

THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC MEETING

North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board



Thursday 20 July 2023

17.00 – 18.30

AGENDA

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 25 May 2023** (5.05pm)
Board will be asked to agree the Minutes.
4. **Combined Authorities' LEP Board membership 2023/2024** (5:10pm)
Helen Golightly to present to the Board.
5. **Annual Delivery Plan update** - paper attached (5.15pm)
Helen Golightly to present to the Board.
6. **Fund management update** – confidential paper attached (5.35pm)
Paul Woods to present to the Board.
7. **Devolution update** – confidential paper attached (5.50pm)
Henry Kippin and Rob Hamilton to update the Board
8. **Chair and Chief Executive update** - paper attached (6.20pm)
Lucy Winskell and Helen Golightly to update the Board
9. **Any Other Business** (6.25pm)
10. **Date and time of next meeting - Thursday 28 September 2023 from 5 - 7pm**

Item 3 – Minutes of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board held on 25 May 2023

Meeting was held in-person Quadrus Centre, 1 Woodstock Way, Boldon Colliery, NE35 9PF

In attendance:

Lucy Winskell	Chair, North East LEP
Heidi Mottram	Northumbrian Water Group
Cllr Amanda Hopgood	Durham County Council
Cllr Nick Kemp	Newcastle City Council
Dame Norma Redfearn	North Tyneside Council
Cllr Richard Wearmouth	Northumberland County Council
Cllr Graeme Miller	Sunderland City Council
Mark Thompson	Ryder Architecture
Phil Redman	Mott MacDonald
Alan Johnson	Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK (NMUK)
Sam Whitehouse	High Force Research & LightOx Ltd

Apologies

Cllr Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council
Cllr Tracey Dixon	South Tyneside Council
Mayor Driscoll	North of Tyne Combined Authority
Carol Botten	VONNE
Ellen Thinnesen	Education Partnership North East
Chris Day	Newcastle University
Colin Hewitt	Ward Hadaway
Emily Cox	Lloyds Banking Group
Ammar Mirza	AmmarM (UK) Limited
Helen Golightly	Chief Executive, North East LEP

Officers present

Colin Bell	Business Growth Director, LEP
Thomas Athey	Economic Analyst, LEP
Henry Kippin	Chief Executive, NTCA and Interim Chief Executive of NEMCA
Janice Gillespie	NTCA - Finance
Katy Laing	Strategic Finance Manager, NTCA
Brenda Joyce	Democratic Services, Newcastle City Council

1 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Quadrus Centre for the AGM, the first meeting held in person in three years.

Apologies were received from Cllr Martin Gannon, Cllr Tracey Dixon, Mayor Driscoll, Carol Botten, Ellen Thinnesen, Chris Day, Colin Hewitt, Emily Cox, Ammar Mirza and Helen Golightly.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair declared an interest as a commissioner of the Port of Tyne.

Alan Johnson declared an interest as part of the Department of Education's Business Engagement Forum.

No other additional or new declarations of interest were declared.

Part One - Annual General Meeting

3 **LOOKING FORWARD 2023/24 - ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN**

Colin Bell introduced the report which looked forward setting out the North East LEP's proposed activities in the 2023/24 Annual Delivery Plan (appended).

The 2023/24 Annual Delivery Plan had been developed to reflect on:

- The revised role of Local Enterprise Partnerships as defined by government, which was to:
 - Embed a strong, independent and diverse local business voice into the North East' local and combined authorities
 - Carry out strategic economic planning in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulated the North East's economic priorities and sectoral strengths
 - Continue to deliver a number of functions on behalf of government departments, shaped by the local business voice
 - Monitor and assure existing local growth programmes and funds for which the LEP had responsible for.
- The continued delivery of contractual commitments, and operational activities and projects required to create the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) and the transition of the LEP into it.

During the ensuing discussion and in response to questions, it was noted that:

- Feedback from a meeting of business membership organisations was that it was a very good plan and a sensible way forward.
- Board members had always been really proud of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) which raised the issue of how the same strength of unity could be created and consensus between key partners going forward.
- There is a risk of hiatus during this transition year prior to the formation of NEMCA and portfolio development, where all Board members need to be aware of.
- It would be useful to hold an event, after the summer, to build on the strengths of work done to date and the strength of unity in the region.
- Further and wider communications were needed to highlight that it was business as usual to deliver the annual delivery plan up to the election in May 2024.
- There was not a wide understanding that the combined authorities, the leaders and others were working up strategies for going forward and felt that

the work that was underway was not being communicated or enabling key partners to co-developer comment.

