

LLEP UPDATE JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021

LLEP Quarterly Report

2021 Q3

July - September



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LLEP Limited

Following his retirement from Loughborough University, Professor Robert Allison, stood down as a board director of the LLEP. Professor Allison first joined the board in 2014 and was one of the inaugural directors of Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Limited, when the company was formed.

Following Professor Allison's retirement, the education members of the company appointed Professor Nishan Canagarajah as the Higher Education sector lead on the Board.

Professor Canagarajah is President and Vice-Chancellor at the University of Leicester and has been in post since November 2019.

Professor Canagarajah is internationally recognised for his engineering research on signal processing and texture classification. He served on national and international research funding, governance and postgraduate education panels as well as acting as a technical consultant for Sony, BT, BBC, Orange, Thales, Toshiba and the Met Police.

Strategy

Economic Growth Strategy

At the LLEP board meeting in June, the draft Economic Growth Strategy was approved for wider consultation. The consultation period commenced from 1 July 2021 to 30 July 2021, with partners asked a series of questions to gather their thoughts on the Strategy.

A total of 52 responses were received during the consultation period, these were consolidated thematically and shared with the consultants drafting the strategy to implement the feedback received. The key themes emerging from the feedback included the need for greater reference to health and wellbeing, more focus on the sustainability / low carbon agenda and greater strategic emphasis on tourism and the visitor economy. Once the feedback had been implemented, the Strategy was then shared with the Board for final review and was approved.

LLEP Business Tracker Study

The decision was made to launch the third wave of the Business Tracker Survey in October to coincide with the winding down of the furlough scheme and to capture the impact of the shortage of lorry drivers. Small amendments were made to the survey to capture the impact of these phenomena and the setup phase was completed.

Covid-19 Sector Research/Profiles

The sector profiles were completed and delivered to the LLEP by the consultants who had drafted them. Following internal review, the profiles along with a technical summary report were published on the LLEP website and were shared with key stakeholders. A copy of the profiles and accompanying technical summary report [can be found on the LLEP website](#).

Skills Advisory Panel (SAP)

The Skills Advisory Panel meeting was held on 14 July. The panel were updated about proposed projects using the repurposed Growing Places Fund. Both the Prevention of NEET project and the Digital Poverty grant funding were both made open to bids with applications expected by mid-October and projects to commence in January 2022.

The Kickstart extension scheme, supporting young people into employment is now live with funding in place to extend placements of disadvantaged young people and increase their chances of gaining full time employment.

An update was also provided on the Digital Skills Partnership. Over 50 local partners have joined one of the themed groups with the first round of meetings in September. Groups discussed three main themes from a digital perspective: an Inclusive workforce (including digital poverty); Workforce of the Future (education based); and Skilled Workforce (the current workforce). A good discussion of local issues was held in all groups and a local action plan is being developed. Emerging themes include support for SMEs, mapping local provision, links between students and business and support for SEND pupils. The full plan will be available in November.

Leicester and Leicestershire Business and Economic Intelligence Update

Headlines from the latest monthly (Sept 21) update include:

Claimants

- In September 2021 the claimant rate in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was 4.1%. This translates to 27,710 claimants. In August the figure was 4.2% (28,350). At a national level the claimant rate was 5.1% (England). This is a percentage point higher than the local rate.
- The picture is very different in the city and county with Leicester having a claimant rate of 6.4% and Leicestershire 2.9%. This is a difference of 3.5 percentage points. Leicester's claimant rate is 1.3 percentage points higher than the England average (5.1%).
- Of the 27,710 claimants over half (54.3% or 15,040) were in Leicester.
- In March 2020 the claimant rate was 2.3% (or 15,145). Between March 2020 and the end of September 2021 the claimant rate increased by 1.8 percentage points to 4.1% (27,710). This translates to an additional 12,565 claimants or a percentage increase of 83%.
- In the Leicester and Leicestershire area over the period March to August 2020 the number of claimants grew from 15,145 to 36,025 (it's peak). This is a rise of 20,880 claimants or 138%. When comparing the figures for August 2020 and September 2021 with those for March 2020, the difference has fallen from 20,880 to 12,565, this is a significant fall of 8,315 claimants. Since March of this year the number of claimants has fallen by 7,660.
- The pandemic has affected all age groups. Figures for September 2021 demonstrate that there were on average a larger share of 25-49 years olds claimants (4.7%) than 18-24 years olds (4.6%) and claimants that were 50 and over (3.3%). Nationally the claimant rates were higher for 18-24 years olds (6.7%), 25-49 years olds (5.7%) and those who are 50 and over (4%).
- Fifteen thousand seven hundred and eighty-five (57%) claimants were male and 11,925 (43%) were female.

