

North of Tyne Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 7 December 2021 at 10.30am

Meeting to be held: Pandon Room, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH.

Due to social distancing limits, observers must give 2 working days' notice if they wish to attend and provide contact details

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AGENDA

| | Page No |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Welcome and Introductions | |
| 2. Apologies | |
| 3. Declarations of Interest | |
| 4. Agree the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2021 | 1 - 8 |
| 5. North East Local Enterprise Partnership - Strategic Economic Plan Update | 9 - 56 |
| In attendance: Lucy Winskell OBE, Chair of the North East LEP and Helen Golightly, North East LEP Chief Executive | |
| Attached: Report and appendices | |
| 6. Cabinet Member update | 57 - 62 |
| In attendance: Councillor Carl Johnson | |
| Attached papers: Report | |

7. **Investment Fund Update** **63 - 70**
- In attendance: Rob Hamilton, Chief Economist
- Attached: Report
8. **2021/22 Quarter 2 NTCA Budget Monitor Report** **71 - 84**
- In attendance: Janice Gillespie, Chief Finance Officer
- Attached: Report and appendices
9. **2022-2026 NTCA Budget Proposals** **85 - 96**
- In attendance: Janice Gillespie, Chief Finance Officer
- Attached: Report and appendices
10. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**
- 10:30am on 8 February 2022

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North of Tyne Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 October 2021

Meeting held: Collingwood Suite, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH.

Draft Minutes

Present:

Chair: Councillor C Seymour

Councillors: L Wright, S Fairlie, M Hall, J Hunter, J Kirwin and L Bowman

11 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Seymour, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

The Chair went on to pay tribute to Councillor Anita Lower who had passed away in July. Councillor Lower had served on the NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee since the Combined Authority was established in 2018. Her contribution to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be sorely missed.

As Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and a representative of Newcastle City Council, Councillor Wright also paid tribute to Councillor Lower.

As a mark of respect, Members of the Committee and other meeting attendees took part in a minute's silence.

12 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Scott.

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

14 AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15 MAYORAL UPDATE

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an update from the Mayor, Jamie Driscoll. A briefing note had been circulated to Members with the agenda pack (copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Mayor Driscoll's briefing note included information on the Green New Deal, the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change, Access to Finance, the Culture and Creative Investment Programme, Spacehive, Community Hubs, 'The way we do things around here' policy, the devolved Adult Education Budget, progress on the Brownfield Housing Fund, the number of jobs created and the Good Work Pledge.

Mayor Driscoll advised that his joint top priorities were creating green jobs and leading on decarbonisation of the economy in an inclusive way, to take people with the NTCA; jobs needed to be secure, well-paid and would be backed by the Good Work Pledge. NTCA was working hard to roll out the Energy, Green Growth and Climate Change programme, backed by £24.2 million in funding, agreed by Cabinet in March 2020. Using the £8.3 million allocated for infrastructure as part of the £12 million allocated for Offshore and Subsea, NTCA was funding improvements on the north bank of the Tyne and had also agreed funding for improved infrastructure at the Port of Blyth Clean Energy Terminal and Swans Energy Park on the river Tyne.

Mayor Driscoll responded to questions/comments received from members which included:

- On apprenticeships, the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) had been working to develop the Apprenticeship Hub, working as a gateway through the Kick Starter Scheme and engaging directly with businesses. In some cases, businesses had offered a pay uplift for young people on the Kick Starters to the level of the real living wage.
- On adult education, a significant amount of funding from the successfully devolved Adult Education Budget did go to the further education (FE) colleges, particularly Newcastle College as one of the largest in the area.
- There was also a wider skills plan through the Green agenda including money coming into just transition to enable people to transition out of high carbon industries into low carbon industries.
- In the community a substantial amount of the devolved Adult Education Budget went to all sorts of projects, for example, through the WEA, funded to run courses. Further facts and figures could be provided.
- At the September 2021 Cabinet, approval was given for a package of access to finance measures including £4 million for a social finance fund to fill gaps in the finance market for socially trading or employee-owned businesses. The NTCA was working with Proud to Change, Social Enterprises UK and Co-ops UK who had a great deal of intelligence around this sector. A communications package would be developed, including direct engagement through the VCSE Sector, to ensure everybody got a chance to apply. The principle behind co-design meant that people could talk about the real barriers they faced, and the intention was to make the process as simple as possible.

- Regarding the locations of Spacehive projects there was a pretty good spread across communities. The next round, with the theme of Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty, where NTCA would provide match funding for projects which improved or created green spaces and/or reduced food waste and tackling climate change. The projects had to meet a set of our criteria as well as pledges to be funded.
- Progressed Brownfield Housing - In terms of shovel-ready schemes, the NTCA convened the local authority housing departments to find out what projects had been stalled that this money could bring forward; work had also already started on a joint pipeline of housing sites through the Housing and Land Board. There had been work in Scotswood and Blyth, and Newbiggin Hall was in the pipeline – all socially beneficial housing. Others in the pipeline further on included brownfield sites in Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside. The NTCA was also working with the registered providers as timescales were tight.
- Although the governance of rail nationally was changing, with the creation of Great British Railways, the contract for the Northumberland Newcastle Rail Line would be awarded to Northern Trains. The NCTA did not have devolved transport powers. A fully integrated public transport system was a long-term aim.
- It was confirmed that the Northumberland Newcastle Rail Line would use diesel trains.
- Blue hydrogen was made from methane and so was not zero carbon; green hydrogen could be zero carbon if made from zero carbon electricity. The NTCA was investing heavily in offshore wind which generated green electricity.
- The NTCA Devolution Deal had one primary target from government: create 10,000 jobs over a 30-year period. Although NTCA was not responsible to Government for safeguarded jobs, it made sense not to let firms collapse and people lose jobs. The responsible thing to do was to protect jobs at the same time as creating them.

The Chair thanked Mayor Driscoll for his attendance on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

16 **CITIZENS ASSEMBLY REPORT**

Rob Hamilton (Chief Economist) advised that the purpose of this report was to provide the NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the North of Tyne Citizens' Assembly which was held in February and March this year. It presented an overview of the conclusions and recommendations of the Assembly and updated on next steps. The recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly provided NTCA and the constituent Local Authorities with a considered set of prioritised recommendations, together with wider consultation and engagement, which would help guide the development of further work in response to climate change, including influencing government.

The report also documented how everyone was already responding together as a region to this shared challenge. Through investment, convening and working in-step across our Local Authority areas, the NTCA could ensure this region led the

transition to net zero and embed the voice of citizens, business and society in the way this was done.

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

- The robust evidence base to support the design of a large-scale housing retrofit programme for the North of Tyne region would include housing stock across all tenures including stock owned by private landlords.
- It was confirmed that the NTCA received four Expression of Interest for the Offshore and Subsea Infrastructure Offshore wind and subsea infrastructure programme projects valuing over £19 million (not £19 as stated in the report) and was projected to create 477 jobs, with many more expected indirectly through the supply chain.
- For recruitment of the 50 members, a process of ‘random stratified sampling’ was used to ensure the Assembly reflected local diversity in terms of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, geography, relative deprivation of an area, and attitude to climate change. A further breakdown of membership would be provided.
- The Oversight Panel was not chosen to be representative; it was chosen to guide the Assembly. It was comprised of university academics, representatives from commerce, the trade unions and the VCSE.
- Northumbria University were currently evaluating the work of the Assembly and the recommendations.
- If any other Citizens Assemblies were planned, the Chair suggested that it would be good practice for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have sight of the final report and could make recommendations prior to the report being endorsed by the Cabinet.
- The full detailed report of the Citizens Assembly was available online.
- There were some pilots going on with hydrogen in the region, but multi-faceted solutions would be required. It was confirmed that the NTCA was working with the universities on climate change.
- It was pointed out that local authorities did have policies that took climate change implications into account. However, there were some recommendations that would be challenging to implement as funding, or the powers might not be in place. Low carbon was central to the work of the NTCA and Cabinet would be updated on a regular basis.
- Assembly Members were informed of potential obstacles to implementing some of the recommendations as being beyond NTCA’s powers, but they were not constrained in making their recommendations; this was key to the co-production concept. However, expectations had to be managed and Assembly Members would be updated regularly to let them know what had been achieved.

RESOLVED – That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the information and commented as above.

17 GREEN NEW DEAL

Maria Antoniou (Principal Economy and Strategy Manager) introduced the report which provided the NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the Green New Deal programme.

In April 2020, NTCA approved an Energy, Green Growth and Climate Change Blueprint and agreed a £24.2m investment fund allocation until 2023, which included a £10m for a Green New Deal Fund. The Green New Deal Fund would leverage private sector resources to deliver an £18m investment, enabling the North of Tyne to take a real lead in an area that would be fundamental to future growth, recovery, and the achievement of net zero.

In September 2020, Investment Panel agreed an approach for the Green New Deal Fund, with £9m to be utilised to establish the actual Green New Deal Fund, and up to a maximum of £1m to be utilised to establish technical capacity for the development of a robust low carbon and energy project pipeline. NTCA launched a call for proposals to shape the fund on 25 September 2020 and in March 2021 Investment Panel endorsed an NTCA contribution to North East Energy for Growth Accelerator to the total value of £495,000 from the £1m allocation previously agreed.

Following the external legal and financial due diligence review of the selected Green New Deal proposal, in June 2021 a fund management organisation, Amber, was selected and work commenced on the development of a Limited Partnership with Amber to deliver the fund.

The Green New Deal Fund would incorporate the following elements:

- Leveraging £9m additional private sector investment to NTCA investment of £9m resulting in an £18m programme with a 50% intervention rate. Total fund management costs would not exceed 10% of NTCA investment.
- A mixed grant/loan/equity model - a financial instrument with an evergreen component based on a Limited Partnership model.
- A focus on infrastructure projects as well as business growth and innovation with financial models that could be employed to bring forward projects.
- Investment directly into SMEs based in North of Tyne. This funding would be for growth capital which would allow the SME to invest in its R&D, training and workforce, enabling them to access larger contracts.
- Technical and investment support would be provided to project sponsors to ensure viable projects were brought forward for investment. This support would be aligned with support brought forward through the North East Energy for Growth Accelerator programme.
- The Fund would create high skilled jobs by delivering innovative projects across growing sectors. This would support upskilling and create apprenticeships or work placements for example the applicant would look to create a short-term work experience programme for young people interested in green finance.
- The Fund would work closely with existing initiatives including the Energy Catalyst and local universities to review high Technology Readiness Level projects for consideration and had confirmed there would be an initial period of engagement with the local business development support ecosystem.

It was anticipated that the North of Tyne Green New Deal Fund would be operational for businesses to access from late-Autumn 2021 onwards.

It is expected that the Limited Partnership would be set up in the coming weeks and the Green New Deal Fund launched and operational in the Autumn.

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

- The Green New Deal Fund Advisory Panel was comprised of expert representatives from the Combined Authority, Local Authorities and the private sector.
- A mixture of existing businesses and new businesses would benefit from the Green New Deal Fund.
- The Fund would support upskilling and create apprenticeships and work placements. A variety of different offers would be looked at to support the development of skills. Specific examples of how work placements could work would be provided to Committee Members.

RESOLVED – That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the information and commented as above.

18 GATEWAY REVIEW PROCESS

Janice Gillespie (Chief Finance Officer) introduced this item and handed over to Chrisi Page (Principal Investment Programme Manager) to give a presentation on the Gateway Review Process, key milestones and work to date.

The first gateway review was due to be complete by the end of March 2023. There were a number of stages with the process:

- Formal evaluation assessing progress against the national indicators was required.
- Impact assessment - a small number of projects would be selected and if sufficiently far along an impact assessment would be undertaken.
- The evaluation process would also include stakeholder interviews and online surveys, and external review by a panel of academics.
- Required to submit 3 reports; baseline, one year out and final report.
- Complementary report was submitted alongside final report providing an opportunity to present information to support the process in a way which was tailored to local context
- Following submission of draft final and complementary reports there would be an opportunity for NTCA officers to attend a number of question-and-answer sessions, meeting with analysts in the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- A 'challenge session' takes place involving senior officers from NTCA and DLUHC. This would cover both progress to date and focus on future investment plans.
- Final agreement from Government should be confirmed by the end of March 2023.

Regarding governance, update reports to Cabinet would be provided at appropriate points as progress was made towards the Gateway Review; interim discussions with

cabinet members and senior officers would be held as required; and, Investment Panel would continue to have a critical role in terms of programme oversight and performance.

It was confirmed that the Review would be carried out by a number of officers within the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, particularly the Director of the Cities and Local Growth Unit. Ultimately, the Secretary of State would sign off the Review.

Members noted the information and thanked the officers for the presentation.

19 Q1 BUDGET MONITORING

Janice Gillespie (Chief Finance Officer) introduced the report to present the first quarter monitoring report on the 2021/22 NTCA financial position to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The report brought together the forecast financial position for both the Corporate, Investment Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund and Adult Education budget and provided an indication of the potential position of the Combined Authority on 31 March 2022. It also set out the potential position on the reserves at the year end.

The Corporate budget for 2021/22 set a net zero position covering the costs associated with the capacity required to deliver.

Regarding the Investment Fund, to date the Combined Authority had achieved:

- A commitment of £68.440m against 71 live projects – out of a total programme value of £90.000m to March 2023.
- These projects would attract £245.720m of private sector leverage and were forecast to deliver 4193 jobs and safeguard a further 2673.
- Of these, the first 380 new jobs had been created and 1773 safeguarded.

The Brownfield Housing Fund was the first housing allocation for the North of Tyne Combined Authority. The funding was intended to support the development of at least 1,500 new homes by remediating and revitalising brownfield sites across the North of Tyne area. The Brownfield fund was part of a broader housing programme and pipeline of sites, shaping a strategic delivery approach to supporting housing and economic recovery. There was a current total pipeline of 19 schemes with a total funding request of £26.100m.

In August 2020 NTCA took control of £23.145m devolved Adult Education Budget for the academic year 2020-21. An additional allocation of £0.959m for one year was received in September 2020 to invest in high value courses and sector-based work academy programmes. A further £0.409m was delegated to NTCA in April 2021 to deliver Lifetime Skills Guarantee. Bringing the total AEB for the academic year (August 2020 – July 2021) to £24.514m.

RESOLVED – That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the report on the 2021/22 Q1 NTCA Budget Monitor Report which was submitted and approved at Cabinet on 27 July 2021.

20 2021-23 BUDGET AND BUDGET SETTING PROCESS

Janice Gillespie (Chief Finance Officer) presented the report which informed the Committee of the 2022-2026 Financial Planning and Budget Process. The report outlined the process to be adopted for the Authority's Financial Planning and Budget Process for 2022/23 as part of the proposed framework for the four years 2022/23 to 2025/26.

Further reports would follow as part of the process of setting the Authority's Budget for the financial year 2022/23. The next report to Cabinet would be on 30 November 2021, which would outline the initial Budget Proposals and would then be brought to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 December 2021, followed by the Overview and Scrutiny Budget Workshop on 11 January 2022 to consider in detail the Authority's draft Budget Proposals and recommendations to Cabinet.

RESOLVED – That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the report on the 2022-2026 Financial Planning and Budget Process which was submitted and approved by Cabinet on 22 September 2021.

21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

10:30am Tuesday 7 December 2021
Newcastle Civic Centre



**Subject: North East Local Enterprise Partnership –
Strategic Economic Plan update**

Report of: Helen Golightly OBE, Chief Executive

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the progress against the objectives of the North East Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the report for information and update.

1. Background information, proposals and timetable for implementation

- 1.1 The North East LEP reports progress on the SEP objectives to each North East LEP Board through an Annual Delivery Plan progress update report.
- 1.2 All 38 LEPs are required to produce and submit an Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) to Government each financial year. The North East LEP's ADP for 2021/2022 was approved by the North East LEP Board at its meeting on the 27 May 2021. The ADP is produced on a yearly basis in accordance with requirements that were set out in the Government's 2018 policy paper 'Strengthening Local Enterprise Partnerships'. The deliverables that are set in the ADP are aligned with the programmes of delivery in the SEP and set out what we intend to deliver for this 2021/2022 financial year.
- 1.3 The ADP at the start of this financial year was set with a flexible approach to delivery as we continue to work our way through economic recovery in the North East. We also set the ADP to ensure that that COVID-19 recovery was implicit throughout.

2. Annual Delivery Plan Progress update – 2 December

- 2.1 Appendix 1 attached presents a covering report and a copy of the Annual Delivery Plan progress report discussed at the North East LEP Board on the 2 December 2021.
- 2.2 The appendix is split into 2 parts: (1) Highlights since the previous meeting and (2) update delivery commentary against each area of work.

3. Regional Economy Group

- 3.1 At the beginning of the pandemic, a regional group was formed that focused on proposals to transform and reimagine the North East economy. In September 2020, a report was published that set out the work of this group entitled a 'Recovery and Renewal Deal for the North East'. This can be accessed [here](#). Since that time the group have continued to meet with the North East LEP leads, with representation from the North of Tyne Combined Authority, North East Combined Authority, key North East partners, including Newcastle University, CBI, Transport North East and the voluntary sector.
- 3.2 The group meets on a six-weekly basis and will now focus on how we continue to shape regional economic policy as the Government's Levelling Up agenda evolves.

4. Equalities Statement

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful of its duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision eliminates discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advances equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and fosters good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and also considers the implications for people from different socio-economic backgrounds/low pay as a protected characteristic.
- 4.2 The North East LEP is fully aware of its duties in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010, in particular to funded projects that are required to be delivered in accordance with objectives that are set out under s149 of the Equalities Act 2010.

5. Inclusive Economy Statement

- 5.1 The North East LEP follows the policies set out in its North East Strategic Economic Plan that promote inclusive, sustainable economic growth across the region. The core objective of the North East SEP is to support the creation of 100,000 'more and better' jobs in the region during the period 2014 – 2024.

6. Climate Change Statement

- 6.1 The North East LEP is committed to ensure that through its programmes and projects it can support a greener economy for the North East. This can be evidenced in projects that are brought forward for funding through the North East LEP Investment Board and to the North East LEP Board.

7. Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1 This report has been developed using standard LEP Board updates.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Annual Delivery Plan progress report to the North East LEP Board – 2 December

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 None.

10. Contact Officers

Helen Golightly, Chief Executive
North East LEP
Helen.Golightly@nelep.co.uk

11. Glossary

ADP – Annual Delivery Plan
LEP – Local Enterprise Partnership
SEP – Strategic Economic Plan

2 December 2021

Item 4: 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 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 47 | 0 | 6 |
| Innovation | 17 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Skills, employment, inclusion and progression | 25 | 20 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 0 | 6 |
| Investment and infrastructure | 18 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Transport connectivity | 23 | 19 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Policy, strategy, evidence and analysis | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| | 156 | 128 | 23 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 132 | 0 | 12 |

2.0 Highlights and points to note since the last meeting

Business and Sector Growth

- 2021/22 is shaping up to be a bumper year for inward investment. Many high-profile projects announced in a variety of sectors, including: Envision/Nissan; Just Eat; Smulders, Xplor, JDR Cables; Equinor/SEE; Amazon; Monstarlab.
- Scaleup Institute annual report saw the North East jump up the league table and were found to be one of two areas to increase the density of scaleups (most areas scaleup density has declined)
- Two ministerial events held on North East's low carbon heat opportunities and North East DIT Heat networks High Potential Opportunity launched. All of which strengthens our role in leading the growth of this emerging market.
- North East Key messages and assets showcased during COP26, over 1,400 views of the video in first week of launch.
- Inclusive growth project has commenced with an aim of making the Growth Hub and Business Support Ecosystem as inclusive as possible.
- Peer Networks and Workshops are now in delivery to support businesses to develop Net Zero plans.

Innovation

- We were awarded a total of £320,618 from the Community Renewal Fund to deliver a programme of support in Gateshead and Sunderland. We will deliver this programme with our Innovation delivery partners (IDP) partners and RTC North.
- The 51 expressions of interest for regional innovation projects have been evaluated by the LEP team and supplemented by face-to-face meetings. Projects have been prioritised and now will be evaluated by a sub panel of the Innovation Board before endorsement by the Innovation and main LEP boards.
- These projects formed the basis of the innovation component of the North East LEP CSR submission.
- The Challenge North Tyne proposal has finalised the business case and the application should be assessed by the North of Tyne Combined Authority Investment panel in December

Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

- The North East LEP has secured the opportunity to host the launch of National Careers Week (NCW) for the UK next year. It will be a great opportunity for the region, as the first LEP to host and the first time that the NCW has been held outside London.
- The final evaluation of the primary pilot was published. Despite challenging conditions to run a pilot the evaluation found that over the course of the Pilot, CRL has become embedded within the general curriculum with 88% of Careers Leaders saying that they are spending more time on careers compared to before starting on the Pilot.
- Additionally, 92% of Careers Leaders said they found the framework of Benchmarks to be very useful or useful.
- The skills team secured the buy-in from 45 individuals from across early adopters of T-levels to engage in effective employer training to ensure consistency of messaging for promotion of T-level in region
- The North East LEP area's work on careers in Further Education was showcased in the Career and Enterprise Company's national FE connect edition.

Transport

- Work continues to lobby for improvements in the East Coast Main Line. 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. On Thursday 18 November 2021 the UK government's long-awaited 'Integrated Rail Plan' (IRP) for the north and midlands was published. The outcome for the region is that the North East will no longer be fully connected to the UK's high speed rail network (neither HS2 nor NPR) and there is no committed rail investment in the plan for the area.
- In collaboration with bus operators, the seven local highway authorities and Nexus, Transport North East (TNE) developed a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), published on the TNE and partner website's and submitted to the Department of Transport before the deadline of 31 October 2021. This plan aims 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.

Investment and Infrastructure

- The Project Accelerator Fund second call is now open, with applications to be submitted to the LEP by 16 December 2021.
- Procurement of the Commercial Property Investment Fund (CPIF) Fund Manager progresses with tender submissions due by 3 December 2021 for evaluation
- Two major investments have been announced on NEP1 (JDR Cables) and IAMP (Envision)
- Amazon development on Follingsby Enterprise Zone in Gateshead is now operational, with 1,300 jobs created

Strategy, Policy and Analysis

- 'Our Economy' 2021 was published on 7th October, accompanied by an impact analysis from Covid 19 and EU Exit.
- The team hosted a successful online engagement event to mark the publication of Our Economy 2021
- The BEIS sponsored case study projecting the economic impact of the transition to Net Zero produced by PWC, which we supported, was published by Government on 19 October alongside the Net Zero strategy
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-in-the-north-east-of-england-regional-transition-impacts>
- The first meeting of a new Northern Evidence Network has been held with NP11 LEP's and TFN, which will work together on evidence development and to support the update of NPIER
- We submitted a response to the Migration Advisory Committee's call for evidence on the impact of the end of free movement on the adult social care workforce, following consultation with the EU Exit Group and the North East Association of Directors of Adult Social Services

Communications

- There continues to be growth in the number of followers across the LEP's social media (1.1% on Twitter and 2.6% 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 the Skills Advisory Panel report on digital exclusion. On LinkedIn the post with the most engagement related to the Planet Mark Zero Carbon Tour Bus visit to the region on 22 October 2021.

