



# CLEP DELIVERY PLAN

2020-21

**CLEP**

**CUMBRIA  
LOCAL  
ENTERPRISE  
PARTNERSHIP**

**NORTHERN**   
**POWERHOUSE**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Annual Delivery Plan is a new requirement of all Local Enterprise Partnerships in response to the "Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships" report produced by government in July 2018. CLEP's 2019/20 Annual Delivery Plan was a 'light-touch' version that reflected the transitional year as LEPs collectively work with government to fully develop the expectations of the Annual Delivery Plan.
- 1.2 We produced our draft Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) in March 2019. This has been discussed with government. However it has not been formally signed off and as yet no co-produced LIS has been published. Nevertheless, CLEP has used the LIS as the key document to drive our activities and focus.
- 1.3 2019 saw a new Government elected with new priorities, particularly in relation to levelling up. The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union on 31 January 2020. The impacts of the global coronavirus pandemic started to be felt in Cumbria in March 2020 and subsequently has had a profound effect on the local and national economy. All these factors mean that the Annual Delivery Plan for 2020/21 remains a light touch version.
- 1.4 As in 2019/20, the Delivery Plan is structured around the three themes of the Annual Performance Review – Strategy, Governance and Delivery – with the focus of this report being primarily on the delivery aspects of all funded programmes and activity. This structure has been developed by CLEP in advance of introducing a formal Annual Delivery Plan designed around monitoring progress against the LIS or its successor.

## 2. RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- 2.1 Whilst this Annual Delivery Plan was being developed, the impacts of Covid-19 were just beginning to emerge. However, it was becoming clear that the response to Covid-19 would be the overarching factor driving CLEP's activity during 2020/21.
- 2.2 Cumbria's restart and recovery planning in response to the Covid-19 pandemic commenced prior to the national lockdown of 23 March. Cumbria had already mobilised its Local Resilience Forum in advance of this. CLEP recognised the significant potential damage that could be caused to the economy, as a result of the pandemic, given the unique shape of the economy and the closure of the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors.



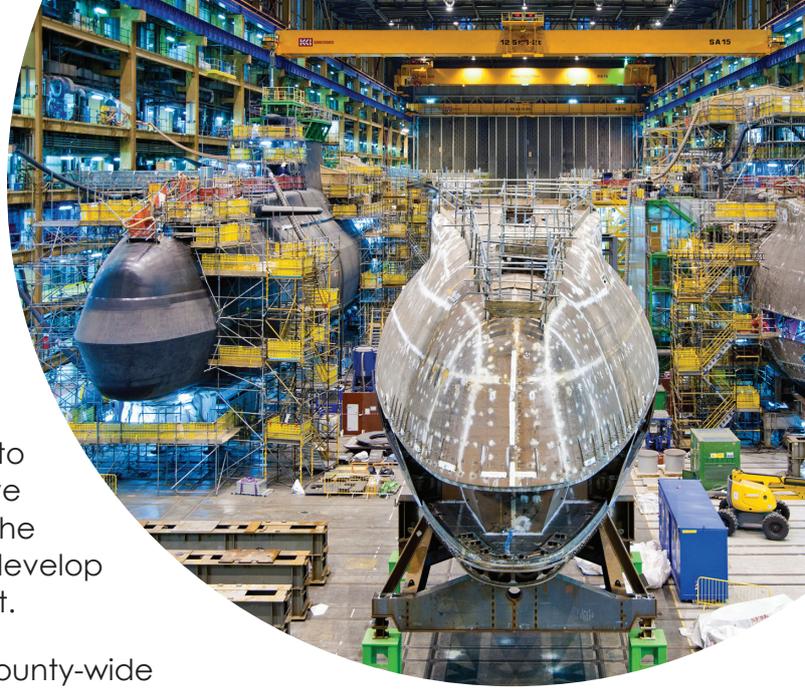
- 2.3 CLEP was invited by our local partners to lead the Business and Economic Response and Recovery Group (BERRG) to co-ordinate the public, private and voluntary and community sector's efforts in both responding to and recovering from Covid-19. BERRG is a sub-group of the Local Resilience Forum.
- 2.4 BERRG was set up to be responsible for the following key priorities:
- Assessing the economic implications for Cumbria and ensure that accurate and up to date intelligence is collected and disseminated as appropriate
  - Identifying the effectiveness of national and local mitigation activity in maintaining economic and business activity and identify any further mitigation actions
  - Developing clear and consistent communication channels to ensure that all businesses are aware of the support available to them
  - Supporting businesses to continue trading and to manage liquidity during the emergency
  - Developing an economic recovery strategy, at the appropriate point.
- 2.5 BERRG's membership was intended to be extensive, with full membership extending to over 70 member organisations. At the outset of the process, it was agreed that BERRG would extend its reach into other economic bodies and organisations becoming in essence a 'network of networks. Importantly, it would also utilise CLEP's extensive governance structure to engage all key sectors in response and recovery activity.

