

A Manifesto for the North



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Introduction

The Convention of the North with NP11 met in Rotherham on 13 September 2019 for the biggest ever gathering of Northern Leaders drawn from Northern Stakeholders including; Councils and City Regions, Youth Parliaments, businesses, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Universities and voluntary sector organisations across the North.

It is now an annual event, taking place in the second week of September, after the Trades Union Congress, and just before the main party conferences. Next year it will be in Liverpool.

The aim was to create a unified voice, to set out for ourselves and for Government the future we want to see for our North. This confident, proud region, whose population comprises a quarter of England, was the birthplace of the original Industrial Revolution and will be the crucible of the Fourth, but unlike the first, this will be sustainable.

Over a thousand people came together in the Magna Centre, a former steel mill in South Yorkshire, for a positive and constructive debate about what should be in a Manifesto for the North.

We heard from a range of northern voices, starting with our young people. The common thread was our northern pride and our determination to create and own our northern future.

All the political parties will want to pitch to the North. This document sets out the direction that the North intends to take. We would like Government to work with us on this, that will certainly help us to achieve our ambitions faster. There is much we are already doing, and more we can do, to shape our own future. That's because we own our agenda.

Our Assets



Distinct economic and industrial strengths, and the capabilities outlined in our Northern Independent Economic Review.



Strong sense of identity, rooted in a culture that celebrates our individual places and our common northern heritage.



Proud people, with a reputation for endeavour, wit and grit, and communities which embrace inclusivity and diversity.



Phenomenal natural assets, with nearly half of England and Wales' national parks, and a stunning coastline.

Our Principles



Working together at Northern level where this makes sense for our region, but at the same time enabling our distinct towns, counties, and city regions to shape their own places, recognising that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.



Devolution of power and decision-making to and within the North, so that initiatives are developed with the North, rather than for the North.



Actions, not just words. The North getting on with the job and taking ownership of its future.



A positive vision of how the North can lead the way in growing an inclusive economy for all our people and the country. Powering up the North and all of the UK is the way to improve the country's economy and living standards.

Voices of the North

5

game changers for the North

For the North to be successful and achieve the potential set out in the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review, we have identified five game changers:

#1

Local control of education and training, skills provision that is systematically connected to the North's businesses and growth needs, underpinned by the increased funding required to create opportunity for all our people.

#2

A commitment to rebalancing the economy as a formal HM Treasury objective, delivering transformational investment to power up the North, a formal commitment to rebalancing in the Green Book, and Office for Budget Responsibility measurement of progress towards this objective.

#3

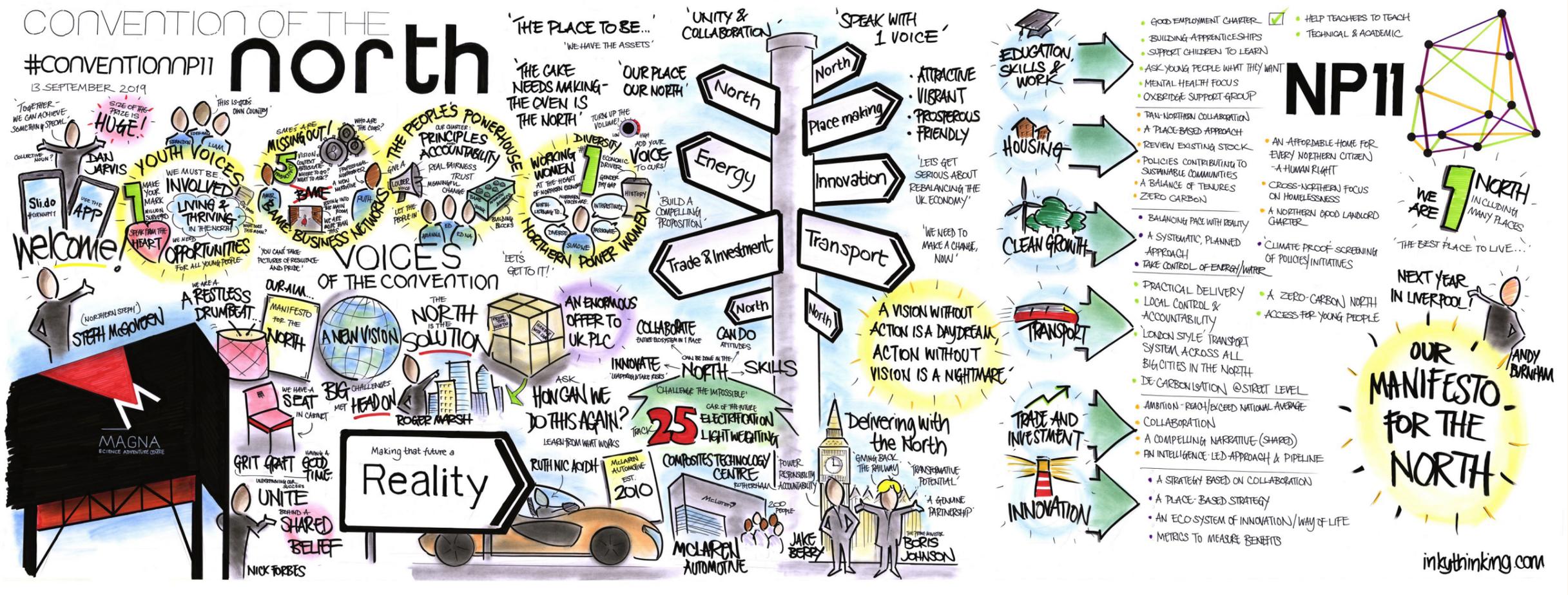
A transport budget for the North, enabling full delivery of the Transport for the North plan and supporting the devolution of control and shared accountability for the region's rail network.

