

Economy Work Skills and Learning Delivery Group

Wednesday 14th November 2007 2pm-4pm

Venue: Anderson House, Market Street (East)

Agenda

1. Terms of reference (paper attached)
 - role of work stream leads
2. Membership
3. Programme of meetings
4. Sustainable Communities Strategy (Phil Hunter)
5. Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (Phil Hunter)
 - Setting priorities
 - Funding streams
6. Local Area Agreement 2007-2010
 - Progress report
7. Employability Programme (Newcastle Futures)
8. Working Neighbourhoods (paper to follow)
9. Any other business
10. Date and time of next meeting

Newcastle Partnership

Economy, Work, Skills and Learning Partnership

Background

Following the review carried out by Marilyn Taylor and the decisions of the Newcastle Partnership Board of 15th March and 20th June 2007, it has been agreed that a new delivery partnership will be created within the new structure to deal with issues of economy, skills, work and learning.

The agendas currently considered by The Newcastle Learning Partnership and Prosperous Newcastle Groups would be subsumed into this group and these groups would cease to meet.

Objectives

The group would:

- Report to the Delivery board & Strategy Board as appropriate
- Assist in formulating the long term vision of the Sustainable Communities Strategy
- Propose targets to be included in the Local Areas Agreement
- Monitor progress towards targets
- Where appropriate agree priorities for deployment of resources
- Identify service improvements
- Identify areas where collaboration would yield benefits
- Consider implications of emerging policies and feed into Innovation Group

The Economy Partnership will meet quarterly (and at other times as required) allowing timely reporting to Delivery and Strategy Boards.

Work Streams

The Economy Partnership will have 5 work streams:

- Employability
- Skills
- Learning
- Enterprise Development
- Business Support

A Partnership member will be tasked to lead on each of the work streams. They would be responsible for reporting on their work streams' contribution to the Partnership's overall objectives. Work streams leads would be expected to bring together groups of representatives of appropriate organisations to support them which would be ratified by the Economy Partnership. Others will be invited to join the Partnership or it's work stream when specialist knowledge is required.

Economy Partnership Membership

Organisation	Name	Work Stream Lead
LSC	Alan Wallace	
Job Centre Plus	Paul Jorgensen	
CEN	Bill Jackson	
NCVS	Roger Mould	
14 – 19 Partnership	Melanie Bear	
Newcastle University	Cathryn Harvey	
Newcastle Futures	Gillian Hewitson	Employability
Newcastle College	John Dallinson	Skills
The Amazing Group	Jane Bell	Learning
Regeneration Directorate	Barry Richardson	Enterprise development
Private Sector	NECC nominee	Business support

Officer Support Team

Seth Pearson,	CXO Policy
Liz Scott,	Regeneration Directorate
John Musham,	Regeneration Directorate

Work Streams

Employability

This work stream group will:

- be the point of contact for the Tyne and Wear City Region Employment Consortium (TWCREC)
- set employability targets in line with TWCREC
- develop a strategic programme of activity in line with TWCREC
- align funding with agreed objectives
- oversee Newcastle Futures programme
- consider emerging employability and welfare policy

Skills

This work stream group will:

- develop an understanding of supply and demand of skills in the local economy.

In this it will consider

supply

1. young people entering the labour market
2. people in work with potential to develop their skills
3. economically inactive
4. inward migration

demand

1. growth sectors
 2. skills demand generated through strategic aspiration (e.g. Sustainable Communities Strategy, Science City, OECD recommendation, Regeneration Strategy etc.)
- Propose and monitor local targets for skills

NB. Should a City region Employment and Skills Board be established this group would be the point of contact on behalf of Newcastle Partnership.

Learning

This work stream group will:

- Propose and monitor targets for adult learning
- bring funders, providers and learner representatives together to:
 - Ensure learning is available for priority groups
 - Increase quality assured provision
 - Increase learner numbers
 - Help learners progress into further learning
- advise the LSC and Newcastle City Learning on the deployment of the Personal and Community Development Learning budget.