- The leaders and chief executives of the LA7 with the NTCA Chief Executive/Interim Chief Executive of NEMCA were working up a programme for after May 2024; clear communications were needed to demonstrate it was business as usual currently until the 2024 election.
- The business sector needed to understand that the LA7, the LEP and the combined authorities were trying to give as much certainty as they could, but the new mayor would not be one of the current leaders and will have their own ideas and manifesto.
- The LEP still had to deliver against the annual delivery plan – it was business as usual. A statement from the LEP Board to clarify it was “business as normal” would be helpful.
- The future strategic economic plan would build on the work of the SEP work over the last ten years and the Covid recovery work in the region.
- There was discussion that an event in the autumn would help with the wider business communities’ understanding and engagement.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- (i) **Agreed the proposed Annual Delivery Plan for 2023-24, and delegated authority to the Chief Executive to sign off minor amendments if required;**
- (ii) **Noted that updates on progress would be presented to future meetings.**

4 LEP BUDGET - FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2022/23 AND UPDATE ON 2023/24 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Katy Laing introduced the report which provided an update to the Board on the final outturn revenue budget position for 2022/23, including the performance on the Enterprise Zone account, Local Growth Fund (LGF), Getting Building Fund (GBF) and the North-East Investment Fund (NEIF).

The report also provided an update on the current budget position for financial year 2023/24.

It was confirmed that the activities of the LEP did not normally generate a surplus. The biggest impact was the draw down of the EZ contribution into the LEP. This had been included in the outturn position as previously agreed by the Board in preparation for the transition year and potential costs associated with the transition; there would also be some legacy costs as some programmes continued to deliver beyond this financial year into 2024/25. This was more a transfer of reserves than an operational surplus – it was prudent planning.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- i. **Noted the positive budget outturn position for 2022/23.**
- ii. **Approved the 2023/24 budget.**

5 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING UPDATE

Colin Bell introduced the annual update which set out whether there were any proposed changes to governance matters. The paper covered:

- The North East LEP Constitution
- The Scheme of Delegation
- LEP Board and sub-board membership
- Dates for Board meetings to March 2024

The Chair confirmed the dates for 2023/24 and advised that members would be advised well in advance if the Board meetings were going to take place in person or via Microsoft Teams.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- (i) **Noted that there were no substantive proposed changes to the Constitution, and agreed the merger of the Business Growth and Innovation Delivery Boards;**
- (ii) **Noted there were no proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation;**
- (iii) **Noted that the public sector nominations for the LEP Board and sub-boards would be confirmed by each Combined Authority ahead of the next LEP Board in July.**

Part Two - LEP Business

6 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

7 ECONOMIC UPDATE AND EVIDENCE HUB DEMO

Thomas Athey gave an economic update presentation and an Evidence Hub demonstration to the Board.

The economic update presentation included trend information on the following:

- Inflation was starting to fall with larger decreases predicted in the near future, the focus was moving from energy to food prices
- Residents reported that they were reducing spending due to higher prices, business were reporting that they were absorbing costs
- Employment and vacancies data suggested that there was still strong demand for labour in the North East
- GDP did not immediately recover to pre Covid levels in the North East, in part because of disruption to automotive exports
- The spring budget included measures to improve labour supply and encourage investment

- Most employment demand to 2035 was predicted to be replacement demand, with greater demand predicted for degree level jobs

During the ensuing discussion and in response to questions, it was noted that:

- Spending less on food did not align with what people were saying which was that they were spending more but getting less.
- The data that only 35% of businesses were passing on price increases to customers was also not a reflection in the North East.
- It was confirmed that these were rapid fire surveys from the ONS and the phrasing could perhaps more clear. It was also noted that the 'individuals' survey was quite out of date.
- Nissan was not a Sunderland employer but a regional, if not a nationally, important employer.
- Concern was expressed around the spring budget proposals to deliver childcare support reforms to be introduced from April 2024.
- The North East did not get the same level of investment in R&D.
- Nissan projected manufacturing 350,000 cars compared to 260,000 last year so the company was returning to pre-Covid levels. There was reasonable optimism although there was some uncertainty in the market.
- China was a big threat to the automotive industry in Europe.
- A lot of investment was being held back; the government needed to lead by example.
- There was a need to move away from the mindset that everyone needed a degree. Skills training needed to be put in place to retrain people for the future.
- The North East lost a lot of talent due to the lack of R&D investment in the region and this had to be addressed.
- Regarding the economically inactive position, one of the big reasons why there were shortages was there are 2 million on NHS waiting lists and long-term sick, and this needed to be addressed as it effected every region in the UK. Covid had also demonstrated to people that they were worth more and some had left the labour market completely. There was a need to look at future jobs and what would be a good package for people going forward.
- Farmers could not pay pickers enough as the margins on produce were so low and the government needed to look at the whole sector.