#4

Ownership of, and freedom to lead, investment and trade activities to drive export led growth, with a greater scale of investment to level up the North's export and inward investment activities.

#5

Backing the North to lead the green industrial revolution, harnessing and investing in its prime capability in renewable energy, decarbonising industry, retrofitting existing housing stock and building new homes to the highest standards.





Our Policies



Clean Growth

Context

- The North is the UK's energy powerhouse, generating 41% of England's electricity. It can, and should, lead the transition to a zero-carbon economy.
- Places across the North have set themselves ambitious carbon reduction targets and are committed to reform.
- The North has key opportunities, strengths and expertise around renewable energy generation, storage, and low carbon technologies and processes. It can lead on energy production, energy efficiency and smart energy management.
- Carbon emissions remain high, primarily from heat for buildings, energy intensive processes and private transport, but the North's industries are world leading on carbon capture, use and storage. There is opportunity for businesses to collaborate to improve smart energy use, tackling the challenge of lowering emissions whilst remaining competitive.
- The North's energy industries are well placed to lead on replacing natural gas heating and carbon intensive transport fuels with biofuel or hydrogen-fuelled heating.
- Fuel poverty is higher in the North, and more of the housing is old and fuel inefficient. Retrofitting these homes would have a profound social and economic impact.



The North will lead a new green Industrial Revolution.



The North has the opportunity and ambition to:

- **Pioneer zero-carbon energy**
Build on its diverse energy strengths to become the primary zero-carbon energy provider for the UK
- **Reduce energy consumption**
Prioritise action on low-efficiency homes and buildings, particularly in our most deprived communities and the promotion of low carbon heating, cooling and process efficiencies in energy intensive business, to become smart users of energy
- **Transition industry to low carbon goods, services and processes**
Support energy clusters for generation, management, carbon capture and transport. Stimulate demand for energy efficiency and low carbon energy generation, storage and management on the public estate
- **Take a whole system approach to wider changes**
Strengthen local government energy planning, green development finance, and capitalise on natural assets to promote sustainable land use

To achieve this, we need government to:

- ✚ **Deliver clear, consistent and stable energy policy**
- ✚ Publish an **Energy White Paper**, which sets out national frameworks and commits to a timescale for decarbonisation of the grid
- ✚ Back a flexible, regional approach to energy innovation and regulation to allow the North to lead the low carbon energy revolution
- ✚ **Develop new funding and regulatory models**
- ✚ Set energy efficiency measures as a national infrastructure priority, capable of attracting patient finance, incentivising the retrofitting of homes
- ✚ Unlock new nuclear and industrial carbon capture, use and storage
- ✚ Incentivise local smart low carbon energy generation, transport and services
- ✚ **Establish the North as the UK's strategic low carbon pathfinder**
- ✚ Deliver transformational proof of concept demonstrators, including for new technologies, low carbon transport, heating and smart grid enabled clusters
- ✚ Establish a recyclable energy development fund to de-risk initial investment in low carbon infrastructure
- ✚ **Use full climate impact and co-benefit assessments for investment appraisal**
- ✚ Pilot utilising carbon pricing and natural capital accounting to inform viability assessments
- ✚ **Reform Green Book appraisal processes**, to enable local action on land-use and investment



