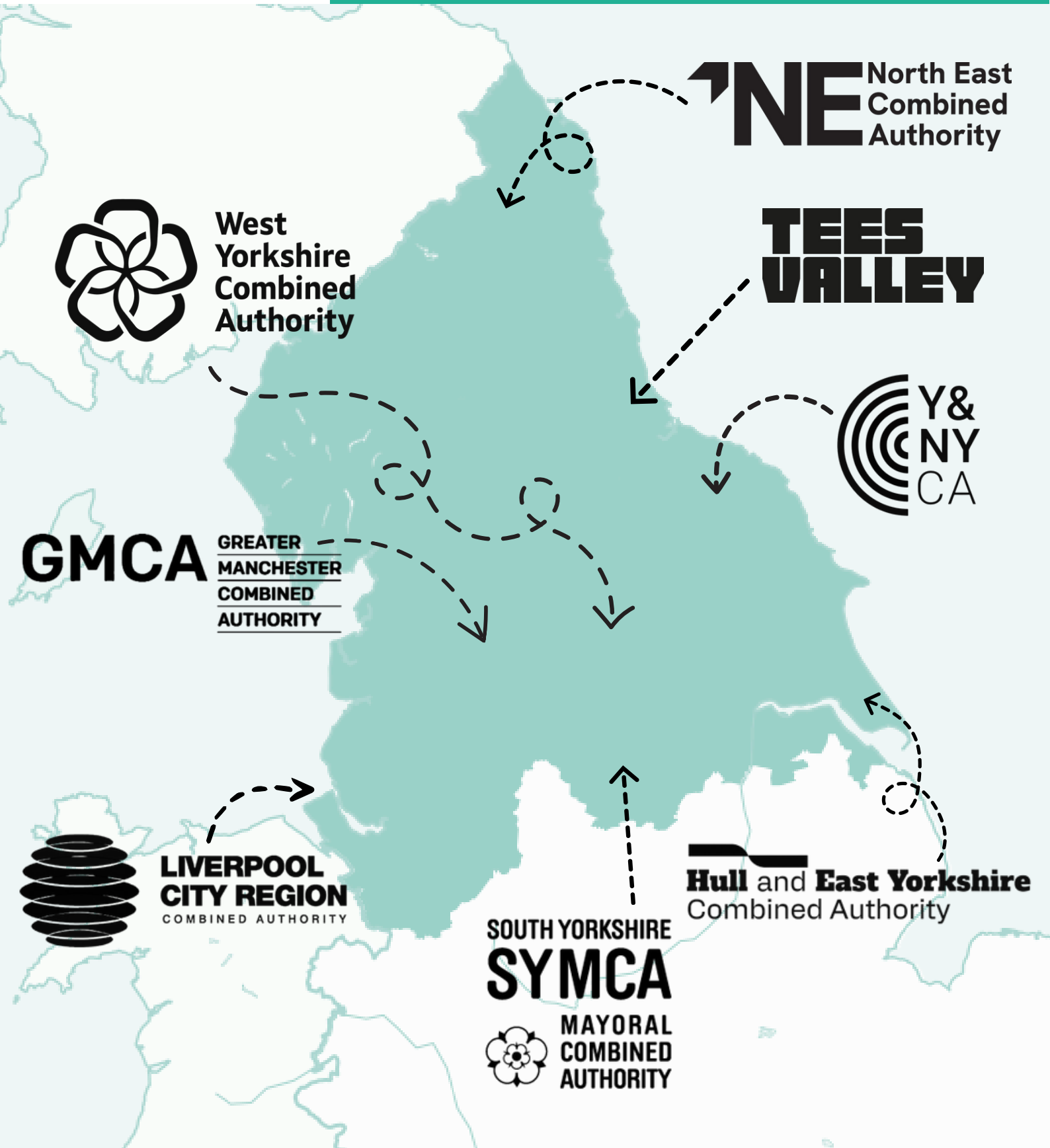


COMBINED AUTHORITY

2025 PRIORITIES



GMCA PRIORITIES

Greater Manchester identifies several key sectors for growth and investment, including Digital & Technology, Health Innovation, Advanced Manufacturing, Green Energy, Financial & Professional Services, and Creative Industries. As of February 2025, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority continues to drive forward its long-term strategy for economic growth and skills development:

1

Innovation Greater Manchester:

Supporting business-led innovation, particularly in AI, digital health, and advanced materials. Aims to create 100,000 high-quality jobs by 2030 through targeted investment in science and technology hubs.