Thomas Athey went on to give a demonstration to the Board on the North East Evidence Hub (<https://evidencehub.northeastlep.co.uk>)

This brought together a range of data sets, a range of reports and research on the North east economy.

The North East LEP had developed the evidence hub in partnership with Transport North East and it had been re-platformed during the last year. The aim of the hub was to make data and evidence as accessible as possible.

From Sep – March, the site saw 40,601 pageviews from 6,281 users
 Pageviews were up 97% year on year (YOY) and users were up 28%
 The average time on a page was 04:32. This was up 55% YOY
 Downloads had decreased 60% YOY – this highlighted the success re digital translation of content

During the ensuing discussion and in response to questions, it was noted that:

- The ambition for the hub was that it would become a regional resource although conversations were needed about governance.
- The evidence-based data could be used rather than anecdotal evidence.
- Members agreed the hub was a fantastic resource and that a launch event should be held to get it out into the market.
- The hub could be used as a hook to attract the right people.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair congratulated Thomas and his team for the excellent work.

8 **DEVOLUTION UPDATE**

Henry Kippin (Chief Executive, NTCA and Interim Chief Executive of NEMCA) gave a verbal update to the Board on the devolution transition, early policy priorities and the LEP integration and business board.

There were three 'buckets' of work – each of which had a number of interrelated workstreams - Operational Transition, Portfolio Development and Early Priorities.

Each of the leaders were overseeing an interim portfolio - Transport, Finance & investment, Rural & Environment, Culture, Creative, Tourism & Sport, Economy, Housing & Land, Education and Skills & Inclusion over the next year. Each of the portfolios now had a plan, workstream and lead officer support in place.

Progress with early priorities was being made and some parts of the deal needed to be delivered quickly such as adult education; there was a readiness journey to go through in order to deliver that next year. On areas like brownfield land there were some capital allocations within the deal to support regeneration and some elements of transport so the business cases all needed to be started early and there was quite a lot of work going on to make sure they were appropriately governed.

The three pillars were underpinned by a good foundation of the established and ongoing collaboration across the region.

There was a lot of time and effort being put into the transition work which reflected the discussion the LEP Board had been having.

In terms of LEP transition the North East Devo Deal and the LEP Review committed to the integration of the role and functions in May 2024. Ministerial correspondence on funding had subsequently been received. It was also government policy that the LEP Board would transition to the NEMCA Business Board. The NTCA was already the accountable body for the LEP and the Devolution Deal committed to producing a transition plan for the political team and the LEP Board; this would be a stepped process over the next few months and build on what already existed.

In terms of the working principals around this, the proposition being worked on was that there would be a two phased transition for the LEP Board; the current LEP Board would transition to become the Interim Business Board ready for May 2024

and then, within term one, the mayor and cabinet would consider board membership through fair and transparent processes in due course.

There was a commitment to bring the Draft Transition Plan back to the Board. The Transition Plan would show how the team, assets, liabilities and commitments would be integrated into NEMCA.

Henry Kippin said that he had every confidence in that the transition process could be managed really well and emphasise the continuity and ambition of the political team. A question for the LEP Board was what would a productive relationship look like. Henry said he was happy to keep coming back to update the Board.

The Chair thanked Henry for the very helpful update which had demonstrated a clear direction of travel.

