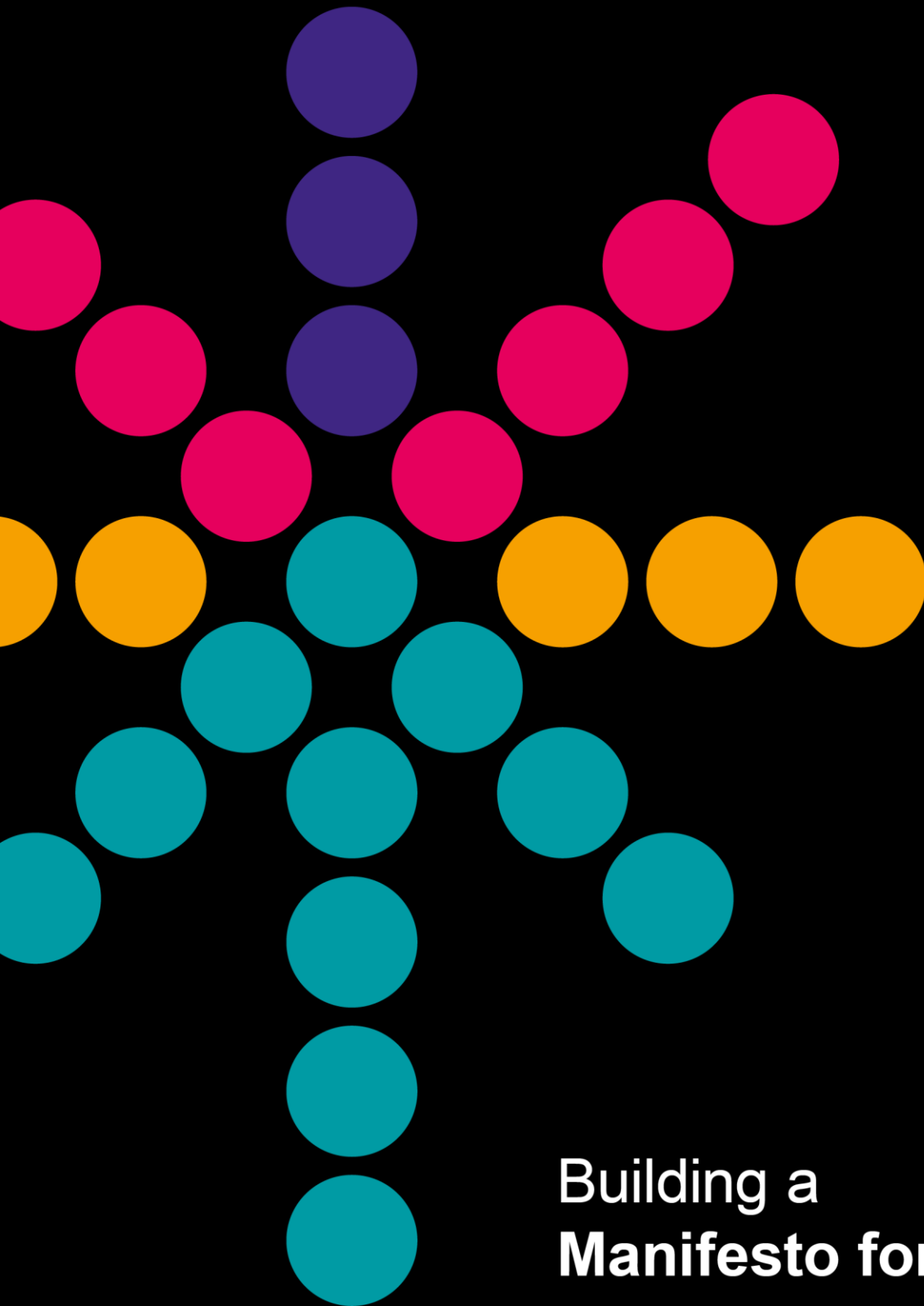


NP11



Convention 
of the North
2024



Building a Manifesto for the North

February 2024



Introduction: The 2024 Convention

This document is the policy input to the 2024 Convention of the North, set to take place on the 29th of February and 1st of March 2024 in Leeds. At the Convention, leaders from Northern institutions, businesses and civic society will assemble to debate the policy opportunities and barriers faced by their region. Since the establishment of the Convention in 2018, we have gathered in Gateshead, Liverpool, Rotherham, Manchester and now Leeds. In that time, the Convention has grown and matured, not just as an annual event, but as an institution and a powerful voice for the North as a whole.

Figure 1. The Convention of the North in context



The 2024 Convention will be the first to take place across two days. This is because we want to ensure that the delegates who will be attending from all over the North have the opportunity to shape and co-create our collective priorities. Ahead of the General Election, this is a unique opportunity for us to develop a Manifesto of and for the North.