2

Public Transport Revolution:

The Bee Network expansion continues, integrating buses, trams, and active travel into a seamless transport system. Plans include fare capping, additional electric buses, and improved connections between boroughs.

3

Skills for the Future:

GMCA oversees the devolved Adult Education Budget, focusing on retraining and upskilling in emerging industries such as AI, clean energy, and digital transformation to ensure Greater Manchester remains competitive in a rapidly evolving economy.

4

Affordable and Green Housing:

A £500 million investment fund has been allocated for low-carbon housing projects, targeting the development of 30,000 affordable homes with net-zero standards by 2030.

HEYCA PRIORITIES

Hull & East Yorkshire identifies several key sectors for growth and investment, including Health Technologies, Ports & Logistics, Offshore Wind, Digital & Creative, Manufacturing, Food & Drink, and Tourism & Culture. As of February 2025, the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) has been officially established, following the signing of a £400 million devolution deal with the UK government.

1

Adult Education and Skills Development:

HEYCA will assume control over the Adult Education Budget, enabling tailored programmes that address local employment needs and enhance workforce skills.

2

Hull and East Yorkshire Skills Board:

Established in November 2024, this board comprises influential regional figures dedicated to aligning educational initiatives with economic demands, ensuring residents acquire relevant skills for emerging industries.

3

Cultural and Creative Sector Enhancement:

Hull is actively pursuing designation as a UNESCO City of Music, aiming to boost its cultural profile and attract tourism, thereby contributing to economic growth.

4

Business Support and Infrastructure:

Encouraging the growth of local enterprises and the adoption of innovative practices. Investing in transportation and connectivity improvements to stimulate economic development.

LCRCA PRIORITIES

Liverpool City Region identifies several key sectors for growth and investment, including Maritime & Logistics, Digital & Creative, Health Innovation, Advanced Manufacturing, and Green Energy. As of February 2025, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority continues to implement transformative projects to enhance economic opportunities:

1

Liverpool Freeport:

The Freeport initiative is projected to bring £850 million in private investment and create 14,000 jobs, enhancing global trade links and boosting maritime innovation.

2

Ultra-fast Digital Connectivity:

LCRCA is rolling out a full-fibre gigabit network, positioning the region as a UK leader in digital infrastructure and supporting smart city innovations.

3

Skills and Workforce Development:

The "Be More" apprenticeship and skills programme is expanding, aiming to provide 5,000 new placements in key growth sectors by 2027.

4

Clean Growth and Net-Zero Commitments:

LCRCA is investing in hydrogen-powered public transport, including a fleet of hydrogen buses and retrofitting existing buildings for energy efficiency as part of its net-zero strategy by 2040.

NECA PRIORITIES

The North East identifies several key sectors for growth and investment, including Offshore Wind, Digital & Creative, Advanced Manufacturing, Life Sciences, and Tourism. As of February 2025, the North East Combined Authority has set out priorities aimed at boosting economic resilience and skills development:

1

Offshore Wind and Green Growth:

NECA is investing £250 million in offshore wind infrastructure, supporting thousands of jobs in green energy and establishing the region as a leader in renewable technology.

2

Regional Rail Connectivity:

The North East Rail Strategy outlines key investments in rail connectivity, including extending Metro services and improving links between Newcastle, Sunderland, and Teesside to stimulate economic activity.

3

NE Skills Partnership:

A collaborative initiative with local universities and employers to create bespoke training programmes, ensuring residents have the necessary skills to thrive in the growing digital and engineering sectors.

4

Cultural and Tourism Boost:

NECA is enhancing its cultural offerings, with plans to develop the North East Creative Cluster and attract international events to support the visitor economy.