Education, Skills & Work



Context

- The employment rate in the North has increased in the last ten years, as has the share of the Northern workforce in higher-level occupations.
- Our workforce will need to continue to change, alongside a changing economy. We must commit to life-long learning to ensure that people have the skills they need at all stages of their careers, especially within emerging strengths such as digital
- The North recognises the importance of 'Good Work': jobs which offer fair pay, training opportunities and flexibility. Many of our places have committed to Charters to develop this.
- Systemic barriers to attainment – and, by extension, to social mobility – begin at the earliest stages of education, and pupil attainment in schools across the North is lagging, particularly among the disadvantaged.
- Apprenticeship starts are dropping, and for too many, vocational education is out of reach or poorly resourced.
- Too many people are suffering from poor mental and physical health, which holds them and the North back. We need to offer support to help people learn and work productively and healthily.

A well-educated and skilled North, where talent is nurtured and in-work training is available and accessible for all.

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The North has the opportunity and ambition to:

Adopt Good Employment Charters

- Set a common definition of Good Work for the whole of the North and encourage more employers to commit to high standards

Close skills gaps and shortages by linking local provision to local opportunities

- Work with businesses and providers to be world-leading in creating a vocational and technical education system in the North

Promote better support systems and networks

- For good physical and mental health in the workplace
- For lifelong learning and reskilling older generations
- For young people looking to apply for top universities
- To enable dialogue between young people and businesses
- For those with special educational needs and disabilities, so that children can learn and teachers can teach

To achieve this, we need government to:

-  Give places the freedom to match education and skills provision to local opportunities and support teachers and learners
-  Invest in cultural education, supporting the broader development of young people during their studies
-  Maintain its commitment to delivering a high performing technical education system, delivering parity of funding and esteem between vocational and academic routes





Housing

Context

- The North is a great place to live, its places have a proud heritage and culture and the natural environment is outstanding.
- The North has a strong track record of rebalancing, regenerating and repurposing its local areas.
- There is evidence of increasing market confidence in the North; the North West now has the fastest growing property market in England, and Housing Associations here are strong.
- Government has lifted Local Authority borrowing restrictions and many Northern places are now building strong housing pipelines, but the North has a shortage of housing.
- Housing delivery has accelerated, with net new housing additions now exceeding Government targets. Momentum needs to be maintained, otherwise there is a real risk that the North will lose its market share of new homes.
- Centuries of heavy industry have left swathes of accessible brownfield land in prominent places, often with low land values but in need of costly and complex remediation.
- Some key national planning and housing investment policies constrain the North's ability to develop a housing offer which matches its economic ambitions.



Quality housing is key to unlocking the North's economy and is a human right for its people.

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The North has the opportunity and ambition to:

Collaborate to set out a vision and strategy for Housing in the North

- Making the case for growth and maximising the capacity in the North

Pursue an ambitious house building agenda

- Build high quality, truly affordable housing to attract and retain a skilled workforce, growing the North's share of the working age population and lead innovation in construction technologies to decarbonise new homes

Lead on sustainable regeneration

- Driving reductions in carbon emissions by the improving current housing stock and living environments
- Building on the North's cultural, heritage and natural assets with placemaking initiatives to actively support regeneration and unlock the potential of our towns, cities and rural communities

Provide safe, decent and affordable homes for all

- Promote a Good Landlord Charter across the North, encouraging a partnership approach with landlords
- Take a coordinated approach to homelessness and rough sleeping

To achieve this, we need government to:



Establish a new appraisal and investment framework to enable quality housing development, ensuring that the North can build homes and regenerate neighbourhoods to align with the economic growth needs set out in the NPIER



Make registration on the National Register of Landlords compulsory in England, to drive up standards and ensure tenants have safe, quality homes



Review national policies to ensure they support local areas to plan for wider, transformational economic growth



Incentivise forward looking local plans that support wider growth, by reviewing the standard method for establishing local housing need



