining a regional investment fund is being developed to ensure that there is no period between the current programme and any future provision.</p> <p>Other work on the broader Access to Finance programme continues, with recent launch event held for the pilot project Finance for Sustainable Growth with the City of London Corporation, which will aim to showcase the sustainability related investment opportunities in the region to investors in London.</p>	Ben McLaughlin	A	In Progress

## Strategy, policy and analysis | Lead: Richard Baker

### Vision

The North East LEP will be recognised locally and nationally as an exemplar for driving evidence based economic strategy, public policy and programme delivery.

### Highlights in current period:

- The North East Trade and Export report 'Global North East: Driving growth in North East trade and exports' was launched in June, summarising our opportunities and priorities for enhancing North East trade and export outcomes
- WE have published commentary and analysis on the latest employment data reflecting SEP KPI's, and on the impact of Covid and EU Exit
- A number of significant research and analysis activities are underway including Our Economy 2021, plus new research projects on NP11 data and intelligence and in support of our programmes of delivery and strategic importance
- We have actively engaged with Government policy activities and consultations in a number of areas including the LEP Review, Tourism delivery, Subsidy control

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<b>Building and encouraging use of the evidence base:</b>				
<p>Strengthen our research, evidence and analysis programme by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supporting the LEP's delivery programmes (Strategic Economic Plan, COVID-19, sectors) and external stakeholders to improve the evidence and analysis underpinning their work</li> <li>2. Co-ordinating a corporate approach to data licences, tools, procurement and visualisation</li> <li>3. 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.</li> </ol>	<p>We continue to support our programmes with regards to data and research activities including analysis of recent trade and export data; COVID-19 intelligence and specific research projects such as investigating digital exclusion and the impact upon young people and education attainment.</p> <p>We held a workshop with the National Innovation Centre for Data (NICD) to explore our organisational data needs including corporate systems, processes and visualisations. A secondary workshop is scheduled for the Autumn where we will drill down into a specific collaborative project.</p> <p>Working with the Communications team, we are currently developing a 'how to' guide for the North East Data Hub, specifically targeted at stakeholders in the education sector to support them in relation to LMI.</p>	Emma Ward	G	In Progress
<p>Strengthen communication and dissemination of key strategy, policy data and research findings by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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</li> <li>2. Enhancing the LEP's commentary on key economic issues and evidence in priority areas</li> <li>3. Delivering the Our Economy Programme</li> <li>4. 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.</li> </ol>	<p>Published commentary on the North East Data Hub on the latest labour market statistics, Google mobility data, and research on the impact of Covid-19 and EU Exit on North East businesses.</p>	Emma Ward	G	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<p>Driving forward collaboration in research and data by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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</li> <li>2. 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</li> <li>3. 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.</li> </ol>	<p>The North East Economic Evidence Forum continues to meet. At our most recent meeting we discussed what our regional evidence priorities are to inform a collaborative work programme moving forward.</p> <p>We have recently been invited to join an operational working group to develop a regional Evidence Hub led by Newcastle University with partners such as the North of Tyne Combined Authority, Newcastle City Council and the NHS trusts. We also continue to strengthen relationship with Durham University, and are exploring opportunities for future funding and collaborations.</p> <p>We are leading on a data and research project on behalf of NP11, and currently in the second phase of this work where the consultants are interviewing national and regional stakeholders on their data and evidence priorities post-pandemic.</p>	Emma Ward	G	In Progress
<p>Horizon scanning and development of new sources of knowledge including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working with national and international inter-governmental partnerships, think tanks and consultancies on strategic evidence and policy activities</li> <li>2. 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.</li> </ol>	<p>We continue to work with Red Flag Alert to understand how we can strategically use this information. They have developed a 'living lab' group with other northern LEPs to share and learn from each other in relation to the data. We are also exploring how we can use Power BI corporately in relation to producing accessible data visualisations.</p>	Emma Ward	G	In Progress