Source: Office for National Statistics Claimant Count

Furloughed Staff

- Figures for August demonstrate that there were 23,500 employments on furlough. In July there were 26,700.

- The latest figures demonstrate that as the scheme approaches its conclusion in September, the numbers withdrawing from it has slowed.
- It is estimated that large pockets of those employments accessing the scheme in August were based within Arts, Entertainment and Other Services, Accommodation and Food Services, Manufacturing, Wholesale and Retail, Professional Scientific and Technical and Transport and Storage.

Key Dates

- 01/07/2021 - Changed level of grant available from government to businesses (70%).
- 01/08/2021 - Changed level of grant available from government to businesses (60% until the end of September).
- 30/09/2021 - Closure of the furlough scheme and government funding ceased.

Source: HMRC

Job Postings

- The number of unique job postings for September 2021 is higher than September 2020 by 10,982 (41,764 compared to 30,782). This is a rise of 35.7%
- Over the last month the number of job postings grew from 38,867 to 41,764. This is a rise of 2,897 postings or 7.5%.
- Job postings data in the Leicester and Leicestershire areas presents two different pictures. In Leicestershire from August of 2020 there have been more unique job postings than the last figure supplied prior to the pandemic (March 2020). In Leicester this is not the case and figures have continually failed to exceed the figure delivered for March 2020. September 2021 shows that the number of postings in Leicester has finally exceeded those for March 2020.

Source: EMSI Job Postings

Business Closures and Incorporations

- Since the start of March 2020, 13,803 businesses have ceased trading and 17,872 businesses have been incorporated within the Leicester and Leicestershire area.

- In 2021 (to the end of September) there have been 8,275 solved businesses. For the same period in 2020 the figure was 3,573 and 2019 6,875. Year to date figures show that closures in 2021 are higher than in 2019 and 2020.
- When comparing closures with incorporations in 2021 there were 8,725 closures and 7,284 incorporations. This is a difference of 1,441.

Source: BVD Fame

Labour Market Information/Skills/Apprenticeships:

Accessible labour market information is important, to support young people, adults and those who support people with skills across Leicester and Leicestershire.

The World of Work Leicestershire

The World of Work Leicestershire (labour market guide for young people) was updated over the summer of 2021 and focuses on 18 local sectors that employ a lot of people or are likely to grow, plus employability tips, working for SMEs, and entrepreneurship. The guide is available on the LLEP website at:

<https://llep.org.uk/skills/information-resources-for-education-professionals/>, or download directly at [Work of Work Young Persons Guide 2021-22](#). We distributed 24,000 copies into Leicester and Leicestershire schools and colleges.

There is also a new resource, **Five Ways to Use the World of Work Leicestershire**, to help teachers and those supporting young people to make use of the guide. Go to the LLEP website at www.llep.org.uk/Five-Ways-to-Use-the-LLEP-WoW-Guide

These resources, along with a set of films linked to sectors, with complimentary lesson plans, presentations and quizzes, launched in June 2021. They offer a broad range of activities for teachers and those supporting young people to help young people learn about the local labour market.

North-West Leicestershire has a set of nine working groups to support skills in the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway area, five booming sites in the North West Leicestershire area. The LLEP leads the task and finish group for resources for schools, parents, and potential employees.

Scripts for two EMEG films were created in June 2021, and onsite filming commenced with SEGRO, The Very Group and East Midlands Airport over the summer. **Two EMEG films**, one aimed at young people and one at adults, will be ready as a resource in

October 2021, to be used by schools, or those supporting young people and adults into work.

District Snapshots

Updated easy read district snapshots were created over summer 2021 with a focus on advertised vacancy information and employers. These show what skills are in demand across district areas and are a handy resource. See: www.llep.org.uk/skills-district-snapshots

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships reduced during lockdowns, and lockdowns also affected the launch of T Levels, a new level three technical qualification. We are coordinating activity with the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Leicester Employment Hub and Leicestershire County Council on a set of key initiatives to revive apprenticeships and traineeships post Covid-19.