Enterprise Development

This work stream group will:

- Propose and monitor targets for Enterprise Development
- foster collaboration in pre start up support
 - enterprise awareness
 - animation
 - extended 1 to 1 support

Business Support

This work stream group will:

- Propose and monitor targets for Business Support
- monitor, review and advise on business start up and wider business advice activity, including the critical relationship with Business Link NE

**NEWCASTLE PARTNERSHIP
ECONOMY, WORK, SKILLS AND LEARNING DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP
14 NOVEMBER 2007**

Present:

Paul Rubinstein (Newcastle City Council) in the Chair (part of meeting)
Douglas Taylor, Paul Gallagher (Newcastle Partnership)
Bill Jackson, Warren Harding, Ronnie Forster, Violet Rook, Muan'a K Mbi'kayi
(Community Empowerment Network)
Gillian Hewitson (Newcastle Futures)
Paul West (Northumbria Jobcentre Plus)
Phil Hunter, Seth Pearson, Melanie Bear, Rob Hamilton, John Musham, Liz Scott
(Newcastle City Council)
Jane Bell (Amazing Group)
Barrie Irving (LSC)
Janet Hunter (Voluntary Sector rep) (NLT)
John Dallinson (Newcastle College)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Paul Rubinstein, Assistant Chief Executive Newcastle City Council, welcomed everyone to this meeting which was the first meeting of the new delivery partnership. He explained that the work of this group would absorb the activity of earlier groups such as Prosperous Newcastle and Learning Partnership, and in due course the group would need to consider the development of a Multi Area Agreement as well as the Local Area Agreement that would impact directly upon Newcastle. It would therefore be important in time to understand how MAA's and LAA's would fit together – an evolving area of work. Critically, he explained that this group needed to have an understanding of Newcastle's economy and how the different partners and sectors contribute towards delivering improvements to the quality of life for local people.

2. Terms of Reference and Membership

Seth Pearson gave a brief overview of the proposed terms of reference explaining that the establishment of this group gave an opportunity to ensure that there were closer links with the LSP than had been the case in the past, and enabling the range of activity to be better focused and managed. He suggested that once people understood the range of activity it may be appropriate to shorten the title of the group to "Economy". Paul Rubinstein pointed out that the membership listed in the paper should have also included himself as the lead officer from Newcastle City Council, Janet Hunter from the Voluntary Sector and Cllr Greg Stone from the Council. It was noted that further work needed to be done to identify a private sector representative. Doug Taylor was liaising with the Chamber of Commerce on this matter.

The paper proposed officers who would take the lead for each of the 5 proposed workstreams as follows:

Gillian Hewitson - Employability

John Dallinson – Skills

Jane Bell – Learning

Barry Richardson – Enterprise Development

NECC Nominee (to be confirmed) - Business Support

Paul Rubinstein submitted a diagram which set out Newcastle Partnership's Economy Delivery Group at the centre of a series of initiatives including NewcastleGateshead initiative, the new Newcastle and Gateshead City Development Company, Enterprising Newcastle, Business Support, Skills Agenda, Learning Agenda, Newcastle Science City and Newcastle Futures. He proposed that a strategy group should be formed with a representative of each of the organisations on the diagram. John Dallinson welcomed the tabled diagram and proposal and suggested it could further develop thinking on the LAA and SCS.

Discussion followed regarding the roles of each workstream as follows. It was important though that all the key players were appropriately engaged through. The following points were made:

Employability – It is recognised that the critical area for this was Newcastle Futures and also the Tyne and Wear Employment Consortium. The availability of funding to resource employability was a critical issue needing to be addressed.

Skills – It was important that there was a focus on improving information and intelligence and from this to identify what actions are required to address skills needs.

Learning – The adult learning agenda needed to be taken forward on behalf of priority groups and to ensure progression. This could provide a point of contact for the Learning and Skills Council. It was agreed that Seth Pearson should seek to further clarify the distinction between a Skills workstream and a Learning workstream.

Enterprise – It was suggested that further work be done to identify Business Links and other providers for this workstream. John Musham to reflect on this area of work to inform the LAA proposals.

Business Support – It was noted that this would include support to grow existing businesses. The distinction between Business Support and Enterprise was that the latter was more about business creation.

It was agreed Workstream leads would be expected to bring together groups of representatives of appropriate organisations which would be ratified by the Economy Delivery Partnership

It was agreed that Seth Pearson would liaise closely with the identified workstream leads to identify any further gaps in coverage/liaison.

3. Programme of meetings

It was agreed that Doug Taylor and Seth Pearson would discuss with workstream leads what meetings would be required and it was suggested that a group such as this one should convene on a quarterly basis.