<b>Coordinating and supporting on regional strategy and policy projects</b>				
<p>Net Zero</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop an evidence base with government and partners to demonstrate plausible pathways towards Net Zero in the North East</li> <li>2. 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 environmentCo-ordinate work within the North East LEP to accelerate the drive towards Net Zero.</li> </ol>	<p>Since the discussion at the last Board meeting a number of additional activities have taken place as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net Zero North East: Our Statement of Intent is in place and ready for publication at a point when resources are confirmed, work on our Net Zero prospectus is underway, discussions with Local Authorities have been continuing about a resource plan and a meeting has been held with our Universities to develop an Expert panel to provide advice, evidence and peer review to the programme and the wider region</li> <li>• We have engaged with the Government's plans for a bus tour in the run up to COP 26 through the Local Energy Hub and expect to host the tour on October 22 in the region</li> <li>• We continue to discuss the research on NE Net Zero trajectories commissioned by BEIS from PWC and hope to be able to work with them to use the findings as part of our Net Zero programme</li> <li>• We are supporting the development of the work of the Environmental Leaders Network to strengthen its strategic role in the region as a co-ordination point for the Environmental sector</li> </ul>	Richard Baker	A	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<p>Internationalisation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Publish the North East Trade and Export Strategy</li> <li>2. 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</li> <li>3. Through a second phase of work, strengthen the evidence base and develop specific proposals identified in the strategy, including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Target exporter development at firm level</li> <li>b) Align and promote views of market opportunity for the North East with northern, UK and overseas services</li> <li>c) Define and agree approaches to develop and strengthen the export support ecosystem</li> <li>d) Improve communication and promote collaboration to enhance trade and exporting.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Strengthen the alignment between international facing activities in the region, between trade, inward investment, innovation and higher education.</li> </ol>	<p>The North East Trade and Export Strategy was published on 21 June 2021.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to identify and communicate with national and regional stakeholders to ensure that the North East strategy and objectives are recognised in the forthcoming Northern Powerhouse and national export strategies.</p> <p>The publication of regional trade statistics was delayed in June, following publication analysis of the statistics will contribute to the evidence base.</p>	Richard Baker	G	In Progress
<p>Devolution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitor and respond to developments in national government policy relating to devolution, including the LEP review and Levelling Up White Paper</li> <li>2. Support regional partners to secure and implement additional devolution to the region.</li> </ol>	<p>Engagement with the LEP review is ongoing, with strong representation for the North East LEP in a number of workstreams.</p> <p>Stakeholder mapping underway to prepare for a regional response to the Levelling Up White Paper. Consideration will be given to the metrics used by Government to measure success, and the alignment with SEP targets for economic growth.</p>	Paul Carbert	G	In Progress
<p>EU Exit Through the EU Exit Implementation Group, we will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to monitor the impact of new trade arrangements with the EU and report intelligence and insights to government and the LEP team</li> <li>2. Work with the group and sector representatives, produce a report on the impact of EU Exit on key North East sectors</li> <li>3. Provide a platform for joint consideration of future internationalisation approaches for the North East in the context of new trade deals and international policy</li> <li>4. Update the evidence base with latest data about the opportunities and challenges for businesses and sectors</li> <li>5. Identify opportunities and challenges arising from post-EU Exit domestic policy and co-ordinate regional response as required.</li> </ol> <p>Focus areas to include the labour market, funding and regulation.</p>	<p>The EU Exit Implementation Group has met to discuss updating the evidence base to capture the impact of EU Exit on key North East sectors. We will invite sector representatives and DIT officials to future Group meetings, and develop a summary report for Group members to assist policy discussions.</p> <p>The Group has also discussed the development of the North East Trade and Export Strategy, recent changes to migration policy, and the progress of freeports policy.</p>	Paul Carbert	G	In Progress