### 3. STRATEGY

- 3.1 CLEP published its draft Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) in March 2019. During 2019/20 the LEP embarked on embedding the LIS and its objectives in its approach to delivery and governance. The LIS is now fully embedded in our processes and is the prism through which all strategic decisions are taken and project funding requests assessed. Part 2 of CLEP's Local Assurance Framework provides full details of the systems and processes for project prioritisation and investment decisions.
- 3.2 During 2020/21 the focus is on further embedding the LIS and, in the light of the potential impacts of Covid-19, defining a new path towards realising the LIS, recognising that the economic landscape has changed significantly since the initial LIS development phase in 2018 and 2019.
- 3.3 We plan to continue the **development of our evidence base**. In particular, CLEP with a number of partners, including the District and County Councils and the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, will reinstate the Cumbria Business Survey in 2020. This will be conducted largely by telephone to gather stakeholders' insights into the practices, priorities, needs and approaches to growth by 2,000 businesses across Cumbria. The survey, which was formerly biennial, will provide a very helpful profile of the range of businesses in our county and how we can better support them going forward.
- 3.4 CLEP will continue to make substantive **contributions to national consultations** and calls for evidence from Select Committees and other bodies, working with the LEP network where appropriate. This ensures that Cumbria's voice is properly heard and can influence national policy.

3.5 During 2020/21 we aim to complete and publish or make available to our partners the following strategies:

- **Creative and Cultural Strategy** led by CLEP's Creative and Cultural Sector Panel. This will cover what is required to promote and develop the existing exceptional arts and cultural offer and to encourage further growth in the creative industries. This builds on a key strand in the LIS about the role of culture in helping develop our places that attract and retain talent.
- **Digital Strategy** drawing together the county-wide improvement plans and upgrades to deliver better digital infrastructure, enhanced business services, the creation of a world class digital skills offer, more efficient and inclusive public services and digital inclusion, so that nobody is left behind.
- **Housing Delivery Strategy** covering how CLEP and partners working collectively could support the delivery of Cumbria's strategic housing priorities
- **Internationalisation Strategy.** The LIS identified that Cumbria was not maximising its trade and investment opportunities as effectively as it might and CLEP commenced the development of an Internationalisation Strategy in autumn 2019. This strategy will set out how CLEP and its partners across Cumbria could increase exports from Cumbria and attract a greater level of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and is due to be published in 2020/21.
- In July 2019, CLEP, Cumbria County Council, the District Councils and the LDNPA jointly commissioned Lambert Smith Hampton to produce an **Employment Sites and Premises Study** for Cumbria. This study will support delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy through providing a framework for investment in priority employment sites and was received in final draft form at the start of 2020/21.



3.6 In addition, the CLEP team and partners are developing a **nuclear prospectus** during 2020/21. This will set out the future opportunities nationally and in Cumbria and the role Cumbria could play in supporting the development of the nuclear sector in its contribution to delivering Net Zero Carbon targets.

3.7 Cumbria partners have identified the opportunity presented by the government's proposal to support new Freeports in the UK. During 2020/21 CLEP plans to help develop a multi-site **Freeport application**.

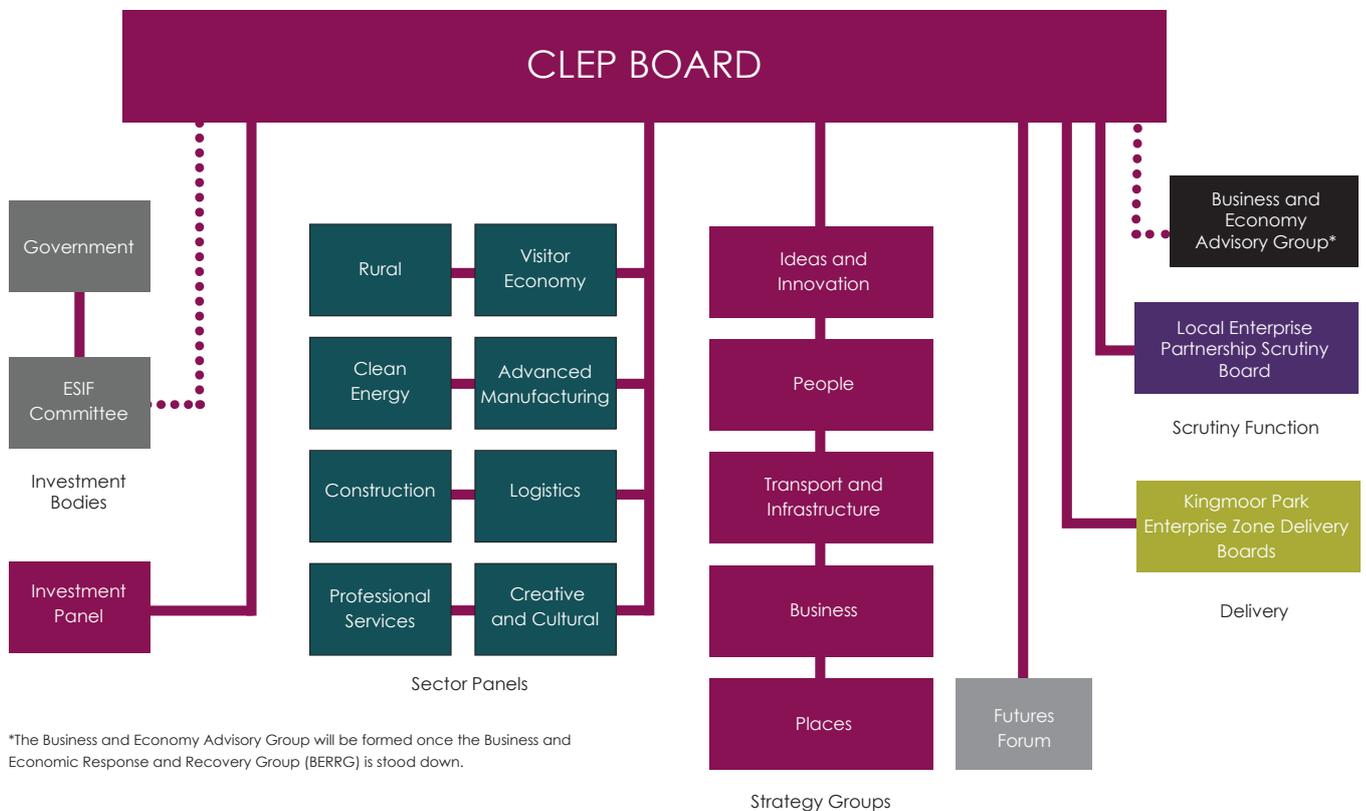
3.8 As well as all this activity, it is clear that the development of a strong strategic response to Covid-19 under the auspices of BERRG will be a major significant forward commitment.