4. Local Area Agreement 2008-11 and Sustainable Community Strategy

Phil Hunter gave a presentation on the process and timescale for the new look LAA and the longer term SCS. He emphasized that Government Office required a first draft of the LAA by 20 December and he outlined a process for today's meeting which comprised:

- Checking the statement about the vision on the economy, including establishing whether there were any aims which were currently missing from an analysis (drawn largely from the Regeneration Strategy)
- Agreeing the 3 year priorities which should then feature in the LAA
- Thinking about the "Big Ideas" or "Challenges" for the LSP in this group's area of work.

It was suggested that different sectors within the LSP would probably have their own particular concerns of relevance to the economy such as the shortage of skills (from the Chamber of Commerce), the low participation rates of young people staying on in higher education and lack of basic skills and engagement with science and creativity (from Newcastle City Council's viewpoint.)

Bill Jackson mentioned that useful work had been done for the unsuccessful LEGI bid: this included in-depth economic analysis and some suggested solutions which had been referred to in the Regeneration Strategy. It was agreed that this aspect could usefully be revisited.

(At this point Paul Rubinstein left the meeting and Doug Taylor assumed the Chair.)

John Dallinson said that there was a major national agenda to raise skills for those who were already in employment - this was broader than participation in higher education. Warren Harding questioned whether it was appropriate to train for jobs which may not be available and Violet Rook pointed out that the economy would be supported by investment in Newcastle residents getting onto the employment ladder with more basic skills.

It was agreed to add a new strategic aim to the list to read as follows:

"Increasing the skills and knowledge level of the workforce"

Regeneration Strategy strategic aim was agreed:

"Improving employability"

The following Regeneration Strategy strategic aim was supported, subject to further work on why “enterprise” was not used as a way out or as instead of “trading”:

“Creating a trading (and enterprise?) culture across Newcastle”. PH agreed to re-word this strategic to better reflect what we are trying to do in terms of strengthening the businesses sector in the city

The Regeneration Strategy strategic aim was supported subject to further clarification:

“Deepening links between Newcastle and the Region”

Concern was expressed regarding the following of the Regeneration Strategy strategic aim on the basis that it was arguably too narrow although there was a case for naming other aspects of the economy where Newcastle needed to strengthen as well as to build on existing strengths:

“Building the leisure economy”- PH to look at re-wording this to reflect retail and cultural sectors

The Regeneration Strategy strategic aim was endorsed:

“Welcoming people to live, work and invest”

The Regeneration Strategy strategic aim was endorsed

“Meeting the City’s skills demands.”

The meeting then moved to consider what might be the key priorities for the future, with particular reference to the LAA. Members of the group highlighted the following ideas:

- Addressing the need for a skilled workforce, particularly in the context of changing demographics and migration
- Skilling the indigenous population to maximize employability
- Reducing the number of people on benefits and moving them into sustainable employment
- Raising employers’ interest in improving the skills of their workforce
- Raising the level of earnings (although this may be long term)
- Supporting existing businesses to grow, possibly into VAT registration

Phil Hunter to reflect on the above comments and to carry out an initial drafting on this basis.

Members of the group were encouraged to email Seth Pearson with any further comments within the next 2 weeks.

5. Local Area Agreement 2007-10

Doug Taylor reported that the LSP team were currently reviewing progress of the current LAA to the end of September 2007. Although Government Office North East was not now requesting a formal 6 month review, it was important to support the evidence base for the preparation work for the next LAA to have as much information as possible on how performance was progressing. The LSP Performance Management Coordinator was gathering information and would in due course report back to this group. He also pointed out that there were a lot of problems with data availability for the first 6month period.

6. Employability Programme

Gillian Hewitson and Seth Pearson reported on progress being made in Newcastle on Employability. Gillian Hewitson explained that Newcastle Futures had been established to undertake the strategic coordination and delivery roles and been working with partners to address concerns on employability through the Neighbourhood Renewal employability theme, whilst keeping an eye on possible future developments.

Performance information from Newcastle Futures was tabled at the meeting for information. She pointed out that it was currently difficult to objectively assess the quality and success levels of the work been undertaken and she asked partners to help Newcastle Futures by being willing to share data.

7. Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Seth Pearson reported that the NRF programme was coming to an end in March 2008 and would be replaced by Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

Assuming that Newcastle was eligible, this fund would direct resources more tightly to employability and enterprise and would appear to offer less scope for other uses. Doug Taylor pointed out that if Newcastle received this fund it may well be for a smaller area of the city than the current NRF programme as the Government was proposing to revisit the indices of multiple deprivation. A member of the group expressed some concern that in future this resource may not be available to support participation from the third sector in the business of the LSP, and Doug Taylor pointed out that the LSP was currently undertaking a review of support to the third sector, partly in response to this concern.

8. Bid for funding for Neighbourhood Renewal advisor to support Neighbourhood level economic development activity and information gathering from Gateshead LSP

Paul Gallagher reported receipt of information from the Coordinator of Gateshead LSP who was working with Gateshead's economic development officers to see if it was possible to secure a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor to address some of the issues about measuring success and undertaking the most appropriate actions to address worklessness at the localised (i.e.) neighbourhood level. He suggested that it may be appropriate for Gillian Hewitson's employability workstream to engage with this work, if it was to proceed. He understood that GONE were minded to support the proposal, subject to establishment of an action learning set or other similar means of communicating the learning obtained from this work more widely.

Paul Gallagher
20 November 2007

SCS vision & aims and LAA Priorities

Engagement with Delivery Partnerships

Outline of approach

Introduction

During the next six months or so all Groups in the Newcastle Partnership will be engaged in shaping the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement. An important part of this process is to establish with Delivery Partnerships their initial perspective on the vision, aims and priorities that represent their respective policy areas. This paper sets out a simple and consistent framework for structuring discussion around this. It is proposed that, during November and early December, Delivery Partnerships use this process to feed into the first drafts of the SCS and LAA.

Approach

The following pages summarise the key issues in relation to strengthening the economy. These include:

- Proposed long-term vision. This will have been taken from the latest relevant strategy or strategies.
- List of related strategic aims. Again this will have been taken from the relevant strategy or strategies.
- Key evidence and facts in relation to the economy.
- List of other relevant strategic initiatives or documents in relation to strengthening the economy.

It is proposed that the Delivery Partnership discuss and consider these using the following steps:

Step 1 – SCS Vision and Aims

The first stage is for the Delivery Partnership to consider the draft visions and strategic aims. These should form the basis of each theme for the SCS. In many cases there will be little debate over the vision and aims, particularly where these have been extracted from recently agreed strategies. In some cases new policy developments, revisions or updates (either national, regional or local) will necessitate the addition of new aims or amendment of the vision. In these instances any changes or additions should be backed by robust evidence (as, the vision(s) and aims from existing strategies have been).

As part of this process Delivery Partnerships are also invited to comment on the key facts (on page 3 of this document), particularly where gaps or possible data errors need to be addressed.

Step 2 – LAA priorities and indicators

Once consensus is reached on the strategic aims for strengthening the economy, the Delivery Partnership is asked to consider what the priority aims are (to be entered in the blank priority box). In discussing the draft priorities there are three key considerations:

- There needs to be robust evidence why we are picking something as a priority (e.g. data showing performance is poor, has been highlighted in consultation as important for residents etc).
- The number of priorities needs to be limited (remember that ultimately these will inform the indicators in our LAA which will be limited to 35 targets).
- In some policy areas (e.g. Children and Young People) there may already be a formal process for priority setting which will of course take precedence over this discussion.

Once a small number of priority aims have been identified (from the 'long-list') of SCS strategic aims the Delivery Partnership is asked to rank these. This is to help inform the discussion over what priorities ought to be included in the LAA from all of the respective policy areas.

Once a draft set of priorities have been agreed, the Delivery Partnership is requested to select the appropriate indicator(s) from the Government's new performance management framework (pages 5-6). As stated above, a guiding principle is that our LAA will be limited to a maximum of 35 targets across all policy areas.

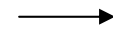
Step 3 – linking aims and priorities to the 'big challenges'

The third step asks Delivery Partnerships to consider how their priorities relate to the big challenges (often cross-cutting) facing the city. These are the things (like reducing child poverty or halting population decline for example) that all Delivery Partnerships can and will make a contribution to addressing. Through this thinking we are trying to ensure that the SCS and LAA are not just a set of unrelated aims and priority targets but rather represent a coherent (and cross-policy) approach to addressing the city's key challenges.

Strengthening the Economy theme - SCS Strategic Aims – LAA Priorities: overview

Economy vision: (taken from Regeneration Strategy)

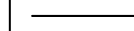
Our vision is for an economy which attracts people and investment to the city, with quality of life and quality of work seen as inseparable by all who live in Newcastle. We want to see Newcastle established as a nationally and in some niches, internationally recognised location for commercial innovation in science and design, based on the strengths of our universities (including Newcastle, Northumbria and Durham) and Newcastle College. Newcastle will be a competitive location for knowledge-intensive business services, acting as a professional service hub for North East England and raising productivity across the region. We will build on current growth in retail, tourism and cultural industries to consolidate Newcastle's position as a centre for culture and leisure, creating significant numbers of jobs. We will use existing strengths, including in the public sector, to drive enterprise, establishing a trading culture that reaches into all communities in the city. Most importantly, in doing all of this, we will understand, demonstrate and champion the relationship between economic and social change.



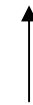
Strategic Aims (Regeneration Strategy)

- Realising the economic potential of higher education
- Improving employability
- Creating a trading culture across Newcastle
- Deepening links between Newcastle and the region
- Building the leisure economy
- Welcoming people to live, work and invest
- Improving economic competitiveness and inclusion
- Meeting the city's skills demands.

Priorities:



Proposed LAA indicators (from new performance management framework)



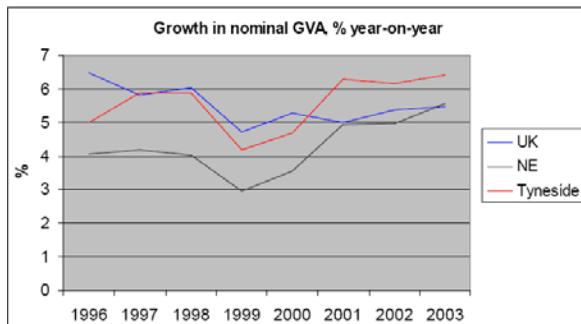
Other strategic drivers / initiatives / related prioritisation processes:

- Sub National Review
- City Region MAA Expression of Interest
- Employment Consortium (related to MAA)
- TIF

Key evidence

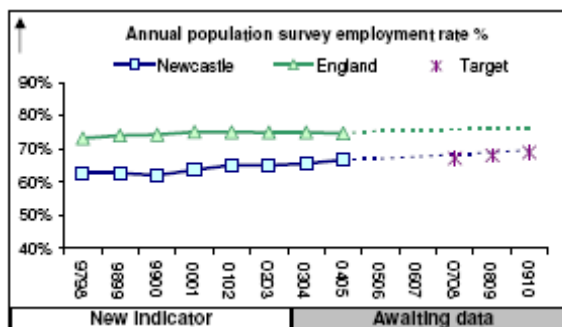
Economic growth

Economic growth, as measured by Gross Value Added (GVA) has grown consistently faster than the average for the North East but still lags behind the UK average.



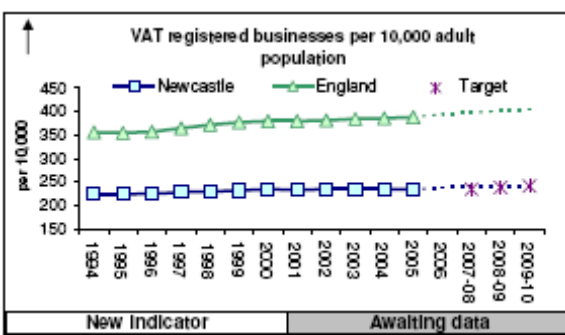
Employment Rate

The employment rate in Newcastle still lags behind that of Britain as a whole.



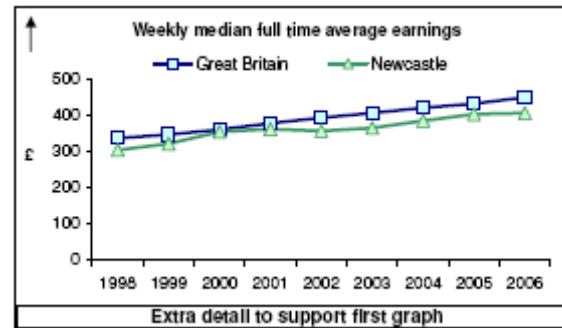
Self employment & business growth

Newcastle's stock of registered businesses has shown net growth over the past decade, but performance has been uneven and overall, growth has been weak compared to Great Britain as a whole.



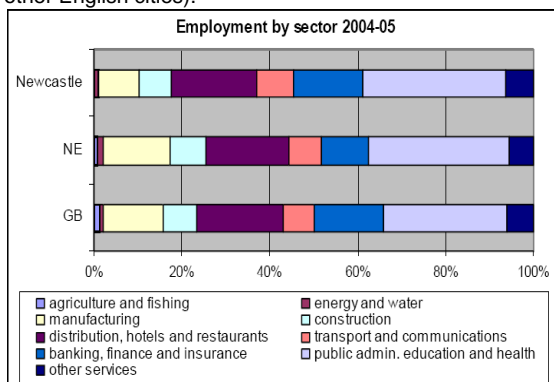
Quality of jobs: Earnings

Earnings have grown faster in Newcastle (Median gross weekly pay, full time workers for 2005 – 404.1) than in some other major cities, though the absolute level continues to be relatively low (United Kingdom 431.2).



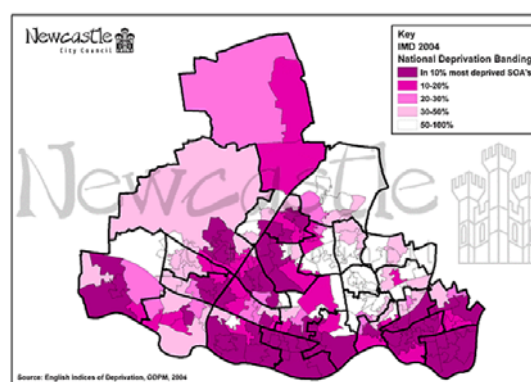
Employment type

Newcastle has a significantly higher share of employment in public sector compared to the North East and Great Britain (although the number of public sector jobs in Newcastle compared to its population is not significantly different from other English cities).



Deprivation and worklessness

Newcastle has 61 out of 173 statistical "super output" areas in the 10 per cent most deprived within the country on the employment indicator.



LAA indicators (Extract from Government's new Performance Management Framework)

<p>Local economy</p>	<p>NI 151 Overall employment rate PSA 8</p> <p>NI 152 Working age people on out of work benefits PSA 8</p> <p>NI 153 Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods DWP DSO</p> <p>NI 154 Net additional homes provided PSA 20</p> <p>NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) PSA 20</p> <p>NI 156 Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation PSA 20</p> <p>NI 157 Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for 'major', 'minor' and 'other' application types CLG DSO</p> <p>NI 158 % decent council homes CLG DSO</p> <p>NI 159 Supply of ready to develop housing sites CLG DSO</p> <p>NI 160 Local Authority tenants' satisfaction with landlord services CLG DSO</p> <p>NI 161 Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in literacy PSA 2</p> <p>NI 162 Learners achieving an Entry Level 3 qualification in numeracy PSA 2</p> <p>NI 163 Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher PSA 2</p> <p>NI 164 Working age population qualified to at least Level 3 or higher PSA 2</p> <p>NI 165 Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher PSA 2</p> <p>NI 166 Average earnings of employees in the area BERR DSO</p> <p>NI 167 Congestion - average journey time per mile during the morning peak DfT DSO</p> <p>NI 168 Principal roads where maintenance should be considered DfT DSO</p> <p>NI 169 Non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered DfT DSO</p> <p>NI 170 Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years CLG DSO 3</p> <p>NI 171 VAT registration rate BERR DSO</p> <p>NI 172 VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth</p>
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	<p>BERR DSO</p> <p>NI 173 People falling out of work and on to incapacity benefits DWP DSO</p> <p>NI 174 Skills gaps in the current workforce reported by employers DIUS DSO</p> <p>NI 175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling DfT DSO</p> <p>NI 176 Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes) DfT DSO</p> <p>NI 177 Local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area DfT DSO</p> <p>NI 178 Bus services running on time DfT DSO</p> <p>NI 179 Value for money – total net value of on-going cash-releasing value for money gains that have impacted since the start of the 2008-9 financial year CLG DSO</p> <p>NI 180 Changes in Housing Benefit/ Council Tax Benefit entitlements within the year DWP DSO</p> <p>NI 181 Time taken to process Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit new claims and change events DWP DSO</p> <p>NI 182 Satisfaction of businesses with local authority regulation services BERR DSO</p> <p>NI 183 Impact of local authority regulatory services on the fair trading environment BERR DSO</p> <p>NI 184 Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law</p>
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