We have commenced the collation of an area apprenticeship/T Levels Matrix, setting out what is delivered locally and who will deliver this, which can be used by schools and employers. A draft apprenticeships strategy has also been collated, focusing on

- Support for employers, especially SMEs
- Raising awareness of apprenticeships and T levels to young people (especially those aged 16-18) and adults, with better links to careers in the curriculum and starting apprenticeship conversations with adults
- Enhanced contact with area providers
- Support for business intermediaries
- Increasing degree apprenticeship numbers locally, particularly in STEM subjects

Funding

European Structural and Investment Funds

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

This Quarter has seen the Leicester Arts Centre Limited's Creative Digital Incubator project finally approved and contracted bringing a further £0.66m ERDF into Leicester and Leicestershire.

The aim of the project will be to create specialised incubator units for the creative arts sector and supporting up to 30 businesses.

This brings the total value of ERDF funding allocated to £51,587,305 supporting 4,805 businesses.

European Social Fund (ESF)

Much of the activity under ESF has now been extended to continue into 2023. To date £48.9m ESF has been allocated. There will be no new local calls launched under this fund.

European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

In the EAFRD MI Report (10-Jun-21) an initial 125 Expressions of Interest were received totalling £13.7m. Of these, 11 have been contracted with to date, totalling £4.7m with £2.5m of this having already been allocated.

Programme Delivery

Getting Building Fund

Progress has been made on individual projects as follows:

- **St Margaret's Bus Station**

Construction works are continuing on site, and a site visit with the City Mayor, Councillor's and Chair of LLEP Board took place at the end of August. Works on making improvements to the surrounding road network have also begun. The project is on track to complete by end June 2022.

- **Loughborough University Sport Park Pavilion 4**

The programme has experienced several delays and is behind schedule. A new schedule has been agreed with Loughborough University and 50% of the funding allocation will be held over into 2022/23. This delay was agreed with the managing authority under its freedoms and flexibilities. Planning approval has been awarded by Charnwood Borough Council and the confirmed start date for construction is 15th November 2021.

- **Granby St/St George St Regeneration Gateway**

Granby Street: now progressing with detailed design. St George Street: the project is currently developing the preliminary design and has commenced key stakeholder engagement. Both schemes were presented to the LCC executive team and designs were approved. Both schemes went out to tender in September 2021. In the next quarter the construction contracts for both schemes will be awarded. St George St contractors will begin work on site in November 2021. Granby St contractors will begin work on site January 2022.

- **J23 M1/A512 Access Improvements**

All works onsite are now complete. The full project funding amount has been defrayed.

GBF claims up to the end of Q2 2021/22 total £5,511,371, due to significant delays to beginning building work on two of the projects the in-year spending for 2021/22 is below forecast, and currently £4,282,006 will be held over into 2022/23 financial year using freedoms and flexibilities legislation.

Local Growth Fund

With all projects having claimed their full grant allocation in March 2021, they continue to be monitored until fully complete and as such are continuing to provide updates of output figures & match funding contributions.

Focus Consultants have successfully completed an end of programme evaluation with very positive feedback provided particularly on the impact of the programme on the LLEP economy.

A further 3 projects - Market Harborough Line Speed Improvement, A50/A6-Leicester North-West Major Transport Investment Corridor and the North City Centre

Access Investment Programme have now fully closed having completed all outputs as per their funding agreements and having returned their evaluation reports.

A few key milestones & outputs have also been achieved during Quarter 3 including:

- completion of facilities installation at Memory Wharf as part of the final works on the Strategic Flood Risk Management Strategy project.
- a total of 457 new homes have now been built to date since the completion of works on the Lubbesthorpe Strategic Employment Site (SES) Access Improvements project.

Growing Places Fund

There are currently three GPF projects including Haywoods Estates, The Gresham and Broadnook.

Haywoods Estates

Haywoods continue to sell units and making repayments on the GPF loan. Further updates will be made next quarter.

The Gresham

LLEP board members were invited to attend a time capsule event in the basement of the Gresham in September. The time capsule is intended to preserve a snapshot of Leicester and life in 2021. It will not be opened until at least 2080 – 200 years after the building was first built.

