



**LLEP ANNUAL
REPORT**
April 2017 - March 2018

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Foreword from the Chair

I am delighted to present the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) Annual Review for 2017/18 which highlights the LLEP's achievements and key programmes over the last year.

2017/18 has been another successful year for the LLEP with continued excellence in delivery. We have had a firm focus on strengthening our governance in response to the recommendations of Mary Ney's review of LEPs; focused on enhancing the role of the LEPs and building solid foundations for the development of our response to the Industrial Strategy.

Over the past 12 months the LLEP, working with its partners, has achieved significant success in boosting our economy. Our successful £126m Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme continues to excel and we are now seeing the impacts of our investment through the completion of critical skills and infrastructure projects, which will deliver thousands of jobs, homes and people with the skills we need for a bright economic future.

In April 2017, the delivery of the Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone (EZ) began. Our second EZ - building on the international success of our first EZ at MIRA Technology Park - has delivered at pace, with developments across all three sites ranging from major company investments by Almac and 3M to the development of major office and leisure facilities in Leicester city.

The Growth Hub - LLEP Business Gateway has continued to deliver support for businesses - helping almost 4,000 to date - to understand the business support eco-system in Leicester and Leicestershire and facilitating access to the multitude of services available offering advice, support and finance to help our businesses grow.

We are extremely proud of our Enterprise Adviser Network as it continues to be a national exemplar,

creating links between education and business, giving young people the chance to be informed and inspired by the career opportunities available. The annual culmination of this is at our Career Speed Networking event which in 2017 was bigger and better than ever; bringing together 280 students with 120 businesses to showcase the great career opportunities available and inspire the next generation.

Despite the continuing uncertainty over BREXIT our European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) continues to deliver at pace - having committed over 80% of our £108m allocation, and leveraging over £75m of additional investment to deliver projects that will support business, invest in innovation and enhance the skills of our local communities.

We've achieved a great deal in 2017/18 and 2018/19 will continue to see us focus on delivering impact from our investments that strengthen the local economy. At the same time we will re-shape our strategies and establish our long-term vision as we embark on the production of our Local Industrial Strategy; establishing our partnership's long-term vision and ambition to build on our strengths; making more of our untapped potential to create an increasingly productive economy for Leicester and Leicestershire.

Nick Pulley
Chair of the LLEP

Vision & Priorities 2017/18

At the outset of 2017/18 our key priorities were:

- Supporting Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect and the Industrial Strategy
- The development and launch of our Strategic Economic Plan 2018 to 2023
- Continuing to support the delivery of our existing programme of investments

The launch of the Industrial Strategy in November 2017 focused on boosting productivity and earning power of people across the UK. Based on five foundations; ideas, people, infrastructure, business environment and places, it sets out the government's position on how it plans to build a Britain fit for the future.

To deliver this ambitious agenda the government has strengthened its commitment to LEPs giving them the responsibility for developing Local Industrial Strategies (LIS). Our LIS will identify our local strengths and challenges, the future opportunities for the area and the action needed, in partnership with government, to boost productivity and drive growth in the Leicester and Leicestershire economy.

The work undertaken in 2017/18 on developing our five-year Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) has provided a sound evidence base for the construction of the long-term vision for our LIS. It will build on the opportunities identified in the Midlands Engine Vision for Growth and identify our sector strengths leading to growth opportunities and our contribution to addressing the Grand Challenges.

The success of the LLEP is based on our ability to engage with partners across industry, academia and government and, critically, deliver investment and impact for the local economy.

The Midlands Engine Vision for Growth Strategy was launched in September 2017 and was unveiled at the LLEP's Annual Meeting on the first day of Leicester Business Festival.

The LLEP has continued to play a key role in the Midlands Engine through representation on the Executive and Operating Boards, supporting the development of the Midlands Engine Strategy and Midlands Connect Strategy, contributing £6m from our ESIF allocation and shaping the Midlands Engine Investment Fund.

Our ability to deliver has always been something that we are proud of and our "excellence" in this area was recognised in our most recent Annual Conversation with government; one of only a handful of LEPs nationally who achieved this.

This recognition acknowledges our continued strong performance throughout 2017/18 in the delivery of our existing programme of investments, and the careful management with which we undertake our role - ensuring effective delivery and value for money for the taxpayer.

The following sections of this report provide an overview and identify the highlights for each programme of activity.

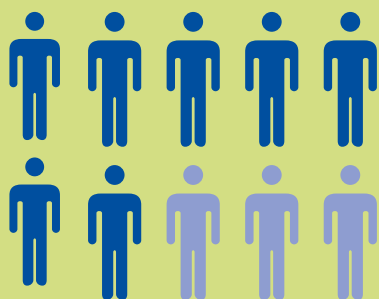
In addition, through our improved 'Open Call' process, we have developed a pipeline of over 100 projects, and supported 26 feasibility and operational projects with over £2m funding. This has leveraged an additional £4.74m of local investment.