During the ensuing discussion and in response to questions, it was noted that:

- The political leaders were absolutely committed to getting this done and working in the evenings with the chief executives to take this forward.
- At previous meetings concerns about staff retention and wellbeing had been raised; it was a testament to the leadership that there now seemed to be a sense of excitement.
- The Chair commented that although the LEP had lost some good colleagues, Helen and Henry had worked together to fill gaps; this was an early indication of how well the teams would bed in together.
- Councillor Kemp said it was worth paying an enormous amount of credit to Henry – his skill set was extraordinary – and it was very much about taking people with us on the journey.
- The region had a very successful LEP Board and would go on to have a very strong NEMCA Business Board.
- The presentation had been very reassuring about the opportunities for the business members of the LEP Board to feed into the development of the portfolios. It was suggested that a couple of portfolios could be considered at a future Board meeting; the Chair, Henry Kippin and Helen Golightly would discuss this.

9 **CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE UPDATE**

Noted.

10 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Sam Whitehouse commented that the Annual Review included information on two of his apprentices who were about to graduate. This highlighted the success of the LEP's work on 'future proofing workforces' and that small businesses, as well as larger corporations could benefit and help deal with the left hand side of the graph in the earlier presentation.

Mark Thompson commented that the region was very strong on apprenticeships and adoption of them and this was something that we should shout a lot louder about.

11 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 20 July 2023 from 5:00 – 7:00pm via Teams

20 July 2023

Item 4: Combined Authorities’ LEP Board membership 2023/2024

1.0 Background

1.1 The Board was notified at their Annual General Meeting in May 2023 that the two combined authorities were meeting on 6 June where they would consider their representation on the LEP Board and Advisory Boards.

2.0 Boards’ membership

2.1 The North of Tyne Combined Authority and North East Combined Authority are represented as set out in the table below for 2023/2024:

Board	Representative	Role
LEP Board	Councillor Gannon (NECA)	Vice Chair and Board member
	Councillor Miller (NECA)	Board member
	Councillor Hopgood (NECA)	Board member
	Councillor Dixon (NECA)	Observer
	Mayor Redfearn (NTCA)	Vice Chair and Board member
	Councillor Kemp (NTCA)	Board member
	Mayor Driscoll (NTCA)	Board member
	Councillor Wearmouth (NTCA)	Observer
Investment Board	Councillor Johnson (NTCA)	Board member
	Councillor Dixon	Board member
Skills Advisory Panel	Councillor Kilgour (NTCA)	Board member
	Councillor Hopgood (NECA)	Board member
Business Advisory Board	Councillor Wearmouth (NTCA)	Board member
	Councillor Miller (NECA)	Board member

2.2 The changes from 2022/2023 are:

- Councillor Gannon replaces Councillor Dixon as Vice Chair
- Councillor Hopgood replaces Councillor Dixon as a Board member
- Councillor Dixon replaces Councillor Hopgood as an observer

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 The Board is recommended to note the report.

Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24

2023/24 is a year of transition. Our delivery plan for this year reflects this as we work towards the formation of a new Mayoral Combined Authority for the North East, in which the LEP's functions will be integrated.

The roles of the LEP set out by government are to:

- Embed a strong, independent and diverse local business voice into the North East Mayoral Combined Authority
- Carry out strategic economic planning in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulates the North East's economic priorities and sectoral strengths
- Continue to deliver a number of functions on behalf of government departments, shaped by the local business voice
- Monitor and assure existing local growth programmes and funds for which the LEP is responsible for.

This document is structured around these.



Embed a strong, independent and diverse local business voice into the North East Mayoral Combined Authority

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
Lead the transition of the North East LEP board into the governance structure of the new Mayoral Combined Authority, where it will become the Business Board. Ensure that sub boards and business-led groups are also reflected in the wider evolving governance where appropriate.	The LEP Board will evolve into the Business Board within the new Mayoral Combined Authority governance model. Discussions are ongoing on how best to transition.		Green
Map and champion business priorities in line with the structure of the Devolution Deal, ensuring that critical projects identified in the Strategic Economic Plan are not lost.	The LEP executive team will work with the LEP Sub-boards to identify and feed into the developing portfolio plans and identify the projects that business and education stakeholders feel are of regional importance to the delivery of the Devolution Deal.	How and when does the business community feed into the development of the portfolios to ensure meaningful engagement?	Green
Convene a business-led group as the route for the new governance structures to be informed, challenged and engaged with the business community at scale with representation from business cluster and membership organisations and the education and VCSE sectors to share knowledge as the devolution detail is developed and provide a two-way forum to feed into the emerging MCA's priorities	Following agreement by the LEP Board to merge the Business Growth, Innovation and Regional Economy sub-boards, the first meeting of the newly-formed Business Advisory Board will be on 5 September 2023.	Recommendation to the board to agree the proposed new advisory board structure.	Green