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<p>Northern Powerhouse</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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</li> <li>2. Co-ordinate North East LEP engagement with the NP11</li> <li>3. 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.</li> </ol>	<p>We have arranged a meeting of the Northern Powerhouse Co-ordination Group to take place in July. Topics on the agenda include the North East Trade and Export Strategy, the NP11 Data and Evidence Programme, and energy programme activity across the NP11.</p>	Paul Carbert	G	In Progress
<p>New strategy projects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to scan the environment for the North East region and the LEP, and determine approaches to identified opportunities and challenges</li> <li>2. Monitor development of planning policy and the work of the National Infrastructure Commission to identify issues and opportunities for the North East</li> <li>3. Develop a proposal for a mapping tool utilising GIS systems across the region to strengthen tools supporting development</li> <li>4. Develop and deliver an Advanced Manufacturing strategy</li> <li>5. Continue to support tourism partners to develop a strategic approach to recovery and future growth and development of the sector, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The development of a statement of intent</li> <li>b) Responding to the review of Destination Management Organisations</li> <li>c) Prepare for a future sector vision and possible Action Zone</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Develop a framework for North East LEP action to address inclusion and inequality in the region</li> <li>7. 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.</li> </ol>	<p>We submitted a response to the review of Destination Management Organisations, following consultation with regional tourism stakeholders. We attended a follow-up event with representatives of DCMS in June.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to identify opportunities for the use of GIS systems across a number of policy areas, and identify best practice examples in other areas of the country.</p> <p>We have engaged with the Inclusive Economy Network to inform a positioning paper on activity in the region in support of inclusive economic growth.</p>	Richard Baker	G	In Progress
<p>LEP public policy actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to brief the LEP Board on future policy priorities</li> <li>2. Further develop the approach to public policy set down in March 2021 following the outcome of LEP review process</li> <li>3. Complete stakeholder mapping exercise and identify priority audiences for public policy messaging.</li> </ol>	<p>Work is underway on the development of a stakeholder mapping and engagement tracking tool to monitor LEP public policy actions. This will support LEP SMT and programme teams to monitor the progress of national policy and target stakeholder engagement and influencing activities in areas of strategic interest.</p>	Paul Carbert	G	In Progress
<b>Co-ordinating corporate and regional strategy development</b>				

Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022	Progress update and current position	Lead	RAG Status	Progress Status
<p>Work with the Board to agree a strategic approach to future regional economic strategy development including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baseline and updating the economic evidence base in preparation for an update of the North East Strategic Economic Plan and/or other strategic processes</li> <li>2. Evaluate and implement the approach required at regional level to respond to Government's Plan for Growth</li> <li>3. Prepare to support an Economic Review project in advance of any future devolution process</li> </ol>	<p>Work is continuing on this years Our Economy report to ensure that it provides a clear statement on a range of key data and intelligence sources as the North East moves forward from Covid lockdown. Three areas of activity are now underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of all key data sets which are usually included in Our Economy report</li> <li>• A summative report of the Covid 19 intelligence project to reflect on the changes to economy brought about through the Covid and EU Exit processes</li> <li>• Commissioning of a group of 6 'Turning Points' papers which will review the latest data and intelligence in the following areas to provide 'thought leadership' pieces for future regional strategies; productivity, internationalisation, living standards, net zero, business base, finance</li> </ul>	Richard Baker	G	In Progress
<p>Support and co-ordinate activities which support the immediate and longer-term economic response to COVID-19 including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuing publication of the evidence base</li> <li>2. Support for the actions derived from the COVID-19 Economic Response Group and the Economic Response Plan</li> <li>3. Evaluate, and support discussion about, the impact of the COVID-19 Response Group to support future regional resilience.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Covid 19 Economic Response group continues to meet to provide a point of ongoing co-ordination on immediate and longer-term action in response to Covid 19. Following a discussion, it has agreed to continue to meet to provide a point of ongoing co-ordination through the next stages of regional activity</li> <li>• A review of the work done through the group has been included in the SEP Evaluation project which will provide an account of its work and evidential material for future thinking around regional collaboration</li> <li>• As reported above, a summative report of the Covid 19 intelligence project has been commissioned to reflect on the changes to economy brought about through the Covid and EU Exit processes</li> </ul>	Richard Baker	G	In Progress
<p>Support the alignment and development of strategic processes led by partners including the North East Transport Plan.</p>	<p>The North East Transport Plan has been published by Transport North East and the North East LEP is in discussion with the Transport Team about the next stages of data co-ordination linked to performance reporting and provision of open data through the data hub</p>	Richard Baker	G	In Progress

## Highlights from the past two months

Below is a summary of the content we have issued to support projects and initiatives as well as more strategic announcements and activity since May 2021

### Strategic announcements and update

#### Annual review published

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership published its annual review in June, highlighting its support for businesses during the coronavirus pandemic, and the region's progress towards creating 100,000 more and better jobs. Read more [here](#).