The Convention and our Partnerships

The Convention showcases the North's strong partnerships with business, universities, science, civic and voluntary sector organisations. This collaboration is reflected in the cross party and cross sector partnerships that have shaped the priorities and work of the North. These include the NP11 partnership, the N8 group of research-intensive universities, Transport for the North, the Northern Powerhouse Partnership, the People's Powerhouse, the Northern Health Science Alliance, and ongoing pan-Northern collaborations such as Nature North and the Northern Place and Culture Partnership.



The North's Potential

Speaking with a unified voice for the North, we are setting out our offer to work with Government to build long term sustainable and inclusive growth for the British economy. If we take the right action to mobilise the North's assets **we will grow the North's economy by £118bn p.a by 2050.**

Our offer is based on 3 foundations:

- The North's **economic potential** to power the Fourth Industrial Revolution, leading on digital technologies, renewable energy, and artificial intelligence and automation.
- The **scale** to make a significant impact on national priorities.
- The institutional and organisational **capacity** through devolution to deliver our shared ambitions.

Our offer of partnership

The Manifesto we are building through this process reflects both our commitment to deliver on the North's promise and our offer to work with Government on this. We have focussed here on where, through working together at pan regional level we can add the most value. That is why we have identified four key areas for collaboration across the North – **Net Zero, Transport, Trade and Investment, and People and Place**. But we are very clear that the North faces other significant challenges, such as skills, which are critical to inclusive growth (and where more work is needed to understand the emerging Northern picture), but which are best addressed at sub-regional level through further devolution.

Our offer of partnership

*Given the right tools, the North can and will deliver
at scale against our shared national goals*



Powering our **Net Zero** transition



Connecting our cities, towns and rural areas



Exerting cultural influence globally through our **people and places**



Driving economic growth by **investing** in our capacity to **trade** with the world



Building a Manifesto for the North

In the run-up to the 2024 Convention, twelve policy propositions have been developed, summarised in brief below and explored in further detail in this document. These will be developed, debated and iterated at the workshops, as part of the process of co-creating a Manifesto for the North.

Net Zero	Transport	People and Place	Trade and Investment
Developing the North's unique energy opportunities	Devolving powers and budgets for local buses, rail and trams	Building a Northern Cultural and Creative Corridor	Formalising T&I ties with Government
Tackling energy grid constraints through regional planning	A transformed rail system connecting the North	Piloting a Place-based Visitor Economy	A Northern T&I Strategy
Leveraging our natural capital	Driving inclusive growth through a Northern Appraisal Framework	Collaborating on Health Inequalities across the North	Promoting Northern Sectors

The North of England, in partnership with the UK Government, stands ready to deliver against our shared national goals.



The North at a glance

Our Principles

A strong sense of Identity



A Positive Vision



**Actions,
Not Just Words**



**Partnership:
Working Together**



Devolution of Power



Our Place

80 towns (and 4420 settlements)

49% of England's running water

33% of England's forests

18 cities

11 National Parks/Landscapes

Our Economy

£371bn annual GVA

£98.4bn exports

1.1m businesses

50.7% of England's
renewable energy

Our People

15.2m residents

7.8m women

7.5m men

3.5m children

1m students

Our Culture

68,693 listed buildings

1064 libraries

345 museums

317 Registered parks/gardens

6 World Heritage sites

Our Assets

Proud People



**Phenomenal
Natural Assets**



**Distinct Economic
Strengths**



**Connecting
the Union**



**A Unique Capacity
to deliver**





The North's offer of partnership

The North of England has all the fundamental assets for a thriving, 21st century economy, competing on the world stage and delivering prosperity for all its citizens and enabling all of our citizens to contribute to that economic success. Our North's cities and towns represent huge pools of human potential; our coasts and uplands are already powering a clean energy revolution, our ports and fibre-optic cables set to trade with the world, our research centres and clusters are driving innovation, and our institutions and culture exert a global reach and draw.

The North of England is a proud region, with a powerful and distinctive identity, rooted not in nationality, language or religion, but in history, culture and place. We have been shaped by the industrial revolution that began here; from the great industrial cities to manufacturing towns and the ports and resorts, the canals and railways, the farms and the power plants, that together built the North into the production and trading powerhouse of the world. This shared identity and heritage is a huge asset to the North; it can galvanise partnerships, exert political sway on the national stage and motivate action from our citizens and civil society.

However, the North has been held back by persistent under investment, in infrastructure, skills and high value clusters of future growth opportunity. We have so much promise, and so much has been promised to us. Now is the time to deliver on this. Our proposed Manifesto sets out the propositions and ideas that can drive economic rebalancing, levelling up and renewal. It is a call for a new partnership between institutions and people across the North, and between the North and central government. Some of the power to make this happen rests in Westminster, some with local leaders, and much of it lies with the people, businesses and institutions of the region.