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
<p>Conclude, report on, evaluate and share learning on processes and practices against the delivery of the North East Strategic Plan to inform and transfer knowledge to future economic planning.</p>	<p>An open tender opportunity has been issued to appoint a supplier to undertake an evaluative project on the delivery of the North East Strategic Economic Plan, to generate learning and insight to inform the ongoing transition to the new NEMCA. The opportunity will close on Wednesday 19 July and a contractor will be in place in August. You can view the tender here.</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Update and adhere to the Assurance Framework which includes holding an Annual General Meeting.</p>	<p>The AGM will be held in Q4. The Assurance Framework is being amalgamated into the new NEMCA Assurance Framework for next year.</p>		<p>Green</p>

Carry out strategic economic planning in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulates the North East's economic priorities and sectoral strengths.

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
<p>Prepare and disseminate a comprehensive evidence base that reflects the North East's economic performance and informs economic planning, investment, and prioritisation. Position the North East Evidence Hub as the go to platform to access and use this information.</p>	<p>We have analysed and disseminated a range of data on the North East Evidence Hub, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment-related benefits: an experimental count of people claiming benefits because they are seeking work • Redundancies data: the number of people experiencing redundancy and the number of potential future redundancies • Experimental data on business births and deaths • Land use in the North East: developed and undeveloped land and uses <p>We also continue to expand on our wider intelligence and evidence, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing a Strategic Economic Plan page on the North East Evidence Hub which includes progress against our targets and key indicators and evaluation outputs of our programmes • Sharing insights from our partners such as a recently published report by FSB on 'building an entrepreneurial North'. 		Green
<p>Work with partners, including our universities, local authorities and national data bodies to analyse, develop research and share intelligence about the economy. This should complement current work programmes and ensure alignment into future priorities.</p>	<p>We continue to work with local and combined authorities to develop a strategic evidence base to support the devolution deal, with data now available on the Evidence Hub. We are also working closely with the Net Zero North East England team to develop and advance the net zero evidence base, for example through the development of an indicator dashboard and work programme on pathways to decarbonisation.</p> <p>The Northern Evidence Network workstream 1 on data has agreed an indicative approach to a northern economic indicator dashboard, and opportunities to share analytical expertise across the North. Workstream 2 has developed a series of research questions in relation to three board themes: competitiveness, sustainability and 'levelling up'.</p>		Green

Continue to deliver a number of functions on behalf of government departments, shaped by the local business voice. The functions are summarised below:

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
Deliver and develop contracted/funded business support programmes and services including but not exclusively:			
<p>North East Growth Hub</p> <p>Fulfil our funding commitment to government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting businesses to the best support available from the private and public sectors. • To target support on those businesses with the opportunity, ambition and greatest potential to grow. • To gather on the ground business and economic intelligence to feed into ongoing policy development. 	<p>Funding for the North East Growth Hub is secured. The Growth Hub has received an uplift in funding from £390,000 to £420,000 which includes £40,000 to fund collaborative projects between the North East and Tees Valley.</p> <p>We have submitted our Growth Hub plan to the Department of Business and Trade and we are now awaiting the offer letter which is expected imminently.</p> <p>The Growth Hub has had good engagement with local businesses during April and May and we continue to deliver support to meet Growth Hub KPIs.</p> <p>Keith Wallis joined the team as a Growth Hub Connector in June, filling an existing vacancy. With a background in digital, Keith will focus on supporting businesses in the tech sector.</p>		Green
<p>Made Smarter</p> <p>Deliver the £800k programme engaging with 75 manufacturers during 2023/24, in partnership with government and Tees Valley Combined Authority. The ambition of the programme is to increase digital adoption with advanced manufacturers.</p>	<p>The first of four North East LEP cohorts (8 of 35 companies) is complete.</p> <p>Procurement of North East LEP delivery has been completed and the contract is expected to be awarded early July for delivery late July.</p> <p>Quality concerns with Teesside University delivery for Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) have been highlighted and a plan is in place to level up the delivery quality between the two regions. The first of three TVCA cohort (11 of 25 companies) are signed up but are still to complete their workshops.</p> <p>£125,000 of the £350,000 grant fund has been committed and 19 manufacturing businesses are engaged in developing their digital roadmaps.</p>		Amber

