

Why a strategy now?

Key objectives

- Accelerate our Investment Programme interventions that would best support the strengthening of the North's economy.
- To set out how we can accelerate the move to zero carbon.
- To identify the policy positions TfN needs to develop to deliver the strategy effectively

Freeports

The proposed Freeports of Humber, Liverpool City Region and Teesside are in the TfN area.

Where the ports of the North have not been awarded freeport status, we will continue to champion the infrastructure needs and any development opportunities that sits within TfN's remit.

Importance of the freight and logistics sector

The Northern Powerhouse Economic Review identified that the GVA in the North was 25% below the national average which is a significant gap in productivity. This meant that there was an opportunity to articulate the need for investment in the North in a different way.

Freight and Logistics was identified as an enabler to support the key economic sectors in the north. This identification of freight as a key enabler was the catalyst for the work on freight and logistics at TfN and the networks and investment needed in the North to close the productivity gap.

The sector represents a huge opportunity for the North given that over 33% of goods enter through the Northern ports and 25% of GB freight starts in the North and the same proportion of journeys end in the North.

Constraints

There is evidence that constraints in the freight network, nationally, cause inefficiencies. These include a shortage of warehouse capacity (especially rail connected warehousing), the inability of rail to carry containers east-west across the Pennines or elsewhere in the North and the disproportionate reliance on the ports in the South (even when roll on roll off traffic is excluded).

Why is this strategy needed?

By taking a multimodal approach and using demand information generated by the modelling and analysis tools developed at TfN, we can consider capacity constraints on the whole network and identify means by which these constraints can be eliminated or improved.