Sealed in a cast iron safe in an old bank vault in the basement of the Gresham, a plaque is being placed outside to mark the existence of the time capsule for the future.

Final works continue to get the building ready for opening in October/November 2021.

Broadnook Garden Village

No update this quarter.

Coalville Depot

An expression of interest for Growing Place Funding has been received for a Coalville Depot. Initial early discussions and negotiations have been held; the organisation requests £1.5m investment for a £3m build. A further business case has been requested from the applicant to provide the satisfactory level of information for

assessment by the Accountable Body and Investment Panel to decide whether this project is of interest, before carrying out any further due diligence.

Business Rates Pooling

In September, Charnwood Borough Council announced the road closures, in relation to the redevelopment of Bedford Square/Ward's End and Devonshire Square. The project is partial funded through the business rates pooling.

The project will see footpaths widened and re-paved to create a high-quality and attractive street scene that will showcase the area's distinct character and heritage. Character street lighting and furniture will also be added and more of the area will be on one level making it more accessible.

A large open space in Devonshire Square will be created to host events and markets, the scheme also retains parking and maintains traffic flow in the area. Further information on road closures and the project progress can be found here [Bedford Square Gateway Project 2021 - Charnwood Borough Council](#)

In August, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council launched a consultation on the development of the High Street Heritage Action Zone, which is jointly funded through the Business Rates Pool with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and Historic England. The project aims to improve the public areas along Castle Street, around Church Walk car park and to some of the yards and jitties. To have your say [Share Your Views On Hinckley High Street Heritage Action Zone – Commonplace](#)

In July, Leicester City Council announced it had thrown a financial lifeline to enable the Phoenix 2020 project to continue. The Phoenix 2020 project is being carried out to extend the Cultural Quarter arts venue to include additional cinema screens, improved catering facilities and enhanced digital gallery, which when completed will enable it to accommodate more visitors and become more financially self-sufficient.

However, disruption from Covid-19 has left the charity which runs Phoenix – Leicester Arts Centre Ltd – venue in a race against time to bridge the £1million shortfall in finances it needs to start work.

In addition to the £1million from the council, the city council also successfully bid in the Business Rates Pool for £400,000 which they will utilise in supporting the Phoenix 2020 project. [Council approves grant to enable Phoenix expansion project to continue \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

Innovation Board

The Innovation Board met on 22 September. Key topics of discussion included the Government Innovation Strategy Guidance published in July where there is a commitment to innovatively improve productivity and growth. Innovation Funding will be a refresh of the Industrial Strategy Challenge fund.

The strategy endorses Innovate's role and the growing role of business support, both in terms of working with other institutions such as the growth hubs and universities and supporting companies to scale up rapidly.

Key focuses include scaling businesses, improving available talent and skills in areas including technical abilities, leadership and management required by innovative companies linking in with the reform of the FE sector and HE partnerships. A diverse range of financial products are being sought, with innovation loans being piloted and now a confirmed product collaborating with the British Business Bank.

The board also discussed the new UK government hydrogen strategy where hydrogen is identified as a versatile or potentially a replacement for high carbon fuels. The significance of hydrogen has now increased with government regulations and the ever more aggressive decarbonization agenda. The Midlands is well represented and can provide significant input through Cenex and the Midlands Engine in future consultation discussions.

Following the success of previous Innovation Weeks, Innovation Week 2022 will have a Net Zero theme. The events will be multi-sectoral rather than focussing on a single sector and relevant to the environment. It is hoped events will also be spread out across the year and be holding one relatively large all-day event at Space Park Leicester. Previous attendees and contributors from Innovation Week 2021 will be invited to take part and some publicity will go out in the coming weeks to promote the event. Leicestershire Live Innovation Awards will be held as part of Innovation Week 2022.

Business Gateway Growth Hub

During this period the Business Gateway received a total of 341 direct requests for support.

This is lower than the previous quarter however, this was expected due to easing of restrictions and moving forwards from where businesses felt they were 6-12 months ago.

Business Advisers have confirmed that the enquiries they received have been heavily focused around businesses now wanting to grow / expand and other clients wanting to start new businesses.

The majority of the enquiries received are based within Leicester City with Charnwood and Melton following behind. The most common sectors for these enquiries are from manufacturing, wholesale and retail businesses.

