

**NORTH EAST ENGLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - UPDATE**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a report from the North East England Chamber of Commerce on the economic opportunities and challenges facing the city in the years ahead.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for 2018/19, it was suggested that a representative from the North East England Chamber of Commerce be invited to outline the main economic opportunities and challenges facing the city.
- 2.2 The North East England Chamber of Commerce is the North East's leading business membership organisation and represents more than 3,000 businesses in Tyne and Wear, Northumberland, Durham and Tees Valley. Its members are drawn from all sizes of business across all sectors and employ about 30% of the region's workforce.

**3 Current Position**

- 3.1 Jonathan Walker (Assistant Director - Policy) will be in attendance to discuss the economic opportunities and challenges facing the city including:-
- national and regional economic climate
  - prospects for economic growth and employment
  - development of workforce skills
  - apprenticeships
  - infrastructure and communications
  - economic vibrancy of the city centre
  - future of the retail sector

- 3.2 A copy of the document "Stronger North East: Our 2019 Campaign for Business Growth in North East England" is attached for information.

**4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the issues raised during the discussion.
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