



Northumberland
County Council

Economy and Regeneration

Service Statement 2018 - 2021

Head of Service: Janice Rose
Lead Member: Richard Wearmouth

Service purpose and functions

Purpose

The core purpose of the Service is to facilitate the effective delivery of the Council's corporate priority with regard to Economic Growth – both in terms of influencing national and regional policy to best reflect Northumberland's interests and in ensuring that all Council Services are maximising their contribution to the county's economic growth.

As a result, the Service provides the primary bridge between the Council and the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) and the Borderlands Initiative, which includes the coordination of the Regeneration Investment Programme for Northumberland.

To underpin the delivery of the Regeneration Investment Programme, the service will facilitate a funding network to co-ordinate and maximise the value of external funding secured, and provide Accountable Body functions for key regeneration programmes.

Primary functions

- developing and delivering the county's Economic Strategy in conjunction with Arch
- promoting Northumberland's interests at the regional and national level
- maximising opportunities to champion rural productivity and stewardship
- promoting employability and inclusion, particularly for those furthest from the labour market
- securing improvements to the strategic transport network
- promoting sustainable travel through walking, cycling and public transport
- delivering town-based local growth initiatives
- facilitating community regeneration initiatives, including the management of the Community Chest

- coordinating the Council's strategic relationship with town and parish councils and the voluntary and community sector
- developing the Council's strategy to public transport and concessionary travel - essentially acting as the Nexus for Northumberland
- maximising the level of external funding secured to facilitate the delivery of these activities
- delivering the strategic programmes associated LEADER, FLAG, Building Better Opportunities, and North East Mental Health Trailblazer to a successful conclusion
- managing the legacy commitments from previous regeneration funding programmes, and facilitating the effective and timely deployment of the current 2014-20 EU programmes
- providing advice and services which support the Council in its role as Accountable Body for external grant funding

Service parameters

Summary of service resources at 1 April 2018:

Function	Number of FTE posts	Staffing expenditure	Non-staffing expenditure	Income	Capital investment
Economic and Inclusion Policy	13.50	1079	1314	(916)	0
Corporate Programmes and External Funding	15.90	779	778	(1288)	0
Mental Health Trailblazer	20.6	1,000,690	86,689	1,087,379	0
Concessionary Travel Scheme	0.00	0	4340	(4340)	0
Northumberland to Newcastle Rail Line	0.00	0	0	0	8,263
Totals for Service					

Contribution to the Corporate Plan

The Service is the Council's primary vehicle for promoting and creating the right conditions for economic growth.

External Validation

Inspections and Benchmarking

The generic work of the Team is not subject to a formal inspection process. Equally, the unique functional composition of the team is such that it does not lend itself to standard benchmarking exercises with other local authorities.

However, with regard to the management of external funding programmes and projects:

- European Funding project audits have identified best practice in systems and processes and have not resulted in grant recovery.
- The Rural Payments Agency has validated the Council's LEADER Accountable Body system and attestation report resulting in continued delegated authority being given for the programme.

Customer perception

The Council has previously conducted, on a three-yearly cycle, a Resident Perception Survey which includes two indicators relating to perceptions as to how the local economy is performing.

Whilst there is not a direct causal effect between the work conducted within the Economy Service and wider economic confidence across the county, the aim of the Council is to create the right conditions for growth and productivity that all residents can benefit from.

On this basis, the ambition is for both these indicators to be demonstrating a positive direction of travel when the subsequent Perception Surveys are conducted in 2018 and 2021.

Economic performance perception indicators	2012	2015
Residents net perception of economic performance of their local area		

Residents net perception of whether they think their personal financial circumstances will improve/get worse in the next 12 months		
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Performance framework

The Council's performance scorecard includes three indicators which are designed to track the general economic climate of the county. As with the customer perception data, there is not a direct causal effect between the work conducted within the Economy Service and the overall performance of these indicators. They simply act as a barometer to the economic health of Northumberland.

Measure	Outturn 2016-17	Outturn 2017-18	Target 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2020-21
Employment Rate	74.5	tbc			
Wages - residents	487.1	tbc			
Wages - workers	460.0	tbc			

Priorities for 2018 - 2021

Priority area		Key Milestones
E01	To facilitate and coordinate the Council's contribution to the North of Tyne Combined Authority	<p>Support the development and delivery of the portfolios associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employability and Inclusion, via AEB devolution; Good Work promotion; an agreed Employment Support Framework Agreement; and a suite of employment support initiatives, pilots and trials • Rural Growth and Stewardship, via preparation of a new-style Rural Productivity Plan; acting as

		a Rural Scale Up Champion for England; and securing a dedicated rural element within the Investment Programme
E02	To lead the Council's input to securing the announcement of a Borderlands Growth Deal in the Budget statement 2018	Fully participate in the work of the Borderlands Lead Officer Group to develop a suite of outline business cases for tangible programmes and projects that for approval by the UK and Scottish Governments. This will particularly involve leading on the themes associated with Rural Productivity and Quality of Place and contributing to the themes associated with Transport, Destination and Business Growth
E03	To ensure that Northumberland is in the best position to capitalise in promoting economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the preparation of a refreshed Economic Strategy for Northumberland • Support the subsequent development of the Arch Corporate Plan • Establish and subsequently manage a cross-authority Regeneration Investment Group (RIG) and Funding Network to manage the development, delivery and funding of a comprehensive pipeline of regeneration programmes and projects for the county • Support the coordination and development of a network of Town Forums • Maintain senior officer and member forums to ensure full engagement in the ongoing work

		<p>associated with North of Tyne and Borderlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the progression of the reopening of passenger services to the Northumberland to Newcastle Line through the GRIP 3 process • Facilitate the preparation of partnership delivery plans that tangibly identify a range of initiatives aimed at maximising the benefits of participating in both cultural and tourism; and walking and cycling activity • Embed the arrangements for the assessment and management of Community Housing grants and loans • Support the progressive expansion - both in reach and range of service - of the Northumberland Community Bank • Provide an external funding information service to external organisations within Northumberland
E04	To effectively manage the external funding implications emerging from the UK's exit from the European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the development of priorities for EU successor funds • Develop and establish programme management arrangements for EU successor funds and devolved national regeneration funds • Manage the closure of EU programmes and projects, maximising funds claimed and minimising risk of future clawback to the Council

E05	To fully contribute to the Council's new ways of working and budget efficiency programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the effective merger of the Economic and Inclusion Policy and the Corporate Programmes and External Funding Teams • Secure, via the approval of an “invest to save” business case for additional, bespoke resources within the context of maximising the opportunity presented by North of Tyne devolution and Borderlands growth • Facilitate the securing of a £500,000 saving from mainstream Council budgets following a comprehensive cross-authority “total transport” review • Produce a sustainable travel plan for County Hall
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