



County Durham Economic Partnership – a message from the Chair



March 2022

Fellow Business Leaders and Owners

The County Durham Economic Partnership provides leadership to develop and deliver the strategy for economic development and regeneration which addresses the opportunities and challenges across our County and is the voice for County Durham in regional, national and international discussions.

Having recently had the pleasure of taking over as Chair, I wanted to let you have a brief note of what was discussed at our recent Board meeting on 1 March and to invite you to contact me if there is anything here that is of interest, that you might want to discuss or that you may wish to challenge. I am very keen to hear from businesses of all shapes and sizes, so that the work of the Economic Partnership is guided by you and supports your business - so please do get in touch at: economicpartnership@durham.gov.uk

Our Big Econ-versation

I am sure your business will have a plan for how it will continue to grow and develop; if the economy of the County is to grow and develop too, then it too needs a strategy. This is being developed now and the views of businesses in shaping this are paramount. It is only you that can really answer the big questions, such as:

- What does your business want to achieve in the medium to long term?
- What are the barriers to accessing learning, training or jobs?
- What advantages are there for businesses locating in the County?
- What should the role of our town centres be?
- How can we reduce levels of economic inactivity in our workforce?
- How can businesses help to address the causes of climate change?
- What should our priorities for investment be?
- How can we support new start up businesses?
- How can we encourage more professional, scientific and technical professions?

I would encourage you to get involved in the planning. You can do so online at: <https://durhamecon-versation.co.uk/>, attend one of a number of events listed on the site, or you can get in touch with me directly.

Durham 2025

You will have seen in the press, I am sure, that Durham has reached the longlist of eight places in the UK which have been invited by Government to submit full bids to be recognised as the UK City of Culture 2025. This is excellent news and will be even more so, if the bid is successful in reaching the shortlist of four and then the final! I would urge you to support this; demonstrating to Government that the bid has the support of our businesses is vital in proving our case. You can find out more and pledge your support at: <https://durham2025.co.uk/get-involved/>

The Economy, the Environment and Climate Change

There is so much that businesses can do to support the environment and at the same time support their own bottom lines; whether that is through looking at what and how they purchase, or thinking about business opportunities that come from the way that their customers' priorities are changing. I would love to hear from businesses about how you think this can be done and also, of course, what the challenges it presents you with are. Do get in touch and share your thoughts, experiences and opinions at: economicpartnership@durham.gov.uk

It would be great to hear from you on these, or any other topics.



Glyn Llewellyn
Chair, County Durham Economic Partnership