Amalgamate and simplify **funding streams** to give local areas the ability to invest flexibly and strategically in regeneration



Support local areas with a Brownfield Delivery Fund to tackle the infrastructure and excess costs of development on previously developed land to make more brownfield sites viable for housing



Innovation

Context

- The North can use innovation to drive social change and improvement, being a leader in addressing major global trends such as the increased use of AI/Big Data, the shift towards clean growth, and an ageing society.
- The North's prime capabilities (Advanced Manufacturing, Health Innovation, Energy, and Digital) are innovation-intensive industries. Greater cross-sector collaboration with these primes will help to close the North's productivity gap, which currently averages at 25% less gross value added per capita than England as a whole.
- Research and development expenditure is lower in the North, as is the overall number of project applications for Innovate UK funding. This narrow focus has led to government R&D investment being directed to places that are already prosperous.
- Working together, the North could orchestrate its innovation assets and strengthen engagement with global innovation leaders to attract investment in research and development and venture capital.



The North will be recognised internationally for the effectiveness of its innovation eco-systems.



The North has the opportunity and ambition to:

- Improve institutional leadership by bringing together innovation leaders
- Identify opportunities to boost R&D spending, scale up innovation projects and share information between sectors, partners and universities
- Increase private sector-led R&D investment, ensuring that it develops and commercialises frontier technologies within the North's prime capabilities
- Build Northern capacity to support diffusion of business innovation
- Develop knowledge exchange and supply chains and drive applications into global markets
- Support an updated OECD Review on Northern innovation
- Establish a long-term approach for delivering transformational impact on productivity, identifying industrial alignment and skills shortages

To achieve this, we need government to:

- 🔧 Rebalance UKRI R&D funding in line with the opportunities for growth presented by its key sectors, working with Northern partners to align academia, research, SMEs, and industrial priorities
- 🔧 Develop a roadmap to demonstrate how a place-based approach to innovation will contribute to the national target to increase the UK's spend on research and development (R&D) to 2.4% of GDP by 2027
- 🔧 Develop a new Northern Innovation Fund to enable the North to take action in implementing its roadmap to unlock the 2.4% R&D target, funding processes and support structures that incentivises collaborative, business-orientated innovation ecosystems

Transport



Context

- The potential economic value of transformational growth in the North is huge. Better transport will unlock it.
- Transport spending in the North is below the national average and far behind London. The North needs a rebalanced transport deal to thrive.
- Current appraisal methodologies reward high wage areas with evidence of congestion, rather than opportunities for wider economic benefit and opportunity for future growth. This holds the North back.
- Rail demand is growing across the North, but our services aren't improving. We need better rail infrastructure.
- Bus ridership has fallen dramatically across the North, and this has hit remote, rural places particularly hard. Limited 'last mile' connectivity in our places adversely affects our ability to increase opportunity for all people. As the most popular mode of travel, we need consistent, reliable and cheap bus services to unlock the potential of our places.

Every part of the North should be able to access a good quality employment opportunity within 45 minutes.



The North has the opportunity and ambition to:

Back a 'new deal for rail', with commitment to HS2 and NPR

- Make the case for devolved control of transport systems to our places to enable London-style transport management

Prioritise improvements for passenger and freight rail users to deliver transformative growth.

- Ensure rail services are accountable and user focused

Adopt new technologies to support a greener, cleaner economy

- Back clean air zones
- Climate-proofing new transport development plans

Back local control of bus services

- Seize opportunities from the Bus Services Act to deliver better last mile bus services for our communities

To achieve this, we need government to:

- **Fund a Northern Budget for transport** alongside long-term local transport budgets
- **Provide a 'new deal for rail'**, with commitment to High Speed 2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail
- **Devolve control of transport systems to our places** to enable London-style transport management with revenue subsidy to support attempts to set up expanded, extensive and better funded bus services
- **Reform appraisal methodologies**, to encourage growth in less productive places, help encourage transformational investments and support as a priority low carbon public transport
- Provide financial support to assist drivers and small businesses to switch to greener alternatives
- Develop a national infrastructure strategy that responds positively to the recommendations from National Infrastructure Assessment





Trade & Investment

Context

- The North has great potential to grow, with much to offer investors, and therefore needs to better capitalise on its assets to fulfil its ambitions. But, exports currently account for 24% of Northern Powerhouse GDP – the UK average is 30% and only 7.5% of businesses in the North export, relative to a UK average of 9.5%.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects create/safeguard just 90 jobs per 100,000 population in the North, compared to a UK average of 180 per 100,000.
- The North has economic strengths in high-value, high-tech industries. Its four prime capabilities are ‘international-class’ clusters of sectoral, academic, occupational, and infrastructural strengths. It should use these to attract investment and boost exports.
- The North suffers from hidden unemployment and as such we need to target the more difficult to reach groups of the labour market.



