

County Durham Inclusive Economic Strategy

Economic Review

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee
February 2025



Better for everyone

Overview

- Background
- Performance monitoring
- Actions and delivery
- 2025 review

[See DCC Cabinet Papers, Item 10, January 2025](#)



IES development: recommendations

- Rebuilding a powerful economy
- Developing the Pipeline for New Investment
- Growth sectors:
 - Advanced manufacturing & engineering
 - Logistics & distribution
 - Digital industries & business services
 - Tourism & leisure
 - Health & care economy
- Start-ups
- Place, investment & employment
- Rural communities & economy
- Skills, learning & communities
- Schools
- Communities & towns
- Maximising local opportunities – the role of anchor institutions
- Delivering new investment & jobs

...Economic Review recommendations formed the basis for the IES themes and priorities...



Development process



E&E Scrutiny Involvement

- Major programmes and projects
- Visitor economy
- Funding updates
- Business support
- Towns and Villages programme
- Town centre masterplans, strategic place plans
- Strategic site delivery
- Revenue and capital outturn reports
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Quarterly performance management reports
- CDEP Board minutes



Performance monitoring

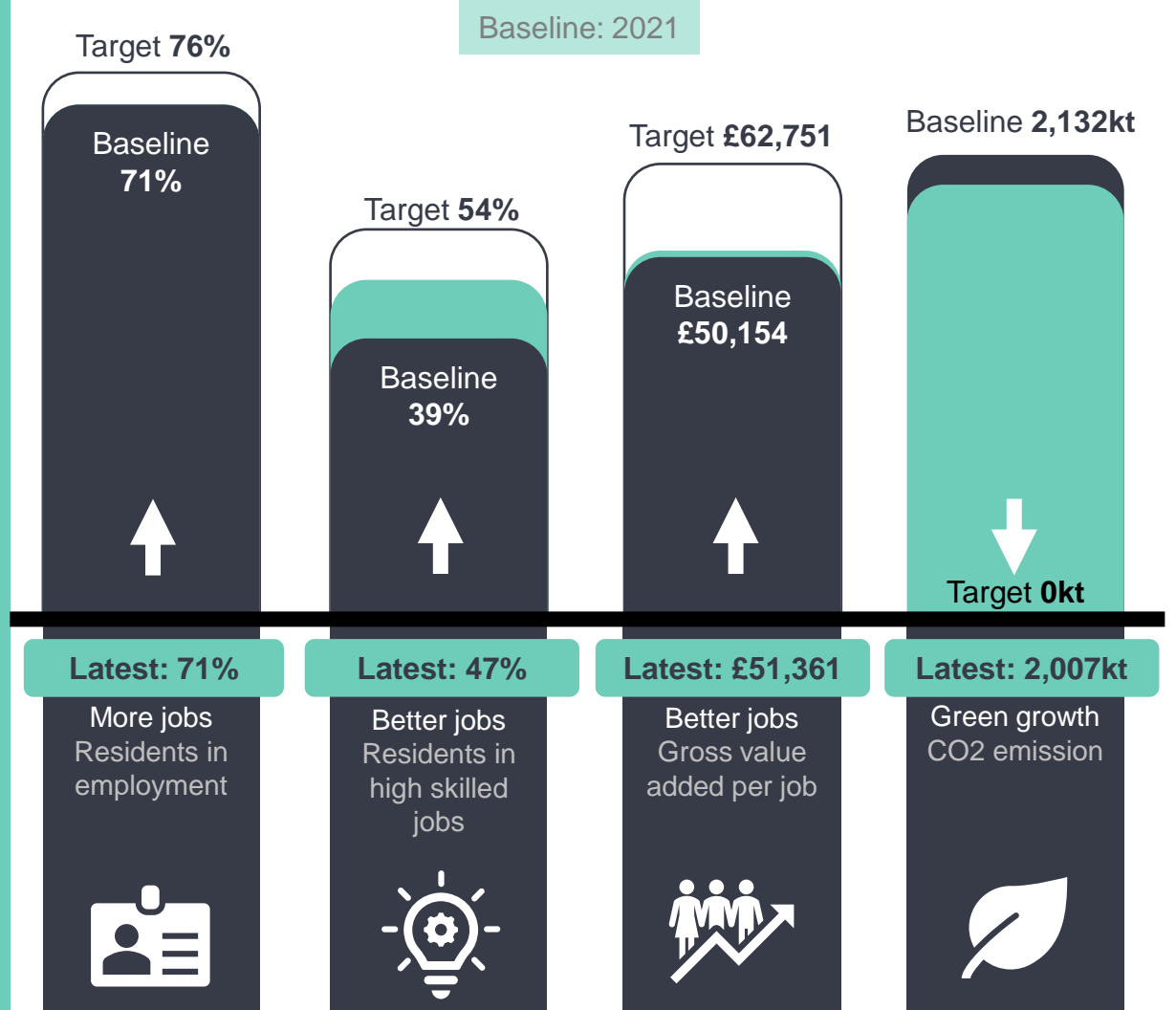


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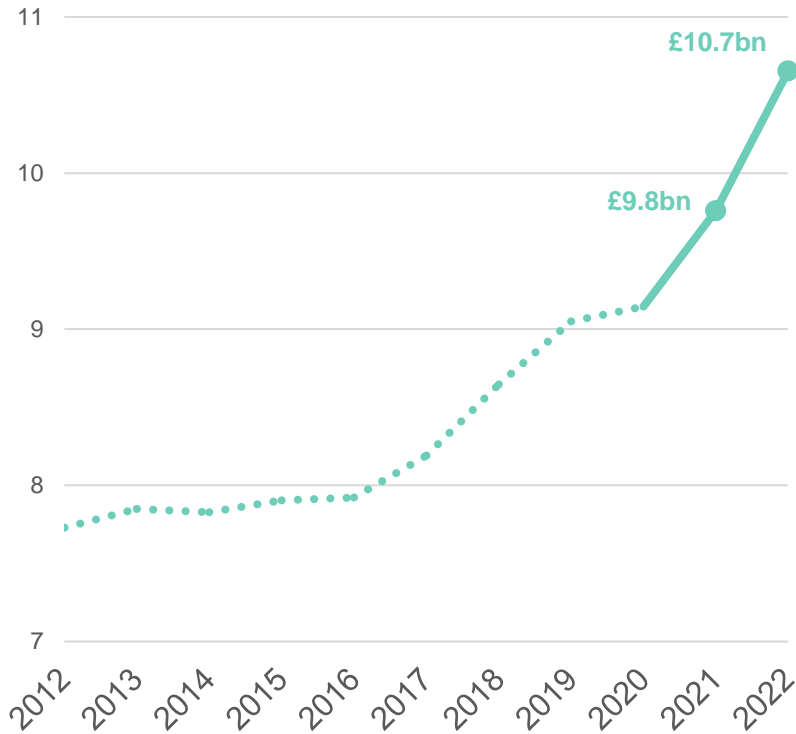
County Durham Inclusive Economic Strategy

TARGETS

More and better jobs
in an inclusive,
green economy



Key trends: productivity



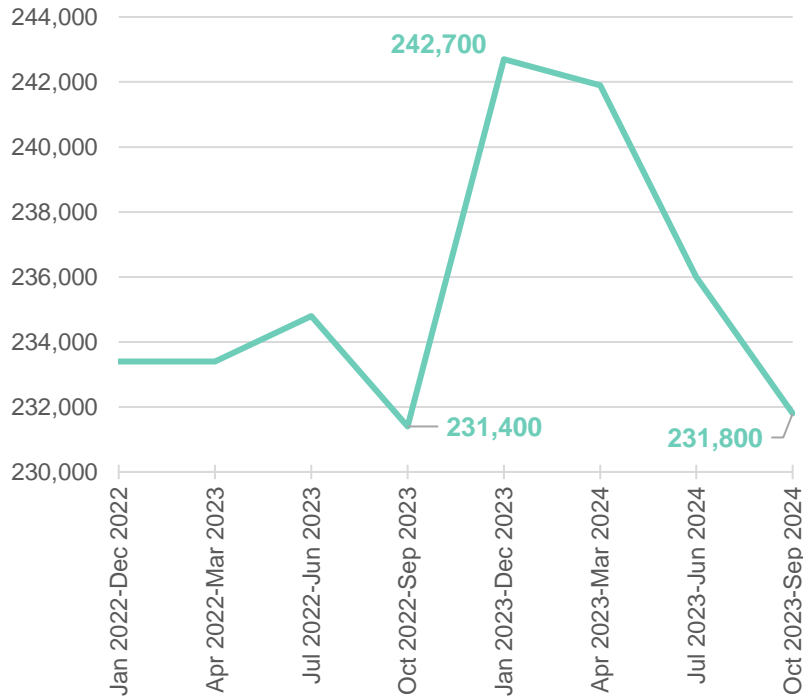
Good growth in 2001 and 2022, helping county Durham to converge with regional and national rates.

Growth has been driven by manufacturing and construction, whereas there has been a fall in the productivity of business services (accountants, solicitors, banks, etc).

2023 data is due in the summer.