To coincide with the publication of the annual review, four blogs were also published, providing an in-depth view of the LEP's programmes of delivery.

[Ammar Mirza CBE](#), Business Growth Board chair, about the North East LEP's annual review and spoke about the work of the Business Growth team

[Andrew Moffat CBE](#), Chair of the Investment Board, spoke about the role investment has played in supporting the region's economic recovery from COVID-19

[Ellen Thinnesen](#), Chair of the North East Skills Advisory Panel, about the LEP's annual review and spoke about the importance of creating career opportunities for all

[Gillian Hall](#), Innovation Board Chair, spoke about the importance of creating an innovation culture in the region

#### Helen Golightly OBE

Helen Golightly, Chief Executive of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, was awarded an OBE in the Queen's birthday honours list. Helen was awarded the OBE for services to business and the regional economy. Business leaders across the region and beyond welcomed the news and sent their congratulations. The article is available to view [here](#).

#### BBC Politics North (North East and Cumbria)

North East Local Enterprise Partnership Chair, Lucy Winskell OBE, appeared on the BBC's Politics North programme to discuss the North East COVID-19 Economic Response Group's 'Recovery and Renewal Deal for the North East', how the region is addressing net zero and decarbonisation, and the LEP's ambitions for the regional economy.

#### Nissan announcement

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership welcomed the news Nissan was to create thousands of new jobs in the region with the opening of a new battery plant and construction of a new electric vehicle in Sunderland. The statement from Helen Golightly can be viewed [here](#). It was picked up by numerous media outlets, resulting in widespread coverage across the North East's business media.

### Business and sector growth

#### Mine energy white paper

In May 2021, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership published a white paper by the Mine Energy Taskforce and Local Energy Hub network that called for greater support for mine energy as a key low carbon heat source in the UK, contributing to government's ambition to reach net zero by 2050.

It resulted in media coverage in a number of trade titles, including H&V News, NS Energy, and Heating News Journal as well as interest from the Financial Times. The BBC's environment analyst, Roger Harrabin, also tweeted about the white paper.

For more information visit [here](#).

#### North East health and life sciences sector leads the way in global COVID response

The North East LEP has praised the region's health and life sciences sector for its vital work in the global effort against Covid-19. The health and life sciences community is home to 150 businesses across the region. Its strengths include an advanced manufacturing cluster, contributing significantly to the global pharmaceutical industry, and a thriving biotech cluster. Many companies working in the North East health and life sciences sector have channelled their world-leading expertise into finding solutions to the Covid-19 crisis. Read more [here](#).

## Innovation

### Challenge North East

The Challenge North East programme, which called on North East SMEs to put forward ideas that could help society recover from the impact of COVID-19, announced that 16 SMEs had been selected to receive support, introductions to potential clients and up to £5,000 to prototype their ideas. From these, seven businesses have now been chosen to receive the full funding needed to bring their products to market. The list of SMEs can be viewed [here](#).

### Support available to develop innovation projects in preparation for future funding opportunities

North East organisations are being offered support from a team of innovation experts to prepare projects for future funding opportunities, and a pipeline of the most promising regional innovation projects and programmes in the North East is being championed on a national and international stage. 49 Expressions of interest were received by closing date of 2 July. Read more [here](#).

## Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

### Careers in electrification

The North East LEP's Skills team – in partnership with EV North – produced an educational video for secondary school pupils about the electrification industry in the North East and the career opportunities within it. The video is available to view on the [North East LEP's YouTube channel](#).

### A workforce fit for the future

In the June edition of Northern Insight magazine, Skills Director Michelle Rainbow talked about the work that is taking place to build a skilled, sustainable future for the North East. Read her article [here](#).

### Kickstart programme

Employers in the North East are helping young people at risk of long term unemployment take their first steps into the workplace. Businesses including Sunderland-based automotive manufacturer Unipres have signed up to the Kickstart Scheme, which provides funding to employers to create six month job placements for people aged between 16 and 24 who are receiving Universal Credit. Read more [here](#).