Collaborating across boundaries to connect the whole North to the world economy.



The North has the opportunity and ambition to:

Create a framework for collaboration at a pan-Northern level

- Pursue long-term collaboration across administrative and sectoral boundaries, led by a Trade and Investment Leadership Board established in partnership with Government

Develop an intelligence-led approach to export and investment

- Target businesses with export capabilities and latent export potential, directing them to the funding and support they need
- Target international businesses in our prime capabilities to further enhance their global value chain position
- Build the Northern brand internationally
- Collaborate to find and exploit opportunities to market the North



To achieve this, we need government to:

-  **Embed the North in existing activity**
Through Northern Powerhouse ‘proofing’ future UK trade deals inviting Northern localities to participate in more trade missions, and improving the statistical data available
-  **Provide the North with additional ownership of, and freedom to lead, investment and trade.** Through a jointly owned mid-term strategy with Department for International Trade. Enhanced resources and greater local control over existing resources, to market the North and its businesses
-  **Establish a performance management framework to attract investment and trade.** Provide a framework for investment that aligns with the prioritise of the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review, sets clear export targets, and prioritises best fit investment and trade activity
-  **Deliver a step change in trade activity**
Work with the North to identify and deliver the scale of investment required to level up the North’s exports and inward investment

Next Steps



Partners in the North will work to develop these policy ideas and build capacity for delivery.



The policy groups that worked to create the Convention of the North with NP11 policy papers will continue their collaborative analysis and policy development.



The Manifesto will be presented to Government and to the Opposition parties as the unified vision for how the North's potential can be unleashed.



The North will continue to talk with Government about how devolution can be extended and deepened, on the basis of collaboration and consent, and developing the partnerships and structures the North has built.



The Convention of the North with NP11 will reconvene in September 2020 in Liverpool to assess progress and agree its continuing priorities.



In progressing these actions, it is vital that Government co-produces with the North a refreshed and ambitious Northern Powerhouse Strategy.

This will need to include a genuine commitment to extend and deepen the devolution of powers and resources needed to unlock the economic potential of the whole of the North.

NP11



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A Manifesto for the North

The NP11 is the business-led voice for the North that brings together the 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) from across the North of England.

It plays a leading role in realising the vision for an economically thriving Northern Powerhouse that drives economic prosperity, international competitiveness, and inclusive growth that benefits everyone across the North's great towns, cities and rural communities.

Its members include:

Roger Marsh, Chair of Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership and Chair of NP11; **Christine Gaskell**, Chair of Cheshire and Warrington LEP and Vice-Chair of NP11; **Lord Richard Inglewood**, Chair of Cumbria LEP; **Mike Blackburn**, Chair of Greater Manchester LEP; **Lord Christopher Haskins**, Chair of Humber LEP; **Steve Fogg**, Chair of Lancashire LEP; **Asif Hamid**, Chair of Liverpool City Region LEP; **Andrew Hodgson**, Chair of North East LEP; **James Muir**, Chair of Sheffield City Region LEP; **Paul Booth**, Chair of Tees Valley LEP; and **David Kerfoot**, Chair of York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP

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:

Nick Forbes, Leader of Newcastle City Council and Chair of the Convention; **Susan Hinchcliffe**, Leader of Bradford Council; **Sir Richard Leese**, Leader of Manchester City Council; **Carl Les**, Leader of North Yorkshire County Council; **Peter Box**, Leader of Wakefield Council; **Geoff Driver**, Leader of Lancashire County Council; **Judith Blake**, Leader of Leeds City Council; **Julie Dore**, Leader of Sheffield City Council; Greater Manchester Mayor **Andy Burnham**; Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor **Steve Rotheram** and Sheffield City Region Mayor **Dan Jarvis**; **Roger Marsh**, Chair of Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership and Chair of NP11.



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