The North's offer to the UK and to our people

In partnership with national Government, with our people, businesses and institutions, and with each other, we want to work together to achieve the shared ambitions that can enable the UK to grow through the North achieving its potential.

Our offer of partnership

*Given the right tools, the North can and will deliver
at scale against our shared national goals*



Powering our **Net**
Zero transition



Connecting our cities,
towns and rural areas



Exerting cultural influence
globally through our **people**
and places



Driving economic growth by
investing in our capacity to
trade with the world



Our offer to work with the next Government to build long term, sustainable and fair growth for the UK is based on three core foundations:

1. The North's **economic potential** to power the Fourth Industrial Revolution, leading on digital technologies, renewable energy, and artificial intelligence and automation.
2. The **scale** to make a significant impact on national priorities.
3. The institutional and organisational **capacity** through devolution to deliver our shared ambitions.

These foundations are the core of our emerging Manifesto for the North; a Manifesto intended to set out our commitment to work to deliver against our shared national goals.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution in the North

The term Fourth Industrial Revolution describes substantial changes in our economy and industrial base, driven by the adoption of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced robotics and biotechnology such as genetic editing.

The North is contributing to the UK's leading position in these emerging technologies. For example in the North East, the National Innovation Centre for Data is working with businesses across the North to support the adoption of AI-related skills and make more effective use of their own data. These emergent disciplines and practices will be foundational to future growth, and a more prosperous and inclusive Northern economy.

1. The North has the economic potential to power Britain's sustainable growth

There is a growing consensus that the economic underperformance of the UK's regions lies at the heart of our national prosperity challenge. In recent years, several key interventions have helped to inform the national debate. The [Levelling Up White Paper](#) set out a theoretical framework for regenerative regional growth based around six capitals. The Harvard Kennedy School has [identified binding constraints](#) on regional growth in the UK, including transport, STEM-degree shortages, R&D spending and housing shortages. And [the work of the Resolution Foundation](#) has highlighted the role of the UK's investment shortfall, both public and private, in low growth and high inequality.

The North's economic potential is laid out in the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review, [recently refreshed in 2023](#). Commissioned by Transport for the North on behalf of the North as a whole, it renews the case for the North's Prime Capabilities. These are the four distinctive super-sectors which represent the North's comparative advantage, driving trade with the world and filtering prosperity through our economies; **Advanced Manufacturing, Energy, Health Innovation and Digital**.

These sectors remain at the core of the North's growth strategy and our contribution to the UK's international competitiveness. However, the [review of the North's capabilities](#) also found that the North has strong specialisms in non-urban tradeable sectors; Chemicals and Materials, Textiles and Foundational Industries, Engineering and Construction, alongside the enabling capabilities of Financial and Professional Services, Logistics and Higher Education.