<p>Challenge North Tyne</p> <p>Deliver the £880,000 Challenge North Tyne programme in partnership with the Innovation SuperNetwork to enable 50 innovation projects to tackle the economic, environmental and social challenges through open and collaborative innovation.</p>	<p>Over 70 businesses in the North of Tyne locality have now received 3+ hours of support from the Challenge North Tyne accelerator programme. A plan is in place to engage additional businesses to ensure the funder's outputs are achieved.</p> <p>The accelerator programme is due to conclude in July with a series of pitch days where businesses will share the impact of their stage 1 £5,000 grant on their innovation project and outline next steps.</p>		Green
<p>Internationalisation</p> <p>Work with the Department for International Trade to mobilise international trade and investment activity, provision of local business intelligence, grant funding and levelling-up focused projects.</p>	<p>Discussion is ongoing with partner authors of the North East trade strategy (DIT and North East Chamber of Commerce). During the most recent discussions it was agreed that the government would continue to establish key market groups and that we would collectively feed the strategy into devolution portfolio developments.</p>		Amber
<p>Provide local skills analysis through the Skills Advisory Panel</p> <p>The Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) aims to bring together local employers and skills providers to pool knowledge on skills and labour market needs, and to work together to understand, address and inform the LEP board, partners, and government about local challenges.</p> <p>The SAP will provide oversight of the delivery of regional skills, inclusion and progression programmes and projects and commission research into key skills challenges.</p> <p>We will work closely with the region's employer representative bodies (ERBs) to produce Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) in the production of LSIP and continue to commission research on specific localised challenges and opportunities.</p>	<p>Both ERBs presented their final draft LSIPs to the SAP ahead of submission to the Department for Education (DfE) in June 2023. The North East Automotive Alliance and the North East Chamber of Commerce have set out their strategic approach to achieve coordination across the region. The Secretary of State is scheduled to adopt the LSIPs by the end of July 2023.</p> <p>Two Local Skills Improvement Funding Plans were submitted to DfE on 20 June 2023.</p>	<p>As we move through the transition into NEMCA, it may be preferable to find a way to integrate the data and summary findings / recommendations of the two LSIPs into one document or host in one place (eg evidence hub). As we move into Phase 2 of the LSIPs we need to ensure that we avoid duplication and that if possible the ERBs work together to agree a set of priorities for research across the whole of the NEMCA geography.</p>	Amber

<p>North East Ambition (including Careers Hubs)</p> <p>We will continue to champion and improve provision in good career guidance for each and every young person in the North East, by working with education and business.</p> <p>Through the North East Careers Hub, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of schools and colleges engaged with us • Reduce the number of schools and colleges achieving fewer than three of the Good Career Guidance Benchmarks • Increase the average Benchmark score across the schools and colleges from within the North East Careers Hub <p>We will continue to deliver the Primary schools' programme, including a new DfE initiative 'Start Small, Dream Big' which focuses on careers related learning in primary schools.</p>	<p>We hosted a learning visit with delegates from Hong Kong, who use an adapted set of Benchmarks. We provided an overview of the North East Ambition programme and visits to a range of schools and a college to showcase best practice and impact. Our visitors noted significant progress since their last visit in 2019.</p> <p>The North East LEP and Newcastle University launched the Insights North East Realising North East Ambition research findings at a virtual roundtable attended by more than 80 national and regional stakeholders from government and the skills sector.</p> <p>The deadline for schools and colleges to complete a term three Compass report is 31 July. This will provide a comprehensive overview of progress made against the benchmarks over this academic year.</p>		Green
<p>Enterprise Adviser Network</p> <p>We will champion the Enterprise Advisor Network and Education Support Partnerships by increasing the number of EAs, working strategically with schools and colleges in the North East Careers Hub.</p> <p>We will ensure a minimum of 45 SMEs receive support to engage with education.</p>	<p>Evaluation of the place-based Gateshead Building Education & Enterprise Partnership (BEEP) is being finalised.</p> <p>10 regional Enterprise Advisers have been involved in the development of video case studies to support businesses navigating the national education landscape.</p> <p>During June, 8 SMEs have received full support to engage with education through our programmes and 35 new SMEs have registered for support and developed a support plan.</p> <p>A recruitment campaign has led to 19 new EOIs to add to our Enterprise Adviser network.</p>		Green