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

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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:

- 21/22 is shaping up to be a bumper year for inward investment. Many high profile projects announced in a variety of sectors, including: Envision/Nissan; Just Eat; Smulders, Xplor, JDR Cables; Equinor/SEE; Amazon; Monstarlab.
- Scaleup Institute annual report saw the North East jump up the league table and were found to be one of two areas to increase the density of scaleups (most areas scaleup density has declined)
- Two ministerial events held on North East's low carbon heat opportunities and North East DIT Heat networks High Potential Opportunity launched. All of which strengthens our role in leading the growth of this emerging market.
- North East Key messages and assets showcased during COP26, over 1400 views of the video in first week of launch.
- Inclusive growth project commenced with an aim of making the Growth Hub and Business Support Ecosystem as inclusive as possible.
- Peer Networks and Workshops in delivery to support businesses to develop Net Zero plans.

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Raise levels of business growth ambition | | | | |
| 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. | 9,009 light assists completed to date (-9% against annual target). Referrals dipped during July, August and September, which was due to seasonal trends and an issue with the supplier delivering the campaign. We are starting to see the recovery of this deficit and do not anticipate an issue by the year end. | Jen Robson | A | In Progress |
| Increase demand for external business support and finance | | | | |
| 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 a little behind for predicted quarter two volume stats, but this is due to the usual lull during holiday season and recruitment of Peer Networks cohorts. We are however ahead on impact stats (jobs and GVA) and Customer Satisfaction remains high at 99% which indicates what we are delivering is having the desired effect. We have achieved: - 487 Medium Intensity Interventions (53.2% of BEIS annual target) (42.5% of internal annual target) - 299 High Intensity Interventions (55.37% of BEIS annual target) (43.5% of internal annual target) - 387 additional jobs (51.6% of annual target) of which 192 are better jobs (39.2% of annual target) - £48m of additional forecast GVA created (219.23% 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 |
| Integrate the sector teams and sector delivery plans with the North East Growth Hub. | Each Growth Hub Connector has been assigned a sectoral responsibility (priority sectors + those most greatly affected by Covid), they will work closely with their sector leads to support business engagement and the delivery of sector development plans. | Helen Lee | G | In Progress |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| 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. | In partnership with TVCA, a new segmentation, diagnostic and brokerage model designed to modernise business support and move to a more transformative approach has been designed, agreed by the Business Growth Board and currently in procurement. Related project in development to consider Inclusive Growth. Pilot project in development which will feed into the APPG for Inclusive Growth. | Colin Bell | G | In Progress |
| Ensure the support of external business support and finance matches the needs of businesses and the economy | | | | |
| Work with government and regional partners to support the development of, and transition to, a new business support and sector development landscape. | We are working with the Business Support Provider Network to capture learning from the delivery of ESIF and to use this learning to inform the creation of new funding instruments (e.g Shared Prosperity Fund). | 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. | No change: Key collaborations with TVCA inc: Made Smarter, EU Exit/NetZero workshops and 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. | Demand for NetZero focused Peer Network has been particularly high. A framework of 8 providers has recently been procured to support delivery. | Emily Carlson | G | In Progress |
| Expand the Growth Hubs Mentoring for Growth Programme with the aim of supporting 100 businesses to unlock their growth potential. | Commitment from mentors to support expanded mentoring offer to support high growth, growth and early-stage mentees. Cross-company mentoring in early stage development, | Helen Lee | G | In Progress |
| Work with sector teams to ensure that the business support ecosystem meets sector specific firm level needs. | Work is being undertaken across each sector to understand the specific challenges, barriers and opportunities that businesses are facing at different states of development. The intelligence gathered will support the development of policy and strategy. | Colin Bell | G | In Progress |
| Deliver 11 Local Growth Fund Cluster Development Fund projects. | Work continues, no change since last report | Colin Bell | G | In Progress |
| Improve the region's economic resilience | | | | |
| Develop Peer Networks in the sectors most effected by COVID-19 (hospitality, retail, tourism) to support businesses to recover | Work continues, no change since last report | 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. | Work continues, no change since last report | Siobhan Fannon | G | In Progress |
| Run bespoke workshops and support services to educate businesses on specific issues/changes related to EU transition. | We are in the process of procuring six webinars for SMEs: three focused on EU Exit – topics TBC – and three webinars to assist micro and small sized enterprises in the North East and TVCA areas to understand what is net zero, why it's important and how they can make a commitment to reduce their carbon footprint. Workshops to run from December 2021 to February 2021. | Siobhan Fannon | G | In Progress |
| Continue to work as part of the North East Economic Response Group to develop and inform regional response. | No change since last report | Colin Bell | G | In Progress |
| Grow inward investment in the region | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Establish and follow a clear target driven, lead generation model that is focused on the SEPs areas of strategic importance and support service sectors Have a robust account management system, led by local authorities, to share knowledge and investment opportunities with key partners Develop and deliver an integrated marketing plan to raise the profile of the North East as a place to invest and locate | <p>21/22 is shaping up to be a bumper year for inward investment. Many high profile projects announced in a variety of sectors, including: Envision/Nissan; Just Eat; Smulders, Xplor, JDR Cables; Equinor/SEE; Amazon; Monstarlab. Not all of these investments will be completed this year but collectively they involve £billions investment and many thousands of jobs.</p> <p>INEE has a strong pipeline of significant projects.</p> <p>INEE mid-way through a northshoring campaign to attract business services and digital tech companies to relocate/expand to the region from London and the SE. This is progressing well.</p> <p>Other key areas of focus for INEE in 21/22 will be on electrification, offshore renewables and biopharma.</p> <p>Lead generation work is ongoing with DIT from completed High Potential Opportunities (HPOs) on Plant-based Manufacturing, Heat Networks and Immersive Technology. A further HPO on Healthy Ageing is being developed.</p> <p>INEE working with partners to develop new model of lead generation to be launched in 2022/23.</p> <p>Still significant concerns on medium to long-term impact on inward investment from COVID-19 and EU Exit.</p> | Guy Currey | A | In Progress |
| Deliver annual key sector development plans | | | | |
| Accelerate delivery of energy projects within the region, helping deliver growth and net zero | | | | |
| Operationalise the Energy for Growth Accelerator | Programme Managers now in post, Accelerator operational and supporting £150m of projects | Andrew Clark | G | Complete |
| Convene stakeholders to agree the North East masterplan approach | Paper on energy masterplanning approach approved by EDs. Accelerator integrating into Ops meetings to progress, draft response to Heat Network zoning consultation complete | Andrew Clark | 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 | Schemes in delivery led by respective LAs. LEP coordinated retrofit coordinator training. | Andrew Clark | G | Complete |
| Support capacity building in local authorities for retrofit delivery | LEP supported retrofit coordinator training within LAs, and is developing a model for housing retrofit skills development. NTCA retrofit framework development work nearing completion. | Andrew Clark | G | In Progress |
| Complete rural community energy fund delivery and evaluation | Fund fully allocated to projects. Input into evaluation being led by TVCA. | Andrew Clark | G | Complete |
| complete feasibility for retrofit skills proposition and determine roles in delivery | Skills Team lead, with Energy Team support. On track to complete qualitative/ quantitative assessment of domestic retrofit skills gaps. 3 workshops delivered, strong representation at each workshop from regional LEPs, education leads and industry bodies. Delivery on track for completion December 2021. | David Lynch | G | In Progress |
| Coordinate our energy innovation and demonstration assets to develop and showcase solutions to global challenges | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Finalise bids for North East future energy systems today £50m+ | An energy innovation project pipeline, under the NE-FEST vision, of c£285m has been established through the North East Energy Catalyst | David Lynch | G | Complete |
| Establish the Energy Catalyst SME support model | Planning underway for phase 2 Energy Innovation Programme. Plans being discussed with Innovation SuperNetwork and City of London Corporation. Potential approach to establish an investor panel. | David Lynch | A | In Progress |
| Launch the Energy Catalyst SME network and partner network | Partner network launched with new partners including Daikin, Connected Places Catapult, TNEI. SME network under active development. | David Lynch | G | In Progress |
| Plan and schedule the Energy Catalyst summit | An outline plan for the Catalyst summit is in development agreed with the Catalyst board supported by LEP communications team. Outline dates identified in February 2021. | David Lynch | G | In Progress |
| Forward comms plan for Catalyst, increase awareness and influence nationally and internationally | Key messages and assets showcased during COP26, video also finalised and shared during the last quarter. Over 1400 views of the video in first week of launch. Forward activity plan including summit (as above) in development. | David Lynch | G | In Progress |
| Support growth, investment and cluster development in key energy sectors | | | | |
| Devise targeted inward investment process, and initial targets | Identification of key investment targets and subsectors underway. Leveraging input from DIT on low carbon heat, and OREC and Energi Coast for offshore wind. | Andrew Clark | G | In Progress |
| Agree, together with Energi Coast, ownership and workplan for wider offshore wind cluster development priorities | LEP established skills sub-group for Energi Coast, action plan, and appointed leads. | 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 | Two ministerial held on North East's low carbon heat opportunities. Heat networks HPO launched. Strategic stakeholder roundtable held. LEP team developing heat sector plans. | Andrew Clark | G | Complete |
| Agree regional recommendations on UK content and channels to feed these into | Feedback provided to Government by NTCA, further work to identify potential LEP interventions. Roundtable discussion to be held. | Andrew Clark | G | In Progress |
| Support mobilisation of the Global Underwater Hub in the North East and effective connections into networks | The LEP is participating in the implementation group for the GUH, and SubseaUK have updated the LEP's offshore energy and underwater markets stakeholder group on progress. | Andrew Clark | G | In Progress |
| Work with partners on the North East Digital Ambition, by developing and publishing goals, strategic priorities and a plan that supports them | | | | |
| 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 | Business engagement and surveys taking place with digital sector businesses to understand challenges, barriers and opportunities at different stages of development. The intelligence will be used to inform the development of sector strategy. | Craig Harrison | G | In Progress |
| The intelligence generated from these action's will be used to inform the development of a digital sector action plan | Delayed – will progress following outcome of LEP review | Colin Bell | A | Not Started |
| Review and implement new governance structure | Delayed – will progress following outcome of LEP review | Colin Bell | G | In Progress |
| Modernise and grow pharmaceutical manufacturing in the region | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Finalise business case for funding pharma manufacturing and innovation facility and identify funding sources | Outline business case for generics manufacturing facility received. Supporting project leads to explore possible funding sources and develop proposition further | Kami Kundi | 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 | Feasibility study received which outlines regional assets and opportunities connected to supply chain for generics manufacture. Further understanding of policy environment and impact on market opportunities required. | Kami Kundi | G | In Progress |
| Develop a sector skills framework to support development of an appropriately skilled workforce to enable growth | Skills group established, group chair elected and objectives and action plan agreed with stakeholders. | Kami Kundi | G | In Progress |
| Support Industrial Digitisation through Made Smarter Hub | Working with NEPIC to recruit a pharma manufacturing cohort | Karl McCracken | G | In Progress |
| Develop an inward investment proposition around out advanced manufacturing strengths | Funding secured via LGF Project Acceleration Fund to carry out a proof of concept study on the development of a Life Science Manufacturing and Innovation Zone. | 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 | Engagement being undertaken via the Growth Hub to understand businesses challenges, barriers and opportunities. | Kami Kundi | G | In Progress |
| Increase the number of innovative health and life science businesses that are born, grow and scale in the region | | | | |
| Support the formation of university spinouts | No change since last report | Kami Kundi | G | In Progress |
| Support the formation of corporate and NHS spinouts | No change since last report | Kami Kundi | G | In Progress |
| Support existing businesses to diversify into Health and Life Science Sector | No change since last report. | Kami Kundi | G | In Progress |
| Develop a sector skills framework to support development of an appropriately skilled workforce to enable growth | Skills group established, group chair elected and objectives and action plan agreed with stakeholders. | Kami Kundi | 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 | NE diagnostics task and finish group established to enable collaboration across regional stakeholders to coordinate activities and communications to promote regional strengths in in-vitro diagnostics. Innovation team working with NIC-A to identify opportunities to attract investment via Ageing HPO. | Kami Kundi | G | In Progress |
| Broker access to a range of expert support and services across the health and care sectors through the Innovation Pathways | | | | |
| Develop Innovation Pathway brokerage system including the mapping and gapping of supply and informing Innovation funding pipeline | AHSN are a partner in the development of the Growth Hub's new approach to segmentation and diagnosis which will streamline the innovation pathway for those seeking to supply the NHS. | Colin Bell | G | In Progress |
| Develop our ecosystem | | | | |
| Progress priority LGF pipeline projects that demonstrate greatest contribution towards programme goals | Being considered through the Innovation programme pipeline | Alan Welby | G | In Progress |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Carry out study to assess if property and infrastructure can meet the needs of industry | LGF funding secured by Newcastle City Council to develop business case for expansion of Biosphere at Helix. | Kami Kundi | G | In Progress |
| Carry out freight logistics study | Funding secured through Project Acceleration Fund to progress next phase of business planning. | Richard Baker | G | In Progress |
| Develop baseline data for sector and publish on Data Hub | No change since last report. | Kami Kundi | G | In Progress |
| Develop the competitiveness of the North East's Advanced Manufacturing sector | | | | |
| 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 | Made Smarter Fully Mobilised. Delivery on track in partnership with TVCA. Bidding for additional money from BEIS to introduce a capital grant element to add further value to participating businesses. | Karl McCracken | G | In Progress |
| Following the mobilisation of Made Smarter we will establish an Advanced Manufacturing steering group | Delayed whilst we await the outcome of the LEP review | Karl McCracken | R | Not Started |
| The steering group will then work with the LEP to develop an Advanced Manufacturing Sector plan/strategy | Delayed whilst we await the outcome of the LEP review | Karl McCracken | R | 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:

This period's headlines:

- We were awarded a total of £320618 from the Community Renewal Fund to deliver a programme of support in Gateshead and Sunderland . We will deliver this programme with our IDP partners and RTC North.
- The 51 expression of interests for regional innovation projects have been evaluated by the LEP team and supplemented by face-to-face meetings. Projects have been prioritised and now will be evaluated by a sub panel of the Innovation Board before endorsement by the Innovation and main LEP boards.
- These projects formed the basis of the innovation component of the North East LEP CSR submission.
- Challenge North Tyne proposal has finalised business case and application should be assessed by North of Tyne Combined Authority Investment panel in December

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Stimulate new business opportunities through the North East Open Innovation Challenge | | | | |
| 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. | Upon outcomes of UK CRF bids, we were unfortunately unsuccessful for all 3 bids across Durham, Gateshead and Sunderland. Whilst we were successful in our bids for the Future Markets programme, we remain very optimistic with our efforts towards our Challenge North Tyne bid to NTCA. We are working closely with ISN to develop the business case and have engaged with NTCA and New Skills Consulting to enhance the bid after receiving initial feedback. Project costs have altered from those in the outline business case, and we now envisage the programme to run from 1 st January 2022 to 31 st August 2023. The completed bid will go to NTCAs November Investment Board. | 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. | Funding has been secured from innovation and communications to deliver the website in anticipation of the funding for Challenge North Tyne activities and alternate challenge delivery approaches. Developers have been contracted to deliver the website which is anticipated to be completed and ready for launch by January 2022. | Nicola McIntosh | G | In Progress |
| Position innovation challenges as a route to new business opportunities and growth. | Although applications to UK CRF were unsuccessful, our proposition to NTCA remains a priority and is an example of our route towards a successful regional approach to innovation. We continue to work with regional partners in building these activities. At the same time, we are building open innovation content for the Growth Hub that clearly articulates the benefits of innovation as a route to new business opportunities and growth. | Alan Welby | G | In Progress |
| Prioritise a regional pipeline of projects to form a Strategic Investment Programme | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| 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. | All 51 EoIs received to the 2021 call have been evaluated by members of the LEP executive team, and a preliminary prioritisation of the projects has been subjected to test and challenge by an external review panel which included members of the Innovation board, North East LEP Strategy and Policy and Investment team members, Local Authority representatives. A draft pipeline of projects has been produced which will be presented to the Innovation Board for endorsement on the 7 December. In a parallel process, revenue business support projects are being categorised using the business growth model to curate an easy to navigate business support ecosystem. | Rebecca Furness | G | In Progress |
| Continue to support our businesses to capitalise on local research and innovation capability | | | | |
| Identify opportunities for collaboration and facilitate relationships between businesses and innovation assets | Numerous opportunities for linking North East businesses and assets have been recognised through the recent innovation project pipelining activity which includes linking projects to increase potential project impact, linking projects with IDPs participating in the pilot and establishing connection between projects and sectoral and industry alignment colleagues within the LEP to facilitate mutually beneficial relationships. | Alan Welby | G | In Progress |
| Facilitate access to research and capabilities that will help businesses increase innovation activity and facilitate knowledge transfer. | Innovation pipelining activity seeks to curate business support programmes within the region, which will provide additional capacity and improve access to projects including those offering knowledge transfer and finance. | Alan Welby | G | In Progress |
| Inform and help shape emerging national innovation strategy. | The Innovation Strategy deferred key decisions on regional innovation until the Levelling up white paper. This is anticipated before the end of the year. | Alan Welby | A | In Progress |
| Increase private sector investment into growing innovation businesses | | | | |
| 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. | Venture North and Northern Accelerator both submitted EoIs into the Innovation project pipeline process. Alan Welby supports the Northern Accelerator through the NA Board. The team continues to support the Interconnector as a mechanism to boost innovation activity and investment through relationships.. | 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. | We continue to inform Investment Team, lead delivery team for successor funding, of emerging national innovation policy that may impact succession planning. | Alan Welby | A | In Progress |
| Engage with partners to identify emerging opportunities and drive business growth through an Innovation Delivery Partnerships (IDP) approach: | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| 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). | Of the two lead authorities that took the application forward to LUHC, both were successful. We are now mobilising activity including business support through 7 IDPs and the new Design Support Alliance to companies in Gateshead and Sunderland City Council areas. There is a risk of fragmentation of activity through the UK CRF approach, the extent of which we will seek to clarify through independent evaluation of the project in Gateshead and Sunderland. | Dinah Jackson | G | In Progress |
| 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. | We are looking to bring resources to the IDP activity through external means in addition to the UK CRF resources secured to support the current IDPs and develop and test the approach. The IDPs are developing delivery plans, progress reported to Innovation Board, December. | Dinah Jackson | G | In Progress |
| Undertake an economic markets foresight analysis project to identify emergent global market opportunities for the North East. | The project continues to make good progress. 17 markets have been identified as having significant potential for future growth in the North East. Peer review to test and validate these initial findings is underway, lead by the Government's Open Innovation Team. The work will be discussed by the chairs of the boards rather than via an extraordinary meeting of boards. We are on track to publish the work by February 2022. | Dinah Jackson | G | In Progress |
| Coordinate regional partners to provide enhanced innovation support activity: | | | | |
| Facilitate connections and collaboration between national and regional partners including Innovate UK, NP11 and the Innovation SuperNetwork to boost innovation activities. | The ISN are working closely with us to develop open innovation challenge proposals for regional benefits. Alan Welby chairs the NP11 innovation group and working with all NP11 LEPs to develop a Northern Powerhouse portfolio of priority projects | 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 continue to liaise with the No. 10 Levelling Up Unit, BEIS and IUK colleagues to keep pace with Government intentions for innovation support and have continued conversations with The Productivity Institute. We await the Levelling Up white paper before the end of the year. It is hoped that this should give a clearer outline to the emerging regional innovation support landscape. The Community Renewal fund funded a variety of innovation projects and programmes across the UK. These projects seemed to have selected due to local opportunities rather than a coordinated strategic approach. We continue to work with local and regional partners to prepare local approaches to innovation business support and proposals for new innovation support are reflected in part in the project pipeline through nine innovation support proposals. These total a project value of £36.5m. | 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. | Content continues to be updated with input from support providers and social media is being utilised as a tool to drive traffic to innovation scheme information on the Growth Hub. | Nicola McIntosh | G | In Progress |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Publish an innovation toolkit on the North East Growth Hub. The toolkit will generate 300 referrals to the provider network | Between 1 Oct and 16 Nov there were 1073 page views on the Innovation Toolkit with Google ads being the top channel for driving visitors to the toolkit, generating 576 sessions. The average time spent on the toolkit was 2 min 53 seconds. The total referrals to date (since 1 September) are 35. | Nicola McIntosh | G | Complete |
| Evaluate the Local Growth Fund programme's Innovation Pipeline Development Fund. | An internal evaluation approach for this mini fund is currently being determined in conjunction with North of Tyne Combine Authority as the North East LEP's accountable body. The delivery of the projects supported through the fund has been significantly delayed by Covid-19 and consequently formal external evaluation will be delayed until project outcomes are realised for all projects. | Alan Welby | G | 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 has secured the opportunity to host the launch of National Careers Week for the UK next year. It will be a great opportunity for the region, as the first LEP to host and the first time that the NCW has been held outside London.
- The final evaluation of the primary pilot was published. Despite challenging conditions to run a pilot the evaluation found that over the course of the Pilot, CRL has become embedded within the general curriculum with 88% of Careers Leaders saying that they are spending more time on careers compared to before starting on the Pilot.
- Additionally, 92% of Careers Leaders said they found the framework of Benchmarks to be very useful or useful.
- The skills team secured the buy in from 45 individuals from across early adopters of T-levels to engage in effective employer training to ensure consistency of messaging for promotion of T-level in region
- The North East LEP area's work on careers in Further Education was showcased in the CEC's national FE connect edition.

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Deliver North East Ambition | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| <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>During the past quarter, we have established a new model of delivery for North East Ambition. We have continued to work on a 1:1 basis with primary schools, secondary schools, SEND schools and colleges within the region to support them with their Benchmark achievement. This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing a new Strategic Hub Plan for our work with The Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) • Delivering a presentation to North Tyneside Headteachers • Delivering a presentation to South Tyneside governors • Attendance at each LA CEIAG group and facilitating a further group, involving all of the individual Chairs of these LA groups <p>In addition, we had our annual review meeting with the CEC where we showcased the work that has been developed and delivered across the team, and agreed a set of priorities for the year ahead. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmark achievement, with an increased focus on examples of best practice or demonstrations of impact • A renewed focus on ensuring schools/colleges complete Compass on a termly basis • Increased strategic engagement of headteachers/principals (as well as other stakeholders) to support our work • Delivering our SEND Effective Transition Fund Project • Developing our Middle School Forum • Further employer engagement including geographical cold spots <p>We have delivered new Career Leader training to a number of the newly appointed Career Leaders within the region</p> <p>We have developed a series of LMI resources for the North East Ambition website, including an Energy based Sector Skills toolkit, and commissioned a further resource for use in KS3, KS4 and post-16 settings</p> | Matt Joyce | G | In Progress |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>The end of year 2 report for the Primary Pilot has now been completed by our independent evaluators. Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pilot average for Fully Achieved Characteristics at the end of Year 2 was 65%, up from 40% in the Year 1 audit and 13% at the Baseline audit. • The average number of Fully Achieved Benchmarks was 2.3 at the end of Year 2, up from 0.6 at the end of Year 1, and 0.0 at the Baseline audit. • Over the course of the Pilot, CRL has become embedded within the general curriculum with 88% of Careers Leaders saying that they are spending more time on careers compared to before starting on the Pilot. • 92% of Careers Leaders said they found the framework of Benchmarks to be very useful or useful and the biggest positive impact on Career Leaders overall related to how the Pilot has helped to increase Careers Leaders' knowledge, skills and understanding. • We fully achieved all 3 aims and 3 of the 4 objectives of the pilot. The 4 objective, linked to scalability, was the most impacted by the pandemic and still partially achieved <p>We hosted our final Pilot Steering Group – with our partners EY Foundation.</p> <p>We have also commissioned a piece of work to develop a parental engagement strategy – linked to careers related learning – for the schools involved</p> | Matt Joyce | G | In Progress |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| 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>A Gateshead Place based pilot encouraging greater collaboration between employers and Careers leads in schools is confirmed for late November 2021.</p> <p>The team ran a specialised event engagement with the Civil Service departments DWP and HMRC to promote Enterprise Advisor (EA) opportunities.</p> <p>We have a current total of 135 Enterprise Advisers in the region. To support our network, the team hosted two Enterprise Adviser events. The first was focused on new EAs and the other had a focus on Benchmark one, a key target for the schools and colleges.</p> | 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. | The North East LEP has hosted the first Regional Careers Leader Network Meeting of the year. It was held as a hybrid event. It provided a platform for an LMI update, a technical education update and other content relevant for Career Leaders within the region. | Matt Joyce | G | In Progress |
| Participate in a number of key working groups and steering groups. | <p>The North East LEP skills team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the national CEC FE & Skills meeting resulting in LEP now featured in 3 of 4 termly national FE bulletins • Facilitated two LEP Apprenticeship Group meetings in which feedback for employer asks was submitted to ESFA • Chaired the NE College Hub with attendance from national CEC • Attended North East LEP Principals Forum to update on technical education and college hub engagements • Attended ICS NHS Health Trust meeting to raise awareness of FE offers and secure industry placement. • Established and chaired regional CEIAG tech ed group | Matt Joyce | G | In Progress |
| 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>ESF North East Ambition (the pilot) – we have submitted a request to extend the project to December 2023. This has been through two stages of the three stage DWP approval process. To date the project is delivering slightly behind project profile targets and has engaged with 320 SMEs (3% behind target). The Enterprise Co-ordinator team is developing an action plan to address the shortfall of businesses engaged in the Durham area (32% behind target).</p> <p>The ESF North East Ambition (expanded programme) commenced in April in partnership with Education Development Trust (EDT). To date, the project overall is 175% ahead of target in terms of SMEs engaged. Again, delivery in the Durham area is 50% behind target.</p> | Matt Joyce | G | In Progress |
| Deliver Education Challenge | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| 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. | All schools have managed to engage with Cycle 5 of careers interviews there has been a need for some virtual delivery due to ongoing outbreaks of Covid 19. A range of interventions are planned this term in response to data and school requests including face to face engagement with a range of apprentices and employability skill development sessions. | 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. | <p>Focus groups have been facilitated between Newcastle University Open Lab and students. The aim of the focus groups was to gain a preliminary understanding of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the understanding and attitudes of students towards careers data tracking? • What apps and websites do students habitually use? • What are students' priorities around sharing of career and destination data in respect to these apps and websites? <p>The findings will support the research project which aims to design a digital service to support young people to explore potential career pathways and progression post-GCSE.</p> | 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. | We are now working with National Governance Association to slice the 2021 National Governance Survey to obtain a North East regional report with a focus on successes, challenges and opportunities to support further development of the strategy. | Neil Willis | G | In Progress |
| Support national organisations, including Inspiring Governance, to achieve their KPIs specific to the region including diversity of governing bodies. | Two North East LEP case studies have now been released with the remainder scheduled over the next 3-4 months. | 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. | Further stakeholder sessions have taken place and Northumberland College leadership and curriculum staff are now forming an action plan that will inform curriculum delivery from September 2022. The action plan will be shared with the employer stakeholder group in January 2022 and will include opportunities for stakeholders to engage in planning and delivery. | 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 Training workshop in development. Agreement with Newcastle University to deliver to full secondary cohort during academic Year 2021-2022. | Neil Willis | G | In Progress |
| Improve skills progression | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Promote the concept of fusion skills regionally | Initial desk research and scoping of the fusion concept completed Reached out to NCFE to explore collaborative pilot | 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 Q4 | 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. | Data analysis is underway and will form the evidence base to form a strategy to promote graduate retention. | 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with Newcastle University to explore their public recognition for accepting T-levels within entry requirements Finalised external training provision for the delivery of effective employer engagement in T-levels to 45 attendees from early adopter of T-levels to commence in November. The Domestic Retrofit Skills Assessment project has delivered 3 workshops to a range of sector stakeholders, businesses and education/training providers. An analysis of current education provision to meet the skills challenge of Net Zero targets is underway, including surveying all ESFA funded providers who have delivered retrofit/energy education and training in the North East LEP area in the 2020/21 academic year. This will be utilised to undertake a capacity and capability assessment. | Kim Smith | G | In Progress |
| Increase youth employment | | | | |
| 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 was successful in its application to continue support to unemployed young people until December 2023. DurhamWorks has now supported over 8000 young people since its commencement in January 2016. Generation NE programme has now come to an end with no current replacement project that provides the level of support to prevent youth employment in the ESF More Developed area. We are closing 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. | LEP Apprenticeship Group has approved the collaborative paper. Barriers to SME engagement have been fed back to ESFA. The biggest challenge has been identified as employers onboarding new starts. Group has agreed to consult with employers on 16-19 apprenticeship experiences and feedback end of year. | Kim Smith | N/A | Not Started |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Improve labour market activation | | | | |
| 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. | DWP have now published the outcome of the Mid-Life MOT pilots. North East LEP was one of 10 LEPs who piloted a Mid-Life MOT project in 20/21. Lessons learned from this and other pilots will be utilised to develop an action plan to support upskilling and retention of the key 50+ workforce in the North East LEP area. | Anthea Pratt | G | In Progress |
| 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. | DfE have awarded the contract for skills Bootcamps to a North East collaborative partnership of Colleges and a Training providers. The partnership is also supported through a collaboration with New College Durham who are providing follow on support for jobseekers, and Sunderland Software City, with SSC coordinating employer engagement to ensure Bootcamp Participants can access a guaranteed interview, and employers are able to steer the programme to ensure that Bootcamps provide suitably skilled candidates. The contract will provide 485 Bootcamps places for North East residents before March 2022. The North East LEP team is supporting DfE in the roll out of phase three of the bootcamps. The procurement for phase three is expected in late November 2021. | Michelle Rainbow | G | In Progress |
| 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. | We are closely monitoring the roll out of the Restart programme in the region. 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. The DurhamEnable Supported Employment Service is now established across the county, helping residents with disabilities to move into or closer to work. We now have 69 customers registered with the DurhamEnable Service who our Job Coaches are working with to progress into paid employment. 21 customers have now received offers across a range of job types and employers including apprenticeships with Durham County Council. Other employers include Tesco, NHS Newcastle Hospitals Trust, The Gala Theatre and Countrystyle Foods. | Michelle Rainbow | A | In Progress |
| Inform the replacement investment post-European funding. | We continue to respond to opportunities to inform and influence national discussions and policies regarding investment in skills in the region: The Skills Team are now providing representation at meeting with ESFA and DWP to review the performance of existing ESF projects to ensure that ESF revenue to the North East LEP area is maximised. | Michelle Rainbow | G | In Progress |
| Ensure connected communities | | | | |
| 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. | The commissioned report has now been finalised and presented to the September meeting of the Skills Advisory Panel. The SAP accepted the recommendations. | Anthea Pratt | G | Complete |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| <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>Following the recommendations of the commissioned research project the following have been implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secured £80,000 of Accelerator Funds to fund the development of Centres of Digital Expertise in the North East LEP area to provide coherent programmes of digital skills. The funding letter has been received and the first stage of procurement is underway. 2. The North East LEP will lead regional stakeholders to agree a North East Digital Inclusion strategy. | Michelle Rainbow | G | Not Started |

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.

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Continue to progress ongoing transport project delivery | | | | |
| 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. | We have agreed extensions for 5 schemes (out of 8) with the DfT. All schemes are now due to complete by December 2022. The first scheme is now on site which is the Durham County Council Newton Aycliffe scheme. A further two grant funding agreements are due to be sealed shortly. | Jonathan Bailes / Izzie Broadbent | A | In Progress |
| Deliver the Active Travel marketing campaign funded through the Active Travel Fund by March 2022 | 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; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Series of 7 week long cycling roadshows, - New cycling and walking maps, - Series of days out guides by cycling and walking travel. The three projects were delivered summer 2021. Comms activity continues to promote the maps and days out guides including regional editorials, blogger activity and social media engagement. This will continue until March 2022. | Kim Farrage/ Rachelle Forsyth-Ward | G | In Progress |
| Receive a final funding award from the Transforming Cities bid | | | | |
| 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 was approved to release £16.3m of TCF funding for the Sunderland Central Station and MSCP 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. A further £7.74m of advanced funds has been agreed to be released by JTC to ensure scheme delivery within TCF programme timescales. The regional ITS scheme is currently in appraisal and is expected to be approved in December, this will bring the total amount of funds approved up to £41.8m. We are expecting 10 full business cases to be approved prior to the end of March 2022. | Jonathan Bailes / Izzie Broadbent | A | In Progress |
| Release £9.8million for the Metro Flow scheme. | £1.7m was released to Nexus in July following sealing of a Grant Funding Agreement between Nexus and NECA. Following discussions between TNE, the DfT and Nexus, given Metro Flow's status as the only Department for Transport retained scheme within the TCF programme, it was agreed that all remaining grant funding for the scheme will be paid directly to Nexus by the Department for Transport. | Jonathan Bailes / Izzie Broadbent | G | In Progress |
| Continue to improve and deliver better connectivity through improved infrastructure | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| 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 capital programme management framework was agreed by JTC in October 2021. The regional Transport Assurance Framework will be reviewed and refreshed by Spring 2022. Following adoption of a refreshed Transport Assurance Framework we will look to refresh the Transport Pipeline in line with the assurance framework. | Jonathan Bailes / Andrew Dorrian | G | In Progress |
| Use transport to drive innovation and business growth | | | | |
| 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. On Thursday 18 November 2021 the UK government's long-awaited 'Integrated Rail Plan' (IRP) for the north and midlands was published. The outcome for the region is severely disappointing as the North East will no longer be fully connected to the UK's high speed rail network (neither HS2 nor NPR) and there is no committed rail investment in the plan for the area. | 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. | Work is progressing on the development the umbrella SOBC, however following the publication of the IRP and the rejection of the Restoring Your Railways Initial Ideas Fund bid for Leamside local passenger services, we need to reflect upon the content and review our next steps | 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. Public Inquiry covering the Transport and Works Act required started on the 9 th November (estimated to last up to 4 weeks) | Derek Gittins | G | In Progress |
| 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 in the 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. Announcements on these funds are expected in November 2021 and March 2022 respectively. A prospectus and pipeline of schemes which could be delivered through a City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement for the region has been developed and will also be integrated into our Capital Programme subject to confirmation of the North East's eligibility to bid for funds. A Programme Management Framework has now been agreed by JTC. The framework details how the Transport Plan Programme will be managed and updated including reporting to Joint Transport Committee on progress towards delivery. | Jonathan Bailes / Andrew Dorrian | G | In Progress |
| Continue to develop regional Transport Strategies and policies that align with the North East Transport Plan | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Produce a North East Rail and Metro Strategy to complement the North East Transport Plan | Work has progressed well over the period with a 'designed' pre consultation draft currently with stakeholders for review The timetable has been pushed back with the consultation draft now aiming for approval by JTC in January 22. Consultation then to follow through January /February and once any revisions are made seek JTC sign off of the Strategy in June/July 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 currently being developed for publication in 2022. | 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 is in the early stages of development. A Project Initiation Document has been drafted and a project team has been assembled. The 'Making The Right Travel Choice sub group' which has recently been set up will act as a steering group for the development of the strategy. The Strategy is on course to be delivered summer 2022 | Rachelle Forsyth-Ward / Kim Farrage | A | 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 have developed a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), published on the TNE and partner website's and submitted to the Department of Transport before the deadline of 31 October 2021. This plan, and the partnership work under way to prepare the EP (Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme(s)), aims 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. Following the publishing of the BSIP, we are now pursuing the Enhanced Bus Partnership by 2022. | Heather Jones/ Philip Meikle | G | Complete |
| Deliver the Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure funded through Local Growth Fund | | | | |
| Deliver EV charging infrastructure at the seven priority sites as identified in the enabling study undertaken by Urban Foresight to set out a five-year programme of works to ensure that region is in a strong position to support the transition to EVs | Following a tender exercise to procure a contractor to install, operate and maintain the EV chargers at the 7 identified locations, Swarco has been appointed. The exercise was undertaken through a specialised EV framework. It is anticipated that the delivery of the chargers will complete 2022. | John Bourn | G | In Progress |
| Through LGF funding, priority locations will be delivered by 31 March 2022. | Following a tender exercise to procure a contractor to install, operate and maintain EV Chargers at seven identifies locations, Swarco has been appointed. The exercise was undertaken through a specialised EV framework. Work is underway to complete detailed designs and to obtain TCP/IP costings. The latter are currently under review with Swarco. Issues have arisen with the Durham charger site and it is possible that a new site may need to be selected, subject to JTC approval. It is anticipated that work will be completed in 2022. | John Bourn | A | In Progress |
| Complete Metro Asset Renewal Programme | | | | |
| Continue with a system-wide overhead line renewal programme. | Overhead line contact and catenary wire replacement now to be delivered in longer more efficient possessions – to incorporate secondary works within the closures. Next scheduled for February 2022. Component and cantilever replacement continuing. | David Shields | G | In Progress |
| Continue to delivery platform compliance works by Autumn 2021. | All site contract works completed – close out to follow.. | David Shields | G | Complete |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Continue our cable testing and replacement and the location case re-wiring programmes across the network. | Cable testing and replacement agreed and approved and being progressed on site together with location case rewires by the internal Capital Delivery team - a long term programme to address degradation of cables up to 40 years old. | David Shields | G | In Progress |
| Deliver the track renewals at Tyne Dock in September 2021. | Work completed to programme over weekends of 9 th / 10 th October and 30 th /31 st October by the Nexus internal Capital Delivery Team | David Shields | G | Complete |
| Deliver the switches and crossing renewals at Christon Road (South Gosforth) in February 2022. | ITT for main installation contract evaluated and approval to award to be sought w/c 22 nd November for planned February 2022 works. | David Shields | G | In Progress |
| Prioritise and deliver lift and escalator half-life refurbishments based on asset condition | Consultant survey complete and delivery plan in development for refurbishment and renewals as determined. Work to be phased across current and next financial years. | 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. | Design package for 3 switches and crossing progressing, 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 second call now open, with applications to be submitted to the LEP by 16 December 2021.
- Procurement of the CPIF Fund Manager progresses with tender submissions are due by 3 December 2021 for evaluation
- Two major investments announced on NEP1 (JDR Cables) and IAMP (Envision)
- Amazon development on Follingsby Enterprise Zone in Gateshead no operational, with 1,300 jobs created

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Continue to manage the already secured North East LEP funding effectively: | | | | |
| 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 the 18 November 2021 meeting, in which templates for standardised reporting across the funding programmes were utilised for the first time. Investment Board also received an updated on the interim evaluation on the LGF and EZ programmes | Helen Golightly | G | In Progress |
| Monitor programme level risks via the Technical Officer Group. | Programme risks continue to be reported as required to Technical Officer Group (most recent meeting 4 November 2021). | Helen Golightly | G | In Progress |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| <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"> 1. Jarrow Business Centre – Manufacturing workspace completion 2. Gateshead Quays – work to commence on £300m Arena, Conference and Exhibition Centre 3. East Pilgrim Street, Newcastle - ongoing public realm improvement and Bank House office construction 4. Pattern shop, Stephenson Quarter – 3,238m2 of refurbished commercial floorspace completed 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. 6. Northumberland Energy Park Phase 1 – site reclamation completed – 17 ha of development land and new dock facility. | <p>Update on key infrastructure projects (numbers below refer to key on left):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction completed; first tenant occupation expected by end of 2021 2. Preliminary works underway, including multi-storey car park. Enabling works commencing November and main contractor to start on site has been re-programmed to Q1 2022/23. 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. 4. Enabling works have started with view to main refurbishment contract to be let in early 2022. 5. Projects are largely delivering to programme, some minor delays. 6. Main contractor works anticipated to be completed by end of 2021/22, JDR Cables announced intention to build major manufacturing facility on the site with the creation of 170 jobs | 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"> 1. Public realm improvements in town and city centres totalling 26,229sqm 2. Construction of new commercial, industrial and retail space totalling 21,200 sqm by 31st March 2022 3. Support over 1,471 construction jobs 4. New R&D facilities totalling 3,550sqm 5. New learning floorspace 1,137sqm 6. New superfast broadband connections – 1,350 7. 175 new jobs created and 170 jobs safeguarded 8. 4.4km of new or improved roads / cycleways | <p>Limited outputs, as forecast, reported in Q2 115 construction jobs, bringing total construction jobs to 258 for the year to date. Many projects have reported some slippage in delivery programmes, mainly associated with pressures in the construction market i.e. price increases and delays in supply of materials and equipment. Three projects withdrawn.</p> | Ray Browning | A | 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>In Q2 expenditure totalled £2.88m, bringing total for year to £4.88m. 226 new jobs were reported in Q2, bringing total for year to date to 384. Progress update report considered by Investment Board mtg 18 November 2021.</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>Interim evaluation of the LGF and EZ programme reported to Investment Board and North East LEP Board in September 2021.</p> | Ray Browning | G | In Progress |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| 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 | Amazon development on Follingsby Max site is now operational, with around 1,300 jobs on site. The following KPIs were reported in monitoring returns for Q2 2021/22: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52 new jobs created on EZ sites (excluding construction jobs), total for year is 130 Two further businesses operating from EZ sites The 2021/22 forecast for jobs created will be met, largely due to the Follingsby Max site becoming operational during Q3 2021/22. | 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Northumberland Energy Park Port of Sunderland Ashwood Business Park in Northumberland Holborn 2 in South Tyneside | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Main contractor works at NEP 1 site are anticipated to be completed before end of 2021/22. JDR Cables have announced decision to invest on the site. Progress of work at Port of Sunderland is on track for completion by end of Q1 2021/22, with advanced investor discussion on going for East Shore site Plot specific works underway to support two new occupants, who are anticipated to be operational next financial year Infrastructure works relating to the site are progressing, with O&M facility for JV related to Offshore Wind expected to be operational in 2022. | Ben McLaughlin | G | In Progress |
| Coordinate partners to develop a regional project pipeline based on spatial economic priorities | | | | |
| 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 and updated, through activity such as the Project Accelerator Fund and the Innovation Pipeline work being undertaken. | Nicola Laverick | 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 | Second call for projects is now open for the Project Accelerator Fund Call will close on 16 December 2021, with applications considered at the January 2022 cycle of the North East LEP Investment Board. | Nicola Laverick | G | In Progress |
| Secure additional investment in the North East including resources to support the Regional Recovery plan: | | | | |
| 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. | £23.5m GBF budget remains on course to be fully spent during the financial year. Q2 spend was £4.27m meaning total for year to date £6.88m. | Ray Browning | G | In Progress |
| Develop a Project Development Fund to accelerate the volume and quality of shovel ready projects making use of LEP resources | Second call of the Accelerator Fund opened 24 November 2021, with call closing 16 December 2022. Applications received will be considered during the January Investment Board meeting. | Nicola Laverick | G | In Progress |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Work with and support Local Authorities throughout the year to understand plans to bid for funding from the Levelling Up Fund. | Four Levelling Up Fund bid from Local Authorities were successful; Durham transport improvement in Bishop Auckland; two in Newcastle for regeneration of Grainger Market/Old Eldon Square and well-being hub in West Denton; and Sunderland Housing Innovation and Construction Skills Academy. LEP teams are continuing to work with partners on potential asks for future rounds. | Helen Golightly | G | In Progress |
| Deliver the final development phase of the Commercial Property Investment Fund (CPIF) and launch the fund. We will: 1. Procure a property fund manager between April 2021 to January 2022 2. Launch the CPIF programme in March 2022 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 4. Continue to develop the pipeline of projects throughout the year to maximize take up once the fund is live. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement of the CPIF Fund Manager progresses. The procurement moved to the next stage with the Invitation to Tender issued early in November to the three short listed organisations. Tender submissions are due by 3 December 2021 for evaluation 2. Launch of CPIF programme will take place following procurement of fund manager, which is expect to complete in March 2022 3. Total of six projects have received funding from the GBF funded pilot 4. Pipeline of CPIF projects remains under development | 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 |
| Increased access to finance for businesses to invest | | | | |
| 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. During Q2 2021/22 North East fund completed a total of 13 deals, investing £4.4m with cumulative investments to date over £66m. The fund has now provided financial support to 318 different SMEs. | Helen Golightly | G | In Progress |
| 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. Continue to support North East Finance and North East Access to Finance to optimise use of legacy funding to support North East initiatives. | <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 including the Government announcement through CSR of the British Business Bank led new £660m investment fund for the Northern LEPs.</p> <p>Broader work on the Access to Finance programme (to include supply and demand potential support requirements) continues.</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:

- Our Economy 2021 was published on 7th October, accompanied by an impact analysis from Covid 19 and EU Exit.
- The team hosted a successful online engagement event to mark the publication of Our Economy 2021
- The BEIS sponsored case study projecting the economic impact of the transition to Net Zero produced by PWC, which we supported, was published by Government on 19 October alongside the Net Zero strategy <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-in-the-north-east-of-england-regional-transition-impacts>
- The first meeting of a new Northern Evidence Network has been held with NP11 LEP's and TFN, which will work together on evidence development and to support the update of NPIER
- We submitted a response to the Migration Advisory Committee's call for evidence on the impact of the end of free movement on the adult social care workforce, following consultation with the EU Exit Group and the North East Association of Directors of Adult Social Services

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| Building and encouraging use of the evidence base: | | | | |
| <p>Strengthen our research, evidence and analysis programme by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2. Co-ordinating a corporate approach to data licences, tools, procurement and visualisation 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. | <p>We continue to support our programmes with regards to evidence activities including trade and export analysis; sector intelligence to support ongoing development of our areas of strategic importance; the emerging markets research with innovation programme; skills analysis and stakeholder consultation activities.</p> <p>We have received the first 2 Turning Points papers covering Net Zero and our Business Base and are feeding them into key programmes</p> <p>We are finalising the procurement of a data specialist to develop a corporate data strategy. We are also reviewing visualisation platforms such as Power BI and Map Box, as part of our Evidence Hub development.</p> <p>An internal working group reviewing our procurement processes and guidance has been formed.</p> | Emma Ward | G | In Progress |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| <p>Strengthen communication and dissemination of key strategy, policy data and research findings by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2. Enhancing the LEP's commentary on key economic issues and evidence in priority areas 3. Delivering the Our Economy Programme 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. | <p>We are working closely with new developers on enhancing the platform, including reviewing our audiences, content and dissemination strategy.</p> <p>We have produced analysis and commentary about topics such as the local labour market, regional trade and retail and recreation footfall. We commented on the most recent labour market release. We have provided advice about specific datasets.</p> <p>Our Economy, which consisted of an annual state of the region report and summative assessment of the impact of COVID-19 and the EU transition, was published on 7th October. An online event launch was held, with 147 people in attendance, of which 90% stayed for the full event.</p> <p>We have worked with Steer-ED to enhance our understanding of distinct subsectors within our Areas of Strategic Importance (AoSI) and supporting sectors. This will be backed with further analysis.</p> <p>We have prepared an assessment of our Knowledge Intensive Services sectors across Digital and FPBS to support the update of the SEP. Between Oct 20 and Oct 21, we have seen a 146% increase in Evidence Hub sessions (8,018 compared to 3,256) and a 118% increase in users (4,512 compared to 2,071).</p> <p>We have prepared an assessment of our Knowledge Intensive Services sectors across Digital and FPBS to support the update of the SEP.</p> | Emma Ward | G | In Progress |
| <p>Driving forward collaboration in research and data by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 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. | <p>We are developing a future programme of Forum meetings and activities, linking to key research themes identified by the group.</p> <p>We are continuing conversations with Newcastle University on the development of the regional Insights North East bid and with CAPE and Durham University about future collaborative projects.</p> | Emma Ward | G | In Progress |
| <p>Horizon scanning and development of new sources of knowledge including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with national and international inter-governmental partnerships, think tanks and consultancies on strategic evidence and policy activities 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. | <p>Over the last quarter we have been exploring the potential of tools such as Power BI, qGIS and RStudio to add to the team's data visualisation and analysis capabilities. We are currently building a pilot Power BI using trade data to test its functionality.</p> | Emma Ward | G | In Progress |
| Coordinating and supporting on regional strategy and policy projects | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| <p>Net Zero</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an evidence base with government and partners to demonstrate plausible pathways towards Net Zero in the North East 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 environment. Coordinate work within the North East LEP to accelerate the drive towards Net Zero. | <p>Following the discussion at the September Board meeting further work has been done to prepare for a decision to progress Net Zero North East including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with the Steering Group and Local Authorities to discuss resourcing and governance • Further development of all sections of the prospectus as a comprehensive source document to support the NZNE action, including co-ordination with a range of authors • Updating of the narrative and evidence within the NZNE project to align with the outcomes of COP 26 and focus on acceleration <p>The BEIS sponsored case study projecting the economic impact of the transition to Net Zero produced by PWC which we supported was published by Government on 19 October alongside the Net Zero strategy https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-in-the-north-east-of-england-regional-transition-impacts</p> <p>We have engaged with senior leaders in the Environment sector to support the ongoing development of the Environmental Leaders network (led by the Environment Agency) as a collaborative platform for co-ordination and engagement. This included active participation in a strategic workshop on November 5th to present on the budget, spending review and emerging policy environment.</p> <p>Working through the North East and Yorkshire Local Energy Hub, the Planet Mark bus tour was successfully hosted in the region.</p> <p>The North East LEP has been approached to lead delivery of the Public Sector Decarbonisation fund across the Hub geography, and discussions about a delivery model are underway. The Government announced that the Local Energy Hub will be re-designated as a Net Zero hub in the Net Zero strategy, and discussions are underway about the implications of this change.</p> | Richard Baker | G | In Progress |
| <p>Internationalisation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish the North East Trade and Export Strategy 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 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"> a) Target exporter development at firm level b) Align and promote views of market opportunity for the North East with northern, UK and overseas services c) Define and agree approaches to develop and strengthen the export support ecosystem d) Improve communication and promote collaboration to enhance trade and exporting. 4. Strengthen the alignment between international facing activities in the region, between trade, inward investment, innovation and higher education. | <p>Following on from last month's update about the activities underway to promote the content of the Global North East report, work has continued by the teams at the North East LEP, DIT and North East Chamber of Commerce as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second briefing with North East MP's took place on 16 September and we are continuing to work actively in Northern Powerhouse Fora. • We were invited to brief the DIT's UK strategy team directly which was a useful meeting which secured ongoing two-way dialogue, with a second meeting to follow • We were invited to present to a workshop on 18 November on trade in services as part of the Trade week events • Work continues to develop the phase 2 actions identified last month, including a series of sector pipeline workshops in partnership with business and sector organisations. A final draft report will be presented to the Steering Group on December 13th, with completion due at the end of the year • The Steering Group will also receive a commissioned paper from Northumbria University looking at the wider framework for co-ordinating support for international facing activity in the region <p>The UK Trade and Export strategy was published on 17 November providing a framework for post Brexit growth in trade. This included acknowledgement of the role of joint work between DIT and LEP's at the scale of the Northern Powerhouse via NP11, in regions on intelligence and trade promotion and on advice and support for business through Growth Hubs. This is a helpful framework for moving forward with our strategic export proposition.</p> | Richard Baker | G | In Progress |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| <p>Devolution</p> <p>1. Monitor and respond to developments in national government policy relating to devolution, including the LEP review and Levelling Up White Paper</p> <p>2. Support regional partners to secure and implement additional devolution to the region.</p> | <p>The LEP team has continued to contribute to the LEP review.</p> <p>We co-ordinated a submission to the Autumn Budget and Spending Review on behalf of the LEP and produced a briefing document on key announcements for the Board.</p> <p>The SPA team continues to monitor announcements on the Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund and prepare for the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper. The Board will receive this additional information at its meeting.</p> | Paul Carbert | G | In Progress |
| <p>EU Exit Through the EU Exit Implementation Group, we will:</p> <p>1. Continue to monitor the impact of new trade arrangements with the EU and report intelligence and insights to government and the LEP team</p> <p>2. Work with the group and sector representatives, produce a report on the impact of EU Exit on key North East sectors</p> <p>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</p> <p>4. Update the evidence base with latest data about the opportunities and challenges for businesses and sectors</p> <p>5. Identify opportunities and challenges arising from post-EU Exit domestic policy and co-ordinate regional response as required. Focus areas to include the labour market, funding and regulation.</p> | <p>The EU Exit Implementation Group continues to meet monthly.</p> <p>Discussions at recent meetings have focused on rising prices of freight, skills shortages in the logistics sector and the wider economy, the latest export statistics, and business preparations for the introduction of import controls on goods from the EU next year.</p> <p>The Group discussed the impact of EU Exit with an external speaker representing the construction and energy sector, and the food and drink and manufacturing sectors will be represented at future meetings.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to produce a report updating the evidence base on the impact of EU Exit on key North East sectors.</p> <p>We submitted a response to the Migration Advisory Committee's call for evidence on the impact of the end of free movement on the adult social care workforce, following consultation with the EU Exit Group and the North East Association of Directors of Adult Social Services.</p> | Paul Carbert | G | In Progress |
| <p>Northern Powerhouse</p> <p>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</p> <p>2. Co-ordinate North East LEP engagement with the NP11</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>The Northern Powerhouse Co-ordination Group met in October to discuss submissions to the Autumn Budget and Spending Review, and recent pan-Northern activity in LEP programme areas.</p> <p>We co-ordinated a meeting in November to discuss the formation of a Northern Evidence Network, with representation from Transport for the North, the NP11, and Northern LEPs. This group also discussed preparations for the refresh of the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review.</p> | Paul Carbert | G | In Progress |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| <p>New strategy projects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to scan the environment for the North East region and the LEP, and determine approaches to identified opportunities and challenges 2. Monitor development of planning policy and the work of the National Infrastructure Commission to identify issues and opportunities for the North East 3. Develop a proposal for a mapping tool utilising GIS systems across the region to strengthen tools supporting development 4. Develop and deliver an Advanced Manufacturing strategy 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"> a) The development of a statement of intent b) Responding to the review of Destination Management Organisations c) Prepare for a future sector vision and possible Action Zone 6. Develop a framework for North East LEP action to address inclusion and inequality in the region 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. | <p>Tourism Work continues to develop following agreement of the Statement of Intent. North East DMO's have been part of a joint letter to the new Secretary of State to emphasise support for the full implementation of the review of Destination Management Organisations. The three DMO's are now working with the North East LEP to identify practical actions which can take forward the statement of intent including on skills, events and regional support for the Durham City of Culture bid. The group is also preparing a proposal for a group of regional products which can enhance the scale and quality of the offer from the region building on the work done for the Tourism Action Zone bid.</p> <p>Advanced Manufacturing Detailed work on the delivery of the Advanced Manufacturing strategy is underway with a full review of evidence and being developed and the membership of leadership structures being developed. The first meeting of a Steering Group will consider the evidence base and develop the plan of action for the strategy</p> <p>Economic Prospects Group The Economic prospects group convened by the North East LEP and chaired by the Bank of England continues to meet and shares information and data. The latest meeting on 17th November looked at latest macro-economic data including the OBR analysis which preceded the budget and the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee report.</p> <p>Cabinet Office Geo-spatial strategy Work on the National Underground Asset Assessment is continuing to move forward in the region, as part of the UK Geo-spatial strategy led by the Cabinet Office. The project will deliver a full understanding of the region's underground infrastructure, helping to strengthen co-ordination of development and manage disruption.</p> | Richard Baker | G | In Progress |
| <p>LEP public policy actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to brief the LEP Board on future policy priorities 2. Further develop the approach to public policy set down in March 2021 following the outcome of LEP review process 3. Complete stakeholder mapping exercise and identify priority audiences for public policy messaging. | <p>The LEP's senior management team has discussed the inclusive economy agenda and the actions needed to take forward a review of North East data and evidence on excluded communities.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to co-ordinate stakeholder engagement across the LEP with Government departments and key civil service contacts, and to review national policy developments that affect LEP strategies.</p> | Paul Carbert | G | In Progress |
| Co-ordinating corporate and regional strategy development | | | | |

| Key deliverables: April 2021-March 2022 | Progress update and current position | Lead | RAG Status | Progress Status |
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| <p>Work with the Board to agree a strategic approach to future regional economic strategy development including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2. Evaluate and implement the approach required at regional level to respond to Government's Plan for Growth 3. Prepare to support an Economic Review project in advance of any future devolution process | <p>In addition to the launch of Our Economy 2021 on October 7th (see above) a number of additional papers are being worked on at present which will add to this analysis and be introduced into the SEP update process as agreed at the last North East LEP Board.</p> <p>Alongside analysis has been completed of the Spending Review and budget and our public affairs consultants are tracking key policy agendas following the Plan for Growth in areas including Levelling Up, Net Zero and internationalisation.</p> | 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"> 1. Continuing publication of the evidence base 2. Support for the actions derived from the COVID-19 Economic Response Group and the Economic Response Plan 3. Evaluate, and support discussion about, the impact of the COVID-19 Response Group to support future regional resilience. | <p>The Covid 19 Economic Response Group has now been re-positioned as a Regional Economy Group, providing a point of discussion and co-ordination around economic development issues in the region.</p> <p>Recent meetings have discussed the emerging economic evidence base and the regions input to the Comprehensive Spending Review.</p> <p>A North East LEP submission commented on a number of specific proposals, including supporting the submissions of other regional partners</p> | 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 Transport Plan has now been published and work continues to continue to publish transport and economic evidence base on the Evidence Hub.</p> <p>There is strong co-ordination across the region to secure the resources to deliver on key programmes.</p> <p>A number of implementation meetings around the plan have taken place.</p> | Richard Baker | G | Complete |

Highlights from the past two months

Below is a summary of the content we have issued to support projects and initiatives as well as strategic announcements and activity between 20 September and 20 November 2021.

Strategic announcements and update

Autumn Budget

Lucy Winskell OBE, Chair of the North East LEP, gave her reaction to the Autumn Budget and Spending Review delivered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP. Her full statement can be read [here](#).

LEP Review

The ways in which the North East LEP is working with government on the ongoing LEP review were laid out in a blog post by Helen Golightly OBE, Chief Executive Officer of the North East LEP which can be read [here](#).

Planet Mark Zero Carbon Tour

The region welcomed the Planet Mark Zero Carbon Tour on 22 October and the event was promoted to businesses via radio advertising, paid and organic social media content and public relations. Speakers at the event included Lucy Winskell OBE, Chair of the North East LEP and Jonathan Withey, Director of Planet Mark, while North East business and energy sector representatives gave details of their work to back the drive to net zero. Coverage was generated on [business-live.co.uk](https://www.business-live.co.uk) and on Global Radio. Post event content was also shared via the LEP's social media channels.

Our Economy

Following the annual Our Economy event, the North East LEP published two new reports, one an annual state of the region report and the other exploring the impact of COVID-19 and EU Exit on the North East economy. A short film of Policy and Strategy Director Richard Baker's presentation of the findings was published online along with the reports, and businesses were encouraged to attend the Our Economy event through a news release, social media content, event listings and e-communications. The reports are available on the [North East Evidence Hub](#).

ONS regional labour market statistics

The North East LEP issued a response to the ONS regional labour market statistics with Strategy and Policy Director, Richard Baker, saying: "We're now starting to see the shape of the labour market in the region as the economy moves out of Covid-related restrictions and support. The overall picture in today's figures is of a labour market which is in recovery, but with a changed structure since early 2020." The full statement can be seen [here](#).

Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

Enterprise Advisers

The monthly column in Northern Insight magazine was used to highlight the opportunity for more business leaders to join the Enterprise Adviser programme, helping to bridge the gap between education and industry. Read Michelle Rainbow's article [here](#).

A communications campaign is also launching in November to attract more business leaders to join the Enterprise Adviser Network. It will include paid and organic social media, as well as a toolkit for existing Enterprise Advisers to promote the Network through their channels.

Digital exclusion

The publication of a report highlighting the impact digital exclusion in the North East LEP area on people's ability to access education, skills and employment was supported with a [blog from Skills Director, Michelle Rainbow](#). Coverage was also generated in [chroniclelive.co.uk](https://www.chroniclive.co.uk).

The role of universities in local and national recovery

An article by Newcastle University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Chris Day, was shared to highlight the role universities are playing in the recovery from the impact of COVID. Read his article [here](#).

Career Mark accreditation

The achievements of North East schools which have received Career Mark accreditation were celebrated through a series of case studies, accompanying social media content and a news story.

Work Experience Framework

The Work Experience Framework has been updated over the past month to include additional modules, videos and activities. This page will be monitored monthly to track the success of the Framework. The Framework can be viewed [here](#).

Sector skills toolkits

Toolkits have been created over the past month to support secondary school teachers to link careers in the North East Energy sector to the Maths, English, and Science KS3 and KS4 curriculum. This toolkit is the first sector toolkit to be created, with the aim to develop further toolkits in all leading sectors in the North East. The [toolkit can be viewed here](#). Engagement will be monitored monthly.

ETCFund launch

A £2 million programme has been launched which will help connect disadvantaged young people in the North East with the right education and skills. [Read the article here](#).

Love our Colleges Week

A social campaign to support the Love our Colleges week initiative was developed and published over a week in October. The campaign received some good engagement and an evaluation of this will be completed in November.

Business and sector growth

Peer Networks

E-communications, online display advertising and LinkedIn advertising was used to drive applications to the Peer Networks programme, including the new Net Zero Peer Network. Partner organisations including the North East Automotive Alliance, NEPIC, NewcastleGateshead Initiative and Innovation SuperNetwork also included information about the Peer Networks programme in their e-newsletters.

A once in a generation opportunity to modernise business support

North East LEP Business and Sector Growth Director, Colin Bell, explained why evolution is key to simplifying the business support landscape to be meaningful for businesses. Colin's blog post can be read [here](#).

Scaleup survey

North East businesses were encouraged to contribute to the Scaleup Institute's Scaleup survey through social media and e-communications.

Help to Grow

The North East LEP continues to promote both Help to Grow: Management and Help to Grow: Digital. The LEP is working closely with Northumbria University on Help to Grow: Management and a campaign will take place in December/January to promote the cohorts in 2022. Activity will include e-newsletters, social media and paid activity with Bdaily.

Made Smarter Adoption North East

The North East LEP continues to promote Made Smarter Adoption North East via e-newsletters, social media and partner communication platforms.

North East Energy Catalyst

The work of the North East Energy Catalyst and the region's energy sector in leading the way with new energy innovations was demonstrated through a new video which has been published online, shared with partners and via social media and e-communications. Watch the film [here](#).

Two new members of the North East Energy Catalyst - The Port of Tyne and Equinor - were also announced via a news release which can be seen [here](#).

Community Energy study

The publication of a study into what would enable the successful development and delivery of more community energy projects in the North East LEP area was supported by the publication of a [blog post by Andrew Clark](#). The study was published on the North East Evidence Hub.

Innovation

Innovation Director, Alan Welby, gave his reaction to the Chancellor's plans for the UK to be the world's first net zero aligned financial centre. The article can be read [here](#).

Community Renewal Fund (CRF)

The North East LEP was successful in two of its bids into the CRF, one with Sunderland City Council and one with Gateshead Council.

Overall, the Future Markets Acceleration Programme has been awarded £327,030 from the Community Renewal Fund for projects across Gateshead and Sunderland. The programme will enable organisations to understand, access and capitalise on market opportunities.

A press release has been drafted announcing the funding. Further communications activity will be 'internal communications' ensuring the organisations involved benefit from shared learning and adhere to brand guidelines etc. External communications will happen after the programme has completed to convey results, learning and next steps.

Funding

VCSE Capital Grant programme

A rolling programme of communications highlighting the outcomes of projects funded by the VCSE Capital Grant programme began. Liaison with funded projects' communications teams resulted in the inclusion of quotes from the North East LEP in news releases, and the amplification of projects through social media.

Local Growth Fund

The ongoing promotion of the LEP's role in delivering the Local Growth Fund has continued. There was significant media coverage around IAMP in Sunderland/South Tyneside, and the news [all developable land on the first phase has been allocated](#). There was also widespread media coverage about the news a £50 million expansion at NETPark expansion had been given the green light. A lot of the coverage included a quote from [Andrew Moffat CBE, Chair of the North East LEP Investment Board](#).

Getting Building Fund

The ongoing promotion of the LEP's role in delivering the Getting Building Fund has continued. News about the Customer Energy Village at Northern Gas Network's InTEGREL research facility will be released to media soon. The news release includes a quote from Andrew Moffat CBE, Chair of the North East LEP Investment Board. We are also working with ORE Catapult on the next phase of its Robotics and Autonomous Systems Test & Validation Centre, which will include a 'ground breaking' event.

Enterprise Zones

[Media coverage](#) has been secured about the infrastructure work beginning on Phase 1 on Ashwood Business Park. All coverage included a quote from Andrew Moffat CBE, Chair of the North East LEP Investment Board. There was also [widespread media coverage](#) about JDR Cable Systems' announcement that it plans to open a base on the NEP1 Enterprise Zone

Institute of Economic Development

Ray Browning, Programme Manager at the LEP, [drafted a blog](#) for the Institute of Economic Development website discussing the LGF-funded Energy for Growth programme and its role in supporting net zero.

North East LEP website performance summary: 1st September - 31 October 2021

| Audience | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Visitors | 9,958 | (+12.84%) |
| Total page views | 49,981 | (-3.91%) |
| Average session duration | 1.27 | (-14.21%) |

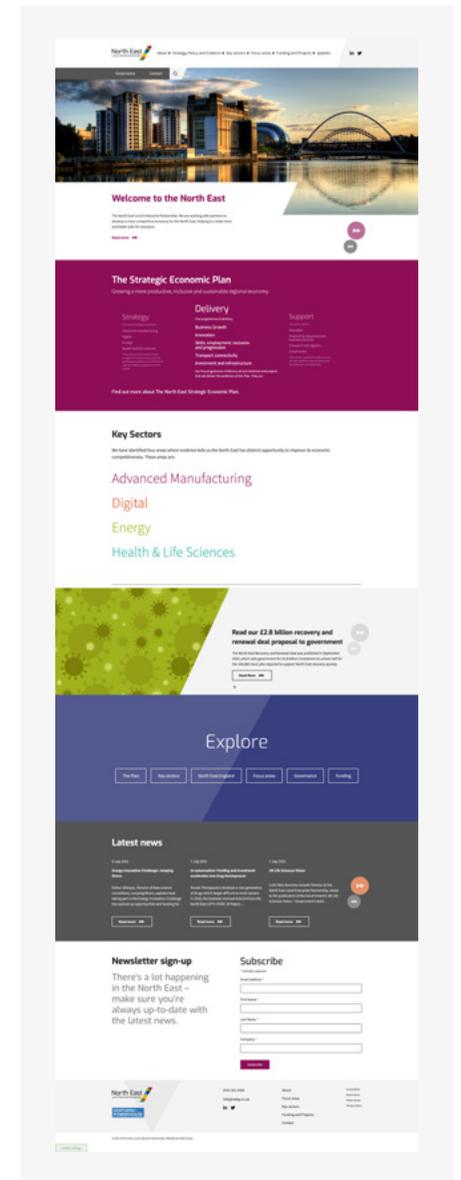
| Traffic source | views |
|----------------|-------|
| Organic | 5,037 |
| Direct | 3,888 |
| Email | 211 |
| Social | 370 |
| Referral | 655 |

Top five news pages

| | views |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| The importance of good school governance | 1,471 |
| New report highlights impact of digital exclusion on access to education and employment in the North East | 568 |
| Helen Golightly OBE, Chief Executive Officer of the North East LEP, explains how and why we are working with government on the ongoing LEP review | 318 |
| New reports on North East economy reveal impact of COVID-19 and EU Exit | 250 |
| Port of Tyne and Equinor announced as new North East Energy Catalyst partners | 234 |

Top five pages

| | views |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Home | 6,631 |
| Kickstart Opportunities | 4,173 |
| Executive Team | 2,352 |
| About Us | 1,334 |
| Kickstart Scheme | 1,306 |



Social media

| | Total followers | Impressions |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Twitter | 12,750 (+1.1%) | 99,441 |
| LinkedIn | 9,221 (+2.6%) | 45,623 |

| Top performing LEPs on Twitter: | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. North East LEP | 2. Leeds LEP | 3. Liverpool LEP | 4. Black Country LEP |
| 12,750 | 11,582 | 10,256 | 9,400 |

Best performing organic posts: Twitter



Page 50

@northeastlep
Thu 9/16/2021 11:49 am BST

A new report commissioned by the LEP's **#Skills** Advisory Panel (SAP) highlights the impact digital exclusion in the North Eas...

clusion in the North East LEP Area

l exclusion has negative impacts
agement with learning, access
ources, quality of work, education
nes and progression into work

Impressions
5,184

| Impressions | Engagement | Clicks |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| 5,184 | 113 | 20 |



@northeastlep
Mon 9/20/2021 8:55 am BST

We're supporting [@InspiringGov](#)'s campaign to recruit 5,000 new school/college governors. Find out more...

Impressions
3,894

| Impressions | Engagement | Clicks |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| 3,894 | 70 | 15 |



@northeastlep
Thu 9/9/2021 3:50 pm BST

The entrants in the [@NEEChamber](#) Small Business of the Year Award were all amazing with incredible stories. In the end, [@Nirvana_Europe](#) and their innovativeness, resilience and entrepreneurial spirit won our vote. Congratulations to them and to all of the finalists 🌟

Impressions
2,820

| Impressions | Engagement | Clicks |
|--------------|------------|----------|
| 2,820 | 29 | 0 |

Best performing organic posts: Twitter



Page 51

 @northeastlep
Mon 10/18/2021 8:55 am BST

As part of **#LoveOurColleges Week**, we'll be showcasing our amazing **#NorthEast** colleges and their inspiring and innovative ways they support students, staff and communities. **@AoC_Info**
#CollegesWeek
#moreandbetterjobs

A

Impressions **2,431**

| Impressions | Engagement | Clicks |
|-------------|------------|--------|
| 2,431 | 68 | 0 |



 @northeastlep
Mon 10/25/2021 1:58 pm BST

Our **#EducationChallenge** regional lead **@mrnawillis** talks about the benefits of being a school governor. Read more and...



Supporting staff to volunteer as governors has benefits that are much wider than addressing a core social responsibility element – it's a really fruitful, professional development opportunity.

LLIS EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
WELCOME TO BECOME A SCHOOL GOVERNOR: inspiringgovernance.org/vol

Impressions **2,198**

| Impressions | Engagement | Clicks |
|-------------|------------|--------|
| 2,198 | 49 | 2 |



 @northeastlep
Tue 10/19/2021 7:09 pm BST

We work with an amazing group of **#FE** career leaders across the region, including **@RBurnCreativeIn**, who was recently...



Impressions **2,182**

| Impressions | Engagement | Clicks |
|-------------|------------|--------|
| 2,192 | 83 | 3 |

Best performing organic posts: LinkedIn

in₁

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North East Local Enterpris...
Mon 10/25/2021 12:14 pm BST

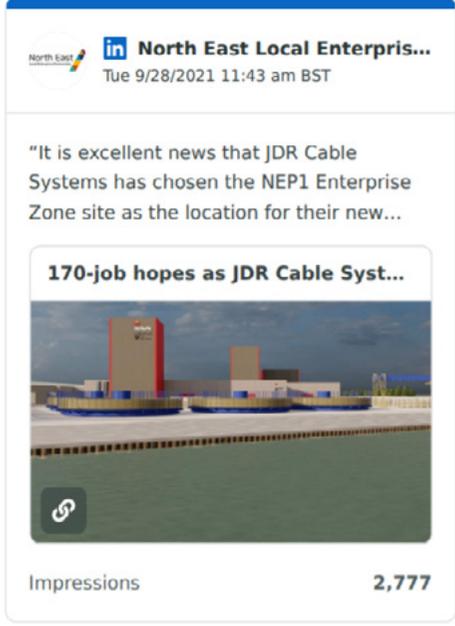
Thank you to all the speakers that joined us for The Planet Mark #ZeroCarbonTour at Newcastle Helix on Friday. If you'd like to...



Impressions **3,874**

| Impressions | Engagement | Clicks |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| 3,874 | 311 | 235 |

in₂



North East Local Enterpris...
Tue 9/28/2021 11:43 am BST

"It is excellent news that JDR Cable Systems has chosen the NEP1 Enterprise Zone site as the location for their new...

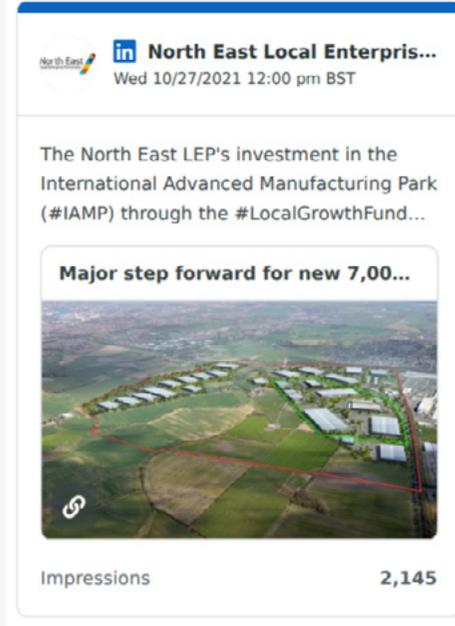
170-job hopes as JDR Cable Syst...



Impressions **2,777**

| Impressions | Engagement | Clicks |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| 2,777 | 128 | 37 |

in₃



North East Local Enterpris...
Wed 10/27/2021 12:00 pm BST

The North East LEP's investment in the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (#IAMP) through the #LocalGrowthFund...

Major step forward for new 7,00...



Impressions **2,145**

| Impressions | Engagement | Clicks |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| 2,145 | 101 | 55 |

Priorities for the next two months

1. Plan , implement and progress the annual corporate document process - including and update of the SEP Executive Summary
2. Develop a strategic forward development and content plan for the North East Evidence Hub
3. Develop the strategic approach to communications for the energy programme
4. Advise on communications positioning around the innovation programmes future and emmergent markets projects

Forward plan of content

| Topic | Description | Type | Estimated date of issue |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Corporate | | | |
| Podcast | Introduction of a LEP podcast discussing issues relevant to our strategic economic plan | • Podcast and supporting social media | Activity to begin January 2022 for an initial six months |
| Corporate document process | Deliver updated SEP exec summary, annual delivery plan, progress review and annual review | • Document drafting and publication | Jan - March 2022 |
| AGM | North East Local Enterprise Partnership Annual General Meeting | • Online event • Social media • Media relations • Owned media | December 2021 - January 2022 |
| Business and sector growth | | | |
| Growth Hub positioning | Positioning campaign to demonstrate that the Growth Hub is more than just a website. | • Campaign | November 2021 - February 2022 |
| Peer Networks | Recruitment of four cohorts pre-Christmas Production of case studies to illustrate benefits of joining | • Campaign • Case studies | December 2021 |
| Help to Grow: Management and Help to Grow: Digital | Support recruitment of future Help to Grow: Management cohorts and support registrations for Help to Grow: Digital | • Campaigns - including e-newsletters, social media, media relations, stakeholder comms | December 2021 - January 2022 |
| Made Smarter Adoption North East | Continued promotion of the programme to generate EOIs | • Social media • Partner communications • Enewsletters | December 2021 - January 2022 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| North East Growth Hub toolkits | Refresh of content across all toolkits | • Content development | December 2021 - new year |
| Inclusion Pilot | Supporting communications for inclusion pilot | • News release • Blog post | November - December 2021 |
| Energy for Growth | Production of case studies on Energy for Growth-funded projects | • Case studies | December 2021 |
| Energy sector event | Preparation of supporting comms for event | • TBC | December 2021 - February 2022 |
| Health and Life Sciences | Continued promotion of case studies and regional successes | • Website articles • Social media • Partner amplification | December 2021 - February 2022 |
| Innovation | | | |
| Future Markets Accelerator Programme | Internal communications with project partners | • Web page • E-newsletters • Information pack | December 2021 - February 2022 |
| Emergent Markets study | Develop plan for communication of results to different audiences | • Web page development • Content development | December 2021 - January 2022 |
| Innovation toolkit | Rolling programme of new articles and content supported with paid for advertising | • Content development • Social media | December 2021 - February 2022 |
| Innovation overview | Introduction of a podcast with Innovation Director chatting to trailblazers/thought leaders about their journeys and vision for future of innovation in the region | • Podcast • Supporting social media | To commence in January 2022 and run initially for six month |

Skills, employment, inclusion and progression

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Northern Insight magazine | Use of monthly page to highlight skills, employment, inclusion and progression programmes | • Advertorial | Monthly |
| Primary Pilot evaluation | Publication of year 2 evaluation report | • Social content • Exec summary | • News release • Blog November 2021 |
| Technical education | Campaign to showcase the benefits and opportunities that studying a higher technical qualification can open up | • New toolkit content • Campaign to be developed | September 2021 - February 2022 |
| Good Work Report | Publish Good Work report, together with Durham Uni | • News release and social campaign plan | November |
| EA recruitment campaign | Launch recruitment campaign | • Google, Social, newsletters and release | December 2021 - January 2022 |

Investment

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| EA/SE funding | Rolling communications plan highlighting outcomes of funded projects | • Social content | • Media relations Ongoing |
| Gettng Building Fund | Rolling communications plan highlighting funded projects, including key milestones | • Social content | • Media relations Ongoing |
| Local Growth Fund | Rolling communications plan highlighting funded projects, including key milestones | • Social content | • Media relations 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.

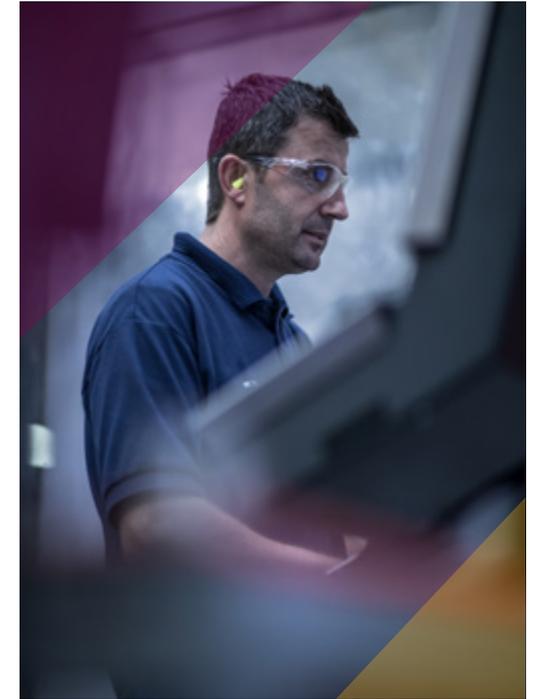
Any feedback on input into our content plan, please email jen.robson@nelep.co.uk

North East LEP

✉ info@nelep.co.uk 📞 0191 561 5420 💻 nelep.co.uk

🐦 @northeastlep 🌐 /company/north-east-lep

📍 1 St James Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4AD



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cabinet Member Briefing

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has invited each Cabinet Member to a committee meeting to provide the committee with an update on the work and plans of their portfolio area.

This briefing at the 7 December 2021 Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting will be from **Councillor Johnson, Cabinet Member for Investment and Resources**.

1. Investment and Resources Portfolio

1.1. The Investment and Resources portfolio is responsible for leading the management of the NTCA's Investment Programme. The programme spans economic assets, regeneration, connectivity, skills, communities and our 'places'. The portfolio responsibilities include ensuring that projects and programmes are developed, robustly appraised and effectively delivered. The portfolio also covers any financial incentives that may be offered to support inward investment by a new business to the area and oversight of the financial performance of the authority.

1.2. As set out in the corporate plan, the portfolio priorities are:

- Delivering an Investment Programme that creates jobs, skills and growth in the region
- Bringing real new jobs in to the region through our Inward Investment Fund
- Ensuring our investment and operations are robust, best in class, and continually adding value

1.3. The remainder of this report elaborates further on these areas.

2. Delivering the North of Tyne Investment Programme

2.1. In April 2019, the North of Tyne Cabinet agreed an Investment Plan for £100m, covering its first 5 years. It is split into the themes of Business, People, Place, Project development and 'Major Strategic Economic Opportunities' – with the latter intended to help the Combined Authority respond flexibly and at pace to new developments. In addition, 10% of the funding was allocated to meet the running costs of the Combined Authority, including staffing, office space and other overheads.

2.2. The Investment Plan allocations (Figure 1) were designed to meet the priorities as set out by Cabinet in its *Home of Ambition* document, with a focus on the devolution deal priorities. More recently, investments have been aligned to areas identified in the Corporate Plan.

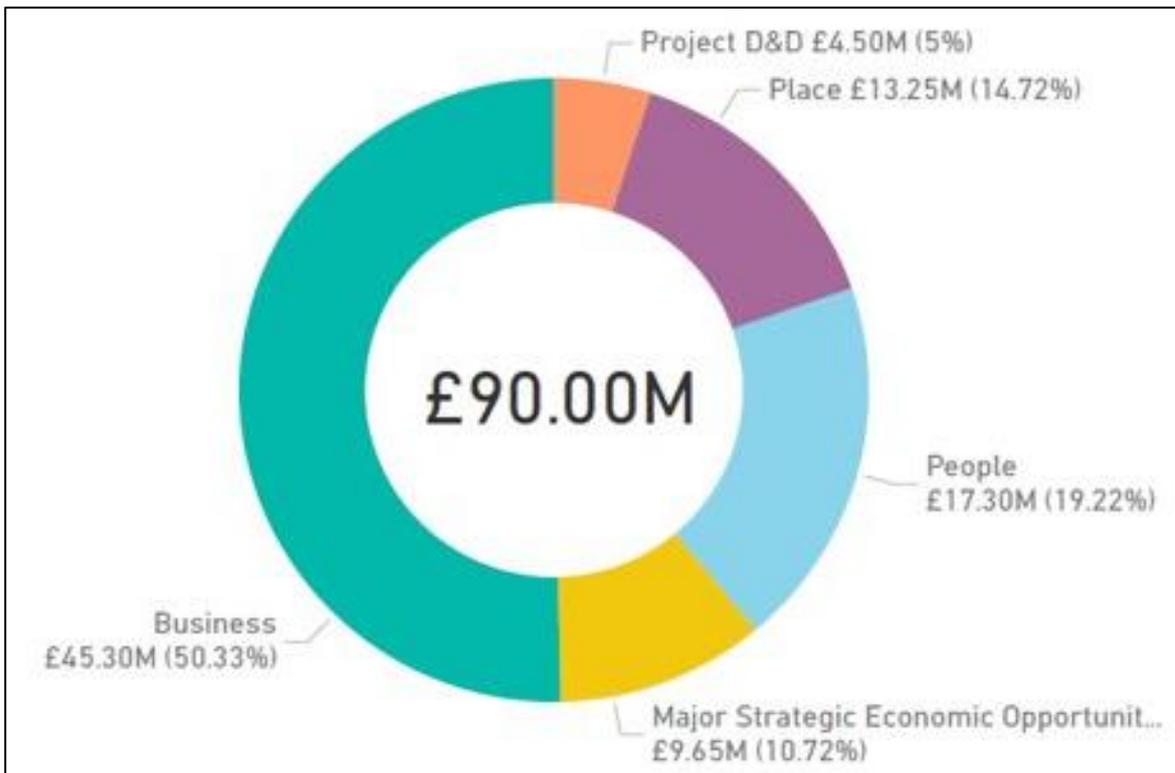


Figure 1: Investment Fund allocations

2.3. As set out in Figure 2, there is currently £76.42m of contracted expenditure against these priorities. This includes projects across all areas of the Investment Plan and by organisations in the public, private, educational and VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise) sectors. In total, 88 projects have now been approved.

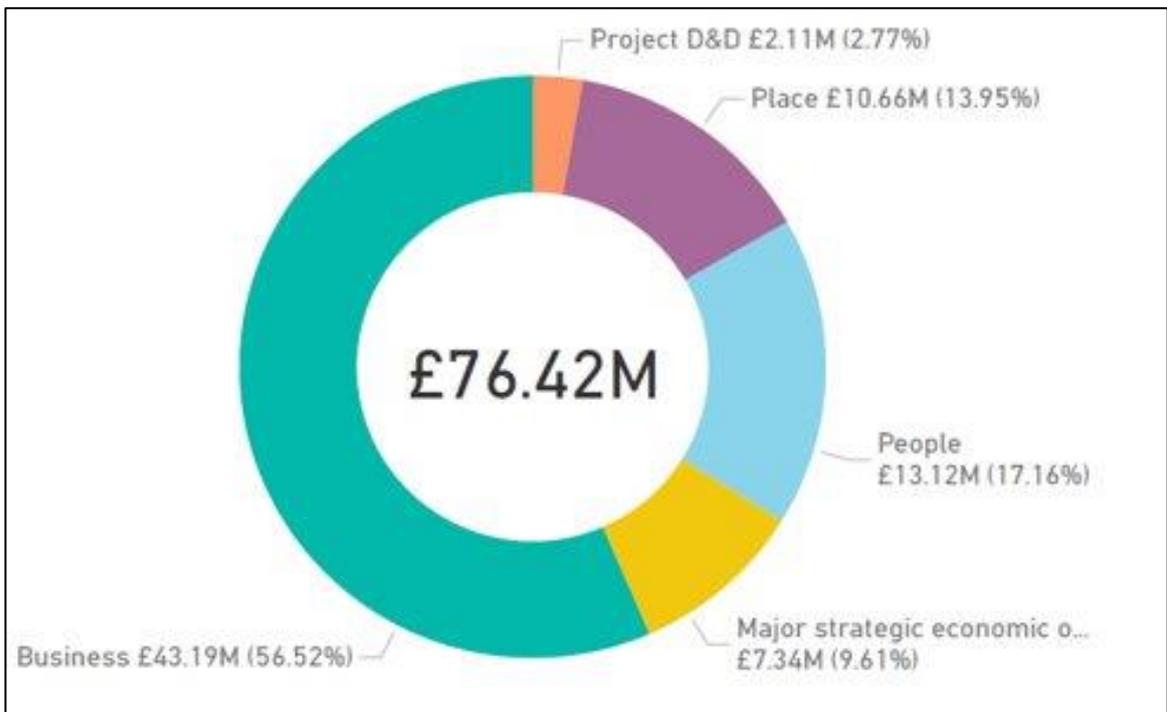


Figure 2: Investment Fund: Contracted expenditure to date

2.4. These investments have a strong alignment to the Cabinet's economic vision, Mayor's manifesto and the corporate plan and span projects as diverse as:

- Infrastructure and enabling works along the Tyne and at Blyth, as part of the NTCA's Offshore Wind Programme, with funding awarded to partners to enable them to bring forward sites which would be capable of attracting end investors. For example, NTCA investments at Blyth helped fund the link road and quayside facilities and were critical to attracting JDR Cables – a recent inward investment success into the area.
- Enhancing the development of STEM and digital skills, with programmes being provided by the Digital Catapult and a number of skills providers. Digital skills will continue to be integral to both individual opportunities and the future health of the NTCA's economy.
- Funding to deliver a diverse and high-profile events programme for the area, which will support the existing offer, bring new visitors to the region and raise the profile of the area. This recently included £36,000 of funding to support the 'North Sea Weekender' event in North Tyneside, which provided a long weekend of participatory, competitive and spectator activities aimed at extending the visitor season. The event was a major success, with over 500 competitors and 20,000 spectators – creating significant social-media reach, together with front page coverage in the Sunday Times.
- Business case development funding to support project development, including the development of proposals for the Campus for Ageing and Vitality and the North Shields Masterplan. Through a series of bold proposals, the draft North Shields master plan is intended to transform the town centre and riverside into an environment where people choose to live, work and spend their leisure time.

2.5. In total, the Investment Fund projects are expected to create or safeguard over 7000 jobs (Figure 3). Of these, 4340 are new jobs – this is excellent progress against our target of 10,000 over 30 years. A total of 575 of these have already been created; in addition 1773 jobs have been safeguarded.

2.6. Including leverage secured from the NTCA's Brownfield Housing Fund, the projects are expected to attract £254.97m of leverage (12.14% of the £2.1bn target).

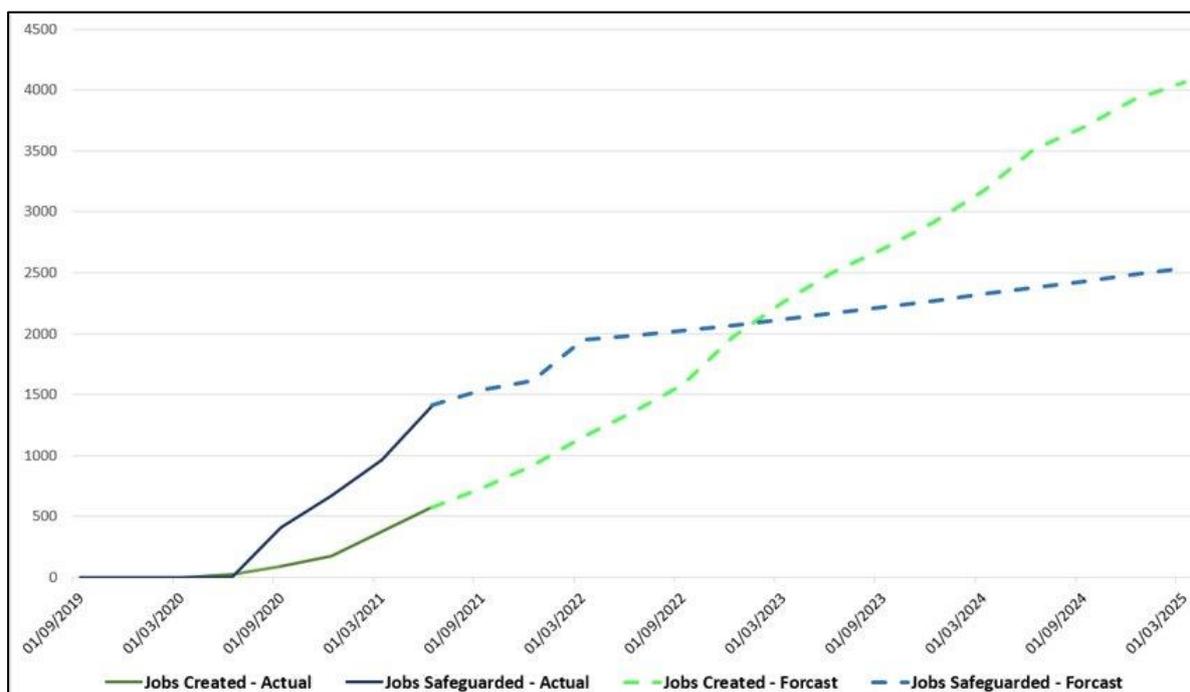


Figure 3: Actual and forecast jobs

3. Securing inward investment

3.1. Inward investment is a core component of the NTCA's Investment Programme – providing the opportunity for rapid job creation. Projects which have been supported by the NTCA's inward investment fund include:

- *Verisure UK Services Limited*, which was announced last year. Verisure is a global security firm which intends to create 1,000 new jobs at its Quorum base, with the NTCA beating over 14 other locations which the company considered in the UK. Verisure is making good progress and has already recruited several hundred staff.
- *Monstarlab*, with the investment announced in November 2021 and with the company having plans to create up to 100 new tech roles by 2024 in their office on Grey Street – with the area beating off competition from several other leading UK northern cities including Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester, Glasgow, and Edinburgh.
- *Thoughtworks* is opening a new office and creating 100 roles for senior tech professionals. The office will become a centralized operations hub for Thoughtworks UK, servicing national and international clients. The firm, which is headquartered in Chicago - and has offices in London and Manchester - employs more than 9,000 people across 48 offices in 17 countries.
- *Xplor*, which is a leading provider of enterprise software, payments and commerce-enabling solutions for businesses and has selected Newcastle city centre as the location of its new customer service operations. The brand-new service delivery centre will create over 200 new jobs in the region, with skilled customer service; software development; R&D; multilingual and technical support employment opportunities. chose to expand in the North of Tyne, city, who competed with other leading city locations including Glasgow, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Nottingham, York, Liverpool and Leicester.

3.2. In September, Cabinet approved funding of £1,300,000 to bring new businesses and jobs into the area through additional inward investment activity, building on the recent successes highlighted above. The programme will stimulate inward investment lead generation through proactive targeting activity. The work will include evidence gathering, development of promotional materials (sector-specific/company-bespoke propositions), proactive engagement with target companies, liaison with Department for International Trade and other trade/investment agencies to promote our NTCA offer, and hosting of events and visits. The initiative is focused on the corporate services, life sciences and green energy sectors, replicating the cross-NTCA approach already taken in our digital sector activity. By introducing sector-specialist capacity and campaign activity, it will create in at least 200 new jobs, and add value to existing inward investment provision.

4. Oversight of Investment Programme

- 4.1. The portfolio role includes oversight of the Combined Authority's Investment Programme. This includes the outcomes performance, as set out in the data above, together with the financial performance and payment of projects and programmes. This is supported by a Performance Pack and Risk reporting. The majority of projects which have been approved to date will spend over a period of time so the cumulative expenditure against the current programme will continue to increase for at least the next two years.
- 4.2. The oversight role includes the policies associated with the Assurance Framework used for the appraisal and selection of projects. This includes membership of Investment Panel, alongside Cllrs Wearmouth and Kilgour. Investment Panel scrutinises projects in detail – looking at Value for Money, Strategic Fit and Deliverability - before making recommendations Cabinet and/or the Managing Director for project approvals for project approvals.

4.3. The portfolio also involves oversight of the financial data which are presented by the Chief Finance Officer to Cabinet. This includes being consulted on the quarterly budget monitoring and budget briefings.

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Subject: Investment Fund Update
Report of: Chief Economist

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of progress of the NTCA Investment Fund. As requested by Committee, this includes an update on the COVID-19 Capacity Fund. In addition, detailed case study information is provided on two significant projects which are currently under development – supporting Access to Finance and the Future High Streets Challenge – to illustrate the evidence gathering and analysis undertaken before projects are taken through our Assurance Framework processes.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Note progress to date on the Investment Fund; and
2. Comment on any future priorities.

1. Background information, proposals and timetable for implementation

1.1 Overview of Investment Fund

1.1.1 A cornerstone of the NTCA's devolution deal, the Investment Fund is a £20m per year allocation from Government, with £100m in total for the period up to March 2023. The priorities for this funding were agreed by Cabinet in 2019, with the Investment Plan split into the themes of Business, People, Place, Project development and 'Major Strategic Economic Opportunities'.

1.1.2 In developing the Investment Plan, the NTCA focussed on priorities which were expected to make a strong contribution towards the Combined Authority's inclusive growth ambitions and its devolution deal targets of 10,000 new jobs, £1.1bn additional GVA and £2.1bn of private sector leverage. The intention was that the NTCA's priorities around housing development and transport would largely be met through other funding sources – including the Brownfield Housing Fund and DfT funding. However, the investment fund has been used to help generate a pipeline of good quality propositions around these and other priorities – with a view to securing future additional investment.

1.2 Progress to date

1.2.1 As discussed in the accompanying report on this agenda by Cllr Johnson, of the first £100m, there is currently £76.42m of contracted expenditure plus a £10m allocation for staffing costs and overheads (for the first five-year period). In total, 88 projects have now been approved. This includes projects across all areas of the Investment Plan and includes projects led by organisations in the public, private, educational and VCSE sectors. Good progress is being made against our devolution deal targets.

1.2.2 Figure 1 sets out the expected profile of expenditure for these 88 projects. It shows how expenditure builds up over the programme period, as the majority of the NTCA's projects will operate over multiple years.

1.2.3 Capital projects take many months to complete, whilst programmes to support residents and businesses are more cost effective and deliver better outcomes if they are of sufficient duration. Although we would expect to have agreed projects amounting to at least £100m by March 2023, expenditure will naturally carry on after this point. This is similar to the approach taken with previous economic development funding programmes.

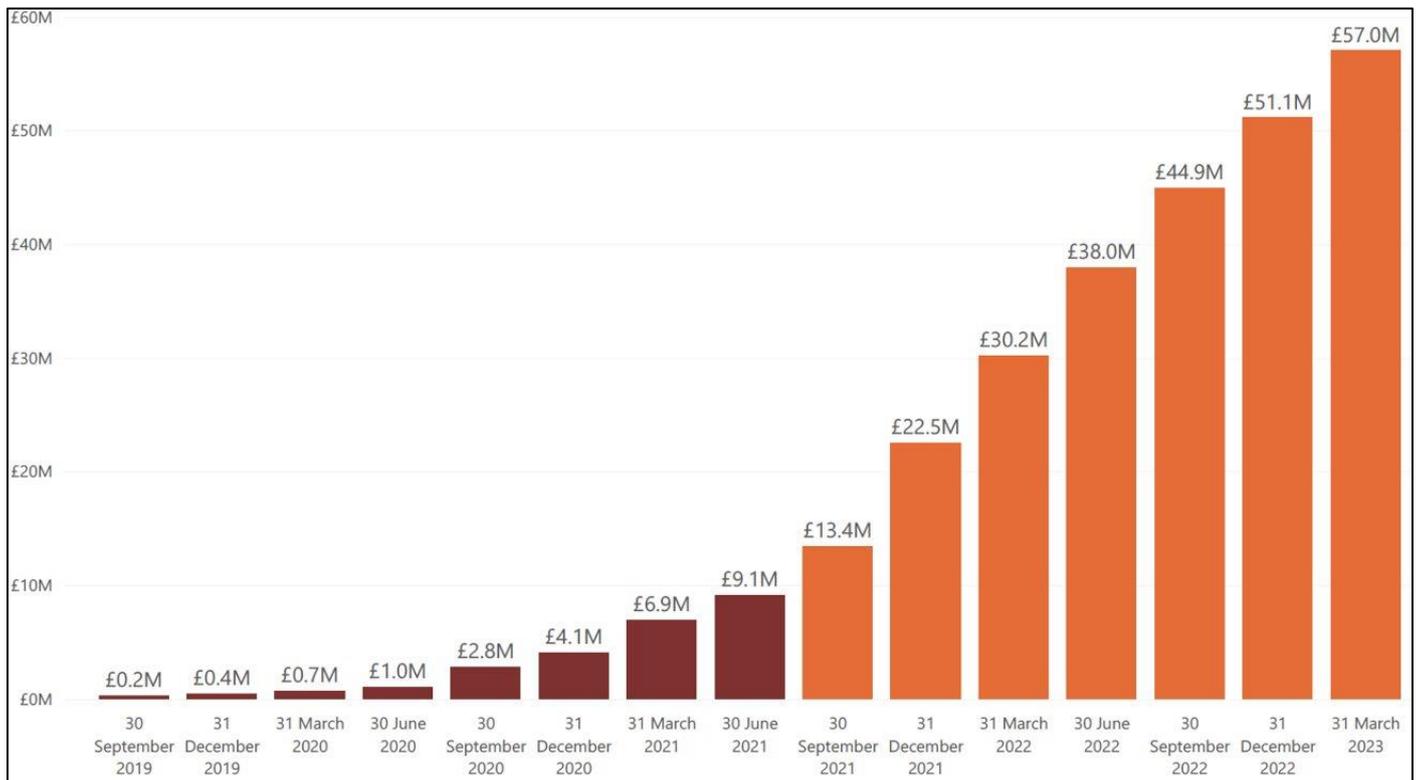


Figure 1 Forecast claims (cumulative)

1.2.4 Figure 2 expands on this information - showing how programme expenditure is broken down between the main thematic areas. This also includes the project pipeline – areas where a formal allocation has been made by Cabinet but where projects have not yet been approved and delivery will extend into the next programme period. Illustrative projects which the NTCA has supported across these themes include:

- *Business and Enterprise Support* – e.g. the North of Tyne’s Innovation vouchers, intended to support companies innovating during the recovery period.
- *Business Case Development Fund* – e.g. preparation of a study for the North Bank of the Tyne to help unlock economic growth and opportunities.
- *Culture, Creative and Tourism* – e.g. supporting the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels to the region as part of the NTCA’s Events programme.
- *Digital/transport infrastructure* – e.g. development of the Local Full Fibre Networks project of rural connectivity, which is adding additional broadband infrastructure into areas not currently served by the major network providers.
- *Growth of Key Sectors* – e.g. the NTCA’s Digital Programme of investment in innovation and SME growth.
- *Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund* – e.g. supporting residents with caring responsibilities back to work
- *Inward investment* – e.g. attracting the company *Verisure* into North Tyneside and creating hundreds of jobs.
- *Major Strategic Economic Opportunities* – e.g. the NTCA’s COVID-19 Capacity Fund, which helped support residents into employment and increase business resilience and growth.
- *Rural Fund* – e.g. the North of Tyne Rural Business Growth Fund which is helping businesses meet some of the initial costs of expansion, which can otherwise act as a barrier to growth.
- *Skills for Growth* – e.g. employer-led investment in skills, including in Green Jobs.
- *STEM and Digital skills* – e.g. helping young people develop awareness and interest in STEM and Digital skills, to improve individual opportunity and maximise opportunities for the economy.

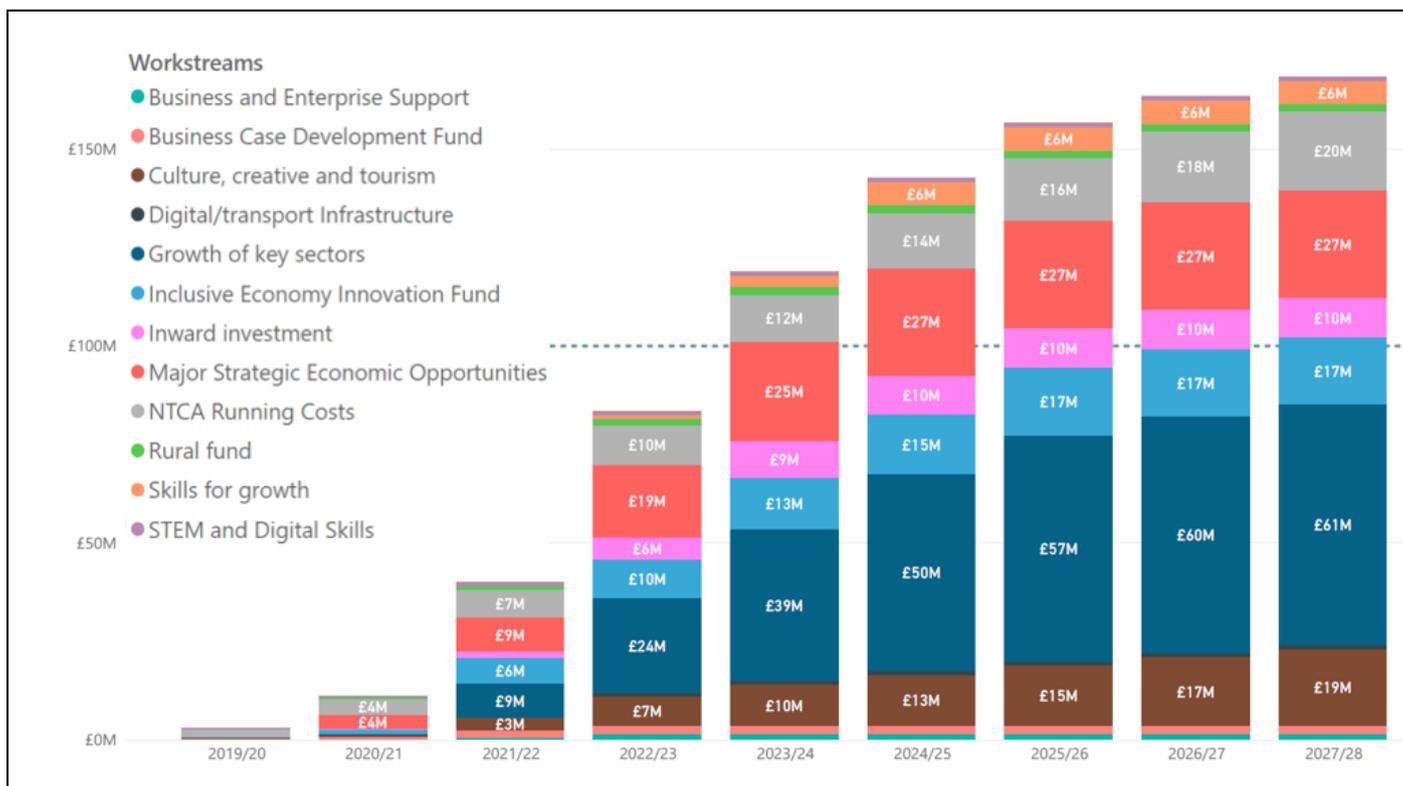


Figure 2 Forecast cumulative expenditure by programme area

1.3 Covid Capacity Fund: Responding to the Challenges of the pandemic

- 1.3.1 On the 30 March 2020, the Interim Head of Paid Service, acting under urgent delegated decision-making powers, agreed a report which proposed that up to £5m from NTCA’s Investment Fund be allocated to create a North of Tyne COVID-19 Capacity fund. Of this, £4.5m was used to support inclusive economic growth and is the focus of this report (£0.5m of funding was used to support Digital Inclusion; Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider this activity as part of any future discussion of this topic).
- 1.3.2 The purpose of the COVID-19 capacity fund was to support mitigation of the economic and inclusive growth impacts of Covid-19 within the NTCA area, including:
- local authority (and/or system) capacity to deliver rapid crisis response, including through the mechanisms outlined by Government;
 - additional and immediate Civil Society and Local Authority led action in support of our residents and businesses;
 - bridging finance for VCS organisations, where the support from Government is insufficient for them to remain solvent; and
 - measures to support a rapid and inclusive economic recovery.
- 1.3.3 Delivery on the COVID-19 Capacity fund has now finished and, although final claims and outputs are still being processed, the preliminary outcomes include 1285 jobs created or safeguarded, 2750 residents provided with employability and/or skills support and 469 volunteering roles supported. We have also received a positive assessment of the fund from Centrifuge consulting, who were asked to undertake an independent evaluation.
- 1.3.4 Business support was the largest theme in terms of allocated funding, with a diverse range of interventions supporting around 1500 firms. While some supported businesses experienced growth during the pandemic, the vast majority were negatively impacted by COVID-19. As a consequence, the net economic impact of the programme has been to reduce the reduction of turnover, profit,

GVAS and employment experienced by supported businesses. The table below sets out the outputs from the work, which drew on surveys of the businesses supported:

| Change | Net | Type II Multiplier | Net additional |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Turnover (£) | £3,545,416 | 1.5 | £5,318,124 |
| Profit (£) | £1,265,694 | 1.3 | £1,645,402 |
| GVA (£) | £738,786 | 1.4 | £1,034,300 |
| Employment (FTEs) | 31 | 1.2 | 37.2 |

1.3.5 A wide range of employability focused activities were delivered across the NTCA area, including virtual and staffed triage and signposting services to address a key gap in the support infrastructure and boost capacity and accessibility by providing a central access point for employment support. This work includes supporting 869 residents into work or training:

| Status | Net additional impact with intervention |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Out of work | 869 individuals finding employment/training |
| Employed part-time | 195 |
| Employed full-time | 639 |
| In education or training | 35 |

1.3.6 COVID-19 had a significant impact on the VCSE sector, increasing demand for many of their services at a time when many were experiencing reduced incomes and few were well placed to adjust to the alternative delivery methods required amid lockdown and social distancing conditions. Much of the VCSE sector operate under tight financial conditions. Consequently, the uncertainties generated by COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown and social distancing restrictions presented a considerable potential threat to many VCSE organisations and the services they deliver. As a consequence, much support delivered through CCF sought to address shortfalls in funding and meet core costs for organisations to enable them to deliver services needed by their communities; there was also activity focussed on building digital capacity and capabilities to enable remote delivery during the pandemic.

1.3.7 469 volunteering roles were supported, although the evaluation concluded that it was difficult to articulate the full benefits of this programme to the VCS organisations using the standard set of economic indicators.

1.4 Case study information: two important investment Fund Projects currently in development

The two projects outlined below are currently in active development, with Cabinet receiving a further update at November's meeting. The projects are intended to illustrate some of the stages of development before projects are taken through our Assurance Framework.

i. Access to Finance

1.4.1 In September, Cabinet approved an overall allocation of £15m to support improved 'access to finance' for a range of organisations (Figure 3). The scale of the allocation and range of investments reflects the importance of addressing multiple barriers – which are holding back business growth, economic renewal and innovation – and the opportunity for the NTCA to play a key role in helping stimulate solutions.

1.4.2 Following a detailed review of the evidence base, Cabinet set out several high-level objectives for this funding, which is expected to:

- Improve awareness of funding options and the investment readiness of businesses
- Attract net additional and new flows of capital into the region.
- Address specific gaps in funding to support business innovation and growth, including options for small and socially driven businesses, where the market is failing.
- Build a collaborative ecosystem to underpin our future ambitions and drive culture change, which promotes fair access, trust, and ethical behaviour in the system.
- Encourage the local retention and re-circulation of capital into local businesses and funds
- Under-take a phased approach to the creation of future institutions, such as a regional wealth fund or a community bank, subject to regular reviews of the evolving evidence base and market conditions.

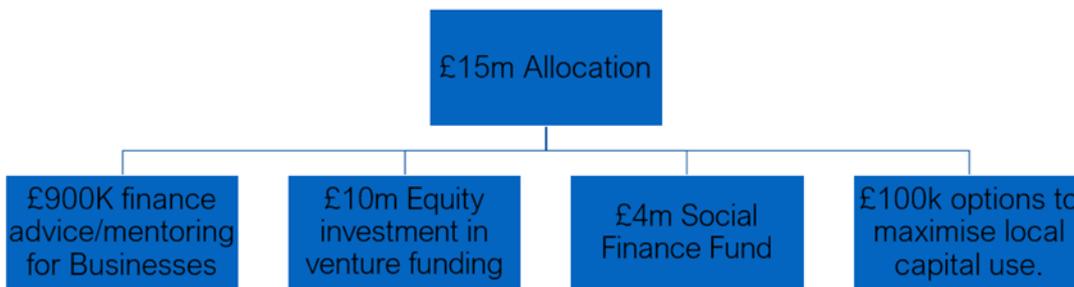


Figure 3: NTCA's Access to Finance programme

1.4.3 Since September, further engagement with the market has been undertaken to inform the development of detailed objectives and programme design. The next steps include the commencement of formal engagement with the market to identify viable delivery partners for Finance Advice and Equity Investment programmes, and to work with external partners to undertake a baseline assessment of demand from Socially Traded Finance companies. This process will enable the NTCA to test both VFM and short-term delivery of propositions – with a view to receiving full business cases next year.

ii. Future High Streets

1.4.4 High Streets are the centres of our communities – places where people shop, meet, access services, work, study and spend their leisure time. But many have undergone dramatic change over recent decades:

- More people using online shopping (now c20% of sales)
- Our retail sector has also been hit hard by business rates, and the lack of a level playing field with on-line outlets.
- There is increasing emphasis on the town centre experience, and not just a retail experience
- Financial challenges for businesses and local authorities - which has made it difficult to improve public realm and proactively invest in transformation

1.4.5 The North of Tyne High Street Challenge is designed to help unlock future investment to support the transformation of three of our historic town centres and high streets. The precise approach will vary by town/high street, but outcomes are expected to include an agreed vision; proposals to support the repurposing of empty spaces; an agreed approach to ongoing partnership, engagement and leadership; and the development of a long-term investment programme. The Challenge will draw upon a substantial evidence base about the challenges facing high streets and potential solutions – blended with a programme of credible engagement and co-production with citizens and communities.

1.4.6 Specifically, the next steps will involve:

- *Community Engagement* - A North of Tyne 'Future High Streets Challenge' engagement programme – actively involving citizens in the future of their high streets.
- *Visioning and Market Analysis* - Visioning work to inform how the High Streets can evolve and diversify their offer to meet future markets and consumer trends.
- *Exploring new delivery models* - This could include community ownership models to repurpose existing empty spaces and the potential use of devolved powers - e.g. Mayoral Development Corporations.
- *Branding and Visibility* - Showing our collective commitment to high street and town centre renewal through the development of campaigns and specific interventions within each local authority area.
- *Leadership* - Facilitate partners to come together to oversee delivery, drawing from best practice and using the evidence base generated by the Challenge to inform longer term investment opportunities.

1.4.7 As a first step, Cabinet has been asked to agree an allocation of up to £500,000 from the North of Tyne Investment Fund to establish a Technical Capacity Fund, subject to the development of a business case. The NTCA will then consider ways to supplement this with project delivery funding.

1.5 Next steps

1.5.1 The NTCA will continue to monitor progress against its devolution targets and outcomes of the first five years of the Investment Programme – taking any necessary steps to develop projects and secure delivery. As discussed previously with Overview and Scrutiny, the programme as a whole will be subject to a formal Gateway Review by Government. Early development work for the 2023-2028 Investment Programme is starting soon, to ensure no discontinuity between the current and next investment programmes.

2. Equalities Statement

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful of its duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision eliminates discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advances equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and fosters good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and also considers the implications for people from different socio-economic backgrounds/low pay as a protected characteristic. Equalities impact assessments of the projects described in this report are undertaken as part of their evaluation and assurance process.

3. Inclusive Economy Statement

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful of the NTCA's inclusive economy ambitions and the five characteristics of an inclusive economy: participation; equity; growth; stability and sustainability and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision has taken these fully into account.

4. Climate Change Statement

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful that the NTCA's and the three constituent Local Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision has taken climate change fully into account. The Climate Change implications of the projects described in this report are undertaken as part of their evaluation and assurance process.

5. Consultation and Engagement

5.1 Individual propositions, and the Investment Programme overall, is subject to detailed consultation and engagement.

6. Appendices

None

7. Background Papers

None

8. Contact Officers

Rob Hamilton, Chief Economist,
rob.hamilton@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

9. Glossary

| | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| NTCA | North of Tyne Combined Authority |
| SME | Small to Medium Enterprise |

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Subject: 2021/22 Quarter 2 NTCA Budget Monitor Report

Report of: Janice Gillespie, Chief Finance Officer

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the second quarter monitoring report on the 2021/22 NTCA financial position to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report brings together the forecast financial position for both the Corporate, Investment Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund and Adult Education budget and provides an indication of the potential position of the Combined Authority on 31 March 2022. It also sets out the potential position on the reserves at the year end.

The report also presents the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review up to and including 30 September 2021.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the report on the 2021/22 Q2 NTCA Budget Monitor Report which was submitted and approved at Cabinet on 30 November 2021 (Appendix 1). This includes the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review up to 30 September 2021.

1. Background information, proposals, and timetable for implementation

- 1.1.1 Cabinet approved the 2021/22 Budget on 26 January 2021. Included in that Budget was the estimated expenditure across the year for both the Corporate Budget, Investment Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund, and the Adult Education Budget.
- 1.1.2 The 2021/22 Budget Proposals were set within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and delay to Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).
- 1.1.3 The 2021/22 Q1 NTCA Budget Monitor reflects the continued development of the Combined Authority in terms of the establishment of the Authority's staffing structure, and the systems required to support the delivery and monitoring of projects and programmes aligned with its vision based on current information and trajectory of delivery of programmes and projects.

2. Equalities Statement

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful of its duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision eliminates discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advances equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and fosters good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and also considers the implications for people from different socio-economic backgrounds/low pay as a protected characteristic. This report is reporting on the financial performance of the Authority and therefore any equality impact assessment on the individual project and programmes will have been undertaken.

3. Inclusive Economy Statement

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful of the NTCA's inclusive economy ambitions and the five characteristics of an inclusive economy: participation; equity; growth; stability and sustainability and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any

policy/event/decision has taken these fully into account.

4. Climate Change Statement

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful that the NTCA's and the three constituent Local Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision has taken climate change fully into account.

5. Consultation and Engagement

- 5.1 The 2021/22 NTCA Final Budget Proposals were subject to wide consultation both internally and externally.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1. 2021/22 Q2 NTCA Budget Monitor Report.

7. Background Papers

Cabinet 26 January 2021 -2025 Budget Proposals

8. Contact Officers

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Tel: 0191 6435701

9. Glossary

| | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| NTCA | North of Tyne Combined Authority |
| Q1, Q2 | Quarter 1, Quarter 2 |
| EIA | Equality Impact Assessment |

Subject: 2021/22 Quarter 2 NTCA Budget Monitor Report
Report of: Chief Finance Officer
Portfolio: Investment and Resources

Report Summary

This report is the second quarter monitoring report to Cabinet on the 2021/22 financial position. The report brings together the forecast financial position for both the Corporate, Investment Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund and Adult Education budget and provides an indication of the potential position of the Combined Authority at 31 March 2022. The report reflects a six-month detailed budget review undertaken for the Combined Authority and the potential position on reserves at the year end.

This report also presents the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review up to and including 30 September 2021.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is recommended to note the forecast budget monitoring position for the Combined Authority as set out in paragraphs 1.2 through to 1.6 and the reserves position in 1.7.

1. Background Information, Proposals and Timetable for Implementation

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Cabinet approved the 2021/22 budget on 26th January 2021. Included in that budget was the estimated expenditure across the year for both the Corporate Budget, Investment Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund, and the Adult Education Budget.

1.1.2 The 2021/22 budget proposals were set within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and delay to Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

1.1.3 The 2021/22 Q2 budget monitor reflects the continued development of the Combined Authority in terms of the establishment of the Authority's staffing structure, and the systems required to support the delivery and monitoring of projects and programmes aligned with its vision based on current information and trajectory of delivery of programmes and projects.

1.2 Corporate Budget

1.2.1 The Corporate budget for 2021/22 set a net zero position covering the costs associated with the capacity required to deliver.

1.2.2 Table 1 overleaf reflects the 2021/22 forecast position across the key income and expenditure heads within the Corporate Budget head.

Table 1: Q2 2021/22 Corporate Budget Monitor

| Corporate | Budget £m | Forecast £m | Variance £m |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Expenditure | | | |
| Employees | 2,564 | 2,942 | 378 |
| Other Service Expenses | 1,699 | 1,099 | (600) |
| Contribution to Reserves | - | 600 | 600 |
| Support Services | 276 | 285 | 9 |
| JTC Levy | 26,801 | 26,801 | - |
| Gross Expenditure | 31,340 | 31,727 | 387 |
| Income | | | |
| Mayoral Capacity Grant | (1,000) | (1,000) | - |
| Constituent Authority Contributions | (111) | (111) | - |
| Investment Fund Contribution | (2,231) | (2,213) | 18 |
| Investment Fund Workstreams | (221) | (546) | (325) |
| AEB Contribution | (678) | (678) | - |
| Other Contributions | (123) | (203) | (80) |
| Interest on Investments | (175) | (175) | - |
| JTC Levy | (26,801) | (26,801) | - |
| Gross Income | (31,340) | (31,727) | (387) |
| Net (Income)/Expenditure | - | - | - |

1.3 Corporate Expenditure Variances

- 1.3.1 There are currently 58 staff directly employed by the Combined Authority, this reflects an increase in the current forecast position on employee expenditure of £0.378m and is in light of increasing numbers of projects and programmes, resulting in recruitment of a number of temporary posts to lead on the delivery of the projects. A workforce planning exercise is being undertaken with the aim of creating a long-term staffing plan, with a view to capacity management and retention of a competent, productive, and collegiate workforce set within the context of a consistent set of agreed principles appropriate for the Authority. This has identified an additional 5 priority posts, the part year costs of which are reflected in the forecast employee expenditure reflected in Table 1.
- 1.3.2 The increase in employee expenditure is matched by an increase in income from Investment Fund workstreams and an increase in other contribution income.
- 1.3.3 Mayoral Capacity Fund received for 2021/22 provided one-off funding of £1m. Commitments against this fund includes support for the Spacehive Platform and also a commitment towards IT asset management programme. A contribution to reserves has been included in the budget monitor to reflect future year commitments of the Spacehive and Asset Management Programme and also to build a reserve in relation to costs incurred in relation to the fit-out of the Lumen and potential future election costs.
- 1.3.4 A small increase (£0.009m) in Support Services is due to an increase in the insurance policy costs.

1.4 Investment Fund

1.4.1 To date the Combined Authority has achieved:

- A commitment of £76.420m against 88 live projects – out of a total programme value of £90.000m to March 2023.

- These projects will attract £245.720m of private sector leverage and are forecast to deliver 4,340 jobs and safeguard a further 2673.
- Of these, the first 474 new jobs have been created and 1773 safeguarded.

Table 2 sets out the commitments against the key themes of the Investment Fund.

Table 2: Commitment against Investment Fund Thematic Area

| | Committed | Allocation | % Allocated |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | £m | £m | |
| Business | 43.189 | 45.300 | 95% |
| People | 13.115 | 17.300 | 76% |
| Place | 10.659 | 13.250 | 80% |
| Major Strategic Economic Opportunities | 7.340 | 9.650 | 76% |
| Business Case Development Fund | 2.144 | 4.500 | 48% |
| | 76.447 | 90.000 | 85% |

1.4.2 The Investment Fund Programme continues to grow as projects progress through the pipeline. There have been key funding proposals coming forward for consideration, around innovation and supporting our key sectors. Work continues at pace to operationalise the headline sector strategies agreed by Cabinet. In addition, there is a step change in the volume of contracts and supporting financial claims as projects and programmes come to fruition. Table 3 below shows the forecast position for the Investment Fund in 2021/22.

Table 3: Investment Fund Q2 Budget Monitor

| Investment Fund | Budget £m | Expenditure at Q2 £m | Forecast £m | Variance £m |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Business Case Development Fund | 1.000 | 0.085 | 0.900 | (0.100) |
| Investment Projects | 26.757 | 2.759 | 17.800 | (8.957) |
| Technical Assistance | 0.250 | 0.085 | 0.350 | 0.100 |
| Contribution to Corporate | 2.231 | 2.213 | 2.231 | - |
| Gross Expenditure | 30.238 | 5.142 | 21.281 | (8.957) |
| Income | | | | |
| Investment Fund | (20.000) | (20.000) | (20.000) | - |
| Total Income | (20.000) | (20.000) | (20.000) | - |
| Net Position (Income)/Expenditure | 10.238 | (14.858) | 1.281 | (8.957) |
| Investment Reserve brought forward | (50.129) | (50.129) | (50.129) | - |
| Net Investment Fund Reserve carried forward | (39.891) | | (48.848) | (8.957) |

1.4.3 Investment Fund actual spend was at £5.142m at the end of Quarter 2, with a forecast year-end expenditure reflecting £8.957m lower than budget. This is expected to rise considerably thereafter, reflecting project profiling agreed by Investment Panel. The quality of delivery continues to be strong.

Relationships with grant recipients remain strong and organisations have been keen to work with NTCA to design and embed innovative delivery approaches, ensuring that projects can continue to meet the aims, objectives, and outputs that they set out to achieve.

1.4.4 Additionally, the pipeline has continued to develop with a number of schemes to be delivered in 2021/22, including the Green New Deal Fund which will deliver a significant amount of expenditure and outputs. The increase shown (£0.100m) on the Technical Assistance budget is in relation to evaluation work due to be contracted pending the Gateway Review.

1.4.5 Within the Investment Fund workstream the following projects include funding to be spent on capital schemes:

Table 4: Investment Fund Capital Schemes Budget Profile

| Project | 2021/22 £m | 2022/23 £m | Total £m |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| NU Futures | 1.642 | 0.028 | 1.670 |
| Swans Energy Park | - | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| Bates Clean Energy Terminal | 1.100 | 1.100 | 2.200 |
| North Shields Fish Quay | 0.386 | 1.154 | 1.540 |

1.5 **Brownfield Housing Fund**

1.5.1 The Brownfield Housing Fund is the first housing allocation for the North of Tyne Combined Authority. The funding is intended to support the development of at least 1,500 new homes, by remediating and revitalising brownfield sites across the North of Tyne area. The Brownfield fund is part of a broader housing programme and pipeline of sites, shaping a strategic delivery approach to supporting housing and economic recovery.

1.5.2 A current total pipeline of 19 schemes with a total funding request of £26.100m. This position provides enough flexibility to manage the programme and NTCA, in collaboration with partners will continue to develop the pipeline of schemes in order to manage a deliverable capital programme which meets the requirements and timescales set out by MHCLG.

1.5.3 In terms of approvals to date, NTCA have approved 5 schemes with a total commitment of £11.140m. These schemes are forecasting the creation of 1238 housing units with the extended pipeline accounting for 3144, this is set against the MHCLG target of 1500. Forecast private sector leverage for the 5 approved projects stands at £115.95m. These schemes have been contracted and are now delivering on the ground, the following section sets out further detail on each scheme.

1.5.4 A call for sites was recently undertaken to identify additional sites for the fund and to build the Brownfield pipeline for future funding. A total of £26 million of schemes were received and are currently being assessed. It is expected that an updated pipeline will be confirmed in early 2022.

1.5.5 Due to the late confirmation and receipt of funding in year 1 (2020/21) and delays due to the pandemic, the unspent allocation from year 1 has been carried forward in to 2021/22 (year 2). This will increase pressure in terms of accelerated delivery in this financial year. Table 5 overleaf shows the revised profile going forward over the 5 years as agreed with MHCLG.

Table 5: Brownfield Housing Funding Profile updated for Year 1 underspend

| | Total | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| Original Funding Profile | 24.000 | 5.000 | 8.100 | 6.700 | 3.100 | 1.100 |
| Revised Funding Profile | 23.854 | 0.585 | 12.368 | 6.700 | 3.100 | 1.100 |
| Projected Programme Spend | 26.184 | 0.585 | 11.693 | 6.925 | 6.687 | 0.293 |

1.6 Adult Education Budget (AEB)

- 1.6.1 In August 2020 NTCA took control of £23.145m devolved Adult Education Budget for the academic year 2020/21. An additional allocation of £0.959m for one year was received in September 2020 to invest in high value courses and sector-based work academy programmes. A further £0.409m was delegated to NTCA in April 2021 to deliver Lifetime Skills Guarantee. Bringing the total AEB for the academic year (August 2020 – July 2021) to £24.514m.
- 1.6.2 The Department of Education have confirmed NTCA's devolved AEB for the period 1 August 2021 to July 2022 is £23.551m plus an additional £1.642m for the delegated Lifetime Skills Guarantee bringing the total AEB in 2021/22 academic year to £25.193m.
- 1.6.3 Over 25,400 enrolment opportunities have been undertaken during Academic Year (AY) 2020/21, NTCA providers delivered 82% of actual learning in AY 2020/21, even though the COVID-19 pandemic caused all learning environments to close for a significant proportion of the academic year. This reflects the work and commitment from our provider base, to ensure residents are supported and deliver as much quality provision as possible, whether that is face-to-face or online.
- 1.6.4 Providers AEB delivery plans for AY 2021/22 were underway from the 1st August 2021 and will be monitored at quarterly performance management meetings throughout the year. Engagement with the new Level 3 Adult Offer is also being closely monitored to ensure funding delegated to NTCA for this delivery is utilised in full and NTCA residents without a full level 3 offer are accessing this new entitlement.

Table 6 below shows the forecast budget position on AEB for financial year 2021/22.

Table 6 Adult Education Budget Forecast Academic Year 2021/22

| | Financial Year 2021/22 | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Budget £'000 | Forecast £'000 | Variance £'000 |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Grant Awards | 15.369 | 16.064 | 0.695 |
| Procured Services | 6.659 | 6.676 | 0.017 |
| Corporate Contribution | 0.678 | 0.678 | - |
| Lifetime Skills Guarantee | - | 1.086 | 1.086 |
| Gross Expenditure | 22.706 | 24.504 | 1.798 |
| Income | (22.706) | (24.504) | (1.798) |
| Gross Income | (22.706) | (24.504) | (1.798) |
| Net Position (Income)/Expenditure | - | - | - |

1.7 Reserves

1.7.1 The forecast position on reserves held at 31 March 2021/22 are detailed below in Table 7.

Table 7 Reserves as at 31 March 2022

| Reserves Statement | Opening Balance | Movement in Reserve | Closing Balance |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Strategic Reserve | 0.200 | - | 0.200 |
| Investment Fund Reserve | 50.129 | (1.281) | 48.848 |
| Reserve (Mayoral Capacity Fund) | - | 0.600 | 0.600 |
| Preparing to Exit Grant | 0.183 | - | 0.183 |
| Total NTCA General Fund Reserves | 50.512 | (0.681) | 49.831 |

1.7.2 Reserves will decrease by £0.681m to £49.831m based on the current trajectory on the Investment Fund. The level of the Investment Fund Reserve reflects Investment Fund monies received to date of £80.000m with delivery on projects anticipated to reduce the reserve to £48.848m at the end of 2021/22. It is anticipated that an additional reserve will be created in relation to the balance of the Mayoral Capacity Fund (Paragraph 1.4.5) in relation to future election costs.

1.7.3 The Strategic Reserve continues to be maintained at £0.200m in line with the Reserves and Balances Policy.

2. Potential Impact on Objectives

2.1 The North of Tyne Combined Authority Vision document sets out the strategic objectives of the Authority. The 2021/22 budget position against which the budget is monitored against demonstrates the Authority has properly discharged its functions and assisted in delivering the Authority's vision, policies, and priorities.

3. Key Risks

3.1 There are no specific risks relating to this report.

4. Financial and Other Resources Implications

4.1 This is a financial report with any financial or resource implications set out in the report.

4.2 The Mayor and Cabinet need to have due regard to the Chief Finance Officer's advice in relation to the levels of reserves and balances in accordance with the Authority's Reserves and Balances policy.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Combined Authority has a legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice; the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Prudential Code: Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments.

5.2 The Combined Authority is required to agree a balanced budget annually and to monitor performance against that budget throughout the year. The Combined Authority must also make provision for an adequate level of un-earmarked reserves. It is also required to ensure that good financial governance arrangements are in place.

6. Equalities Implications

6.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising out of the recommendations in this report.

7. Inclusive Economy Implications

7.1 There are no direct inclusive economy implications arising from the recommendations in this report. However, EIA's include inclusive economy implications and NTCA has adopted socio-economic disadvantage as a protected characteristic.

8. Climate Change Implications

8.1 There are no direct climate change implications arising out of the recommendations in this report

9. Consultation and Engagement

9.1 The creation of the North of Tyne Combined Authority has been subject to significant and regional consultation. The 2021/22 budget was subject to wide consultation across the North of Tyne Region. The constituent authorities have been consulted directly on the production of the outturn statement.

10. Appendices

Appendix A: Treasury Management Mid-Year Review

11. Background Papers

26 January 2021 NTCA Budget Report

12. Contact Officers

Janice Gillespie, Interim Chief Finance Officer
e-mail address: Janice.gillespie@northtyneside.gov.uk
Tel: 0191 6435701

13. Glossary

| | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| AEB | Adult Education Budget |
| AY | Academic Year |
| NTCA | North of Tyne Combined Authority |

14. Sign-off

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Mayor and Cabinet Member Yes | 2) Lead Chief Exec/Director/SMT Yes | 3) Chief Finance Officer: Yes | 4) Monitoring Officer: Yes | 5) Managing Director: Yes |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|

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NTCA Treasury Management Mid-Year Review

1. Treasury Management

- 1.1 In line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services, the Authority is required to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year and to monitor/report performance against the strategy (with a mid-year review). Cabinet approved the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy on 26th January 2021.
- 1.2 A key part of the Combined Authority's treasury management function is to ensure that cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in low-risk counterparties or instruments commensurate with the Combined Authority's low risk policy, providing adequate security and liquidity before considering investment return.
- 1.3 A key element of the treasury management function is the management of the funding associated with capital investment plans. These capital plans will provide a guide to any borrowing needs of an organisation, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning to ensure that the organisation can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans or using longer term cash flow surpluses.

2. Treasury Management Consultants

- 2.1 The Authority uses Link Asset Services, Treasury Solutions as its external treasury management advisors.
- 2.2 Whilst the Authority has external treasury management advisors it recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the organisation at all times and will ensure that undue reliance is not placed upon the services of its external service providers. All decisions will be undertaken with regards to all available information, including, but not solely, its treasury advisers.
- 2.3 It also recognises that there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. The Authority will ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented and subjected to regular review.

3. Investment and Borrowing Rates

- 3.1 Markets remain benign and cautious following the COVID 19 pandemic with interest rates remaining at all-time lows. The COVID 19 vaccine programme significantly boosted confidence with the view that life could largely return the normal and restrictions ease.
- 3.2 With the easing of restrictions, the economy has seen significant inflationary pressure driven by pent up demand from COVID, supply chain issues as well as an energy crisis. With inflation in Q3 2021 above the 2% target set for the Bank of England (BoE) has led to the BoE to look at using monetary policy to reduce the economy for overheating and a willingness to increase the bank rate above 0.10% for the first time since March 2020, the beginning of the pandemic.
- 3.3 Financial markets have priced in the first bank rate increase from 0.10% to 0.25% in February 2022 however the Combined Authority's Treasury consultants feel that might be ambitious as the BoE has stated it wishes to see the economic impact of the ending of furlough at the end of September 2021 before intervening with changes to interest rates.

3.4 The impact of an interest rate would lead to increased borrowing costs as well as potential increases in investment yield.

4. Borrowing

4.1 At this current time the Combined Authority does not have the powers to borrow other than for Transport responsibilities, the borrowing that will be reflected in the Combined Authority's Statement of Accounts relates to historic Tyne and Wear Transport activities and the financing and borrowing costs are met by the Tyne and Wear Levy. Details of which are included the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators of the North East Combined Authority as the appointed accountable body.

4.2 The Combined Authority is currently engaging with the DLUCH (Department for Levelling Up Housing Communities – formerly MHCLG) to receive borrowing powers for 2022/23 going forward.

5. Financial Investments

5.1 The Combined Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. The Combined Authority's Investment Strategy will consider core balances and cash flow requirements and the outlook for short-term interest rates. Where cash flow identifies cash sums that could be invested for longer periods (potentially obtaining a greater return), the value to be obtained from longer term investments will be carefully assessed.

5.2 If it is thought that the Bank Rate is likely to rise significantly within the time horizon being considered, then consideration will be given to keeping most investments as being short term or variable. Conversely, if it is thought that Bank Rate is likely to fall within that time period, consideration will be given to locking in higher rates currently obtainable, for longer periods.

5.3 To date the Combined Authority has invested solely in investments defined as Specified Investments these are investments which are denominated in sterling; repayable within 12 months (either because of an expiry date or through a non-conditional option); not defined as capital expenditure by legislation; and invested with a body or in an investment scheme described as high quality or invested with one of: the UK Government; a Local Authority; or a Parish Council or Community Council. The Combined Authority's financial limits against this type of investment are shown Table 1 overleaf:

Table 1: NTCA Investment Limits

| Type of institution | Financial Limit | Time Limit |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| UK central government (Debt Management Office) | £50m | Unlimited |
| Money Market Funds AAA | £5m each | Liquid |
| Term deposits with Bank and Building Societies | £5m each | 12 months 6 months 100 days Not for use |
| UK Local authorities | £10m each | 1 year |
| Certificate of Deposits with banks and building societies | £5m each | 12 months 6 months 100 days Not for use |
| UK Government Treasury Bills | £10m each | 1 year |
| Local Authority controlled companies in the NTCA area | £5m | 5 years |

- 5.4 NTCA became the Accountable Body for the North East LEP (LEP) from the 1 April 2020 as such NTCA is responsible for managing the cashflow of the LEP in addition to its own cashflow. The latest projection of investment income for 2021/22 is £0.373m. A calculation will be done at year end to assess average interest achieved on each fund taking account of payments out and income in. In 2020/21 the proportion of interest due to NTCA compared to the LEP was 56:44 . The original budget for NTCA, solely, was set at a prudent level of £0.175m. Based on the latest projection of investment income NTCA will at least meet this level of investment income
- 5.5 Link Asset Services produces a quarterly Investment Benchmarking report that assesses both the rate of return and the risk of the counterparty to calculate a weighted average rate of return, which is used for comparison across other similar Authorities. In the most recent report that covers the position as of 30 September 2021, the Combined Authority achieved a weighted average rate of return of 0.267% on investments. This is comfortably within the risk adjusted expectations as defined in the benchmarking report of between 0.1800% and 0.3500%.
- 5.6 It continues to be a very difficult investment market in terms of earning the level of interest rates commonly seen in previous decades as rates are very low and in-line with the Bank Rate. This is particularly the case following the two latest bank rate cuts in March 2020.
- 5.7 All investments made are in line with NTCA's Treasury Management Strategy and are considered a low-risk counterparty/instrument commensurate with the Authority's low risk policy, providing adequate security and liquidity before considering investment return.