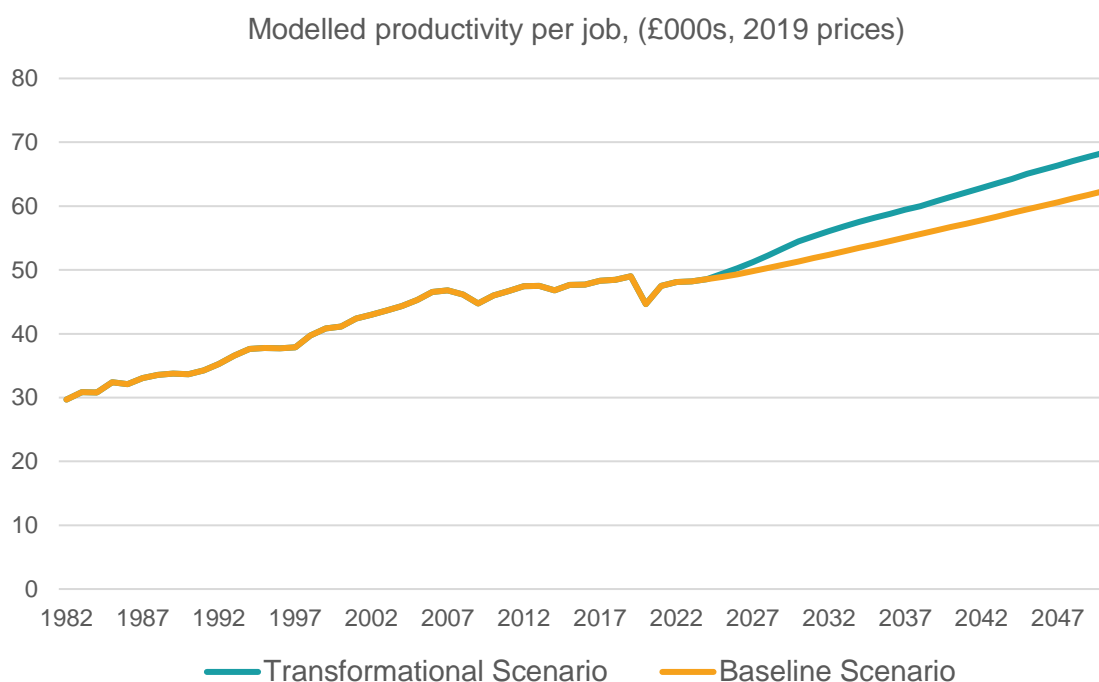


The NPIER: A Transformational Scenario for the North

Recent and substantive modelling carried out as part of the [NPIER Refresh](#) has highlighted the potential to boost long-term growth in the North. The NPIER assessed four policy levers;

- Investing in **Technology and Innovation**,
- Improving **Development Supply** (including housing, transport and connectivity),
- Investing in **Net Zero**,
- And **Inclusive Productivity** (including skills, health and prevention);

If all of these investment levers are taken together, the outcome is a **Transformational Scenario** for the North worth an economy £118bn a year larger by 2050.



Modelling data produced by Cambridge Econometrics on behalf of TfN and NP11.

This transformational scenario represents the **impact of closing the £1,500 per capita gap in public funding** that exists between the North of England and elsewhere. Targeted with the right co-ordination across interventions, these four policy levers could grow Northern GVA by £118bn by 2050 and halve the productivity gap with the rest of the UK.















2. The North has the scale to impact national economic priorities

Unlocking the potential of the North has been recognised as a priority by successive Governments – from the Northern Way to the Northern Powerhouse to Levelling Up. This is because there is no plausible route to moving the dial on national productivity and growth challenges and indicators that does not run through the North.

The transformational scenario from the refreshed Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review makes this clear. By **closing the investment gap with the rest of the UK**, by 2050 the North would see substantially improved outcomes across key indicators, that would help to meet national goals.

Figure 2. NPIER modelling on the implications of a Transformational Scenario:

	Carbon emissions	 76.3m tonnes per year in 2024	 75.1m fewer tonnes by 2050
	R&D investment	 £11.7bn per year in 2024	 Up £18.5bn by 2050
	Net commuting to the North (from the rest of UK)	 -129.1k from North in 2024	 Up 133.4k net to North by 2050
	Life expectancy	 80.3 years on average in 2024	 Up 4.4 years by 2050

NPIER modelling carried out by Cambridge Econometrics on behalf of TfN and NP11, 2023.

The crucial role of local government in Northern prosperity.

Local government is the foundation for devolution across the North. Combined Authorities are based on local authority collaboration, working alongside the business community and academic institutions across functional economic areas. Councils not only provide essential services, they have a core role in delivering inclusive growth and public service reform.

While new strategic capacity is being built at the city-region and pan-regional level, local authorities retain the primary delivery responsibility, yet their budgets face increasing spending pressures, and high levels of uncertainty. A continuation of current trends risks undoing much of the positive work of devolution, undermining the viability of City and Town governance.

In the next Parliament, local government must be put on a longer-term, sustainable and equitable financial footing, if the places of the North are to deliver against their potential.