<p>Removing Barriers to Digital Inclusion</p> <p>Working with the Digital Alliance we will begin to find ways to deliver a regional strategy to remove barriers to digital inclusion and support progression towards a set of minimum standards.</p>	<p>Dissemination of key priorities ongoing.</p>		<p>Amber</p>
<p>Positive outcomes</p> <p>We will continue to support education institutions with bespoke programmes to support careers leaders, teachers, school leaders, governors, employers and other stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure positive destinations for all young people.</p>	<p>Five out of 10 pilot schools in the North of the Tyne area partnered with employers, have co-developed and delivered STEM curriculum learning activities linked to careers and impact case studies have been shared.</p> <p>In partnership with Newcastle University, 42 trainee teachers have engaged in our Teacher Encounters Programme. An impact report will be produced and initial feedback has been positive.</p>		<p>Green</p>

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
<p>Technical Education</p> <p>Collaborate with employers and sector groups to enhance the talent pipeline, bridging the gap between education and employment. Implement the #apprenticesReady vision to increase demand for apprenticeships and T-level industry placements, while ensuring high-quality technical pathways to priority sectors.</p> <p>Support T-level expansion and alignment with higher technical qualifications</p>	<p>The North East LEP facilitated a focus group with over 20 senior stakeholders (including education, employers and sector groups) to support a North East bid for funding to the Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC), focusing on technical education roll-out. An outcome is expected ahead of the start of the new academic year.</p> <p>We continue to represent the LEP network nationally on the UCAS Apprenticeship Stakeholder Engagement Policy group and the DfE T-level Employer Support Network. The North East LEP was a speaker at the International Skills Summit in June.</p>		Green
<p>Skills Bootcamps</p> <p>Deliver the £10m Skills Bootcamps project, funded by the Department for Education to support 2,150 learners to train in jobs of the future.</p> <p>Delivery will include completion of wave three, which is focused on green skills and wave four, which extends to include green skills, technical skills, pathways to accelerated apprenticeships, supporting the education, training and learning workforce, people and management skills.</p>	<p>The focus over this period has been on procuring additional wave four Skills Bootcamp provision, with contracts totalling £3.6million being awarded to two lead contractors: Gateshead College and their consortium partnership of six providers, and Sunderland College (Education Partnership North East) and their consortium partnership of five providers.</p> <p>We continue to support our consortium of wave three providers to ensure the 787 learners who participated in a Skills Bootcamp successfully complete and progress to a positive outcome such as a new job, enhanced responsibilities in their current role, or access additional contracts (for self-employed learners).</p> <p>To date 77% of learners have successfully completed (against end of July 2023 deadline), of which 55% have progressed to a positive outcome (against end of December 2023 target). The Department for Education has recently confirmed that LEPs and Combined Authorities will soon be invited to submit proposals for a wave five Skills Bootcamp programme for 2024/25.</p>		Green

Action	Update	Decision/ discussion point	RAG
Monitoring and assurance of existing local growth programmes and funds for which the LEP is responsible for. Funds include:			
<p>The Local Growth Fund</p> <p>To ensure full expenditure of the residual £5.5m 'swapped' funding in 2023/24 and continue to monitor and report on the performance of over 30 live projects to their conclusion</p>	<p>The bi-annual programme monitoring return to government was submitted on 26 May, reporting on outcomes in 2022/23 and updated performance forecasts for future years.</p> <p>Quarter one monitoring forms have been issued to projects and are due to be returned mid-July.</p> <p>An Inward Investment Fund project will require less grant, resulting in £426,702 available for re-deployment.</p> <p>Under delegated authority a revised funding agreement with Newcastle City Council was approved for the Central Gateway project, reflecting reduced scope and revised timetable.</p>	<p>Proposals are set out to reallocate recently decommitted project funds in the funding update report being presented to this Board meeting.</p>	Green
<p>The Getting Building Fund</p> <p>To ensure full expenditure of the residual £1.4m 'swapped' funding in 2023/24 and continue to monitor and report on the performance of 19 live projects to their conclusion.</p>	<p>The bi-annual monitoring return to government was submitted on 26 May reporting on outcomes in 2022/23 and updated performance forecasts for future years.</p> <p>Quarter one monitoring forms have been issued to projects and are due to be returned mid-July.</p> <p>Minister of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP, formally opened the Digital, Autonomous and Robotics Engineering (DARE) Centre at the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult's testing facility in Blyth on 16 May. A £3million Getting Building Fund grant was the major source of funding.</p> <p>A grant funding award variation for the Port of Blyth Battleship Wharf to NEP1 project was approved under delegation, reflecting changes to costs and reduced scope of works due to factors outside the Port's control.</p>	<p>Lifetime job creation figures to date across the whole programme remain well below contracted targets due to late physical completions. The pace at which performance picks up depends on the letting of newly-constructed floorspace. This will be monitored throughout the coming year.</p>	Amber
<p>Enterprise Zone Programme</p> <p>To oversee continued investment of £20m across 21 EZ sites, to increase generation of Business Rate Income to the region.</p>	<p>The bi-annual monitoring return to government was submitted on 26 May reporting on 2022/23.</p> <p>Year End Business Rate Income figures have been collated from each local authority and the final figure for 2022/23 is being presented to Board.</p>		Green