## 4. GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 The changes to governance introduced in 2019 were bedded in during 2019/20 and will be kept under review in 2020/21. There have been regular meetings of the Strategy Groups and Sector Panels which have overseen the development and implementation of LIS priorities. All eight Sector Panels are now well beyond developmental stage and have a clear work programme during 2020/21 (which of course will be impacted by Covid-19).
- 4.2 The main substantive governance change during 2020/21 has been, as noted earlier, the creation of an effective Business and Economic Response and Recovery Group (BERRG) structure. This group is chaired by CLEP's Chief Executive and led and supported by CLEP. This will become the Business and Economic Advisory Group (BEAG) once the pandemic has formally moved into the recovery phase. Another important change was the loss of the Health and Care Sector Panel as it was recognised that existing public sector partners were fully covering the agenda.
- 4.3 CLEP received a strong assessment in the government's Annual Performance Review for 2019/20, with the assessment as follows:
- Governance<sup>1</sup>: Exceptional
  - Delivery: Good
  - Strategic Impact: Requirements Met. (Highest score available)

### Governance Structure

4.4 The structure for 2020/21 is outlined below, showing the role of BERRG:



<sup>1</sup>Governance and Delivery marked out of: inadequate; requires improvement; good; or exceptional. Strategic impact marked as requirements either met or unmet

## Further Priorities

4.5 Other priority activities for 2020/21 are:

- **Futures Forum** – embedding the Futures Forum into the CLEP governance structure. This follows its first meeting in February 2020. The Forum consists of sixteen younger people aged 18-35, who are committed to making sure that their views and that of their peers seriously influence Cumbria's economic strategy and investment decisions.
- Continuing to review our governance structures to ensure they are fit for purpose. This includes ensuring that the **Clean Energy Sector Panel** extends focus to all technologies from its previous focus on nuclear.
- Developing a forward programme for 2020/21 for the **LEP Scrutiny Board**. This Board has been established with 14 voting County Council members and 6 voting co-opted members from the District Councils. Its sole remit is CLEP Scrutiny and it meets twice per year, with meeting scheduled for September 2020 and March 2021. CLEP will continue to attend individual local authority Scrutiny Committees on request in line with its strong commitment to openness and transparency
- **Annual General Meeting** – ensuring that the next AGM on 18 September 2020 builds upon the successful AGMs in 2018 and 2019 and secures interest in scrutinising CLEP and its activities.



## 5. DEVELOPMENT OF STAFF AND CAPABILITIES OF CLEP

- 5.1 During 2019/20 CLEP had a successful recruitment and secondment process to fill the roles to create a team that is designed to meet the requirements of "Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships". During 2020/21 CLEP will be seeking to secure secondee resource to appoint a Head of Strategy and Policy.
- 5.2 As a result of Covid-19, CLEP will be developing home working arrangements and ensuring the capacity and capability to operate effectively under this remote working arrangements whilst there are restrictions on working from offices.
- 5.3 CLEP will be seeking to secure additional resources to deliver supplementary growth hub activity during 2020/21.
- 5.4 During 2020/21, CLEP will be required to produce its first set of audited accounts for the financial year 2019/20 for the company limited by guarantee.

## 6. MULTI-LEP AND WORKING OUTSIDE CUMBRIA

6.1 CLEP is involved in several partnerships and range of activities outside our boundaries:

- CLEP is an active member of the LEP Network and has led and contributed to several of the LEP Network's submission to government to Select Committees and other consultations.
- CLEP is one of only two LEPs on the national Local Economy Recovery Group, a national body which advises Ministers on economic recovery from Covid-19.
- CLEP is a member of the Northern Powerhouse 11 (NP11) and has committed to work collaboratively with the other 10 LEPs within the NP11 on the work programme that is being developed. We are currently taking a lead on the Places work for NP11 along with the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP.
- CLEP works with the North West LEPs as part of the North West Local Energy Hub.
- The cross-LEP working on the nuclear sector with the other North West LEPs, Heart of the South West and New Anglia LEPs.
- CLEP continues to be committed to and actively engaged in the Borderland Inclusive Growth Deal. This is a cross-Border initiative consisting of Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland Council and Scottish Borders Council that received a substantial funding allocation in the March 2019 Budget Statement and where some projects have started deliver (eg the rollout of the Digital Borderlands voucher scheme) and others are moving forward to Heads of Terms.
- We work collaboratively with other adjoining LEPs on a project or strategic basis (e.g. with Lancashire LEP on the Morecambe Bay Economic Area proposal).
- CLEP has been involved in the Peer Review process organised through the LEP Network. Partnered with Coventry & Warwickshire LEP, the exercise offered an opportunity to share best practice across key areas such as governance, business engagement and strategy development.