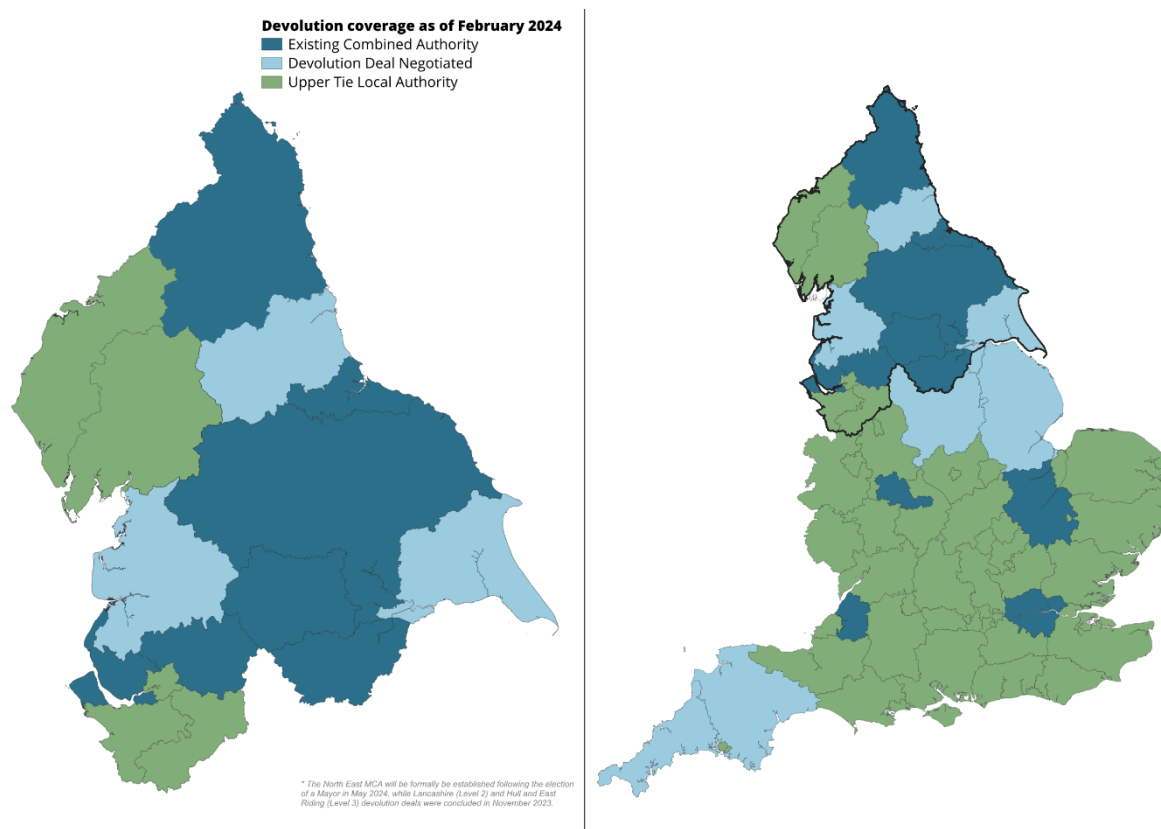


3. The North has a unique ability to deliver.

Relative to the rest of England, the North has a uniquely well-developed ecosystem to drive forward policy. The North is at the forefront of the devolution agenda, with six well-established Mayoral Combined Authorities and four further devolution deals struck within the last couple of years. Meanwhile, local government reforms have gradually consolidated governance across the North, notably with establishment of the Cheshire unitary authorities in 2009, and the 2023 establishment of the Cumbrian and North Yorkshire unitary authorities.

As the map below makes clear, the North is visibly driving the devolution agenda. When all negotiated deals take effect, **90.4% of the North's population will live in a devolved area.**

Figure 3. Progress on devolution within England, as of January 2024



Devolved powers and the increasing institutional maturity of sub-regional governance has given most places in the North the ability to increasingly shape their own economic destiny. But the North's institutional strength is also about strong partnerships with business, universities, science, civic and voluntary sector organisations. This is reflected in the cross party and cross sector partnerships that have shaped the priorities and work of the North, including: NP11, N8, TFN, NPP, and NHSA.

The Convention of the North is a manifestation of this capacity. By coming together to build a **Manifesto for the North**, the Convention serves as an opportunity to highlight our collective opportunities, and our willingness to work together.



Working together across the North: Infrastructure and the Devolution Dividend

The UK has a national problem with infrastructure delivery and cost, [highlighted recently](#) by the Financial Times and the campaigning group Britain Remade. Part of the problem is that the UK's infrastructure is largely delivered centrally, subject to political churn and national fiscal considerations. This results in a narrow and unstable pipeline of projects, deterring private sector investment in the capacity of the sector, and incentivising bespoke solutions over standardised methods. All of this increases costs.

The North is increasingly working closer together to share expertise; on bus franchising, where lessons learned from Greater Manchester's experience are being shared with other Combined Authorities. Similarly, the Liverpool City Region has established an approach to the procurement of new hydrogen powered trains, and the North of Tyne Combined Authority has pioneered voluntary land value capture approaches to help finance investment in the Northumberland Line. Building on this approach could help to deliver a **devolution dividend**; joint procurement and long-term project pipelines, standardisation of projects, growth led infrastructure financing, and capacity and expertise sharing between contracting authorities, to push down costs and deliver the investment the North and the UK needs.

The experience of other European countries, like France, that have moved from highly centralised systems to ones with a bigger share of regional infrastructure investment and delivery, is that this investment is more consistent and cost-effective.