Key trends: employment

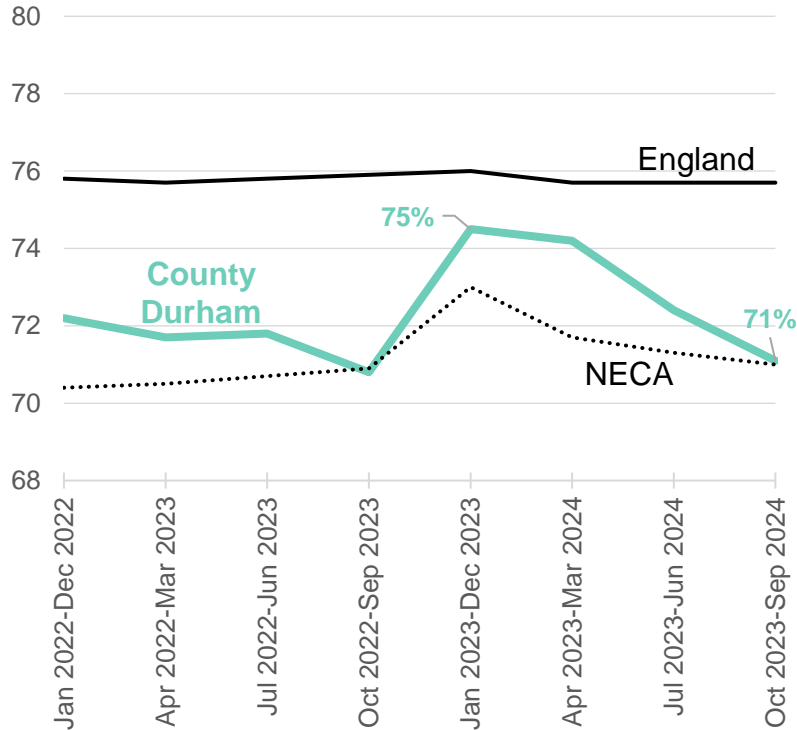


The number of the county's residents in work is fluctuating.

However, the accuracy of data is questionable due to the small number of surveys completed in the county.



Key trends: employment

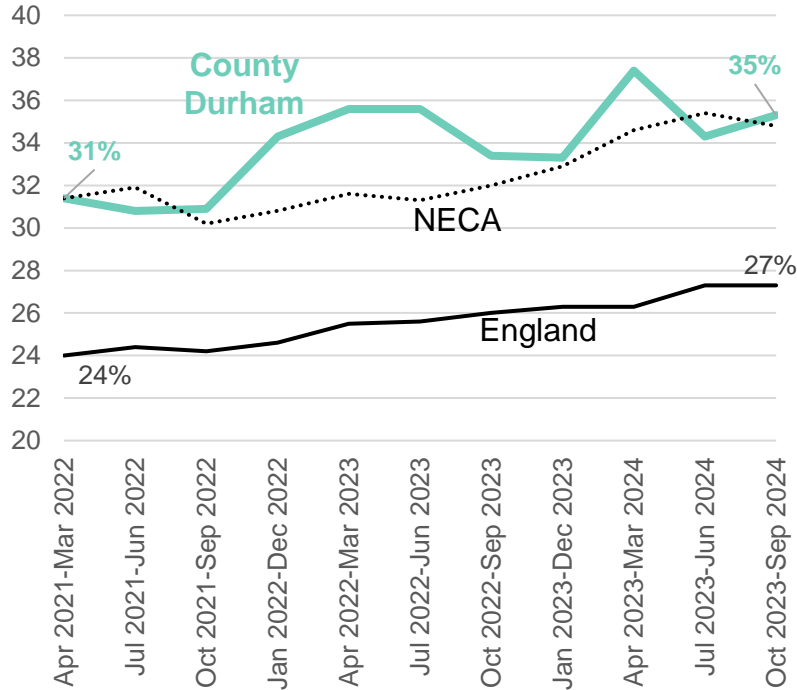


The County Durham employment rate tends to sit between the NECA and England rates.

Data suggests a decline in 2024; mainly driven by falls in self-employment rather than those 'in jobs'.

This is consistent with data showing a decline in micro-sized businesses (0 to 9 employees) in the county, but the fall is much more pronounced in the employment data.

Key trends: long-term sickness



- Data suggests that long-term sickness is increasing in County Durham.
- This data relates to 16 - 64 year olds who are economically inactive – e.g. out of work and not seeking work.
- This is also a regional and national problem where the proportionate increases have been similar.
- 29,900 residents in the county are out of work due to long-term sickness; representing 27% of those in the NECA area.

See
Durham
Insight for
data and
analysis...