Start Up Business Support Programme

The Business Gateway, in partnership with Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council are undertaking a programme of business support activity, targeting start-up businesses trading up to a maximum of 36 months, that have been impacted adversely by the pandemic.

Four providers have been appointed to deliver six programmes of support to start-up businesses. These programmes will each deliver training and support against five key themes of business resilience, strategy & planning, growth, pricing and getting investment ready. The programmes will complement existing support already available within the Growth Hub. We will also manage a signposting service to Additional Restrictions Grants being managed by local authorities.

Programme Procurement Update

The Business Gateway is looking to commission a service provider to devise a holistic support package for fashion and textile manufacturers. The support needs to be a combination of 1:1 consultancy and developing the required skillset of individuals responsible for Ethical & Social Compliance Implementation within a business.

The programme of support aims to prepare Fashion and Textile manufacturers to meet their client's ethical compliance audits.

A tender process will be live from August 2021 for the Fashion & Textiles Support Programme, with the aim of providers being in place from September to design and deliver their programmes of business support

Peer Networks

The peer networks programme is currently recruiting businesses to form part of the new cohort delivery for 2021-22. Three cohorts each comprising of 11 directors

across a range of sectors have already commenced with a further 14 cohorts still to be recruited. The programme must be delivered between now and March 2022.

The pilot programmes 2020-21 has been effective at helping businesses to develop the innovation mindset with glowing reports from participants benefiting from working with directors from other businesses across a range of sizes and sectors.

Comms and Marketing Update

There has been a good level of new content issued this quarter including interviews with event speakers, case studies demonstrating the impact of support and webinar promotion.

We continued to create ready-made toolkits with event content for partners and other contacts to use in their own communications. There has been wider use of this content this quarter by others helping us reach more businesses and encourage enquiries or bookings.

The increased use of animated posts and video content is helping with our social media engagement as well as sharing new blogs and editorials.

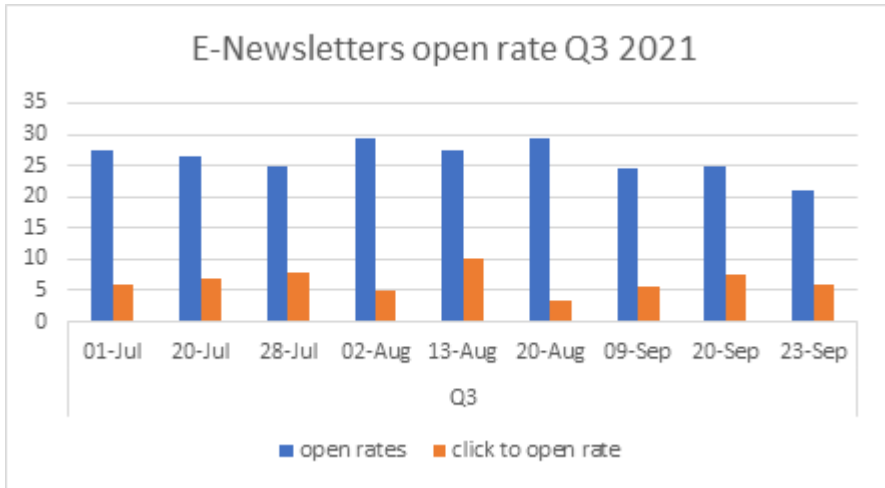
There was a drop in website page views reverting to pre-pandemic levels. We are working to drive traffic back to the site through social media and other communications as well as updating product and business support pages.

Social Media	July	August	September
Twitter followers	2997	2932	2944
LinkedIn page followers	941	958	992
LinkedIn Group	1336	1353	1362
Facebook fans	447	452	455

Nine e-newsletters were sent this quarter including dedicated issues on grants/finance, innovation, Meet the Buyer (Rebuild of Glen Parva YOI) and food and drink.