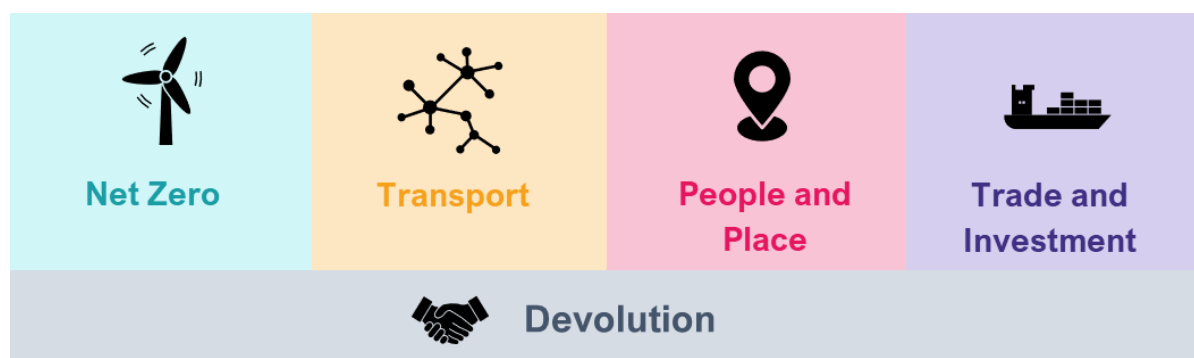
Building a Manifesto for the North

A key ambition of the 2024 Convention is to build a Manifesto, a cross-party, multi-sector, pan-regional document that will set out our collective priorities for the North. This is about what can be done by and with the North to drive national inclusive growth. Of course, we want our propositions to be adopted by the national political parties in the run-up to the General Election. But our four headline game changers are also the collective priorities, those that we will aim to deliver ourselves working with partners and investors across the North. That is why we have developed these as investable propositions that are ready to form our prospectus for growth.

Why a Manifesto for the North?

The Convention has previously published a manifesto-style document, in 2019. With a General Election confirmed for 2024, the Convention is an opportunity to showcase the **ambitions of the North** on the national stage, with propositions that are in the North's particular opportunities and challenges. This year, there will be a focus on four policy areas: **Net Zero, Transport, People and Place and Trade and Investment**, underpinned by an enabling theme of greater **Devolution** to the North:

Figure 4. The four policy themes for Convention 2024



This year, the four policy areas have been chosen with consideration of the value added provided by considering policy interventions at the Northern footprint, by members of the Convention Steering Group (membership attached in annex). Of course, these are not the only policy areas that matter for the success of the North; for example, successive Conventions and the NPIER have emphasised that human capital development through education improvement and a skills revolution are critical to the people of the North achieving their potential. We recognise policies to achieve this are best enacted and co-ordinated locally, at the same level as our local labour markets. In this way, the Manifesto works with the grain of the 'subsidiarity' principle of developing policy at the most appropriate geographic footprint.



Developing the Policy Inputs

The Convention of the North Policy Officers Group brings together policy experts from across local and regional government, thinktanks and the private sector. In the build-up to the 2024 Convention, the Policy Group have been working across four workstreams to develop three headline policy propositions per workstream, in the form of short policy propositions.

These policy papers have been summarised in the following sections. However, the full papers for each theme will be [uploaded to the Convention website](#) ahead of the day of the Convention. We would encourage attendees to read, reflect on and feedback on the analysis and propositions developed in the full papers as part of the workshop process.

Co-creating the Manifesto

At the Convention of the North 2024, there will be a series of workshops held on the first day on each Policy Theme. We want to use these sessions to enable delegates to debate, shape and discuss:

- The **four overarching and game-changing ambitions for the North**, one for each policy theme.
- The individual draft policy propositions (three within each policy theme), as drafted by the Convention Steering Group's supporting Policy Officers Group.

Once these ambitions have been identified and the policy propositions further developed, a Manifesto document building on this paper will be published separately in the run-up to a General Election.



Building the Manifesto: Net Zero

The North's Opportunity in Net Zero.

The North has the capacity to lead the UK's Green Industrial Revolution. It generates 40% of UK's electricity, 50% of England's renewable energy, provides 36% of jobs in low carbon goods and services, and is leading the way in at-scale nature-based solutions. In Research and Development, the North has world class capabilities across our universities and in wider institutions.

The North can make a huge difference to national Net Zero progress. In 2024, the North contributes 76.3 million tonnes of CO2 annually; modelling from the NPIER Refresh has shown that with transformative investment in Net Zero opportunities, this could fall to 1.2m tonnes by 2050.

However, the North faces barriers to achieving our potential:

- **Three of the six largest industrial clusters by emissions** are in the North and supporting these clusters to transition to net zero position whilst maintaining competitiveness is a significant challenge.
- **A need to strengthen the project pipeline to unlock capital investment** - Meeting Net Zero across the UK would require around £50bn per year of low carbon investment. Given the scale of the decarbonisation challenge in the North, it is vital that the region finds a way to unlock capital and projects to support demand.
- The opportunity to attract green finance into nature recovery in the North is currently limited by **a lack of integrated policy around nature-based solutions, and insufficient capacity in the sectors delivering nature recovery.**

Figure 5. The North's Propositions for Net Zero

1: Developing the North's unique energy opportunities	2: Tackling energy grid constraints through regional planning	3: Leveraging our Natural Capital
Capitalising on our unique geography of opportunity for energy generation – in offshore wind, nuclear (including Small Modular Reactors), tidal and industrial decarbonisation including hydrogen and carbon capture - with resource to accelerate the pipeline.	Address the energy grid constraints that are holding back growth by properly resourcing and planning Northern energy infrastructure.	Develop a Northern partnership approach so key natural assets - like forests, rivers, and soil - which provide valuable goods and services to society, and protect and enhance our ecosystem.
Co-creating the Manifesto: What are the barriers to achieving against our potential in this policy area? What will help accelerate delivery? What could our overarching ambition for Net Zero in the North be?		



