

## Cabinet

Tuesday, 23 March 2021 at 2.00 pm

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## SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA 2

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# WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOU

**NORTH  
OF TYNE**  
  
**COMBINED  
AUTHORITY**

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Annual report 2020



Newcastle  
City Council 



 Northumberland  
County Council

Agenda Item 5

# OUR VISION



Our North of Tyne vision is of a dynamic and more inclusive economy, one that brings together people and opportunities to create vibrant communities and a high quality of life, narrowing inequalities and ensuring that all residents have a stake in our region's future. We work in partnership, we create connections between our programmes and our projects and we are inclusive. Devolution has given us the chance to make our own decisions about our own future so we are targeting investment where we know we need it most, making a strong connection between economic growth and providing people with the skills, education and confidence to benefit from the opportunities that follow.



**Jamie Driscoll**

Mayor of North of Tyne

## A zero carbon and zero poverty economy

It has been a bit of a whirlwind of work in the 20 months after being elected. Setting up the new Combined Authority, appointing the team, building relationships and kick-starting the programmes to regenerate and reinvigorate the region's economy. Despite Covid-19, lockdowns, staff working from home, home schooling, Zoom, Zoom not working, and "you're on mute", we've accomplished a huge amount.

When I say 'we' this isn't false modesty because there's an engine room of skilled, dedicated people working with me. All of them enthusiastic about championing the region we love.

We've demonstrated the success of the Combined Authority model in the North of Tyne. We have 3,194 new jobs in the pipeline and have safeguarded 2,114. We've successfully handled the devolution of the £23 million Adult Education Budget.

Our Green New Deal is rolling out, boosting the offshore wind sector and the low carbon economy. We've set up a £5 million innovation fund to create a digital ecosystem for public services and small businesses in the region and created a pot of £15 million to support local recovery.

This is not a job done but a job well begun. The North of Tyne has a long history of innovation and industry, and of marrying together economic success and social progress. We are home to enterprising and creative people and strong and productive businesses. Technological innovation, globalisation and environmental pressures are changing the way we live and work, as has a long and trying year of Covid-19, but our mission remains the same; a zero carbon and zero poverty economy – and we're on our way!



**Norma Redfearn**

Deputy Mayor of North of Tyne

## Changing lives for the better

Creating NTCA has been a journey of partnership, perseverance and now, real progress. I well remember when the leadership of three local authorities, Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland, came together with a simple and clear goal; to change the lives of our residents for the better. No journeys are ever as simple as you hope and to find ourselves in our first year of delivery in a global pandemic has been a challenge, but we have remained undaunted, pushing for projects, programmes and pace – all to make a difference.

From smaller community groups who have benefitted from Spacehive to a huge programme delivering skills for people to find work. From over 40 carers starting to get jobs to working with 21 organisations to create opportunities for young people. From launching

our good work pledge to getting £24 million from government to build over 2,000 homes – working together, we are making a difference.

What I see today is not the end of the journey but another beginning. Our partnership will continue our journey of change, with our business community and our Voluntary and Community Sector. We will work together and remain persistent, purposeful but patient in our call for further devolution of powers we need to shape our economic future.

We have proved, in this first year, that progress in whatever circumstances, is possible. We have received more money from government and spent it wisely. We have focussed our attention on those people and communities who need it most. We have, most of all, seen our resident's lives change for the better. I couldn't be more pleased!

# OUR TOP FIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020



**3,000+**

new jobs in the pipeline for growing businesses



**10,000**

courses for people to get good jobs



**£24m**

secured to regenerate derelict land for 2,000 homes



**£15m**

of immediate support for businesses and communities to tackle Covid-19



**2,600+**

young people, residents and families connected online with our digital inclusion scheme



## “The letter that saved my life...”

Alexandria is passionate about the beauty industry. She is a beautician with eight years of experience, and thanks to FIRST skills, a programme funded by £50,000 from the NTCA Education Budget, her life has transformed.

Like many of us, Alex has struggled with her mental health: “A few years ago, I had a bit of a bad episode, a bit of a mental breakdown and the way I felt just went down the drain. I lost my passion, my determination, everything”.

That was until she moved into her new home with Karbon Homes. Karbon Homes have a partnership with FIRST, an organisation that helps people gain the skills and qualifications needed to progress into work, self-employment, and further education.

Through the NTCA funding and FIRST’s resources, 30 learners have engaged with the Level 1 in Understanding Enterprise course and 10 have engaged in the Level 1 Computerised Accounting course.

Alex received a letter from FIRST offering a fully funded placement on a seven-week business and enterprise course delivered by FIRST and their network of business experts. Once participants complete the course, they are awarded a Level 1 qualification in Understanding Enterprise.

Alex says: “It doesn’t matter how down you are, as long as there’s someone there that’s willing to grab your hand and bring you up. Take it. Make that leap of faith. If that letter didn’t come through my door, I hate to think where I’d still be. They’ve helped bring my confidence back, they’ve helped everything really. Just through one little letter”.