SYMCA PRIORITIES

South Yorkshire identifies several key sectors for growth and investment, including Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering, Mobility & Transport, Construction, Health & Social, Creative & Digital, and Green Energy. As of February 2025, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) has outlined several key skills and growth priorities to foster regional development:

1

Apprenticeship Expansion:

SYMCA has launched an Apprenticeship Hub aimed at creating 300 new apprenticeships across the region. This initiative seeks to provide residents with valuable on-the-job training and address skill shortages in key industries.

2

Working Win Programme:

The Mayor successfully lobbied for continued funding of the Working Win programme, which supports individuals with mental and physical health conditions in securing employment. This initiative has assisted over 5,000 people, with 2,424 participants returning to work or finding new employment opportunities.

3

Supertram Expansion Plans:

Plans for extending the Supertram network are expected to be outlined in 2025, followed by public consultations. These extensions aim to improve transit access to key areas, including the Advanced Manufacturing Park and the AMRC Training Centre, thereby supporting economic growth and job creation.

4

Economic Growth Initiatives:

In March 2024, SYMCA launched the "Plan for Good Growth" and a complementary Skills Strategy. These frameworks are designed to leverage the region's strengths in innovation and advanced manufacturing, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic development.

TVCA PRIORITIES

Tees Valley identifies key sectors for growth and investment, including Clean Energy, Advanced Manufacturing, Chemicals & Process Industries, Digital & Creative, and Logistics. As of February 2025, the Tees Valley Combined Authority is implementing ambitious plans to drive economic development:

1

Teesside Freeport:

The largest Freeport in the UK, projected to generate £1.4 billion in private investment and create over 18,000 jobs in advanced manufacturing, green energy, and logistics.

2

Net Zero Tees Valley:

A £300 million investment in carbon capture, hydrogen production, and renewable energy projects to position Tees Valley as a global leader in clean industry and sustainability.

3

Tees Valley Skills Pledge:

A commitment to enhancing technical education and apprenticeships, with a focus on equipping residents with the skills required for careers in hydrogen energy, offshore wind, and digital industries.

4

Transport and Infrastructure Development:

Major investments in Darlington and Middlesbrough railway stations, road network improvements, and enhanced public transport links to support business growth and commuter connectivity.

WYCA PRIORITIES

West Yorkshire identifies several key sectors for growth and investment, including Health and Social Care, Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing, Financial and Professional Services, Low Carbon, Digital and Technology, Creative Industries, Education, Construction, and Transport and Logistics. As of February 2025, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority has outlined several key skills and growth priorities to drive the region's economic development:

1

Inclusive Innovation:

Promoting continuous skill development, enabling residents to acquire both technical and soft skills throughout their lives. This approach aims to build a robust talent pipeline aligned with business needs, fostering regional growth.

2

Business Growth Support:

Facilitating the adoption of new technologies and business models, particularly in the healthtech sector, positioning West Yorkshire as a leading cluster in this field. Assisting businesses in expansion and workforce investment to stimulate economic growth.

3

Mass Transit System:

Plans are underway for a comprehensive transit system connecting major urban centres like Leeds, Bradford, and Huddersfield, with initial services projected to commence by 2031.

4

Good Growth Principle:

This central tenet integrates WYCA's strategic priorities, ensuring that economic development is inclusive and benefits all communities within the region.

YNYCA PRIORITIES

North Yorkshire has identified five priority sectors for economic growth and development: agri-tech innovation, sustainable energy and bioeconomy, digital technology, data and creative industries, advanced manufacturing (including transport technology), and health and life sciences innovation. As of February 2025, the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority has delineated several key skills and growth priorities to foster regional development:

1

Adult Skills Fund (ASF):

Commencing in August 2025, YNYCA will assume responsibility for the ASF, previously managed by the Department for Education. This fund aims to engage adults aged 19 and over, equipping them with essential skills for employment, apprenticeships, or further learning opportunities.

2

Adult Learning and Skills Engagement Strategy (2021-2025):

This strategy focuses on providing adults with access to training and support through educational engagement. It emphasises aligning services to meet the region's economic needs and preparing for the devolution of the adult education budget under the mayoral combined authority.