Building the Manifesto: Transport

The North's Opportunity in Transport.

Transport is a key enabler of economic growth. A scenario for a transformed Northern economy, as set out in the updated NPIER (developed by the North's statutory transport body TfN alongside NP11), projects that by 2050 the economy of the North could be some £118bn GVA a year larger and support an additional 1 million jobs than in a baseline economic scenario. To realise this potential, the North's transport system needs to be transformed.

However, the North faces barriers to achieving our potential:

- The North's transport system today is characterised in too many instances by **poor reliability and low frequency of public transport services**, severe congestion, unreliable journey times on key parts of the strategic and major road networks, and poor conditions for active travel in car-dominated environments.
- **Businesses in the region are held back by relatively poor inter-city connectivity**, which restricts access to a wider pool of skilled labour, the frequency and efficiency of business interactions, as well as the movement of goods and services within the North. Only 27% of the North's population can access 500,000 jobs in under an hour by rail - significantly less than other parts of the UK.
- **Wider connectivity challenges to the rest of the UK.** Our connections to the Midlands, to London and to Scotland are highly important but of varying quality; extending the reach of the North's people and businesses to wider opportunities, markets and investors represents a huge opportunity.

Figure 6. The North's Propositions for Transport

1: Devolving powers and budgets for local buses, rail and trams	2: A transformed rail system connecting the North	3: Driving inclusive growth through a Northern Appraisal Framework
Greater devolution of local transport budgets and enabling investment in infrastructure by retaining the proceeds of future growth, paired with greater powers to Northern places.	Transform Northern connectivity by delivering proposals for the Northern Powerhouse Rail scheme in full, securing the capacity that would have been provided by HS2, and wider pan-Northern improvements.	Trialling a new approach in the North to planning transport investment based on balancing key outcomes for our people and places, including housing, jobs growth, and health.
Co-creating the Manifesto: What are the barriers to achieving against our potential in this policy area? What will help accelerate delivery? What could the North's overarching ambition be for our Transport system?		



Building the Manifesto: People and Place

The North's Opportunity in People and Place.

The North of England, with its rich culture, heritage, and stunning landscapes, is an ideal place to live, work, invest, and study. This [contributes](#) to a total £10.4 billion direct/indirect contribution from the arts/cultural/heritage sectors, 170,000 jobs across the creative sectors and a £3.4 billion annual spend by international and domestic holiday makers across the North. These assets also act as a crucial enabler for wider economic growth, attracting and retaining talent and investment.

There are a strong range of effective partnerships and delivery arrangements in place across all areas of the North, which bring together local civic, business and provider leaders.

However, the North faces barriers to achieving our potential:

- **Scarce resources and investment:** In the creative sector, access to finance, attention and retaining talent holds back our potential; as evidenced by the fact that the North's creative industries are only a third of the size of share of the economy of the Greater South East.
- **A low profile relative to the potential of our assets:** Our visitor economy in particular is held back by an overcrowded and fragmented landscape, reducing our ability to make an internationally compelling pitch rooted in our Northern assets.
- **Poor health outcomes.** The North suffers from poor health outcomes among children, children in the North have a 27% chance of living in poverty compared to 20% in the rest of England. Improving health would reduce the £4 gap in productivity per person per hour between the Northern Powerhouse and the rest of England by 30% or £1.20 per person per hour, generating an additional £13.2 billion in UK GVA.

Figure 7. The North's Propositions for People and Place

1: Building a Northern Cultural and Creative Corridor.	2: Piloting a Place-based Visitor Economy.	3: Collaborating on Health Inequalities across the North.
Building a Northern partnership and propositions to support the development, resourcing and alignment of our key creative strengths and assets.	Boost the Northern green Visitor Economy, by maximising the potential of existing and new visitor attractions by piloting new consolidated delivery bodies across the North.	A Northern focus on understanding the causes of poor health, and what can be done to help including improved housing quality, an enhanced natural environment, more good work, and greater community safety.
Co-creating the Manifesto: What are the barriers to achieving against our potential in this policy area? What will help accelerate delivery? What could the North's overarching ambition be for our People and Places?		



Building the Manifesto: Trade and Investment

The North's Opportunity in Trade and Investment:

The North can and should act as international trading and investment powerhouse. The North has demonstrated it can consistently attract FDI projects. In 2022/23, the North's GVA of new and safeguarded FDI jobs was £492m. On the current growth trajectory, this will reach £634.8m by 2030, however, on an accelerated growth trend of 5%, the North has the potential to reach over £800.6m by 2030.

