

North East

Local Enterprise Partnership



Call for project ideas

North East LEP Innovation Programme Project Pipeline Prioritisation Activity

The North East LEP's innovation team seeks to gather information on and prioritise regionally-significant innovation project ideas. Please note, this is not an application process for funding.

Background:

The North East LEP was established to support the delivery of more and better jobs in the North East of England. This is being delivered through six programmes set out in the Strategic Economic Plan comprising innovation, business growth, skills, employability and inclusion, economic assets and infrastructure and transport and connectivity. Supporting and enhancing innovation to benefit business growth and respond to economic and social challenges is at the heart of our approach.

Through this we aim to accelerate the take up of innovative process, application and business models to increase competitiveness and productivity as well as developing new products to meet differing and changing market and social demands. By enabling more innovation to take place in the North East this will contribute to making the economy more resilience and unlock new growth potential supporting the deepening and widening of the North East economy and contributing to the increased employment targets set out in the SEP.

This step-change needs to be stimulated and supported through a wide range of coordinated and linked activities enabling businesses and social enterprises have access to the infrastructure, knowledge, people and money to capitalise on new ideas. It is these significant and regionally important projects we are keen to map and prioritise regional projects.

Purpose

We are undertaking this process in advance of any identified funding to enable the time to prioritise and develop stronger, more coordinated projects. These will deliver against strategic and organisational aims to increase the likelihood of successful funding from a range of potential sources.

The region is therefore working to identify a tight portfolio of priority key pipeline projects to focus energy and target delivery activities. The projects selected by the Innovation Programme Delivery Board will be designated as key regional pipeline projects and supported by the LEP with advocacy to government and private sector partners.

Criteria

Projects will be selected against the following criteria for prioritisation and support:

- Regional projects –with a clear impact on achieving ‘more and better jobs’
- Be of significant scale (in most cases at least £5m although where there is strong justification for significance a smaller scale may be considered)
- Demonstrate a partnership approach across areas and different sectors (such as public/private/education and research)
- Demonstrate a relevant level of deliverability
- Link to existing areas of opportunity or develop new areas of competency with commercial application.

It should be noted that projects can be capital and/or revenue and will be reviewed regularly with only projects demonstrating suitable process retained.

Whilst the process will prioritise projects for LEP advocacy and support projects may be recognised as important/valuable and supported but not classified as a priority for additional activity.

Process

This pipeline prioritisation is an on-going process and will comprise of a number of stages. Initially this will be undertaken through two stages to gather and prioritise ideas:

- A window to gather project ideas from key partners and organisations (up to a maximum of three from any one organisation)
- Responses received will be subject to an internal high-level appraisal for prioritisation by the North East LEP Innovation Delivery Programme Board
- A small number of these projects may then be invited to develop further detail as a priority project prior to designation through the LEP Innovation Programme Delivery Board and LEP Board.
- Following adoption the projects will be responsible for continuing to develop the project and provide updates as required by the Innovation Programme Delivery Board to demonstrate progress and remain on the prioritised list. Projects not developing as expected may be removed from the list.

If you would like to submit an idea for consideration, please fill in and submit [this form](#) and send to: James.Davies@nelep.co.uk no later than 3 May 2019.

Completing the template

The North East LEP are inviting local partners to complete this short form to help inform our pipeline of strategic regional projects for the Innovation Programme this will form the first stage of preparations for future funding approaches for both national public funding and other public and private sources.

Please note this is NOT an application for funding and there are no identified funds at this stage. This is about gathering evidence and ideas

At this stage the form is designed to capture basic information on new strategic projects that are relevant to the delivery of the North East Strategic Economic Plan and the Innovation Programme it is not intended to cover existing projects we are keen to understand both more developed and longer-term plans.

Projects should be

- Regional projects – ie have a LEP-wide impact on achieving ‘more and better jobs’
- Be of significant scale (in most cases at least £5m although where there is strong justification for significance a smaller scale may be considered)
- Demonstrate a partnership approach across areas and different sectors (such a public/private/education and research)
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The form is deliberately a simple word table with a free text box next to each question or required information. This should be completed to the best of knowledge at this point but will not form a legal commitment to deliver a project or any outputs. **The completed template should be no more than 3 sides of A4.**

Project Name	What is the short title or name by which the project should be known?
Lead Organisation	Which organisation will take overall responsibility for leading the project development up to any successful funding?
Other partners involved	Which other partner organisations who will be involved in the project? There is an assumption that projects will involve more than one partner.
Contact details	Who is the main point of contact and how can they be contacted for further information or queries? In most cases this should be someone from the lead organisation.
Please provide a brief description of the project idea	Set out what the project is and what it will do, being clear to establish the different elements of more complex schemes, balance of activities undertaken as revenue or capital expenditure. You should also set out what stage of development the project is currently at.
Please provide a brief description of how you intend to deliver the project.	Set out who will be involved in delivering the project and what they will do. This is not expected to be a comprehensive set of actions and responsibility but provide a summary of how the project described above will be delivered in practical terms.
Please provide a description of how you the different partners are involved in delivery.	Set out how the partners listed above are engaged in the process and current level of commitment. Who has been engaged and is supportive and who is envisaged as actively delivering elements of the project and which aspects these are.
Please provide a brief description of how the project will support regional economic growth and what will be achieved in the medium term.	It is important to place the project rationale into the wider regional economic growth context. Please use this section to set out the rationale for the project and how it is relevant to delivering more and better jobs and building a more productive and competitive North East.
Please summarise what will be delivered and achieved	Set out what will be achieved through the project. This should cover expected outcomes for the project (aligned to the rationale in the previous section) and a

	sense of relevant outputs that the project is likely to achieve for example, jobs created, space refurbished, businesses engaged, private sector funding levered etc. The LGF and ERDF outputs can give an indication of these although you should be limit yourself to these or seek to address all of these.
Please provide an indicative set of milestones	Set out what the key delivery stages are and when these will be undertaken/completed to give a sense of when the project would take place ideally or if any identified funding brings current deadlines or timescales. The table provides space for key milestones and timescale.
Indicative Funding sources	Please use the table to set out the total costs expected for the scheme. Where known or anticipated please highlight expected funding if no sources have been considered or identified please state this. For this stage that is not a problem.

Any queries and the completed form should be directed to:

James Davies, Programme Manager, North East LEP, 0191 561 5430,

james.davies@nelep.co.uk