Alexandria Thompson

**8,545 ENROLMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

undertaken by North of Tyne residents aged 19 and above, supported by the NTCA Adult Education Budget

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## Transmission Dynamics, expanding for the future

A £500,000 grant from our Growth Fund is helping Cramlington-based Transmission Dynamics to build a new bespoke hybrid office, warehouse, and engineering facility – and make plans for 50 new jobs.

Transmission Dynamics has its roots in engineering consultancy but is now evolving to offer research and development services at the cutting edge – where technology and engineering meet.

They specialise in solving complex engineering problems using artificial intelligence to review and monitor vast amounts of data gathered in the field from their innovative sensors. The design, manufacture, and building of these systems makes them experts in the growing tech sector known as the ‘internet of things’. This is revolutionising engineering from how we maintain wind turbines, to how we grow crops.

Their success means they need to expand. To grow this complex business, they have designed a unique building that will enable them to conduct research, design systems and manufacture sensors for their customers – all under one roof.

Jarek Rosinsky, CEO of Transmission Dynamics explains: “Support from the Combined Authority is phenomenal news, we are full to capacity in our current premises and our new bespoke building, with its unique space isn’t easy to get finance for. The grant we received is fundamental to us. It will enable us to increase our orders and expand our workforce.”



Jarek Rosinsky, CEO of Transmission Dynamics

The building will be a £2.3m construction project, which the £500,000 grant will help to fund. With a further £1.8m investment in plant and machinery, Transmission Dynamics expects to invest £4.8m in the project – a significant investment in its business and the region.

Transmission Dynamics is an excellent example of how the North of Tyne Growth Fund can support innovative companies with ambitious growth plans.



## Green Tech for a clean and green economy

**NTCA invested £1.3m in green tech to develop ways to revolutionise laundry and dishwashing.**

The investment could see the North of Tyne become a leading manufacturer of world-changing technologies to revolutionise everyday household chores and help create new ways to cut waste and dramatically reducing water use in Newcastle, Northumberland, and North Tyneside.

The £2.7m Advancing Circular Economy (ACE) Demonstrator Research and Development Project led by Procter & Gamble will be delivered in partnership with Newcastle

and Northumbria Universities, Prozomix Ltd, and The Innovation SuperNetwork.

It will create 49 highly-skilled, well-paid jobs and protect 40 others, and will investigate the potential for a new green technology centre in the North of Tyne area.

North of Tyne Cabinet Member for Business Competitiveness Councillor Nick Forbes said: “This is a unique opportunity to make the North of Tyne a world-leader in an emerging sector of global significance.”



## Data driven innovation

**Private and public sector organisations are generating more and more data but failing to create value from it as they lack the necessary skills. In 2020 NTCA invested £1.63m in the National Innovation Centre for Data (NICD).**

The funding supports a new team of data experts who will work with more than 200 businesses to unlock the insights held in their data. Demand for help with data in the UK is high and NTCA investment will provide much needed support for organisations in the region enabling them to grow and use their data to address their business questions.

NICD has already assisted Newcastle Building Society helping their staff develop an innovative data model to improve how they handle customers approaching the end of their fixed-rate mortgages. Andrew Haigh, CEO, Newcastle Building Society says: “The fantastic thing is that rather than having to find new resources or outsource that process we could get properly into skills transfer and development of the people that we already had within our existing team.”

With this new funding, NICD can assist many more organisations within the North of Tyne Combined Authority to use data to create efficiencies, improve services and drive innovations.

# WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED IN ONLY ONE YEAR




**£12m**  
invested in offshore wind and clean energy



**£3.25m**  
spent with culture and creative businesses, organisations and freelancers to recover



**GROWING BETTER JOBS**  
with our Good Work Pledge



**112+ BUSINESSES**  
supported by the rural growth fund



**£104m**  
of additional private sector investment unlocked



**43 CARERS**  
supported in going back to work



**SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES**  
to develop advanced data and digital skills



**271 RURAL SITES**  
connected with full fibre and digital capability



**KICKSTART JOB SCHEME**  
helped 21 organisations employ young people

**AN INNOVATIVE APPRENTICESHIP HUB**  
for young people was initiated

**100% RESPONSE RATE**  
on enquiries and FOI's

**A CITIZENS ASSEMBLY**  
was established to engage residents with climate change



**£40m**  
invested in 50 projects to create and protect jobs



**INCLUSIVE ECONOMY BOARD**  
created to tackle poverty and include everyone in our economic growth

**£12m**  
invested in green jobs – supporting new industry and reducing carbon

**TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE**  
by investing in the regional biotechnologies manufacturing industry

**WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS**  
we've developed a Joint School Improvement Strategy

**SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ONLINE WORKING**  
including cabinet and committee meetings

**THE 1<sup>ST</sup> REGIONAL CROWDFUNDING PLATFORM**  
was launched – 6 new community project ideas supported in only 6 months

**INSPIRED YOUNG PEOPLE**  
by creating hands-on science, technology, engineering and maths experiences in over 50 schools

**DELIVERED AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY DEAL**  
to Government for 35,000 new jobs

# AND SO MUCH MORE...

**NORTH OF TYNE**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY