



North East Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 10 February 2015 at 2.00 pm

Meeting to be held: Northumberland County Hall

www.northeastca.gov.uk

AGENDA

	Page No
1. Apologies for absence	
2. Declarations of Interest	
Please remember to declare any personal interest where appropriate both verbally and by recording it on the relevant form (to be handed to the Democratic Services Officer). Please also remember to leave the meeting where any personal interest requires this.	
3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 9 December 2014	1 - 4
4. Employability report (and accompanying NELB report)	5 - 16
5. European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) report	17 - 22
6. Forward Plan and work programme report	23 - 48
7. Dates and time of next meeting	
2:00pm on Tuesday 24 th March 2015 at Newcastle Civic Centre	

Contact Officer: Brenda Joyce Tel: 0191 2116144 E-mail: Brenda.joyce@newcastle.gov.uk

To All Members

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North East Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9 December 2014

(3.00 - 4.00pm)

Meeting held: Newcastle Civic Centre

Present:

Councillor: Wright (Chair)

Councillors: Dillon, Eagle, Glindon, Graham, A Lower, Maxwell, S Pearson and Snowdon

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Daley and Meling.

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Vice Chair, Councillor Eagle, declared an interest as an employee of Nexus.

30 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2014

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee to be considered as an agenda item at the next meeting (10 February 2015).

31 NORTH EAST COMBINED AUTHORITY BUDGET 2015/16

Submitted: Report of the Chief Finance Officer to provide information about the content of the draft budget for the Combined Authority for 2015/16 (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

A copy of the Draft Budget Report to the NECA Leadership Board on 21st October had previously been circulated to Overview and Scrutiny Committee members for consideration (and a further copy was attached to this report). Also attached were the transport related Revenue Budget and Capital Programme reports which would be considered by the Transport North East Committee at a meeting on 4th December.

It was recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the reports on the developing draft budget for 2015/16, receive a verbal briefing from the Chief Finance Officer and agree any comments or points it would wish to make to the Leadership Board as part of the budget consultation process.

The comments of Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be taken into account as part of the consultation process and reflected in the budget report to the NECA Leadership Board on 20th January 2015.

The Chair invited comments and questions from Members as detailed below:-

- In response to a question about how the 2.5% top slice for the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) would be monitored, the Chief Finance Officer advised that in the current year there was a 4% top slice of some transport capital grants used to cover costs to manage the programme and that this principle would be continued. There would be a lot of monitoring activity and transparency would be provided. Work was underway to ensure that there would be compliance with the assurance requirements when this was made available from the government.
- With regard to Enterprise Zones, estimates on growth had been provided when these were first agreed: DTZ had refreshed this work to arrive at the latest estimates. The DTZ report commissioned by the LEP indicated that targets had been exceeded so far, that there was a potential for surplus and that the growth had to be delivered to retain this.
- A member requested that consideration be given to extending concessionary travel to 16 year olds not in employment, education or training as this aligns budget decisions to the policy direction of the CA. Officers advised that the Quality Contract Scheme would not be finalised for some time but a fairer scheme for this age group would be considered. There were also some Metro specific measures being considered for this group. It was noted that recent Metro fare increases had been below inflation.
- The Chair asked about differentials between the 7 authorities and if a single concessionary fare scheme was a possibility.
- The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that any decision regarding discretionary add-ons and concessionary travel would have associated cost implications and pressures on individual local authorities so would require a decision to be taken at political level. The creation of the Combined Authority (CA) had brought together one primarily urban and two significantly rural transport authorities and this was unique across the country. A balance was needed between moving forward quickly and the different geographies of constituent member authorities. If a concessionary fare scheme across the entire area was to be looked at some very careful choices would need to be considered.
- The Chair asked about the role of Overview and Scrutiny in relation to supporting the Combined Authority to maximise funding support to the north east. Andrew Lewis (Newcastle City Council Assistant Chief Executive) advised that the CA was the first opportunity to bring disparate sources of funding together and this created opportunities for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The government had suggested that there would be another round of Local Growth Fund (LGF) bids although the scope would be limited. A devolution settlement would provide a much more stable bidding structure with decisions being taken locally by the Leadership Board; Overview and Scrutiny would have a greater role in holding this to account.
- The Chief Finance Officer advised that some of the activity of the CA had an element of risk and that Overview and Scrutiny had a role to ensure appropriate balance. A potential for savings had been identified on Treasury Management and Overview and Scrutiny, and Governance Committee, could

challenge propositions as they came forward. The CA had to have capacity to deliver and to demonstrate to government that it could deliver. This challenge would strengthen the hand of the CA in terms of bidding opportunities as they arose.

- The Committee offered congratulations to officers for securing the third highest LGF award and demonstrating excellent partnership working. The Chief Finance Officer informed members that most of that accolade went to staff in the local authorities and the LEP and that it was important that councils maintained capacity to continue regarding economic development and transport for future bids.

RESOLVED – That Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to accept the report and requested that support for 16-18 year olds and the comments about concessionary travel and a single fare scheme (securing it going forward and the implications) be fed back to the Leadership Board.

32 **FORWARD PLAN AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

Submitted: Report of the Monitoring Officer to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Forward Plan for the current 28 day period (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

It was recommended that the Scrutiny Committee consider the Forward Plan in relation to the development of the Committee's Work Programme also attached to the report.

The Scrutiny Officer informed Members that 10th February was the date of the next scheduled Committee meeting and that it was anticipated that there would be a further meeting before the end of the municipal year.

A draft programme of meeting dates for the new municipal year would be communicated to members in the near future.

RESOLVED – That Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to accept the report.

33 **DATES AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

2:00pm on Tuesday 10th February 2015; venue TBC.

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North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 10th February 2015

SUBJECT: Employability, Inclusion and Skills Update

REPORT OF: Thematic Lead for Employability and Inclusion

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Combined Authority provides an opportunity for the North East to radically maximise the scale and productivity of the area's workforce and thereby improve the economic prospects of local people. The challenge is twofold – get more people into work and equip more people with better qualifications and higher skills.

The Scrutiny Committee received a briefing on the Employability, Inclusion and Skills priority theme at its meeting on 9th September 2014.

This paper provides an update on the current activity and enables the committee to meet Councillor Davy, the Lead Member for this theme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee notes the progress within the Employability, Inclusion and Skills theme.

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1. Background Information

- 1.1 The Combined Authority provides a mechanism for the North East to ensure an integrated approach is taken across the whole labour market – from basic skills to high level skills; from the jobless to those in work; and from young people through to older people.
- 1.2 An inclusive and skilled workforce is central to private sector-led growth. The North East's workforce has a strong reputation for responding to the opportunities presented by a growing and changing economy. Nonetheless, the area faces a number of challenges in establishing a better functioning labour market which maximises the contribution of the workforce
- 1.3 The Combined Authority provides the strategic leadership and accountability for employability and welfare to work support. It also plays a central role, in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), in strengthening the skills system, particularly in equipping young people to access quality and sustainable jobs within the North East.

2. The vision of an inclusive and skilled workforce

- 2.1 More and Better Jobs – The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for the North East – sets out the vision for establishing an inclusive and skilled workforce.
- 2.2 Overarching themes

- Employability and Inclusion

Ensuring that no one is left behind and everyone fully shares in the benefits of a growing economy, by providing targeted and tailored support to neighbourhoods and groups facing major challenges in accessing training and employment opportunities

- Skills

Providing a demand led system which reflects the need of employers, including for high level skills in support of better jobs, and provides access to high quality training facilities for both general and specialist training

- 2.3 Strategic objectives
 - a) Increase the economic participation rate in the North East, assisting people to take up education, training and employment opportunities to increase life chances and economic well being
 - b) Provide support to those most distant from the labour market, where necessary assisting people to overcome disadvantage and poverty

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- c) Tailoring support to meet the specific needs and circumstances of individuals through targeted intensive support and mentoring
- d) Address the current and future skills needs, strategically investing resources and expertise to provide a reformed skills approach which meets the needs of employers and learners and complements or stimulates private and individual investment
- e) Ensure young people are equipped and qualified to access the opportunities which will be available in a successful modern economy through a Schools Challenge
- f) Ensure high quality training facilities which help engage employers and learners and are available to support a higher skilled workforce

3. European Social Fund 2014-2020

- 3.1 The European Social Fund (ESF) element of the European Strategy provides a mechanism for delivering a substantial programme of employability, inclusion and skills interventions between 2014 and 2020.
- 3.2 Members should note that a separate item on this agenda will cover in more detail the various aspects of the European Funding programme.
- 3.3 The Combined Authority is leading on the development of those supporting specifications relating to employability, inclusion and skills within this ESF Commissioning Framework.

4. Potential Impact on Objectives

- 4.1 Scrutiny Committee members may wish to consider the targets and achievements of the vision for employability, inclusion and skills in the North East to be achieved by 2024. The activity will include:
 - Employment rate - to close the gap between the North East and the national average
 - Activity rate – to halve the gap between the North East and the national average
 - Securing over 1500 apprentices per annum
 - Supporting around 5000 individuals into training per annum, with half of these currently being economically inactive
 - Moving more than 35% of schools into the top performance quartile
 - Reducing the claimant count by a further 1% per annum, moving individuals into education, skills, training and employment/self-employment

5. Next Steps

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5.1 The Scrutiny Committee has agreed to receive 6 monthly updates on each of the 3 themes. This is the first of the updates within the Employability and Inclusion theme.

6. Finance and Other Resources

6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal

7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

8. Other Considerations

8.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

Not applicable

8.2 Human Rights

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

8.3 Equalities and Diversity

There are no specific equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

8.4 Risk Management

There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

8.5 Crime and Disorder

There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

8.6 Environment and Sustainability

There are no specific environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

9. Background Documents

9.1 More and Better Jobs – A Strategic Economic Plan for the North East, March 2014; together with the associated Implementation Plans for Skills and Employability and Inclusions.

10. Links to Plans in the Policy Framework

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Strategic Economic Plan

11. Appendices

11.1 Thematic Lead Update Report – Employability and Inclusion - report to the NE Leadership Board 20th January 2015

12. Contact Officers

Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk

13. Sign off

- Head of Paid Service ✓
- Monitoring Officer ✓
- Chief Finance Officer ✓

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North East Combined Authority

North East Leadership Board (NELB)

DATE: 20 January 2015

SUBJECT: THEMATIC LEAD UPDATE REPORT – EMPLOYABILITY AND INCLUSION

REPORT OF: Thematic Lead for Employability and Inclusion

1 **Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update for the Combined Authority's Employability and Inclusion theme.
- 1.2 Work continues through the officer Steering Group and in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Partnership with regard to:
 - undertaking an options appraisal as to the various layers of devolution that the Combined Authority could secure through the development of the *North East Labour Market and Skills Agreement*
 - developing proposals for the creation and maintenance of a *Labour Market Intelligence (LMI)* system
 - taking forward the implementation of the *Mental Health and Employment Trailblazer* successfully secured from Government as one of four national pilots
 - developing the operation and focus of the evolving *Apprenticeship Hub* for the North East
 - developing the programme of eligible employability and inclusion activity to be supported through the *Europeans Social Fund 2014-20*
- 1.3 Progress on the development of these activities will continue with further progress reported to the Leadership Board in due course.

2 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Leadership Board note the content of the report.

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North East Leadership Board (NELB)

3 Background information

- 3.1 The officer Steering Group which supports the thematic lead for Employability and Inclusion has now developed an Operational Plan to steer its work in 2015.
- 3.2 This Operational Plan is essentially founded on three core objectives that are derived from the Strategic Economic Plan:
- To develop a strategy to tackle worklessness, low skills, and dependency
 - To develop a comprehensive and integrated youth employment strategy
 - To develop a strategy to address social inclusion in the most deprived communities

4 Tackling worklessness, low skills and dependency

- 4.1 Central to this objective is presenting the case to Government for the devolution of appropriate welfare and employability powers, functions and budgets. This would allow the Combined Authority to develop a plan for the local management and delivery of services which respond to the distinctive needs of the area, including a new locally-led and commissioned framework for delivery of employability and welfare to work support.
- 3.2 This *North East Labour Market and Skills Agreement (NELMSA)* will build on existing delivery of public sector reform and strong partnership arrangements to address underperformance, particularly through improved data sharing and tracking of progression across programmes.
- 3.3 On this basis, two substantive areas of work are currently being taken forward. The first relates to the development of a robust *Labour Market Intelligence (LMI)* system. This will seek to ensure labour market information and intelligence is accurate and robust, useful and easy to find; it is utilised by all relevant stakeholders and; has high policy impact. It will provide an increased understanding of skills issues (nationally, locally, and by sector) labour shortages, and future training needs. A proposal identifying the resources and investment required to put in place and subsequently maintain such a framework is currently being compiled.
- 3.4 The second body of work relates to the preparation of a detailed *Options Appraisal* as to the implications of the different levels of devolution that the Combined Authority may wish to pursue for different elements of the Government's programmes. This may vary from co-design or co-

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commissioning right up to full devolution. As part of this work, discussions are being held with Greater Manchester as to the steps they took with Government and the lessons that can be learned from that experience.

- 3.5 In addition, the Combined Authority has taken the opportunity to demonstrate to Government its ability to deliver a national objective through the successful securing of a *Mental Health and Employment Trailblazer*.
- 3.6 The Combined Authority is one of four pilot areas which will use Government funding to test whether better coordination of mental health and employment services could help thousands of people find work and stay in employment, whilst improving their mental health.
- 3.7 A comprehensive implementation plan for the trailblazer is now being prepared. This will detail the next steps in putting in place the proposed “hub and spoke” model of advisers, securing the match funding from the European Social Fund (ESF), and co-designing with Government the evaluation methodology.

5 Youth employment strategy

- 5.1 Central to this objective is the aim to further expand the number and range of apprenticeship opportunities available for young people and the working age population.
- 5.2 The *Apprenticeship Hub* is a partnership initiative, led by Newcastle City Council, on behalf of NELEP and its partners. The purpose of the Hub is to provide an additional resource, and to bring together employers, Apprenticeship providers and other partners in the NELEP area, to work towards the common goal of increasing the take-up of Apprenticeships (especially Youth Apprenticeships) among employers and young people. In July 2014, NELEP jointly commissioned New Skills Consulting and TBR to undertake a research study, to inform the development of an Apprenticeship Hub for the NELEP area. The research report was completed in November 2014.
- 5.3 In identifying priority actions, the study focused on activities to address those barriers to increasing Apprenticeship take-up where a positive difference could realistically be made locally, and where there are gaps or weaknesses in the current activity in the NELEP area, such that there is a clear justification for an additional resource to help tackle these weaknesses. As a result, four priorities have been identified:

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- A substantial activity programme to improve school engagement in apprenticeships
- A sustained programme to improve the work-readiness of young people
- Information for employers new to Apprenticeships
- Enhanced marketing and PR campaigns to support increased take-up and quality

It is further proposed that an Apprenticeship Growth Partnership is established which would consist of representatives with an interest in increasing the take-up of apprenticeships.

6 Social inclusion in the most deprived communities

- 6.1 Central to this objective is the potential to apply the Community Led Community Development (CLLD) approach to the most deprived communities within the Combined Authority. A decision as to whether this option will be available through the European Programme is still awaited.

7. European Social Fund

- 7.1 In addition to the above core work, the Steering Group continues to develop the programme of activity that is eligible for funding through the European Social Fund for 2014-2020. To recap, almost £100m is available for the Combined Authority Area to take forward employability and inclusion interventions. At present, considerable work is being undertaken to develop those interventions that will have the greatest impact on the challenges and opportunities within the Combined Authority, and how best to find the required match to deliver those interventions.

8 Working with the LEP

- 8.1 In this regard, the Steering Group also continues to collaborate with the LEP who has the equivalent lead role for the Skills thematic area. To this end, a unified and aligned European Social Fund programme that looks across the complete spectrum of the labour market is being compiled.
- 8.2 In order to lead this work and consider other potential areas of joint interest, the respective portfolio holders from the Combined Authority (Employability and inclusion – Councillor Grant Davey) and the LEP (Skills – Andrew Hodgson) now have in place a programme of bi-monthly meetings for 2015.

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9 Potential impact on objectives

- 9.1 The work being taken forward is consistent with the Combined Authority's stated objectives.

10 Finance and other resources

- 10.1 Financial plans will be developed and reported to the Board as appropriate.

11 Legal

- 11.1 The legal implications of the work being taken forward will be considered as delivery progresses.

12 Other considerations

12.1 Consultation/community engagement

No consultation or community engagement has been undertaken at this developmental stage in the work programme.

12.2 Human rights

There are no specific issues arising from this report.

12.3 Equalities and diversity

There are no specific issues arising from this report.

12.4 Risk management

Appropriate risk management arrangements will be put in place as delivery progresses.

12.5 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

12.6 Environment and sustainability

There are no specific issues arising from this report.

13 Background documents

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North East Leadership Board (NELB)

13.1 None

14 Links to plans and policy framework

14.1 Strategic Economic Plan – More and Better Jobs

15 Appendices

15.1 None

16 Contact Officers

16.1 The contact officer for this report is: Geoff Paul, Director of Planning, Economy and Housing, Northumberland County Council. Email: geoff.paul@northumberland.gov.uk

17 Sign off

- Head of Paid Service √
- Monitoring Officer √
- Section 151 Officer √

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 10th February 2015

SUBJECT: North East European Structural and Investment Fund Strategy
2014-2020

REPORT OF: Monitoring Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the forthcoming European Funding programme: EU Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2014-2020; the European priorities and the North East ESIF Strategy, and the current understanding of Governance and delivery mechanisms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee considers the opportunities, framework and strategic direction for the new funding programme and comment on the emphasis of the alignment of funds to achieve priority objectives for job creation and poverty reduction.

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1. Background Information

- 1.1 The European Union's (EU) Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) are the largest regional investment programme in Europe with massive potential for supporting social inclusion and anti-poverty policies, encouraging social innovation and reducing economic and social disparities between Europe's regions.
- 1.2 The ESIF aims to increase social and economic prosperity across Europe and reduce the gaps between regions; creating a more competitive, prosperous and inclusive Europe. The ESIF comprises:
- European Social Fund (ESF)
 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
 - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

2. European Funding North East Strategy

- 2.1 The North East LEP has received a notional allocation of €550.5m worth of European Structural and Investment Funds resource (covering European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development). This represents approximately £470.6m of investment and is accompanied by a further £7.7m for the Youth Employment Initiative in County Durham providing significant opportunities.
- 2.2 European Structural and Investment Funds are focused on reducing disparities in economic performance between higher and lower performing areas by driving local growth. In contrast to 2007-13 regional programme, the programmes for 2014-2020 will be organised at the national level but informed through a LEP area strategic framework. This is set out in the North East LEP European Structural and Investment Strategy which aligns the local priorities set out in the Strategic Economic Plan to the European objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The strategy therefore addresses a wide range of potential activities including:
- Innovation - Increasing levels of research and development, and improving the commercialisation of innovation with particular focus on areas of Smart Specialisation
 - Business Growth - Increasing entrepreneurship, the number of start-ups, and the level of trading, contributing to business growth. This will include improving access to finance and business support

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- Low Carbon - Increasing the role of the low carbon economy and energy generation sector
- Inclusive Growth - Improving employability and skills to overcome barriers preventing access to the labour market; and
- Skills - Improving skills provision by matching it to economic opportunities and better meeting the needs of business, including skills at intermediate and higher level.

The strategy, currently in draft form, has been developed in consultation with, and engagement of, local partners and stakeholders. It is currently in the process of being finalised in tandem with the national negotiations on the Partnership Agreement and Operational Programmes. The Agreement and Programmes will be agreed by the UK Government and the European Commission and set the boundaries for local strategies. Subject to the successful completion of these negotiations, expected in early 2015, local strategies and the resultant project calls will be launched. Preparations for implementation are being taken forward in line with those for the Strategic Economic Plan.

- 2.4 Governance - The National Growth Programme Board acts as the shadow Programme Management Committee (PMC) for the programme nationally. The Board, chaired by the Managing Authority (Department for Communities and Local Government), is responsible for the delivery of the programme in England. To ensure local partners have a role in the programme 39 shadow local sub-committees, one within each LEP area, have been established to steer the developments of programmes locally and make recommendations to the Growth Programme Board on projects to be accepted into the programme. The Combined Authority has five representatives on the sub-committee, alongside representatives from the voluntary and community sector, Higher Education Institutions, Further Education, rural, business, and Trade Unions. The final governance arrangements are yet to be agreed between the EU Commission and UK Government and are part of the negotiations over the Operational Programmes.

3. Technical Assistance

- 3.1 Funding for the preparation and delivery of the ESIF is provided through Technical Assistance. This is established through articles 58 and 59 of the Common Provisions (1303/2013) which set out a series of parameters for the use of the funding. As with other European funding sources, Technical Assistance requires match funding from local partners. This is separate to project-level delivery funding which should be considered in the development of applications.
- 3.2 Within the 2007-2013 European Regional Development Fund programme Technical Assistance is currently used to support two full time members of

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staff in the NELEP team to prepare for and implement the 2014-2020 ESIF programme as well as officers and discrete projects across local partners to support project development and delivery. Current LEP-level arrangements will end once the new programme is approved with the wider support due to end by September 2015. Technical Assistance through European Social Fund (ESF) has been more limited in its availability but has also supported some locally based activities.

3.3 As part of the UK Government's approach to the 2014-2020 funding period up to half of the Technical Assistance budget (approximately 5% of total spend) is to be made available to local partners to support the delivery of the programme. Local Enterprise Partnerships and local areas will not receive any specific allocation for this funding, but at a proportional rate would represent around £9.2m for the North East LEP area over the programme up to the end of 2023. The resource would include both ERDF and ESF funding, require local match funding and be accessed through an application to the national Technical Assistance allocation. The final Government strategy for the use of Technical Assistance and the process for accessing it have yet to be established.

3.4 Technical Assistance provides a significant potential resource; however it will require both careful development in response to the need for match funding and the tightly defined framework for eligible activity. Project development and delivery support, programme management and strategic support will need to demonstrate differentiation and alignment as appropriate with Managing Authority functions. This is particularly relevant in relation to strategic oversight and support work for the local sub-committee for ESIF.

4. Proposals

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the opportunities, framework and strategic direction for the new funding programme and comment on the emphasis of the alignment of funds to achieve priority objectives for job creation and poverty reduction.

5. Next Steps

The Scrutiny Committee will be asked to monitor the programme as it continues to be developed and delivered.

6. Potential Impact on Objectives

6.1 The ESIF Strategy supports the delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan.

7. Finance and Other Resources

There are no specific financial implications arising from the monitoring on this programme as it sits with the wider Strategic Economic Plan.

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8. Legal

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

9. Other Considerations

9.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

As part of the wider ESIF development consultation with partners has taken place and informed the strategy. This will continue as the programme continues to be developed and delivered.

9.2 Human Rights

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report

9.3 Equalities and Diversity

There are no specific Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report, however the delivery of the ESIF programme supports the aims of inclusive growth.

9.4 Risk Management

DCLG has clarified that there would not be any financial liability as contractual arrangements would remain between the Managing Authority (DCLG) and grant recipient. Additional administration and monitoring requirements will be limited as DCLG does not foresee a significant role for the Urban Authority however any additional reporting arrangements will be kept under review.

9.5 Crime and Disorder

There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

9.6 Environment and Sustainability

There are no specific environmental and sustainability implications arising from this report, however the aim of the programme will be to ensure that economic growth is achieved in a sustainable way and will specifically support innovations and projects that reduce impact on our environment.

10. Background Documents

- 10.1 North East European Structural and Investment Fund Strategy 2014-2020 (Draft Summary) November 2014

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11. Links to the Other Plans

- 11.1 European Structural and Investment Fund programmes for 2014-2020 will be informed and delivered through a LEP area strategic framework. This is set out in the North East LEP European Structural and Investment Strategy which aligns the local priorities. This aligns the local priorities set out in the Strategic Economic Plan to the European objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

12. Appendices

None

13. Contact Officers

Sarah McMillan, Strategy & Innovation Manager, South Tyneside Council
sarah.mcmillan@southtyneside.gov.uk 0191 424 7948
Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk 0191 561 1004

14. Sign off

- Head of Paid Service✓
- Monitoring Officer✓
- Chief Finance Officer✓

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 10th February 2015

SUBJECT: FORWARD PLAN & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT OF: MONITORING OFFICER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Forward Plan for the current 28 day period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee considers the Forward Plan in relation to the development of the Committee's Work Programme.

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Background Information

- 1.1 The Forward Plan is a document which lists the decisions that the North East Combined Authority committees intend to take in the coming months. The Plan is updated on a fortnightly basis.
- 1.2 The Forward Plan contains specific information relating to each decision, including the date the decision will be made, a brief explanation of the topic, the consultation to be undertaken, and contact details of the author.
- 1.3 Details of each decision are usually included on the Forward Plan 28 days before the report is considered and any decision is taken.

2. Role of Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.1 Reviewing and scrutinising the decisions made is one of the main functions of overview and scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the NELB, the TNEC, the TWSC and the decisions of the County Council of Durham and Northumberland County Council.
- 2.2 In doing so the Scrutiny Committee should determine whether Scrutiny can add value in relation to the decision being made.
- 2.3 To this end, the most recent version of the Forward Plan is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Forward Plan for the current 28 day period is attached marked Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The Scrutiny Committee's Annual Work Programme, as previously agreed and updated by Committee, is also attached as Appendix 2.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 The Forward Plan will allow the Scrutiny Committee to find out about major decisions that the Combined Authority is planning to take and provides the opportunity to comment on these decisions.
- 3.2 In considering the Forward Plan, Members are asked to consider those issues where the Scrutiny Committee could make a contribution which would add value.

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3.3 If the Scrutiny Committee determines to review or scrutinise a decision notified in the Forward Plan, a meeting of the Committee will be arranged to allow scrutiny members to carry out their role in a timely way.

.4. Potential Impact on Objectives

4.1 Review and scrutiny of decisions in the Forward Plan will contribute towards the development and implementation of the policy framework of the NECA, Nexus and NELEP as well as providing appropriate challenge to decisions taken.

5. Finance and Other Resources

5.1 No financial or other resource implications are identified at this stage. The financial impact of any proposals or recommendations should be taken into account and any significant implications should be reflected in any considerations and comments made by the Scrutiny Committee.

6. Legal

6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from these recommendations.

7. Other Considerations

7.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

Not applicable

7.2 Human Rights

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

7.3 Equalities and Diversity

Not applicable

7.4 Risk Management

Not applicable

7.5 Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

7.6 Environment and Sustainability

Not applicable

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

8. Background Documents

8.1 None

9. Links to the Local Transport Plans

9.1 None

10. Appendices

10.1 None

11. Contact Officers

11.1 Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk

Sign off

- Head of Paid Service ✓
- Monitoring Officer ✓
- Chief Finance Officer ✓



Forward Plan of Decisions

Published 2 February 2015 *

The Forward Plan for the North East Combined Authority (NECA) is prepared and published by the Monitoring Officer for the purpose of giving the 28 day notice of decisions that are planned to be taken by the NECA, its committees or a Chief Officer, which impact on the key areas of the NECA, namely Transport, Economic Development, Regeneration, Skills and Inclusion.

Unless otherwise indicated, if you require any further information or wish to make representations about any of the matters contained in the Forward Plan, please contact the appropriate officer as detailed against each entry at least 7 days before the meeting.

***The most recent entries are referred to as “NEW”.**

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
A. North East Leadership Board (NELB)							
A 1.	17 February 2015 - date to be confirmed	NELB	2015/16 Revenue Budget and Transport Levies (outstanding items) The Leadership Board is asked to agree its Revenue Budget and Transport Levies for 2015/16 (outstanding items).	All	This report forms part of the consultation process on the development of the 2015/16 budget as required by the NECA constitution.	Reports to North East Leadership Board 21 October 2014; 16 September 2014 and 21 January 2015. A report to TNEC 4 December 2014.	Paul Woods Chief Financial Officer paul.woods@northtyneside.gov.uk 07446936840
A 2.	21 April 2015 and all subsequent	NELB	Update reports from Thematic Leads: • Economic Development	All			Employability and Inclusion: Janice Rose Economic and Inclusion Policy

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	ordinary meetings		and Regeneration; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employability and Inclusion; and • Transport 				Manager Northumberland County Council janice.rose@northumberland.gov.uk 01670 624747 Transport: Mark Wilson Regional Transport Principal Advisor mark.wilson@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 5679 Economic Development and Regeneration: Lee Cranston Head of Strategy and Policy for Economy and Place ee.cranston@sunderland.gov.uk 091 5611161

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A 3. NEW	21 April 2015	NELB	Review of the NECA Constitution	Corporate issue	The consultation process will involve all constituent local authorities	Constitution	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk
A 4.	16 June 2015	NELB	Membership of the Combined Authority and its committees.	Corporate issue	The consultation process will involve all constituent local authorities and the North East Local Enterprise Partnership	Constitution	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk
A 5. NEW	16 June 2015	NELB	Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs	Corporate issue		Constitution	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk
A 6. NEW	16 June 2015	NELB	Programme of Meetings	Corporate issue	The consultation process will	Constitution	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk

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					involve all constituent local authorities		ov.uk and Victoria Miller Democratic Services Officer Victoria.miller@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 5118
A 7.	September 2015 - date to be confirmed	NELB	Annual Report and Accounts	Corporate issue	The draft accounts will be subject to a period of public inspection and also subject to review by the External Auditors.	Annual Report and Accounts 2014/15 Report of the External Auditor on the Statement of Accounts 2014/15	Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518
A 8.	September/ October 2015 - date to be confirmed	NELB	Draft Budget 2016/17 and Transport Levies.	Corporate issue	The budget for 2016/17 will be subject to consultation in advance of the formal agreement in		Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer paul.woods@northtyneside.gov.uk 07446936840

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					winter 2016.		
A 9.	Winter 2016	NELB	Budget 2016/17 and Transport Levies	Corporate issue	The budget for 2016/17 will be subject to consultation.	Reports to NELB and other committees of the Combined Authority.	Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer paul.woods@northtyneside.gov.uk 07446936840
B. Transport North East Committee (TNEC)							
B 1.	26 February 2015 and all subsequent meetings	TNEC	Capital Programme 2014/15 – Monitoring Report This report provides the Transport North East Committee (TNEC) with a progress update in relation to delivery of the transport related capital programme for 2014/15. This is a	Corporate issue	No consultation required	NECA Budget and Capital Programme 2014/15	Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518

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			requirement of the NECA Constitution and is a function delegated to TNEC.				
B 2.	26 February 2015 and all subsequent meetings	TNEC	<p>Revenue Budget 2014/15 – Monitoring Report</p> <p>This report provides the Transport North East Committee with a progress update in relation to how the transport related budgets for the delivery agencies for 2014/15 are being managed. This is a requirement of the NECA constitution and is a function delegated to TNEC.</p>	Corporate issue	No consultation required	NECA Budget and Capital Programme 2014/15	<p>Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518</p>

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B 3.	26 February 2015	TNEC	<p>Discharge of Transport Functions by Durham County Council.</p> <p>The report provides an update on the discharge of delegated functions at Durham County Council.</p>	Transport	The report refers to the discharge of delegated functions by officers in Durham County Council in consultation with the relevant cabinet portfolio holder and its contents have already been noted by the Cabinet of Durham County Council.	The North East Combined Authority Constitution The North East Combined Authority Deed of Operation dated the 29th April 2014.	<p>Adrian J White Head of Transport and Contract Services Durham County Council adrian.white@durham.gov.uk Tel: 03000 267455</p>
B 4.	26 February 2015	TWSC	Changes to highway maintenance arrangements and	Transport	None	None	<p>Mark Wilson Head of Transport Policy Mark.Wilson@newcastle.g</p>

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			Challenge funding bids following Department for Transport consultation - "Gearing up for efficient highway delivery and funding"				ov.uk 0191 211 5679
B 5.	26 February 2015	TNEC	Go Ultra Low city scheme – background to the scheme and regional bids	Transport	None.	None.	Mark Wilson Head of Transport Policy Mark.Wilson@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 211 5679
B 6.	26 February 2015	TNEC	Northumberland County Council – Public Transport Activity Report on Delegated Functions 2014 The report provides	Transport	None.	None.	Stuart McNaughton Principal Transport Policy Officer Northumberland County Council stuart.mcnaughton@northumberland.gov.uk 01670 624 104

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			an update on the discharge of delegated functions at Northumberland County Council.				
B 7.	26 February 2015	TNEC	<p>The management and leadership of public transport in the North East</p> <p>This report will provide Members with further information about governance arrangements for public transport in the North East, following a request received at the 21st October meeting of North East Leadership Board</p>	Transport	Consultation will take place with senior officers of Nexus and the NECA in the process of producing the report	None.	<p>Andrew Lewis Chair of the NECA Transport Officer Working Group and Assistant Chief Executive Newcastle City Council Andrew.Lewis@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 8900</p>

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
B 8.	Summer 2015	TNEC	Membership of TNEC	Corporate issue/ Transport	All constituent authorities will be consulted.	Constitution	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk
B 9.	Autumn 2015/ winter 2016	TNEC	Draft budget 2016/17 and transport levies	Corporate issue/ Transport			Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer paul.woods@northtyneside.gov.uk 07446936840
C. Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee (TWSC)							
C 1.	26 February 2015 and then quarterly	TWSC	Tyne Tunnel Update To provide an update for members on the operation and management of the Tyne Tunnel Elements of this report will be exempt from the	Transport			Michael Murphy Engineer to the Tyne 0191 211 5950 michael.murphy@newcastle.gov.uk

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			publication by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of The Local Government Act 1972				
C 2. NEW	Summer 2015	TWSC	Membership of TWSC	Corporate issue/ Transport	All constituent authorities will be consulted.	Constitution	Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk
D. Governance Committee							
D 1.	27 February 2015	Governance Committee	Internal Audit Progress Report The report provides an update on the outcomes from internal audit activity and progress against the delivery of the internal audit	Corporate Issue	Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer	Internal Audit Plan, Final Internal Audit Plan	Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council 0191 211 6511 Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk

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			plan.				
D 2.	27 February 2015	Governance Committee	Partnership Assurance The report introduces a draft template to be used in gathering evidence to support the Annual Governance Statement in relation to partnership assurance.	Corporate issue	Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer	Draft partnership assurance template	Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council 0191 211 6511 Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk
D 3.	27 February 2015	Governance Committee	Risk Management The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of a strategic risk and	Corporate issue	Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer	Risk Management Strategy	Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council 0191 211 6511 Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk

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			opportunity register for the Combined Authority.				
D 4.	27 February 2015	Governance Committee	<p>Request for Dispensations (Members of the Leadership Board)</p> <p>To determine requests for dispensations from 3 Members of the Leadership Board in relation to their registerable and non-registerable personal interests relating to their role as Directors of the Newcastle International Airport Limited.</p>	Corporate issue	The Leaders and Chief Executives have been consulted in relation to this matter		Vivienne Geary Monitoring Officer viv.geary@northtyneside.gov.uk
D 5.	27 February	Governance	Request for	Corporate	The NECA		Martin Harrison

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
	2015	Committee	<p>Dispensation (A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)</p> <p>To determine a request for a dispensation from Councillor John Eagle, in his capacity as member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to his registerable interest relating to his job with Nexus Rail.</p>	issue	Head of Paid Service has been consulted		<p>Service Director Legal Democratic and Property Services Gateshead Council martinharrison@gateshead.gov.uk</p>
D 6.	27 February 2015	Governance Committee	<p>Accounting Policies Update 2014/15</p> <p>The report will set out the draft accounting policies to be used in the</p>	Corporate issue		Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2014/15	<p>Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant 0191 277 7518 eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk</p>

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			preparation of the 2014/15 accounts, with an explanation of any changes which may have been introduced, and an update on changes to the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. Governance Committee will be asked to approve the policies.				
D 7.	27 February 2015	Governance Committee	Budget Update 2015/16 A report for information on progress with the 2014/15 budget and proposals for the 2015/16 budget,	Corporate issue	The budget has been subject to a period of detailed consultation, including with Governance Committee in		Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant 0191 277 7518 eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
			including the capital programme and the Treasury Management policy.		December 2014. The results of the consultation were included with the final budget report.		
D 8.	July 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Internal Audit Plan for 2015/16	Corporate issue			Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council 0191 211 6511 Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk
D 9.	July 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Review of the Draft Annual Accounts/ outturn position	Corporate issue			Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518
D 10.	July 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Draft Annual Governance Statement	Corporate issue			Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council

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							0191 211 6511 Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk
D 11.	July 2015 – dates to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Internal Audit Progress Report	Corporate issue			Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council 0191 211 6511 Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk
D 12.	September 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Annual Report and Accounts	Corporate issue			Eleanor Goodman Senior Accountant eleanor.goodman@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 7518
D 13.	September 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	External Auditor's Report	Corporate issue			Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council 0191 211 6511 Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk

No./ Date Published on Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
D 14.	September 2015 and December 2015 – dates to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Internal Audit Progress Report	Corporate issue			Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council 0191 211 6511 Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk
D 15.	December 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Annual Audit Letter	Corporate issue			Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance Service Manager Newcastle City Council 0191 211 6511 Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk
D 16.	December 2015 – date to be confirmed	Governance Committee	Draft budget 2016/17 and Transport Levies	Corporate issue	This report will form part of the consultation process		Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer Paul.Woods@northtyneside.gov.uk 07446936840
D 17.	December 2015	Governance Committee	Risk Management	Corporate issue			Philip Slater Audit, Risk and Insurance

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	– date to be confirmed						Service Manager Newcastle City Council 0191 211 6511 Philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk

Appendix 2

Work Programme 2014/15

Date	Items	Lead Officer	Informal Briefings (lead members to be invited on thematic briefings)
9 th September (Gateshead)	Developing the work programme	KB	Employability & Skills – Janice Rose, Northumberland CC
	Substitute Members	Viv Geary	How Scrutiny fits into the NECA
15 th October (Sunderland)	Budget Report – process and timetable	Paul Woods	Economic Development & Regeneration – Vince Taylor, Sunderland & Lead Member Cllr Paul Watson
	Review - Best Practice / Setting up the CA – Overview of Sub-Regional decision making and scrutiny	KB	
	Forward Plan & Work Programme	KB	
9 th December (Newcastle)	NECA Budget for 2015/16 – final proposals	Paul Woods	Transport – John Bourn
	Forward Plan & Work Programme	KB	
10 th February (Northumberland)	Employability, Inclusion & Skills – progress	Cllr Davey	
	NE European Structural & Investment Funds	Sarah McMillan	
	Forward Plan & Work Programme	KB	
24 th March Newcastle	Transport Theme – progress report		

In addition to the schedule items, the following items will be included in the work programme.	
6 monthly updates on each of the 3 themes Transport / ED / Employment	
Development of a Transport Plan	
Integrated Transport	Existing initiatives; including how other countries have solved this problem; encourage more people to make more journeys by other means than by car; promote sustainable travel for everyone.
Transport related barriers to employment	Issues relating to employment and transport and students travelling across boundaries to all colleges and universities to ensure the enabling of full opportunities for future employment.
Rationalisation of ticketing	
Taxi harmonisation	Consideration of opportunities for rationalisation of regulatory controls over the NECA area and new developments relating to the legal framework for taxis and private hire vehicles.
Potholes	Making our roads better - how to address long-lasting pothole repairs with a coordinated approach.
Growth Plan (including the Strategic Economic Plan and investment strategy)	
Working with the LEP	

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