## Investment

### Getting Building Fund

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership's role in delivering the Getting Building Fund in the North East LEP area has continued to be profiled. Two stories have been published about NewcastleGateshead Quays – one focussed on the £7 million awarded to the project as a whole, and another looking, in depth, at the 'green' multi-storey car park that is being built on the site. The stories are available to read here: [£7m Getting Building Fund investment](#) and ['green' multi-storey car park](#).

### Local Growth Fund

Stories profiling the North East Local Enterprise Partnership's management and delivery of the Local Growth Fund have continued too. An article was published on [northeastlep.co.uk](#) and shared through social media highlighting the additional LGF funding awarded to Supply Chain North East to support North East businesses to diversify during the coronavirus pandemic and produce PPE. The full story is available to read [here](#).

## Strategy and policy

### 'Global North East: Driving growth in North East trade and exports' report

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership – in partnership with in partnership with the Department for International Trade (DIT) and North East England Chamber of Commerce – published a new report looking at how the region could build its competitiveness, drive higher productivity, and create more and better jobs by increasing international trade.

'Global North East: Driving growth in North East trade and exports' was published on [northeastlep.co.uk](#), shared across social media, and a news release was issued to media. The report is available to view [here](#).

### NP11 Data and Evidence Programme

A blog from Emma Ward - Research and Evaluation Manager at the North East Local Enterprise Partnership - was published on [northeastlep.co.uk](#) and shared through social media to highlight the LEP's role in helping shape a new data and evidence programme on behalf of the NP11 that focusses on the use of economic evidence, research and data across the North. The blog is available to read [here](#).

### Economic Analyst role

A second blog from Emma was also published highlighted an Economic Analyst role at the North East Local Enterprise Partnership. The application window has now closed. The blog is available to view [here](#).

## North East LEP website performance summary

Audience		
Visitors	9,519	(+8.95%)
Total page views	52,052	(+0.30%)
Average session duration	1m 31s	(-1.51%)

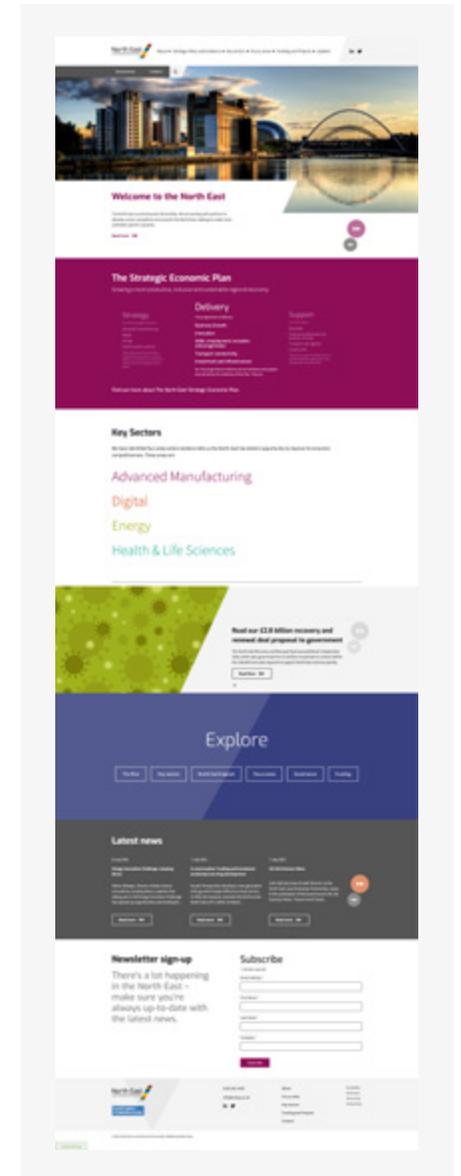
Traffic source	views
Organic	3,406
Direct	4,232
Email	244
Social	836
Referral	473
Other	0

### Top five news pages

	views
<a href="#">New report highlights potential of mine energy in achieving UK net zero target</a>	1,187
<a href="#">Queen's birthday honours recognition for North East LEP chief executive Helen Golightly</a>	652
<a href="#">Emma Ward - Research, Evidence and Analysis Programme Manager - discusses the new Economic Analyst role at the North East LEP</a>	517
<a href="#">Support available to develop innovation projects in preparation for future funding opportunities</a>	360
<a href="#">North East LEP publishes a new regional trade and export report</a>	352