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Subject: 2022-2026 NTCA Budget Proposals

Report of: Janice Gillespie, Chief Finance Officer

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to present to Overview and Scrutiny Committee the initial draft budget for the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) for 2022-23, and the medium-term financial plan for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26. The report will outline the draft budget in respect of the Corporate Budget, Investment Fund, Adult Education Budget, and the Brownfield Housing Fund. The report also outlines the context within which the budget proposals have been prepared in relation to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). NTCA are the accountable body for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and as such this report includes proposals for the North East LEP accountable body budget.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the report on the 2022-2026 NTCA Budget Proposals which was submitted and approved at Cabinet on 30 November 2021. (Appendix 1)

1. Background information, proposals, and timetable for implementation

- 1.1 The draft budget and medium-term financial plan have been developed within the context of the strategic priorities and policy decisions made by the Mayor and Cabinet. This ensures that the authority's strategic plans can be delivered within the financial resources available.
- 1.2 The North of Tyne Combined Authority Corporate Plan was taken to Cabinet Annual Meeting on 8 June 2021. Setting out the ambitions of Cabinet for the Authority, both immediately and in the future, with a roadmap for action. It captures the breadth of work undertaken and ensures activities are aligned allowing for clear collaborative working.
- 1.3 The 2022-23 Budget is being prepared within the context of the recent Comprehensive Spending Review announcement which confirmed the shift on tax burdens, in particular the increase of 1.25% on Employer National Insurance. In addition to some additional Regional measures in relation to 'Levelling up' with more information to follow in the White Paper by the end of the year.

2. Equalities Statement

- 2.1 The Authority has specific responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. Part of this is to ensure that the potential effects of decisions on those protected by the equality's legislation are considered prior to any decision being made.
- 2.2 The Authority will continually monitor the effect of our Budget-setting process and decision-making, utilising equality impact assessments and reflecting the Authority's equalities objectives.

3. Inclusive Economy Statement

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful of the NTCA's inclusive economy ambitions and the five characteristics of an inclusive economy: participation; equity; growth; stability and sustainability and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision has taken these fully into account.

4. Climate Change Statement

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful that the NTCA's and the three constituent

Local Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision has taken climate change fully into account.

5. Consultation and Engagement

- 5.1 The 2022-2026 NTCA Budget Proposals will be subject to wide consultation both internally and externally.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 - 2022-2026 NTCA Budget Proposals

7. Background Papers

26 January 2021 Financial Plan and Budget.

5 February 2021 North East Combined Authority Leadership Capital and Revenue Outturn Report.

8. Contact Officers

Janice Gillespie, Interim Chief Finance Officer

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Tel: 0191 6435701

9. Glossary

| | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| NTCA | North of Tyne Combined Authority |
| MTFP | Medium Term Financial Plan |
| EIA | Equality Impact Assessment |



Subject: 2022-2026 NTCA Budget Proposals
Report of: Chief Finance Officer, Janice Gillespie
Portfolio: Investment and Resources

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to consider the initial draft budget for the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) for 2022/23, and the medium-term financial plan for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26. The report will outline the draft budget in respect of the Corporate Budget, Investment Fund, Adult Education Budget, and the new Brownfield Housing Fund. The report also outlines the context within which the budget proposals have been prepared in relation to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). NTCA are the accountable body for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and as such this report includes proposals for the North East LEP accountable body budget.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Agree the draft Corporate Budget for 2022/23 as set out in paragraph 2.1 which will then be subject to consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2. Agree the draft Investment Fund as set out in paragraph 2.2 which will then be subject to consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committee
3. Agree the draft Adult Education Budget as set out in paragraph 2.3 which will then be subject to consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committee
4. Agree the Brownfield Land Programme Budget as set out in paragraph 2.4 which will then be subject to consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committee
5. Note the Tyne and Wear levies will be issued on the 15 February 2022
6. Agree to hold the reserves set out in paragraph 2.5 and note the Chief Finance Officer continues to keep the level of resources under review as the Authority develops and new information becomes available about the financial risks facing authority arrangements for managing risks.
7. Note the North East LEP Accountable Body Budget, paragraph 2.6

1. Background Information, Proposals and Timetable for Implementation

- 1.1 The draft budget and medium-term financial plan have been developed within the context of the strategic priorities and policy decisions made by the Mayor and Cabinet. This ensures that the authority's strategic plans can be delivered within the financial resources available.
- 1.2 In developing these budget proposals, the Mayor and Cabinet have been clear in their approach to ensuring the North of Tyne Combined Authority is a lean organisation. The budget proposals include the anticipated capacity required to deliver the ambition of the Combined Authority. In the light of increasing numbers of projects and programmes, this has included recruitment, capacity management and retention of a competent, productive, and collegiate workforce with the aim of creating a long-term staffing plan. The organisation may grow in the future and that will be based on a set of consistent set of agreed principles appropriate for the Combined Authority.

- 1.3 The North of Tyne Combined Authority Corporate Plan was taken to Cabinet Annual Meeting on 8 June 2021. Setting out the ambitions of Cabinet for the Authority, both immediately and in the future, with a roadmap for action. It captures the breadth of work undertaken and ensures activities are aligned allowing for clear collaborative working.
- 1.4 The Corporate Plan has been developed through a process of co-design with Cabinet and plays an intrinsic role in ensuring that funding and resources are used efficiently and effectively adding maximum value and delivering with impact.
- 1.5 The Corporate Plan will drive the work programme of the NTCA which will turn into both team plans and individual personal objectives, creating a 'golden thread' from Cabinet's vision to day-to-day delivery. Importantly, the Plan is rooted in the NTCA values, which underpin the way the authority works and outlines our approach to managing wisely the resources, funding, and investment available.
- 1.6 The 2022/23 Budget is being prepared within the context of the recent Comprehensive Spending Review announcement which confirmed the shift on tax burdens, in particular the increase of 1.25% on Employer National Insurance. In addition to some additional Regional measures in relation to 'Levelling up' with more information to follow in the White Paper by the end of the year.

2. 2022-2026 Budget Proposals

2.1 Draft Corporate Budget Proposals

2.1.1 The Corporate Budget of the North of Tyne Combined Authority is required to support operational costs including staffing, marketing and communications, accommodation costs and SLA's.

2.1.2 As the Combined Authority continues to grow consideration has been given to the anticipated capacity required to deliver the ambition of the Combined Authority with the aim of creating a long-term staffing plan in light of the increasing number of projects and programmes. Table 1 sets out the proposed draft budget that is required to operate the Combined Authority and how it is to be funded.

Table 1: 2022/23 Budget and 2023-2026 Financial Plan

| | 4 Yr. Corporate Budget Summary | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | 2022/23 £000 | 2023/24 £000 | 2024/25 £000 | 2025/26 £000 | Total £000 |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Staffing | 3,145 | 3,241 | 3,336 | 3,407 | 13,129 |
| Mayor's Office | 248 | 252 | 255 | 258 | 1,013 |
| Other Costs | 1,003 | 1,003 | 1,003 | 1,003 | 4,012 |
| Contribution to Reserves | 300 | 300 | 0 | 0 | 600 |
| Transport Levy | 27,074 | 27,074 | 27,074 | 27,074 | 108,296 |
| SLAs | 285 | 285 | 285 | 285 | 1,140 |
| Total Expenditure | 32,055 | 32,155 | 31,953 | 32,027 | 128,190 |
| Income | | | | | |
| Grant Income | (4,681) | (4,781) | (4,879) | (4,953) | (19,294) |
| Contribution from Reserves | (300) | (300) | 0 | 0 | (600) |
| Transport Levy | (27,074) | (27,074) | (27,074) | (27,074) | (108,296) |
| Total Income | (32,055) | (32,155) | (31,953) | (32,027) | (128,190) |
| | | | | | |
| Net Position (Inc)/Exp | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

2.1.3 The budget proposals reflect the increase in National Insurance contributions of 1.25% payable by employers and employees. A 2% year on year uplift has also been assumed in the staffing estimates contributing to the increase in staffing costs over the 4 yr. period reflected.

- 2.1.4 The bulk of the expenditure is funded through devolved funding secured through the devolution deal, and contributions from constituent authorities of £37,000 each and will be regularly reviewed as the delivery of key priorities and actions progress.
- 2.1.5 As the North of Tyne Combined Authority develops the Mayor and Cabinet has continued to work with officers to maximise opportunities of the three constituent authorities working together effectively and efficiently with the North of Tyne Combined Authority.
- 2.1.6 A budget line has been included in financial year 2022/23 and 2023/24 to reflect a build up of reserves to fund election costs. This is to be funded from the Mayoral Capacity Fund received in 2021/22. The Mayoral Capacity Fund has been received each year to date to support delivery of the Combined Authority, however, no confirmation has been received to date of any further funding in 2022/23 or onwards.
- 2.1.7 The Combined Authority is required to raise the levies on the constituent authorities, so an important part of the budget setting process is ensuring the timetable meets the relevant statutory deadlines for issuing the Transport Levy. The relevant dates for the Joint Transport Committee are included in Appendix A.

2.2 Draft Investment Fund Proposals

- 2.2.1 The Investment Fund sets out costs associated with the development, management of and delivery of projects to be funded through the Investment Fund.
- 2.2.2 The North of Tyne Combined Authority Corporate Plan was taken to Cabinet Annual Meeting on 8 June 2021. Setting out the ambitions of Cabinet for the Authority, both immediately and in the future, with a roadmap for action. It captures the breadth of work undertaken and ensures activities are aligned allowing for clear collaborative working. The updated draft Investment Fund Budget is set out in Table 2 below. The Table sets out clearly the expected date of the 5-year Gateway review with an indication of cumulative spend at that stage. It is important to note that whilst the review will be in year 5 the authority was launched late in 2018/19 so Table 2 shows indicative spend for a period of just over 4 years.

Table 2: Draft Investment Fund Proposals

| | Previous Years 2018- 2022 £000 | 2022/23 £000 | Total 5- Yr Gateway Review £000 | 2023/24 £000 | 2024/25 £000 | 2025/26 £000 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Expenditure | | | | | | |
| Business Case Development Fund | 2,773 | 500 | 3,273 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Investment Projects | 31,486 | 41,600 | 73,086 | 15,750 | 19,800 | 9,800 |
| Technical Support | 750 | 250 | 1,000 | 200 | 100 | 100 |
| Contribution to Corporate Costs | 5,991 | 2,650 | 8,641 | 2,850 | 2,900 | 2,900 |
| Total Expenditure | 41,000 | 45,000 | 86,000 | 19,000 | 23,000 | 13,000 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Funding Sources | (80,000) | (20,000) | (100,000) | (20,000) | (20,000) | (20,000) |
| Total Income | (80,000) | (20,000) | (100,000) | (20,000) | (20,000) | (20,000) |
| Net Position (Inc)/Exp | (39,000) | 25,000 | (14,000) | (1,000) | 3,000 | (7,000) |
| Cumulative Position | (39,000) | (14,000) | | (15,000) | (12,000) | (19,000) |

- 2.2.3 Delivery on the programme is now in full swing, a healthy pipeline has been established and includes a broad range of funding proposals which will deliver across the authority's priorities. Project proposals continue to progress through the assurance framework with pace remaining an important focus. Work has continued with portfolio holders to progress work around the key sectors identified for investment and to provide support to businesses and residents. This includes the recruitment of people into new employment opportunities created as a direct result of our investment.
- 2.2.4 Included in the budget is provision for Technical Support, this is a requirement of the Assurance Framework that Investment Fund proposals are subject to external independent testing. Any unspent Investment Fund will be held and transferred to a specific reserve at the year end to support the delivery of the programme of work in future years. During this current financial year there has been a rapid increase of committed and defrayed expenditure, and more importantly in the outcome's projects are reporting.
- 2.2.5 Table 3 below reflects the capital expenditure included within the Investment Fund programme to date. NTCA are liaising with Government on obtaining borrowing powers which will allow the Combined Authority to expand much further on capital programmes. This will change the profile on the Investment Fund profiles reflected in Table 2 and consequently impact on the Corporate Budget. This will continue to be updated in the usual Financial Management Reports to Cabinet.

Table 3: Capital Funding included within the Investment Fund

| | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Total |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| NTCA IF Capital | 31,498 | 1,014,950 | 924,419 | 29,133 | - | 2,000,000 |
| Capital Match | 95,617 | 3,081,066 | 2,806,240 | 88,439 | - | 6,071,362 |
| Total Capital | 127,115 | 4,096,016 | 3,730,659 | 117,572 | - | 8,071,362 |

2.3 Draft Adult Education Budget

- 2.3.1 As part of the devolution deal the Adult Education Budget was devolved to the authority with an effective start date of August 2020. This provides the Authority with significant new powers and responsibilities in delivering both Mayoral and Cabinet priorities alongside the national skills agenda and priorities.
- 2.3.2 The geographical spread of provision for the devolved AEB aligns with travel to learn patterns in NTCA and that residents in rural parts of Northumberland and North Tyneside have access to local provision.
- 2.3.3 All 'in year' funding allocations are guided by the commissioning principles set out in the AEB Strategic Skills Plan, working closely with providers to ensure a high-quality adult skills offer is available which focuses on achieving outcomes directly linked to local skills needs, helping residents to improve their quality of life and ensuring that North of Tyne employers can access residents with the skills their businesses need to grow and thrive.
- 2.3.4 Funding allocations as a result of performance management and demand will not exceed the overall devolved AEB funding and will be guided by the commissioning principles set out in the AEB Strategic Skills plan. Regular monitoring on AEB will enable NTCA to respond to any 'Economic Shocks', unexpected fluctuations in the skills sector, and potential increases in digital entitlement.
- 2.3.5 Table 4 overleaf reflects a high-level balanced Budget with funding awarded to grant providers and other procured deliveries. The split between grant and procured service is detailed, based on historic delivery. This profile may change as the review of delivery changes develop as detailed above.

Table 4: Draft Adult Education Budget

| | Adult Education Budget 4-Yr Profile | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 2022/23 £000 | 2023/24 £000 | 2024/25 £000 | 2025/26 £000 | Total £000 |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Grant Awards | 15,369 | 15,369 | 15,369 | 15,369 | 61,476 |
| Procured Services | 6,659 | 6,659 | 6,659 | 6,659 | 26,636 |
| Admin Costs and contribution to Corporate | 678 | 678 | 678 | 678 | 2,712 |
| Total Expenditure | 22,706 | 22,706 | 22,706 | 22,706 | 90,824 |
| Income | | | | | |
| Funding Sources | (22,706) | (22,706) | (22,706) | (22,706) | (90,824) |
| Total Income | (22,706) | (22,706) | (22,706) | (22,706) | (90,824) |
| Net Position (Inc)/Exp | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

2.3.6 AEB operational costs are collected within the Corporate budget with a contribution of 3% of overall AEB income made towards Corporate support costs.

2.4. Brownfield Housing Budget

2.4.1 The Brownfield Housing Fund was first announced in the March 2020 National Budget to support Mayoral Combined Authorities and their local areas develop housing on brownfield land. Overall, £276m has been allocated to the six Northern city regions, North of Tyne Combined Authority was awarded £24m over a 5-year period with a £0.550m revenue capacity support grant (for 2020- 21 only).

2.4.2 Brownfield Housing Fund specifically supports sites with an identified market failure due to site conditions. The programme is part of a broader housing programme the Housing and Land Board have in development that aims to bring forward a pipeline of sites shaping a longer-term strategic delivery approach. Different funding streams and partnership arrangements will be used to best meet priorities across the area.

2.4.3 Table 5 below shows the profile of both the capital and linked revenue support grant over the life of the project.

Table 5: Brownfield Housing Budget Profile

| | Total | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| Funding Profile | 24.000 | 5.000 | 8.100 | 6.700 | 3.100 | 1.100 |
| Funding Profile reflecting underspend in 2020/21 c/f to 2021/22 | 23.854 | 0.585 | 12.368 | 6.700 | 3.100 | 1.100 |

2.5 Reserves

2.5.1 As set out in the budget report to Cabinet on 4th December 2018, a Corporate reserve of £0.200m was created. The level of reserve will remain under review as the Combined Authority develops and new information becomes available about the financial risks facing NTCA and the arrangements in place for managing those risks.

2.6 LEP Accountable Body Budget

2.6.1 NTCA is the Accountable Body for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP) and this report therefore includes proposals for the budget providing corporate support as its Accountable Body.

- 2.6.2 All seven local authorities (LA7) in the North East area currently contribute £10,000 to meet the costs of the North East LEP Accountable Body role.
- 2.6.3 The budget for the North East LEP Accountable Body role (£124,000) primarily covers Service Level Agreement (SLA) charges (£70,000) and external costs (£54,000) funded from estimated interest on investment income on the NEIF and the LA7 contributions. The budget will need to be kept under review for any new areas of work that are identified over and above the budget that is agreed, the 2022/23 North East LEP Accountable Body Budget is proposed to be maintained at the same level as the current year which results in a net balanced budget position. Table 6 shows the 2021/22 North East LEP Accountable Body Budget.

Table 6: 2022/23 North East LEP Accountable Body Budget

| | North East LEP Accountable Body Budget 2022/23 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Expenditure | £ |
| Service Level Agreements | 70,000 |
| External Support | 54,000 |
| Total Expenditure | 124,000 |
| Income | |
| LEP Accountable Body Contributions | (70,000) |
| Interest Income (NEIF) | (54,000) |
| Total Income | (124,000) |
| Net (Inc)/Exp | 0 |

3 Potential Impact on Objectives

- 3.1 The North of Tyne Combined Authority Corporate Plan sets out the strategic objectives of the Authority. The budget will enable the Authority to properly discharge its functions and assist in delivering the Authority's vision, policies, and priorities.

4 Key Risks

- 4.1 There are no specific risks relating to this report.

5 Financial and Other Resources Implications

- 5.1 The financial implications arising from the outcomes of this report will be appraised as part of the decisions made as to what is included in the Authority's 2022-2026 Financial Plan, incorporating the 2022/23 Budget-Setting process.
- 5.2 The Mayor and Cabinet need to have due regard to the Chief Finance Officer's advice in relation to the levels of reserves and balances proposed as part of the four-year Financial Plan for 2022-2026 in accordance with the Authority's Reserves and Balances Policy.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Authority is required to agree a balanced budget annually and to monitor that budget throughout the year. The Authority must also make provision for an adequate level of un-earmarked reserves. It is also required to ensure that good financial governance arrangements are in place.

7 Equalities Implications

- 7.1 The Authority has specific responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality

Duty. Part of this is to ensure that the potential effects of decisions on those protected by the equality's legislation are considered prior to any decision being made.

- 7.2 The Authority will continually monitor the effect of our Budget-setting process and decision-making, utilising equality impact assessments and reflecting the Authority's equalities objectives.

8 Inclusive Economy Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct inclusive economy implications arising from the recommendations in this report. However, EIA's include inclusive economy implications and NTCA has adopted socio-economic disadvantage as a protected characteristic.

9 Climate Change Implications

- 9.1 There is no direct climate changed implications arising from the recommendations in this report. However, climate change is considered within an EIA for projects.

10 Consultation and Engagement

- 10.1 The creation of the North of Tyne Combined Authority has been subject to significant regional and national engagement. The 2022/23 Draft Budget are based on the devolution deal and the Parliamentary Order which created the Authority and the Authority's Vision which has been detailed in the Corporate Plan which has been agreed by Cabinet and is being shared with stakeholders in a range of events.
- 10.2 Consultation with the Business Community and the Community and Voluntary Sector has continued throughout the budget process as part of the overall approach to engagement undertaken with these sectors. In addition, the attendance at Cabinet of both the Ambassador for business and the Ambassador for the Community and Voluntary sector will add to the opportunity for engagement.

11 Appendices

Appendix A 2022/23 Budget Setting Timetable

12 Background Papers

26 January 2021 Financial Plan and Budget.
5 February North East Combined Authority Leadership Capital and Revenue Outturn Report.

13 Contact Officers

Janice Gillespie, Interim Chief Finance Officer, E-mail address:

Janice.gillespie@northtyneside.gov.uk

Tel: 0191 6435701

14 Glossary

| | |
|------|-----------------------------------------|
| CSR | Comprehensive Spending Review |
| BFH | Brownfield Housing Fund |
| AEB | Adult Education Budget |
| LEP | North East Local Enterprise Partnership |
| INEE | Invest North East England |

15 Sign-off

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Mayor and Cabinet Member: Yes | 2) Director/SMT Yes | 3) Chief Finance Officer: Yes | 4) Monitoring Officer: Yes | 5) Managing Director: Yes |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|

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Budget Setting Timetable

| DATE | EVENT/MEETING | ACTION |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 22 September 2021 | Cabinet Meeting | To consider and agree 2022/23 budget process/timetable for both the Authority and Mayoral budgets. |
| 12 October 2021 | NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Update on the Budget process and timetable for both the Authority and Mayoral budget. |
| 30 November 2021 | Cabinet Meeting | Consider and agree the draft budget proposals in respect of the Authority. |
| 30 November 2021 | Joint Transport Committee | Consider and agree draft transport budget/levy for consultation. |
| 7 December 2021 | NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Receive the Authority's draft Budget proposals. |
| 11 January 2022 | NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Budget Workshop | Workshop to consider in detail the Authority's draft budget proposals and recommendations to Cabinet. |
| 18 January 2022 | Joint Transport Committee | Approve Transport Revenue Budget and Transport Levies. |
| 25 January 2022 | Cabinet Meeting | To consider outcomes of consultation and recommendations from Overview and scrutiny and agree final proposals for the Authority's Budget. Receive the Mayors draft budget proposals. Formally agree to issue the Transport Levy to constituent authorities. |
| Before 1 February 2022 (additional meeting needed) | Cabinet | Cabinet meet to agree recommendation to the Mayor in respect of the draft Mayoral budget. |
| 1 February 2022 | NECA Leadership Board | Leadership Board formally issue levy agreed by JTC in January. |
| 08 February 2022 | Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Consideration of Authority's and Mayor's final budget proposals. |
| 22 February 2022 | Cabinet | Cabinet consider O&S Final Recommendations and approve the Authority's and Mayor's Budget. |

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