

One NorthEast

Evaluation of Regional Economic Strategy



What our client wanted

Realising Our Potential, launched in 2002, was the second Regional Economic Strategy (RES) for the North East of England. On behalf of all the regional partners, One NorthEast wanted to evaluate the strategy to assess performance to date and inform the development of the next RES.

What Frontline did

Frontline worked in partnership with the Training and Employment Research Unit at Glasgow University to design and deliver this project. The evaluation required wide-ranging stakeholder consultation across public, private and voluntary sectors. The work included quantification of the economic impact of the strategy, with a wide ranging qualitative assessment of the development process and the impact of the strategy on the way partners involved in economic development in the region interact.

A significant component of this evaluation was to understand how the RES process contributed to strategic added value and improved overall aspirations and capacities for economic development in the North East of England.

What difference we made

Our evaluation identified clear evidence of a 'direction of travel' of strategic development thinking within the North East policy community. The report noted that creating a shared mental model of the North East economy was a critical area for action, as well as developing a more comprehensive evaluation evidence base.

The lessons learned from *Realising Our Potential* were included within the new RES *Leading the Way* published in 2006.