Articles that got the highest click-throughs:

- July: 100 ways to go greener - 27.4%
- August: Meet the Buyer more details - 29.45%
- September: Rebranding Leicester's Fashion Sector - 24.74%



BizGateway Website July to September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9,652 unique new visitors to the website
BizGateway e-newsletters July to September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32,218 e-newsletters delivered • 26.1% open rate • 6.49% link clicks

Enterprise Zones

The former 'Lighthouse Lab' at Charnwood Campus has been taken over by biotechnology company, Dante Labs. The lab will be operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will deliver Covid-19 RT-PCR testing and clinical whole genome sequencing at scale. It uses smart automation and machine learning to enable superior precision, sample tracking and quality, with the capacity to process 50,000 Covid-19 tests a day. The lab will initially employ 100 people from the local area, with ambitions to treble this number. It was officially opened by Jane Hunt MP and Cllr Jonathan Morgan in September.

A number of companies and organisations have announced they will be locating at Space Park Leicester. The government backed Satellite Applications Catapult will expand into the site, further demonstrating its commitment to supporting and accelerating the growth of the space industry in the UK.

Staffed by a dedicated team of experts, who will engage locally with academia, entrepreneurs and businesses alike, the team will manage a wide range of space

industry activities with a strong focus on the commercialisation of ideas that use Earth Observation data and technology.

EarthSense, who develop services to provide air quality monitoring on the back of cutting-edge research, are expanding out of shared space within DOCK to take up a whole floor within Space Park Leicester. This reflects the company's continued expansion which saw them receive the Innovation award by the Queen's Award for Enterprise 2021 following consistent 60 per cent annual company growth over a number of years.

A new tenant was announced for MIRA Technology Park in August. AIMMO offers one of the fastest and most accurate AI modelling and automated data labelling technologies; and has quickly become highly experienced in the autonomous driving sector through ongoing partnerships with Hyundai Motors, Komatsu, Kakao Mobility, and the Gyeonggi Autonomous Driving Centre, Korea's top self-driving innovation complex, amongst others.

Horiba MIRA celebrated 75 years since incorporation. Over the years this has seen them developing some of the world's most iconic vehicles, pushing the boundaries of automotive innovation and delivering world-class, independent vehicle engineering and development consultancy.

Careers Hub and Enterprise Adviser Network

The Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) continues to grow with 98% of schools and colleges in Leicester and Leicestershire now engaged in the Network. All schools and colleges are supported by a LLEP Enterprise Coordinator (EC) to develop or strengthen their careers education programme.

Most schools and colleges in the EAN have also joined the Careers Hub. This builds on the original 20 Hub schools and colleges providing an enhanced level of support in meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Careers Guidance. A high proportion of institutions in the EAN are matched to an Enterprise Adviser (EA) working with them on their career's education programmes.

We now have 87 EAs supporting schools and colleges across Leicester and Leicestershire. New EA's joining us are from Cavendish Nuclear, Environmental Energies, Blueprint Interiors and Jordan Motors.

The team also delivered an online recruitment 'Drop in' session for prospective EAs to find out more about the role. This has resulted in onboarding more EAs.

As part of the LLEP Low Carbon work the Hub launched our climate action strategy '*Bright Green Futures*'. Bright Green Futures is a partnership with Energy Sparks and Wildhearts offering young people the chance to become agents of change, creative problem solvers and future leaders, whilst saving schools money and reducing carbon footprints. The first stage of this takes part during COP26 highlighting the essential connection between careers education and climate change. More Bright Green Futures careers and curriculum activities are in development stage.

A pilot of careers insights and life skills workshops have been offered to a number of schools across the city and county. Those participating schools will have a be accessing sessions led by a local Entrepreneur and Fitness Professional. The high impact, inspirational and motivational face to face sessions will be for students in key stages 4 and 5. Topics covered include challenging self-limiting beliefs & stereotypes, understanding and managing negative thoughts and feelings and the power of habits and routines.

The inaugural meeting took place of the Local College Community of Practice (CoP) on 13th September. This is an initiative between the LLEP Careers Hub and Pathways, the partnership of higher education providers in Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Careers Leaders from local colleges come together to create a supportive and collaborative careers education network. The initial focus on the group will be effective transitions to post 16 or higher education and amplifying the local offer for green careers including apprenticeships and T Levels.

Energy Infrastructure Strategy and Midlands Energy Hub

H2GVMids

This broad partnership, including the Midlands Energy Hub, has begun to gather evidence and support towards a business case for a hydrogen HGV ecosystem across the Midlands. Drawing in information about hydrogen generation and renewable capacity alongside linking with Hydrogen Refuelling Station operators and early-

stage manufacturers of the vehicles, the project will see a step change in local capacity to decarbonise this important sector.