### Partnership working within Cumbria

#### *Engaging with the business community*

6.2 The business sector engagement takes place through several channels:

- Our **formal governance structures** have a very strong business representation. We have eight Sector Panels covering the rural economy (largely responsible for agri-food), the visitor economy, the creative & cultural sector, clean energy, advanced manufacturing, construction, logistics, and professional services. At least 150 businesses are members of these Sector Panels, which meet every 2 to 3 months. Businesses are also represented on the LEP's other key governance sub-committees (five Strategy Groups covering the five foundations of productivity).
- The LEP holds an **Annual General Meeting** in September. The 2019 AGM was attended by representatives from over 100 businesses and public, voluntary and community sector partners.

6.3 In addition, LEP staff attend, present and answer questions at a wide range of business dinners, business networking events and business clubs on an ad hoc basis.

#### *Engaging with wider public, voluntary and community-based bodies*

6.4 The wider public, voluntary and community-based bodies also are represented across our governance structure and sit on different Sector Panels and Strategy Groups. In addition the LEP engages with the public sector via:

- Engagement with the Cumbria Chief Executives Group and Cumbria Leaders' Board
- The Technical Officers Groups (of local economic development leads for our 7 local authorities, the Lake District National Park and other bodies such as Natural England)
- Membership of Cumbria's Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership

6.5 As with the business sector, LEP staff attend, present and answer questions at a wide range of networking events and conferences on an ad hoc basis. These include the Cumbria CVS. There is a VCSE nomination on the CLEP Board and throughout the wider governance structure.

## **7. KEY INDICATORS FOR THE 2020/21 DELIVERY PLAN**

7.1 The current forecasts are that the activity of the LEP will deliver the following outputs in 2020/21:

- Supporting the creation of around 620 new jobs
- Levering in around £15 millions of investment
- Helping the delivery of 75 new homes
- Supporting around 1,100 new learners

[Note: sourced from Growth Deal Dashboard, Q4 2020]



## 8. LOCAL GROWTH FUND ACTIVITY

8.1 CLEP has or plans to support around 37 projects via the Local Growth Fund (LGF). During 2019/20 there was re-profiling and work to develop pipeline projects as some projects previously identified could not be progressed due to a range of factors. Of these 37 projects at the end of Q4 2019/20:

- 11 were closed and financially completed but where outputs are still being monitored
- 12 were live with delivery that will be completed in 2020/21
- 7 were in contracting and a further 7 were developing Full Business Cases.

8.2 The overall progress and forecasts spend (Table 8.1) the main outputs recorded for all LGF supported projects (Table 8.2) are summarised below. CLEP remains on track to spend all of the LFG allocations by the end of 2020/21. However, Covid-19 will undoubtedly impact on some projects so the programme will need to be managed carefully.

	Number of projects	Total value £ms	Total spend	
			Total spend To end 2019/20	Forecast for 2020/21
Total Growth Deal Allocation		£60.3		
Completed Projects	11	£30.5	£30.5	
Live Projects	12	£20.0	£17.2	£3.0
Total live and completed		£50.5	£47.7	£3.0
Projects in Contracting	7	£3.4		£3.4
Projects at Full Business Case	7	£6.8		£6.8
Total yet to start		£10.3		£10.3
Total spent and allocated*		£60.8	£47.7	£13.3

8.3 The recorded overall achievement across the programme is shown in Table 8.2. Compared to the original targets set out in BEIS offer letters:

- Three targets had already been exceeded by the end of 2019/20 (learning opportunities, premise created and access to superfast broadband).
- Three targets are yet to be achieved, however based on project forecasts they will be achieved but after the end of 2020/21 (due to the time lag in follow-on investment and in job creation).

Table 8.2: LGF outputs in Cumbria (forecast as of Q4 2019/20)

Output measured	Outputs in BEIS LGF Offer Letters	Commitments	Forecast*	Achieved**	% of BEIS Target achieved	Still to be achieved
Jobs (Created Safeguarded)	4,000	6,099	6,903	1,830	46%	2,170
Investment - Public & Private Match/ Follow-on £ms	£100	£134	£147	£44	44%	£55.7
Learning Opportunities	1,700	5,304	6,274	2,169	128%	EXCEEDED
Housing	3,000	3,750	3,649	507	17%	2,493
Premises sqm (Created / Refurbished)	62,000	235,501	253,583	95,001	153%	EXCEEDED
Premises with access to superfast broadband	5,000	5,925	11,240	10,529	211%	EXCEEDED

Notes: \* to end of March 2020; \*\* including future years beyond 2020-21

8.4 The live projects where significant **spend** is still to be incurred in 2020/21 are:

- **Growing our Potential** is a flexible fund aimed at businesses seeking to grow, increase productivity, foster innovation and create jobs. The fund can support capital investment in established SMEs with CLEP providing between 10-40% of the total investment with the grant range between £50,000 and £200,000. Originally a business case was prepared for a £2m fund, but the approval early in 2020 was for a £1m fund with ability to increase if Growth Deal funds are available. Two rounds of projects have been considered and at the beginning of 2020/21 the programme was just under 50% committed with a healthy pipeline of interest.
- **South Ulverston Infrastructure Improvements.** Here final works underway at Daltongate Business Park which are expected to complete in Q2 2020/21. A change control has been approved allowing £159,000 of additional eligible expenditure to be included which is expected to be claimed by Q3 2020/21.
- **Connecting Cumbria** the project to support the roll out of superfast broadband is being delivered through Cumbria County Council across Cumbria. This project has been allocated £3,600,000 and a final element of £174,206 is forecast to be spent in 2020/21. The project has exceeded its original outputs and been very successful in extending the reach of superfast broadband across Cumbria

- **M-Sport Evaluation Centre** the MEC project comprises the construction of a 10,723m<sup>2</sup> Evaluation Centre at the M-Sport Headquarters at Dovenby Hall near Cockermouth and has received an allocation of £1.3m in LGF. The project will lever £23.4m of public and private sector funding, develop 10,723 sq. metres of business space, and create 101 jobs. The project is well underway with a remaining £600,000 to be spent during 2020/21,
- **Carlisle Citadels** is a project to support land assembly to facilitate the development of this strategic site in the centre of Carlisle. £1.7 million has been committed to support land acquisition and demolition of buildings
- **Manufacturing and premises purchase, Clark Door.** The project is nearing physical completion with just £85,000 to be claimed out of this £570,000 grant funded project towards a £3.0 million scheme to expand the businesses manufacturing and development facilities.
- **Dressed to Impress** at Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery is a project supporting the refurbishment at this independent regional museum, to create two innovative costume and textile galleries. Total funding is £215,000 with a remaining £97,000 to be spent during 2020/21

8.5 Some of these projects are likely to face challenges in progress and some slippage due to the impact of Covid-19 on construction activity.

8.6 In addition to these projects, there are several projects that are completed and have claimed all their LGF but where outputs are expected to start being delivered throughout 2020/21 and through to 2025. The principle ones are:

- **Barrow Waterfront**, where £7.2 million has been invested by LGF. This has funded site reclamation and improvement work to transform derelict land into a business park for employment and advanced manufacturing growth, including site clearance and levelling, decontamination work, removal of industrial debris, provision of utilities, landscaping and raised earthworks for flood protection measures. 2019/20 saw the completion of the first new employment space development on with site. Harding Rise House Managed Business Centre utilised investment from the ERDF Programme to deliver 1,494 m<sup>2</sup> of new premises for growing small and medium sized companies in January 2020 and the site is being actively marketed to other developers.
- The **Advanced Manufacturing Centres** at Barrow College and Carlisle College have seen £2 million of LGF spend and continue to be important centres for learning activity in key sectors.
- **Carlisle Airport** where the £4.95 million of LGF saw the commencement of commercial flights in the summer of 2019, but where Covid-19 will have a major impact on activity during 2020/21.
- **Durranhill Industrial Estate** owned by Carlisle City Council saw £2 million of LGF support for access improvements, site servicing, a new road link and access to release vacant land for development in 2015/16. There continues to be development there with a further 1,500 sqm of new floorspace, 120 new jobs and a further £7 million forecasted for 2019/20.

8.7 CLEP is working with delivery partners on a range of projects that could receive LGF support in 2020/21 that are in contracting or at FBC stage. These include:

- Support of £900,000 towards the development of new Civil Engineering training facilities at Lakes College to meet the need identified for the construction sector in Cumbria.
- A Optimising Connectivity Phase 2: with around £740,000 supporting low-carbon transport improvements in Southern Windermere and near Keswick led by the Lake District National Park Authority to support growth in the visitor economy.
- Around £1.8 million to deliver unlocking infrastructure at Lillyhall North led by Allerdale Borough Council to facilitate the development of this major strategic site near Workington
- Providing £1 million to support investment in Whitehaven town centre to complement the Future High Street Fund bid through bringing forward vital land assembly to underpin the programme
- Supporting Copeland Borough Council's acquisition of Leconfield Industrial Estate in Cleator Moor by providing £1.1 million as part of the development of a new masterplan for the Estate and supporting a key project to be developed as part of the Town Investment Plan.
- An investment of £4.39m in the development of Kendal Business Hub, providing new, flexible business space aimed at new start businesses and growing SMEs.

## Monitoring and Evaluation of the LGF

8.8 In November 2019, CLEP received the independent Mid-Term Evaluation of its Local Growth Fund Programme. The Evaluation identified five key recommendations for CLEP to take forward into the final year of the Programme. Implementing these recommendations are being embedded in both the work of the Executive as well as the Investment Panel.



## 9. OTHER FUNDING OR GROWTH PROGRAMMES

### ESIF

9.1 CLEP relies on reporting from central government in terms of progress of ESIF supported activity in Cumbria. It plays an active role in publicising the programme and its opportunities as well as coordinating a range of partners to bring forward viable projects that can deliver against LIS objectives

### ERDF

9.2 Based on current exchange rates Cumbria has an allocation of £49 million of ERDF. As of June 2020, across the whole programme £40 million of this allocation (81%) was contracted or in application stage with

- £30 million (61%) was contracted,
- £3.8 million was in a funding agreement in progress or at full application stage (8%) and
- £6.15 million (12%) was in outline application stage,
- leaving £9.35 million (19%) still unallocated.

9.3 The main issue in Cumbria has been in developing projects in Priority 1 (R&D and Innovation) due to the lack of research-based institutions, but some progress has been made over the last 12 months with £4 million at outline application stage, although only 32% was contracted. The CLEP has a particularly healthy pipeline of projects in Priority Axis 4 low carbon.

9.4 Progress and projects of note that are up and running and delivering activity and outputs include:

- The £4.1 million Cumbria Innovations Platform programme (CUSP) being delivered by Lancaster University (and also involving the University of Cumbria) aimed at innovation in SMEs (Priority Axis 1)
- The ICTIS - Information and Communication Technology Improvement Support project delivered by Allerdale Borough Council (Priority Axis 2)
- The Cumbria Growth Hub (see later) and Business Start-up support programmes being delivered by the Chamber of Commerce under Priority Axis 3
- The £2.2 million Eco-Innovation Cumbria programme for SMEs being delivered by the University of Cumbria in Priority Axis 4 which is operational.
- The £7.3 million Low Carbon Lake District programme being run by the Lake District National Park Authority, which is now live.

9.5 Cumbria is making good progress in the delivery of targeted activity in Priority Axes 1 (R&D, and innovation) and 3 (entrepreneurship) through the business support programmes here including the Growth Hub.

Status	1 R&D and Innovation	2 ICT	3 Entrepreneurship	Low Carbon	Climate change adaptation	6 Re-source efficiency	Total
Outline	£4.0	£0.0	£1.7	£0.0	£0.0	£0.5	£6.2
Full Application	£0.0	£0.0	£0.1	£3.2	£0.0	£0.0	£3.3
Funding agreement in Development	£0.0	£0.0	£0.5	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.5
<b>Contracted</b>	<b>£2.4</b>	<b>£0.5</b>	<b>£12.5</b>	<b>£8.6</b>	<b>£5.3</b>	<b>£0.8</b>	<b>£30.1</b>
Total value all projects	£6.4	£0.5	£14.7	£11.8	£5.3	£1.3	£40.1
Notional Allocation	£7.6	£0.6	£21.0	£13.5	£5.4	£1.4	£49.4
Balance remaining	£1.1	£0.1	£6.3	£1.7	£0.0	£0.1	£9.3
% contracted	32%	84%	59%	64%	100%	54%	61%
<b>% taken up</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>81%</b>

Source: ESI Sub-Committee, report from June 2020. Note: as of previous quarter

Priority area and measure	Target	Total projects all stages	Contracted	Claimed	As % of target	
					Claimed to date	Contracted
PA1 Number of enterprises receiving support	214	270	120	112	52%	56%
PA2 Number of enterprises receiving support	113	150	150	0	0%	133%
PA3 Number of enterprises receiving support	1,850	2,698	2,079	861	47%	112%
PA4 Estimated annual decrease of GHG (tonnes of Co2)	5,927	984	884	400	7%	15%
PA5 businesses and properties with reduced flood risk	599	1,717	1,717	0	0%	287%

Source: ESI Sub-Committee, report from June 2020.

## ESF

9.6 The programme is very largely committed in financial terms. By March 2020 the commitments on participants (25,300 committed compared to overall 27,000 target) is in line with the overall target to 2023 targets. Actual delivery to the end of Q3 2019 of 16,500 participants overall in Cumbria was running at around 60% of the overall target to 2023. Overall, the programme in Cumbria appears likely to fully achieve its spend and participant targets.

Table 9.3 Progress on ESF Spend and Commitment in Cumbria, March 2020, £000s

Priority area	Total committed (ESF only)	Total claimed (up to Q4 2019)	Claimed a % of committed	2023 Target ESF	Committed as % 2023 target
1.1 Access to employment for jobseekers and inactive people	£10,587	£5,120	48%	£9,465	112%
1.2 Sustainable integration of young people	£1,200	£842	70%	£2,025	59%
Active inclusion.	£2,500	£1,528	61%	£3,329	75%
PA1 Total	£14,287	£7,490	52%	£14,819	96%
2.1 Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning	£16,424	£4,883	30%	£16,230	101%
2.2 Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems				£2,286	0%
PA 2 Total	£16,424	£4,883	30%	£18,516	89%
Total	£30,711	£12,373	40%	£33,335	92%

Source: Summary of Commitment as at 3/3/2020 from ESI Funds Sub-Committee

9.7 There has been generally good progress in commitment of delivery of the number of participants compared to targets, as outlined in Table 9.4.

Table 9.4: Progress in number of participants

Participants	2023 target	Total committed to date	2023 committed as % of target	Total actual delivered to Q3 2019	Total delivered as % of 2023 target
1.1 Access To Employment For Job-Seekers And Inactive People	9,062	11,191	123%	6,200	68%
1.2 Sustainable Integration Of Young People	2,098	1,124	54%	942	45%
1.4 Active Inclusion	1,771	976	55%	919	52%
PA1 Total	12,931	13,291	103%	8,061	62%
2.1 Enhancing Equal Access To Lifelong Learning	13,886	11,998	86%	8,458	61%
2.1 Improving The Labour Market Relevance Of Education And Training Systems	238		0%		0%
PA 2 Total	14,124	11,998	85%	8,458	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,055</b>	<b>25,289</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>16,519</b>	<b>61%</b>

Source: Summary of Commitment as at 3/3/2020 from ESI Funds Sub-Committee

## Growing Places Fund

- 9.8 The Cumbria Infrastructure Fund (CIF) is the name for the local implementation of the national Growing Places Fund. The fund was established to promote the delivery of key infrastructure needed to unlock developments that help generate jobs and homes. The total amount of funding awarded was £6.1 million and was established to act as a revolving fund to allow future investments to be made once returns to the programme are made. Funds have already started to be reinvested as the programme has committed a total of £8.7 million to projects.
- 9.9 At present CLEP currently has over £1.6 million of CIF funding available to support new projects. However, the use of this fund has not been a priority given the need to make full use of LGF allocation in 2020/21. No projects had been identified for investment in 2020/21. CIF would be deployed if there was potential overspend on LGF as a result of the need for overprogramming to achieve end of programme spend.

## Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund (NCRF)

9.10 Cumbria has been awarded £3.2 million in funding from the NCRF which is supported by DCMS. This funding is supporting three NCRF projects:

- **Windermere Jetty Museum of Boats, Steam and Stories** has been allocated £2.3 million in NCRF support which has helped contribute to the overall £20 million cost of the project. The new museum at Windermere Jetty replaces the former Windermere Steamboat Museum and opened to the public in March 2019. By the end of 2019/20 the project had received £2.014 million of the grant approved, and it is expected that the project will complete in 2020/21. The project will support 29 FTE jobs and is expected to receive around 120,000 visits per year. It welcomed more than 45,000 people in its first eight months after opening.
- The **Reimagining Wordsworth** project will transform the Wordsworth Museum in Grasmere, which holds the finest collection of Wordsworth's manuscripts anywhere in the world. The project has been allocated £495,000 in NCRF support, and by the end of 19/20 had received £267,000 of the grant approval. It is expected that the project will complete in 2020/21, and it aims to support creation of 5 FTEs and 16,500 additional visitors.
- **Abbot Hall** is home to a significant visual arts collection in Kendal. The project will enable the museum will undergo vital refurbishment across its Main Galleries; create a new Project Space for exhibitions and artist residencies, community projects and workshops; and achieve full accessibility across the buildings and site. The project is expected to be undertaken in 2020/21, and is expected to receive £495,000 in NCRF support.

## Enterprise Zone

9.11 CLEP secured Enterprise Zone status for Kingmoor Park in Carlisle. The EZ became operational on 1 April 2016 for a 25-year period, offering a combination of business rates relief and capital allowances. The EZ site is 122 hectares in total of which 49 hectares are already developed.

9.12 Kingmoor Park is located just off Junction 44 of the M6, and has the potential to create an additional 3,000 jobs in advanced manufacturing, nuclear supply chain and logistics. It is highly accessible and offers considerable opportunity to attract new investors to the County and offer grow-on space for existing businesses. CLEP worked with partners at Carlisle City Council and Kingmoor Park Properties to secure inclusion within the Northern Powerhouse Area of DIT's Capital Investment Portfolio in February 2020. This is shared via DIT with international partners considering investment in the North of England.

9.13 The priority in 2020/21 will be as follows.

- Continued engagement with central government on resetting the EZ baseline.
- Engagement of a development partner to take forward the new commercial masterplan. Covid-19 is likely to lead in a shift in demand towards the logistics sector, increasing the need for large-scale storage and distribution facilities. Therefore, the masterplan will need to be flexible.
- Completion of the delivery of the MODVillage (1,670 sqm "business village" made from recycled shipping containers) which started in 2019/20

- Completion of a new 1.6 hectare solar farm site to enable the business park to operate as much as possible from renewable energy
- Further development of the proposals for an Energy from Waste plant on the site by Verus Energy.

## **Business support**

### *Cumbria Growth Catalyst*

9.14 Cumbria County Council received the annual offer letter for funding of £246,000 in February 2019 from BEIS, following approval of the delivery schedules jointly submitted by CLEP and the Council. During 2019/20 the revised final targets for the Growth Catalyst were:

- 556 Medium Intensity Assists (Diagnostics) – delivered 523
- 128 Intensive (Scale-Up) Assists .- all were delivered
- 32 Workshops - all were delivered

9.15 As a result of EU Exit late in 2019/early 2020 causing a delay to business planning, and COVID-19 impacting at the very end of the Financial Year, 33 less than targeted medium intensity assists were delivered, but these were rolled into the targets for 2020-21.

9.16 In January 2020, a further offer of £246,000 to support Cumbria Growth Catalyst was received, The subsequent contract with Cumbria Chamber of Commerce to deliver the service for 2020/21 had the following performance targets of:

- 538 Medium Intensity Assists (Diagnostics)
- 121 Intensive (Scale-Up) Assists.
- 24 Workshops.

9.17 The Evolutive CRM system introduced in 2019/20 has been extremely helpful in providing CLEP with real time access to data and to support the monitoring of contractor performance, sectoral and geographical distribution of support and to facilitate reporting to BEIS. The CRM is now being extended for the use of two additional CLEP business support programmes: Business Support and Advice Programme (based on Supplementary Funding from BEIS) and Peer Networks Programme (based on funding from BEIS). CLEP is also applying for licenses to use the CRM as a wider business database and engagement monitoring system.

9.18 Amion conducted an interim independent review during 2019/20 as planned. This review confirmed the satisfactory delivery of the programme and positive feedback from businesses receiving support.

## Supplementary Funding

9.19 The Supplementary Funding Programme is a triage and medium assists offer which can then signpost to offers of additional support through the wider business support ecosystem in Cumbria, but also has the unique offer of professional services support where it is identified as a critical business need. The agreed annual targets are as follows:

- 404 businesses triaged
- 553 Medium Intensity Assists (Diagnostics / professional services support)
- 18 Business Recovery Workshops / Masterclasses

9.20 This newly established business support programme is now under way, with a number of businesses already triaged and receiving support and diagnostics.

## Peer Networks

9.21 This programme has committed to the engagement and participation of 100 Cumbrian businesses through the programme with 18 hours of workshops and additional hours of coaching and mentoring are to be delivered by expert facilitators. This programme was contracted at the end of Q2 2020/21, and will be delivered by delivery partners between November 2020 and the end March 2021.