### Top five pages

	views
Home	8,074
About/executive-team	2,169
About-us	1,502
Innovation-pipeline-projects	1,441
The-Plan	1,134



## Social media

	Total followers	Impressions	Top performing LEPs on Twitter:			
<b>Twitter</b>	12,509 (+0.7%)	187,520	1. North East LEP	2. Leeds LEP	3. Liverpool LEP	4. Black Country LEP
<b>LinkedIn</b>	8,787 (+2.8%)	48,346	12,509	11,513	10,206	9,345

### Best performing organic posts: Twitter



**North East LEP** @northeastlep

A new white paper published by the Mine Energy Taskforce / Local Energy Hub network has called for greater support for #mineenergy as a key low carbon heat source in the UK; contributing to @GOVUK's ambition to reach net zero by 2050  
[northeastlep.co.uk/updates/new-re...](https://northeastlep.co.uk/updates/new-re...)

**The Case for Mine Energy – unlocking deployment at scale in the UK**

How greater support for mine energy can help the UK achieve net zero by 2050, and bring immediate and direct economic benefits.

Read the white paper at [northeastlep.co.uk/#mineenergy](https://northeastlep.co.uk/#mineenergy)

Coal Authority and 3 others

Impressions	Engagement
16,820	157
Clicks	Retweets
28	27



**North East LEP** @northeastlep

We're extremely proud to announce that our chief executive, Helen Golightly, has been awarded an OBE for services to business and the regional economy in the Queen's #BirthdayHonours



Queen's birthday honours recognition for North East LEP chief executive Helen ...  
 One of the region's most respected leaders has been awarded an OBE for services to business and the regional economy. Helen Golightly, chief executive of the ...  
[@northeastlep.co.uk](https://northeastlep.co.uk)

Impressions	Engagement
12,372	280
Clicks	Retweets
33	92



**North East LEP** @northeastlep

.@BritishvoltUK has entered into a memorandum of understanding with @UniofNewcastle, @durham\_uni and @NorthumbriaUni to benefit from support in R&D and innovation. The company remains on track to begin construction of its gigaplant in Blyth later this year



Universities to provide R&D and innovation support to (inte...  
 Battery cell technology specialist Britishvolt, which is set to start construction on a production facility in Northumbria...  
[@insidermedia.com](https://insidermedia.com)

8:49 AM · Jun 1, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Impressions	Engagement
10,500	106
Clicks	Retweets
16	21



**North East LEP** @northeastlep

Today is the Green Economy Summit, hosted by @NorthTyneCA and @UniofNewcastle. This event explores how our region can lead the charge towards Net Zero and an economy powered by clean jobs and growth. Find out more here: [bit.ly/3vW47QQ](https://bit.ly/3vW47QQ)

Impressions	Engagement
6,296	44
Clicks	Retweets
16	5

Best performing organic posts: **Twitter** and **LinkedIn**



**North East LEP** @northeastlep

From our Chair, Lucy Winskell OBE 'I'd like to thank Pat for her outstanding commitment to public service throughout her career. Her dedication to Newcastle and the wider North East should be celebrated and I wish her the very best of luck. It's been a privilege to work with her'

**NewcastleCityCouncil** @NewcastleCC - Jun 29  
Pat Ritchie has today announced she will be stepping down from her role as Chief Executive of Newcastle City Council after eight and a half years in the position.  
Read the full story [orio.uk/jm/v](https://orio.uk/jm/v)

Impressions	Engagement
5,168	34
Clicks	Retweets
20	11



**North East Local Enterprise Partnership** 2,754 followers

"I would like to dedicate this honour to the whole team at the LEP, who strive to increase investment and improve skills, job opportunities and purposeful business support across the NE to improve the lives of others." Helen Golightly OBE <https://link.in/sepqfne> #BirthdayHonours

Queen's birthday honours recognition for North East LEP chief executive Helen...

Impressions	Engagement
7,038	518
Clicks	
298	



**North East Local Enterprise Partnership** 2,754 followers

Our Skills Director, Michelle Rabelew, spoke to BBC Look North about the drive in the region to create more #kickstartcheme opportunities, supporting more young people into work. Scroll to 02:07 to watch the report.