The growth hub trial of the Zellar digital platform is close to securing a full cohort of businesses who will join the LLEP on a year of discovery! This important trial, we are the first Local Enterprise Partnership to work with Zellar, will be a key method for understanding how we can really start to support businesses to decarbonise. We are looking forward to working with these 100 local pioneers to understand what works and what else is needed.

Zero Carbon

This agenda item is really beginning to gain momentum, particularly with the UK in partnership with Italy, are hosting COP26 in Glasgow from 31st Oct-12th November.

The LLEP has assigned a dedicated Officer (Mary-Louise Harrison) to work on this, together with the LLEP's Zero Carbon leads and Gavin Fletcher from the Midlands Energy Hub.

The LLEP's Zero Carbon Action Plan Framework was endorsed by Senior Management Team in June and over the next 12 months, this will be delivered in line with the LLEP's Delivery Plan 2021-22.

LLEP Communications

Press Releases

July 2021

[Interview with a LLEP Enterprise Adviser](#)

James Taylor, CEO of recruitment company Macildowie signed up as an EA earlier this year to work with the Head Teacher, Keith Hobbs and Careers Leader Geoff Dixon at Stephenson Studio School in Coalville. We caught up with him to find out how the role of an Enterprise Adviser can make a huge impact.

[LLEP unlocks digital skills potential for businesses](#)

Over 50 businesses attended a 'Digital Skills' business breakfast briefing as the LLEP showcased the Digital Skills Partnership. To help improve skills locally, drive up productivity and business performance, a key aim is to support a digitally skilled workforce, whatever the sector. Task based groups will look at practical help for local

businesses – how to find the training and skills needed and how that will translate into everyday business benefits.

[Delivering our future together – the power of LEP’s](#)

For a decade, LEP’s have been driving forward inclusive economic growth across the country. They have harnessed the energy and expertise of leaders from 2000 businesses, 180 local authorities and 250 Higher/Further Education organisations. They have delivered £4.1 billion of Government investment into the area, unlocking a further £11.1 billion of match funding.

September 2021

[LLEP publishes latest sector profiles](#)

Data for the LLEP’s latest sector profiles has been gathered and published for fifteen key sectors of interest. These reflect Leicestershire’s diversity as well as Government priorities such as science and technology, innovation, and the green agenda.

LLEP Engagement

LLEP Social Media Overview – July to September 2021

	Tweets	Engagement	Engagement by type	Link Clicks	New Followers
Twitter Overview	122	367K	223 likes 144 retweets 6 replies	246	30
	Posts	Engagement	Engagement by type	Page Clicks	New Followers
LinkedIn Overview	71	215	117 reactions 44 shares 4 comments	85	42

Events Round-Up

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the LLEP team has been working remotely and not organised face to face events. This quarter saw one LLEP event and a partner event that the LLEP and Business Gateway supported – Glen Parva Meet the Buyer.

The Business Gateway Growth Hub continued their series of webinars.

The table below includes a summary of activity.

Webinars	No. of Events	Date	No. of Attendees
LLEP Digital Skills – unlock your business potential breakfast briefing 6 July	1	July	80
Business Gateway webinars	7		52
LLEP Enterprise Adviser Recruitment event	1	August	
Business Gateway webinars	13		88
Glen Parva Meet the Buyer – Supplier Event 28 September	1	September	50
LeicestershireLive Innovation Awards (supported by Business Gateway)	1		
Business Gateway webinars	21		104

Forthcoming Events

29th October – Leicester Business Voice Event (COP26 / Zero Carbon)

10th November – Antigua and Barbuda @ 40 Forum (Sue Tilley – LLEP)

11th November – East Midlands COP26 Regional Green Zone Event (Zero Carbon)

11th November – LBF – Digital Skills – Unlock your business potential

18th November – Business Support Provider Network meeting (ESIF / Zero Carbon)

18th November – LBF – Clear Careers

Personnel

Staffing Changes

Staff changes from July to September 2021 welcomed the arrival of Claire Stimpson, Admin and Business Support Officer and Simon Weaver, Senior Project Officer.

Leavers included Fiona Baker, Head of Strategy and Engagement and Graeme Hall, Comms and Marketing Officer.