<p>The North East Investment Fund</p> <p>Includes the Commercial Property Investment Fund and the North East Property Fund performance monitoring of external contracts and also ongoing monitoring of the repayment of existing loans from the NEIF made in previous years.</p>	<p>Quarterly performance reports will be received from FW Capital on North East Property Fund (NEPF) and bi-monthly report on Commercial Property Investment Fund (CPIF) at the end of June.</p>		<p>Green</p>
<p>Regional Access to Finance</p> <p>Lead the Regional Access to Finance development work</p>	<p>Preparatory work continues with regional stakeholders and the British Business Bank (BBB) on the scale and scope of Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund 2. BBB issued a request for proposals to prospective Fund Managers on 20 June.</p> <p>Work continues with regional partners on the development of the follow-on fund to the North East Fund Ltd.</p>		<p>Green</p>

North East Strategic Economic Plan

Target update December 2022

More jobs

Increase employment in the North East by 100,000 by 2024

Position at December 2022:
additional employment of 59,600

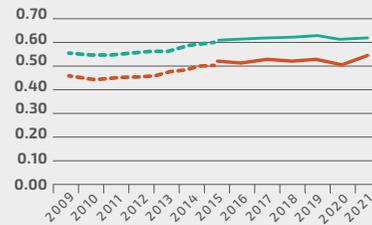


Reduce the gap in private sector employment density

Target: 50% reduction in gap by 2024

Position at 2021: Provisional 13% decrease
(compared to 2015)

Note: This will be amended when population estimates for 2015 to 2020 are retrospectively updated.



Close the gap in the employment rate (%) for people aged 16-64

Target: 100% reduction in gap by 2024

Position at December 2022: 1% increase



Better jobs

70% of additional jobs will be in managerial, professional, associate professional and technical occupations

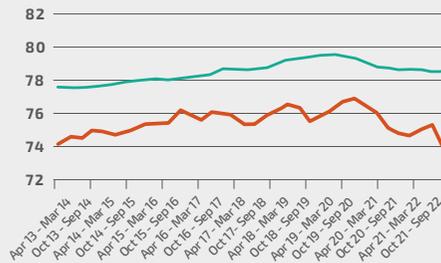
Position at December 2022:
additional employment in 'better jobs' occupations of 79,100 (133%)



Reduce the gap in working age economic activity rate

Target: 50% reduction in gap by 2024

Position at December 2022: 29% increase



Reduce the gap in GVA per hour worked

Target: 50% reduction in gap by 2024

Position at 2021: 43% increase



20 July 2023

Item 8: 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 and meetings that they have been involved in since the last Board meeting in May.

2.0 Chair's key meetings and discussions

2.1 Since the last Board meeting on the 25 May 2023, the LEP Chair has been involved in a variety of meetings and discussions as outlined below:

- Regular meetings with the North East LEP CEO;
- North of Tyne Combined Authority AGM;
- Launch: Realising North East Ambition Project;
- NP11 Briefing;
- North of Tyne Shared Prosperity Fund Partnership Update;
- Devolution Business Breakfast Update;
- Various conversations regarding the role of the business board for NEMCA.

3.0 Chief Executive's key meetings and discussions

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

- Meetings with the LEP Network;
- Meetings with government officials;
- North East Devolution Operational Transition Board
- Mobilising NEMCA Meetings;
- Net Zero North East England Working Group and Board;
- Constructing Excellence North East Awards 2023;
- Construction Innovation Ecosystem in the North East interview;
- Borderlands Conference;
- Durham University Chancellor's Installation.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 The Board is recommended to note the report.