Look North (North East and Cumbria) - Lunchtime News: 15/06/2021

Impressions	Engagement
2,034	121
Clicks	
77	



**North East Local Enterprise Partnership** 2,754 followers

"Nissan's ongoing commitment to invest in the North East is testament to the skills, talent and expertise in our region's advanced manufacturing sector"

Our Chief Exec, Helen Golightly OBE responds to Nissan's announcement: <https://link.in/8t8wv7r>

#moreandbetterjobs

North East LEP response to Nissan's announcement of new Sunderland gigafactory...

Impressions	Engagement
1,620	70
Clicks	
25	

## Priorities for the next two months

1. Refresh and review our corporate digital strategy which will consider our websites, social media and digital marketing
2. After finalising North East Ambition budgets, agree the strategic approach to skills communications until March 2022
3. To work with the Innovation team on a response to the expected National Innovation Strategy
4. Develop and implement the Growth Hub positioning campaign
5. Support the development and publication of Our Economy 2021
6. Refresh our airport advertising

## Forward plan of content

Topic	Description	Type	Estimated date of issue
<b>Corporate</b>			
North East LEP Podcast	Launch the new 'More and better jobs' - the new podcast from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Podcast</li> <li>• Organic and paid social media</li> </ul>	August onwards
Stakeholder mapping	Refine strategic approach to stakeholder management, ensuring that key stakeholders are identified with LEP priorities and gaps are identified		July
<b>Business and sector growth</b>			
Growth Hub positioning	Positioning campaign to demonstrate that the Growth Hub is more than just a website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New photography and film</li> <li>• Newsletters</li> <li>• Organic and paid social media</li> <li>• Paid media partnerships</li> </ul>	September
Toolkits content refresh	Refresh and update of all toolkit content		July onwards
Growth Hub website taxonomy	Restructure the filters on the Growth Hub website in-line with the new taxonomy / business model approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website</li> </ul>	August
Made Smarter Adoption North East	New business support programme helping manufacturing SMEs in the North East region adopt new technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News release</li> <li>• Partner Toolkit</li> <li>• Social media content</li> <li>• Bdaily partnership</li> </ul>	July onwards

High Potential Startups	Sixth intake of the High Potential Startups programme, with a focus on digital businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News release</li> <li>• Organic and paid social media</li> <li>• Google Ads</li> <li>• Newsletters</li> <li>• Partner Toolkit</li> </ul>	July
Finance and funding toolkit	Refresh of the Finance and funding toolkit, with new content around loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North East Growth Hub</li> <li>• Organic and paid social media</li> </ul>	July
Cluster Development Fund	Video with James Craggs for Gateshead video production company - MOTIF - about the support provided to businesses through the North East LEP's Cluster Development Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video</li> <li>• Social media</li> </ul>	July
NBSL case studies	Case studies profiling businesses that have received support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Growth Hub website and social media</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Energy innovation film	Video highlighting the region's energy assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Booking in filming at various locations</li> </ul>	July onwards
Short film on Iksuda Therapeutics	Film to do a deep dive into the success of the Patent Protection Scheme and Iskuda therapeutics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video</li> <li>• Supporting targets social media</li> </ul>	August
Sciences: stakeholder mapping	Identify and agree stakeholders for each of the priority areas in the Health and Life Sciences strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder mapping</li> </ul>	September
<b>Innovation</b>			
Strategic positioning	Developing a briefing note and key messages that articulate the strategic approach to innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing note</li> <li>• Supporting comms plan</li> </ul>	July
Challenge North East	Forward plan for development of the Challenge North East website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of film featuring supporters and businesses</li> </ul>	July
Innovation toolkit	Launch of toolkit with initial content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Populating toolkit with content</li> </ul>	July

## Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

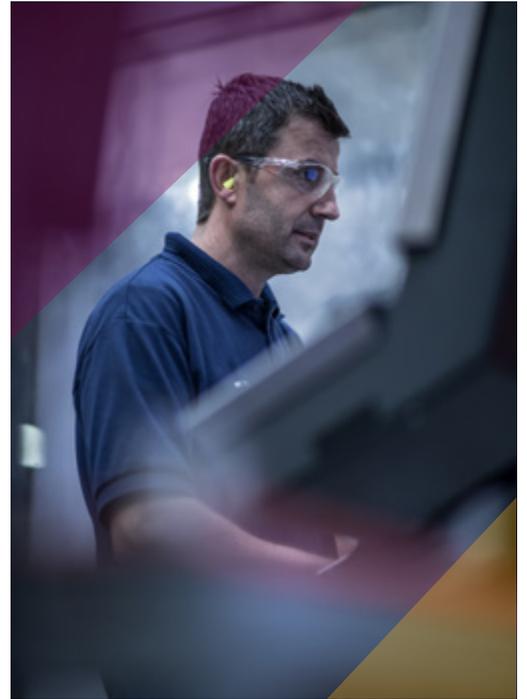
Skills communications priorities	Agree a priority plan for the remainder of 2021/22 that aligns agreed budgets.	• Plan	July
Northern Insight	Ellen Thinnesen article on SAP and careers for all .		August
Kickstart Scheme	Campaign targeted at young people and their parents to highlight the vacancies available and encourage them to apply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case studies</li> <li>• Q&amp;A with Unipres</li> <li>• Q&amp;A with Northumbrian Water</li> <li>• Photography</li> <li>• Social media content</li> </ul>	June onwards
North East Ambition 2	Working with EDT t promote the North East Ambition 2 offer to employers.	• Social media	July

## Investment

Local Growth Fund	<p>Continued promotion of Local Growth Fund projects in the North East LEP region.</p> <p>Begin planning campaign to highlight success of the Local Growth Fund as a whole now all the funds have been allocated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News releases</li> <li>• Blogs</li> <li>• Social media content</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Getting Building Fund	Continued promotion of Getting Building Fund projects in the North East LEP region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News releases</li> <li>• Blogs</li> <li>• Social media content</li> </ul>	Ongoing

Please note, where content is owned as oppose to media relations, audience profiles are in place to ensure the content is targeted at the most relevant audiences as well as the LEP's general followers.

Any feedback on input into our content plan, please email [jen.robson@nelep.co.uk](mailto:jen.robson@nelep.co.uk)



## North East LEP

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**22 July 2021**

**Item 7: Chair and Chief Executive Update**

**1.0 Background**

1.1 The Chair and Chief Executive would like to provide an update to Board Members on some of the discussions they have been involved in since the last Board meeting in May.

**2.0 Chair key meetings and discussions**

2.1 Since the last Board meeting in May, the LEP Chair has been involved in a variety of events, meetings and discussions that continue to champion our work.

These include:

- Regular meetings between the LEP Chair and CEO;
- Attending the NP11 Board and a NP11 lobbying event regarding transport consultation;
- Interview by the BBC Politics Show;
- Panel speaker at the Newcastle Debate, organised by Newcastle University;
- Attending the North of Tyne Combined Authority AGM and a briefing meeting with Henry Kippin;
- Attending the Transport for the North Board;
- Chairing the LEP Cross Chairs Meeting and discussion around the communications strategy;
- Update provided to the Partner and President's Club Business Leaders monthly roundtable;
- Speaker at national CBI event, webinar on levelling up;
- Meeting with Jean Davidson and Tony Gates at The Sill;
- Various briefings and meetings with the North East England Chamber of Commerce and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

### **3.0 Chief Executives key meetings and discussions**

3.1 Since the last Board meeting, outside of the internal 'business as usual' meetings, the Chief Executive has been involved in a number of meetings to continue to move the regional economic growth agenda forward. These include:

- NP11 Chief Executive meetings;
- COVID-19 Economic Response Group;
- North of Tyne Combined Authority, Investment Board Meetings;
- Creative England and Northern Creative Leaders Conference;
- The LEP Cross Chairs meeting;
- Climate Emergency Officers group;
- Interview by the West Midlands Regional Economic Development Institute (WMREDI) regarding Covid 19 recovery planning;
- KPMG National Leaders Circle meeting;
- Meeting with Homes for the North group;
- The Transport for the North Board;
- Town Deal Boards.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

4.1 The Board is recommended to note the report.