The screenshot shows the Durham Insight website interface. At the top left is the logo for Durham Insight with the tagline 'Insight & intelligence to inform'. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the logo is a navigation menu with items: Home, Themes (selected), Census, Joint Strategic Needs and Assets Assessment, LG Inform, Maps & Reports, Library, and Help & Info. A left-hand sidebar menu lists various themes: Children & Young People, Crime & Community Safety, Deprivation & Poverty, Economy & Employment (highlighted), Environment, Health & Wellbeing, Housing, and Population. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Themes > Economy and Employment Topics'. Below this is a banner with four tiles: 'Economic Summary', 'Economy & Employment Topics', and 'Interactive Data Reports', each with a 'Click to view' link and an icon. The 'Economy & Employment' section is active, displaying the heading 'Economy & Employment' and a paragraph of text about local economic statistics. Below the text are three bullet points linking to 'Economic Summary', 'Economy and Employment Topics', and 'Economy & Employment Interactive Data Reports'. At the bottom of the page, there are four columns of links: 'IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:' (County Durham Partnership, Area Action Partnerships, Durham Constabulary), 'CONTACTS' (Durham County Council, © 2021 ESRI UK Limited, Contact: ina@durham.gov.uk, Legal Information, Accessibility Statement), 'SITE MAP' (Site Map), and 'CENSUS 2021' (Information). A URL bar at the very bottom shows 'http://www.durhaminsight.info/economy-theme/'.

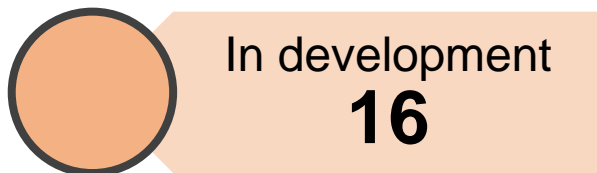
Actions & delivery



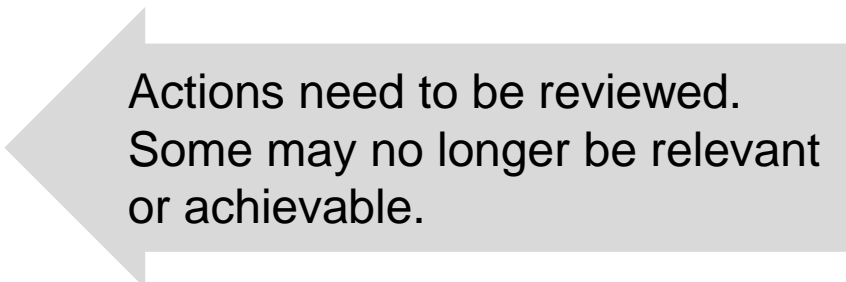
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Delivery Plan Implementation

Actions



- Many actions are subject to separate evaluations.
- Outcome / impacts will be considered in the coming months as programmes end.



Actions need to be reviewed.
Some may no longer be relevant
or achievable.



Summary of delivery

People

- DurhamEnable supporting adults with disabilities and mental health challenges into work.
- Durham Learn delivery extended to work with partners to provide flexible courses, internships, for people of all ages.
- Multiply and Communicate programmes launched to support people to gain basic numeracy, literacy and digital skills.
- Regional Adult Skills Fund launched to enable delivery partners to provide free courses that help people to gain jobs.
- Regional skills plans launched to support workforce development in critical industrial sectors.

Places

- £25m Towns and Villages Programme.
- Bishop Auckland regeneration.
- NETPark Phase 3 including regional Investment Zone.
- £100m new logistics hub at Forrest Park.
- Junction improvements on A19 to support Jade Business Park.
- Development partner secured for Durham Innovation District.
- New private sector business space developed at Integra 61, Peterlee, Consett, and Newton Aycliffe.
- £20m secured for Spennymoor town centre.
- £10m+ secured to replace homes in Horden.

Productivity

- Space North East established at NETPark.
- Targeted Growth Plans commissioned for the green technology, life-sciences, and semi-conductors sectors.
- Enterprising Durham Partnership supporting local businesses.
- Durham Business Growth supporting growing businesses.
- Annual 'Get Set Green' programme promotes green economy.
- InTUNE; North East universities and CPI collaborating to support SME innovation.
- New Charter introduced to strengthen County Durham Pound.

Promotion

- The Story opened as a regional visitor asset near Durham City.
- Remaking Beamish programme completed.
- The Rising at Raby Castle completed.
- Perceptions study completed to support place branding.
- Place Labs launched in Peterlee, Weardale and Durham City.
- County Durham leading the culture, creative, tourism and sport portfolio for the North East Combined Authority.
- 2025 year of culture including the S&DR200 railway festival.

Delivery Plan REVIEW 2025



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Delivery Plan Review 2025

- Formal start in summer 2025
 - Early activity-based discussions to be supported before summer
- Full review of 150+ activities in Delivery Plan
- Review of completed activities
- Inclusion of UKSPF 2025/26 funded activities
- Horizon-scanning of potential funding / acceleration opportunities
- Planning future activities and project pipeline
- Continued performance monitoring
- Reports to Economic Partnership and DCC Cabinet