9.22 CLEP's new Project Manager for Business Support, has experience in managing Peer Network Programmes and has already begun managing the programme recruitment and delivery partners to ensure targets are met and businesses obtain value from the programme.

## Career Hub/Enterprise Advisors

9.23 The Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) was launched in Cumbria in 2016. It is a programme that focuses on developing a national network that connects schools and colleges with employers and careers programme providers and supports them to work together to provide young people with effective and high-quality encounters with the world of work. This work was undertaken in partnership the Careers and Enterprise Company.

9.24 In July 2018 building on this work, CLEP with the backing of local education and skills partners, employers and stakeholders was successful in its bid to take part in a national pilot to establish a Careers Hub. The purpose of the Career Hub is to transform careers education for young people through:

- Continued building of networks across schools, colleges to employers and other external careers advisers
- Supporting careers leaders – by providing training and support
- Supporting schools and colleges to achieve the eight Gatsby benchmarks- Indicators of good quality careers advice by supporting and developing excellence and innovation in practice.

9.25 During 2018/19 the Hub lead was recruited and 40 schools and colleges were engaged with the Hub. The target is to ensure all schools and colleges are matched to an enterprise adviser by July 2019, although this has not been fully achieved with some gaps in coverage. The Careers Hub programme at this stage is set to run until August 2021 as is the national commitment to the Enterprise Adviser Network.

9.26 Targets for 2019/2020 (Academic Year) were:

- 90% of all Hub institutions fully achieve the Gatsby Benchmark 5 (for encounters with employers and employees) – Not achieved due to Covid-19
- No Hub schools/colleges scoring in the 0-25% category for benchmark 5 - Achieved
- 60% of all Hub Institutions to have achieved Gatsby Benchmark 6 (Experiences of the workplace), A further 35% of Hub institutions partially achieve benchmark 6- Achieved
- An average of 6 Gatsby Benchmarks by all Careers Hub schools and colleges and full achievement of all 8 benchmarks by lead schools / college. Not achieved 4.3 average benchmark. (The Career Enterprise Company and DfE acknowledged that achievement of this target was impacted on by Covid-19).

9.27 The targets for 2020/21 are as follows:

- 80% of all Hub institutions fully achieve the Gatsby Benchmark 5 (for encounters with employers and employees)
- 70% of all Hub Institutions to have achieved Gatsby Benchmark 6 (Experiences of the workplace), A further 30% of Hub institutions partially achieve Benchmark 6
- An average of 6 Gatsby Benchmarks by all Careers Hub schools and colleges [and full achievement of all 8 benchmarks by lead schools / college].
- Stakeholder satisfaction: 70% or higher Enterprise Advisers satisfaction and 70% or higher school and college satisfaction.

9.28 As a likely consequence of Covid-19 is that it will impacted on the delivery of these targets. Work within the Hub will focus on helping to mitigate the risks for 2020/2021 by exploring virtual routes for delivery.

## **Skills Advisory Panel**

9.29 CLEP will receive a £75,000 budget towards the work of the Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) from Department for Education during 2020/21. SAPs are local partnerships that strengthen the link between public and private sector employers, local authorities, colleges and universities. They operate at a local level through LEPs to ensure local people are trained for jobs that are available.

9.30 The Cumbria LEP People, Employment and Skills Strategy Group (PESSG) fulfils this role for Cumbria bringing together employers and leaders from schools, Colleges, Universities, independent private training providers, voluntary and community sector, local authorities and Government Departments to ensure that education, skills and employment support providers are assisted to tailor provision to the needs of the current and future workforce to support sustainable and inclusive economic growth. It will work with businesses to understand their employment and skills needs and encourage the continued upskilling of individuals to drive productivity and business growth.

- 9.31 In delivering this role the PESSG has developed an evidence base that underpins the skills priorities set out in the draft Local Industrial Strategy and implemented a programme of work to deliver on these priorities. Having created a robust evidence base the work of the SAP will move to the development of a Local Skills Report setting out a clear and consistent view of local skills needs across areas in a relevant and engaging format for local partners. This report will be a key source of local skills information to facilitate curriculum development to meet identified needs, local intelligence to the Department for Education's Skills and Productivity Board and showcase the range and impact of high quality skills provision across Cumbria.
- 9.32 Through 2020/21 the PESSG will maintain the leadership and interpretation of skills analysis during the pandemic to identify immediate challenges which needed a skills response, leading on the development of the response, understanding the implications for the skills system and supporting/promoting implementation. This has resulted in PESSG developing, implementing and supporting a range of skills interventions to support young people, employers, employees and unemployed residents in this difficult time
- 9.33 The priorities for work in 2020/21 are:
- Develop scenario planning and forecasting capability for post-16 education and training
  - Support the delivery of the transition project for years 11 and 13 into Further and Higher Education working through the Sector Panels (programme of support focusing on providing information, advice and guidance and a range of activities to engage learners in vocational education across 10 sectors prior to transition)

### **International Trade (DIT)**

- 9.34 During 2019/20 CLEP had re-commenced Northern Powerhouse Key Account Management (KAM), after a period of non-engagement.
- 9.35 A KAM post has been created and CLEP has engaged with 35 companies during 2019/20 and during 2020/21 has an agreed target of engaging with 30 via the KAM paid for by the £48,000 budget from DIT. During 2020/21 the LEP will finalise the Internationalisation Strategy and start to address the key actions and opportunities that this