3

Strategic Growth Priorities:

Enhancing productivity in food & farming. Capitalising on existing knowledge and research facilities to drive growth in biological engineering. Investing in digital infrastructure and skills to facilitate technological advancements. Focusing on the hospitality industry, high streets, and the visitor economy to stimulate local growth.

4

Mayoral Investment Fund Allocations:

£1.54 million designated to co-fund three electric vehicle projects, totalling £4.6 million, to promote sustainable transportation. £460,000 approved for a programme aimed at engaging young people in cultural activities, fostering community involvement and personal development.

HOW THE NSN MANIFESTO ALIGNS WITH THE NORTHERN CA'S PRIORITIES

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)

- Skills for the Future: GMCA focuses on AI, digital health, and clean energy—sectors where NSN can help providers develop specialist training.
- Innovation Greater Manchester: NSN's advocacy aligns with GMCA's business-led innovation goals, ensuring a skilled workforce for advanced sectors.
- Affordable & Green Housing: NSN can support providers in green technologies and sustainable construction, supporting GMCA's net-zero housing strategy.

Hull & East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA)

- Adult Education Budget: NSN's support for providers aligns with HEYCA's takeover of the Adult Education Budget, ensuring tailored training for local employment needs.
- Skills Board & Business Support: NSN's focus on collaboration compliments HEYCA's Skills Board, helping connect education with local industries.
- Cultural Growth: HEYCA's focus on creative industries (e.g., Hull's UNESCO City of Music bid) aligns with NSN's advocacy for training in cultural sectors.

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA)

- Ultra-Fast Digital Connectivity & Freeport Initiative: NSN's advocacy for specialist digital training supports LCR's full-fibre network and maritime/logistics sector.
- Apprenticeships & Workforce Development: NSN's role in expanding apprenticeships aligns with LCRCA's goal of 5,000 new placements by 2027.
- Green Energy Investments: NSN's focus on future skills compliments LCRCA's investment in hydrogen-powered transport and clean energy jobs.

North East Combined Authority (NECA)

- NE Skills Partnership: NSN's collaborative approach directly supports NECA's initiative to connect education with local industries.
- Offshore Wind & Green Growth: NECA's £250M offshore wind investment aligns with NSN's focus on workforce training in renewable energy.
- Regional Rail & Infrastructure: NSN advocates for a skilled labour pool is available for transportation and engineering projects.

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA)

- Apprenticeship Expansion & Levy Matchmaking: NSN's support for apprenticeship programmes helps SYMCA's goals of increasing on-the-job training.
- "Plan for Good Growth" & Skills Strategy: NSN's provider network can aid in addressing workforce gaps in advanced manufacturing and digital skills.
- Integrated Transport System: By ensuring workers have the necessary skills, NSN supports economic growth linked to infrastructure projects (e.g., Supertram expansion).

Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA)

- Teesside Freeport & Net Zero Tees Valley: NSN's focus on industrial skills aligns with TVCA's hydrogen, offshore wind, and clean energy initiatives.
- Tees Valley Skills Pledge: NSN supports TVCA's technical education push, ensuring local training providers can equip workers for high-growth industries.
- Transport & Infrastructure Development: NSN ensures workforce skills match infrastructure projects, supporting business expansion and commuter needs.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA)

- Adult Skills Fund Strategy: NSN's focus on ensuring training aligns with industry needs supports WYCA's £65 million Adult Skills Fund, enhancing workforce resilience.
- Inclusive Innovation: NSN's commitment to lifelong learning mirrors WYCA's strategy to develop a strong talent pipeline in key sectors like healthtech.
- Business Growth Support: NSN's role in advocacy and collaboration can help businesses access skilled workers and support productivity and innovation goals.

York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority (YNYCA)

- Adult Skills Fund & Learning Strategy: NSN's future-proofing approach aligns with YNYCA's Adult Skills Fund, ensuring providers are prepared for devolution.
- Enhancing Key Sectors: YNYCA prioritises food, farming, digital transformation, and clean energy—sectors where NSN can help providers tailor training.
- Growth & Infrastructure Investment: By advocating for skills in emerging sectors, NSN supports YNYCA's economic and transport development goals.