If the North were to increase its value of exports as a percentage of GVA (27.1%) to meet the UK average of 31.7%, this would equate to £16.7 billion in additional export value. By closing this gap, the North and the UK can benefit from our untapped potential.

However, the North faces barriers to achieving our potential:

- **Limited ownership over National Trade & Investment activity.** Lack of coordination and oversight limits the North's ability to lead investment and trade activities, which challenges the potential to drive export growth and inward investment. The Office for Investment (OFI) has a critical role to play in supporting the North to identify and unlock strategic sites that can deliver a strategic economic shift.
- **Limited understanding of performance and impact.** Recent work to review trade & investment performance in the North has again highlighted a lack of reliable and robust data on which to measure performance and impact, and to shape activity.
- **A lack of co-ordination around key Northern products and specialism** A lack of co-ordination means that opportunities in key sectors and others are not always well reflected in national promotions, which limits the North's ability to compete on the global stage. Greater collaboration in this space would position the North, and the UK, to address the lack of globally competitive, top tier, investment-ready sites.

Figure 8. The North's Propositions for Trade and Investment

1: Formalising T&I ties with Government	2: A Northern T&I Strategy	3: Promoting Northern Sectors
A partnership between the North and Government responsible for growing the North's global investment footprint.	A shared Northern plan to boost Trade and Investment across all parts of the region with a robust underpinning evidence base on current performance.	Promote the North's most promising investable propositions including in Clean Growth, Life Sciences, and our initiatives like Investment Zones, and Freeports.
Co-creating the Manifesto: What are the barriers to achieving against our potential in this policy area? What will help accelerate delivery? What could the North's overarching ambition for Trade and Investment across the North be?		



Where next for the Convention?

At the 2023 Convention of the North, we identified the opportunity to build out from the policy themes discussed at that year's Convention, with an eye to the upcoming general election. This process will culminate in the 2024 Manifesto for the North.

The Manifesto for the North will be published ahead of the general election (date to be determined). It will reflect the identification of the game-changing ambitions and policy propositions from the Convention workshops, and reiterate the opportunities and needs outlined within this paper. Co-created by hundreds of Convention attendees, the Manifesto will stand as a collective marker for the North's shared priorities, and will influence the development of the national manifestos of the UK's political parties.

However, this will not be the end of the Convention's work. Through and beyond the Convention, the North will continue to work together with each other and with Government to deepen partnerships. We will also work to support the deepening and broadening of devolution, bringing more powers, funding and decision-making to places across the North.

In early 2025, following the general election, the Convention will reconvene, and set out our plans to deliver against the policy priorities over the term of the next Parliament, in partnership with the recently elected Government.



Annex: The Convention Steering Group

The Convention of the North brings together people from across the North, including businesses, trade unions, elected leaders, and community and faith groups, to speak with one voice on pan-Northern issues. Its Steering Group includes the following:

- *Clare Hayward, NP11, Cheshire and Warrington LEP*
- *Mayor Tracy Brabin, West Yorkshire Combined Authority*
- *Mayor Andy Burnham, Greater Manchester Combined Authority*
- *Mayor Steve Rotheram, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority*
- *Mayor Oliver Coppard, South Yorkshire Combined Authority*
- *Mayor Jamie Driscoll, North of Tyne Combined Authority*
- *Mayor Ben Houchen, Tees Valley Combined Authority*
- *Cllr Carl Les, North Yorkshire Council*
- *Cllr Stephen Houghton, Barnsley Council*
- *Cllr Phillippa Williamson, Lancashire County Council*
- *Mayor Chris Cooke, Middlesbrough Council*
- *Cllr Tom Hunt, Sheffield City Council*
- *Cllr John Merry, Salford City Council*
- *Cllr Liam Robinson, Liverpool City Council*
- *Cllr Nick Kemp, Newcastle City Council*
- *Cllr Claire Douglas, City of York Council*
- *Cllr Amanda Hopgood, Durham County Council*
- *Cllr Bev Craig, Manchester City Council*
- *Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council*
- *Cllr Mike Ross, Hull City Council*
- *Cllr James Lewis, Leeds City Council*
- *Cllr Jonathan Brook, Westmorland and Furness Council*
- *Henri Murison, The Northern Powerhouse Partnership*
- *Edna Robinson, People's Powerhouse*
- *Patrick McLoughlin, Transport for the North*
- *Martin Tugwell, Transport for the North*

This paper has been produced by the Convention of the North and NP11, with support from Metro Dynamics. It was informed via an extensive consultation process with the Convention of the North Steering Group members, with policy development support provided by the pan-regional Convention Policy Officers Group. We would like to thank all of those involved for their time and support for this year's Convention.