As a LEP we are keen to exploit emerging opportunities to further our economic aims. In 2017 we responded to key opportunities supporting the submission of proposals for the creation of a Logistics Institute of Technology (IoT) at Magna Park, and an East Midlands Logistics Hub at the SEGRO Logistics Park East Midlands Gateway (SLPEMG) facilitating the expansion of Heathrow Airport. Both proposals have been invited to the next stage. We will continue to strive for their success in the coming year.

Business Survey 2017

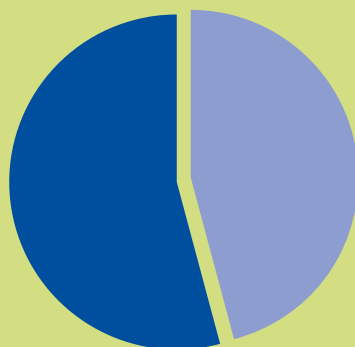
The bi-annual Leicester and Leicestershire Business Survey is a valuable update to our evidence base, providing robust intelligence garnered from over 1,000 businesses, about how the local economy is performing, the confidence, needs and concerns of business for the future.

Key findings included:



46% OF BUSINESSES had seen an increase in their profits in the last 12 months and seven out of ten (71%) businesses said that they expect their profits to increase over the coming year.

In the last 12 months 52% of respondents had increased their sales turnover and **SEVEN OUT OF TEN (69%)** businesses said that they expect their sales turnover to increase in the next 12 months.



37% OF ALL BUSINESSES said they were expecting to employ more staff in the next 12 months. In the Manufacturing sector this was 47%.

The main area identified for future training and upskilling is in **TECHNICAL, PRACTICAL OR JOB SPECIFIC SKILLS** (33%).



In the last 12 months **34% OF BUSINESSES** started offering new products or services. In the next 12 months, 39% of businesses are expecting to offer new products or services.

28% OF ALL RESPONDENT BUSINESSES have had recruitment difficulties in the last 12 months.



This is more pronounced in small (43%) and medium (41%) sized businesses.



In the majority of cases (**67%**), **RESPONDENTS** did not feel that Brexit has impacted on their growth plans.

In 2018/19 we will maintain the conversation with businesses to understand their challenges and how we can help to address these, particularly in this time of increased uncertainty leading up to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

Alongside this uncertainty though, the survey reveals that business confidence and opportunity is strong. We will continue to engage to understand businesses ambitions and opportunities for growth and how, by working together, we can support these to be seized and their full potential realised.

Major Investments Map 2017/18

The LLEP has had a great deal of delivery success in 2017/18 with close to 40 projects and programmes receiving investment and support; delivering change across Leicester and Leicestershire. The following map details just some of the major schemes launched and invested in during 2017/18.

1. A50 Transport corridor

Improving movement and accessibility in and out of the City with resurfaced roads, footpaths, new cycle ways and pedestrian crossings that will support the growth of over 2,000 homes and up to 75,000m² of commercial work space.

Total LLEP project investment £16.2m



2. MIRA Technology Institute (MTI) Skills Training Centre

The MTI will provide accredited training at all levels, with the input of transport sector technology experts and facilities, in a world-class commercial engineering environment. The blend of academic and commercial training with industry base and focus will provide a significant advantage to the skills development for this sector.

Total LLEP project investment £9.5m



3. Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone.

The LLEP's second EZ consisting of two sites in Charnwood – Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park (LUSEP) and Charnwood Campus and further sites in Leicester City launched on 1st April 2017.



4. Local Sustainable Transport Fund (Hinckley)

Enhancing and improving the walking and cycling experience with over 21km of new cycle ways to reduce journey times and improve accessibility.

Total LLEP project investment £3.6m



5. North City Centre Access Investment Programme

Linked transport and public realm improvement works to roads, cycle ways and footpaths to regenerate the area and create better accessibility.

Total LLEP project investment £8.9m



6. River Soar Flood Risk Management

A series of inter-related projects being delivered for improvements to the green infrastructure along the corridor of the River Soar and Grand Union Canal through Leicester, improving accessibility, encouraging development

and safeguarding 2,200 homes from flood risk.

Total LLEP project investment £7.5m



7. Developing Commercial Workspace (Coalville)

Creating over 3788m² of new high quality managed workspace, incubator and grow on units to promote business and job growth.

Total LLEP project investment £2.4m



8. Midland Mainline improvement (Market Harborough)

Delivering a £54m scheme to improve journey times, station facilities and access on the Midland Mainline. The LLEP is the lead organisation on this regionally significant project involving Sheffield City Region LEP and D2N2 LEP.

Total LLEP project investment £3m



9. Leicester Waterside

A major regeneration project to transform 150 acres of industrial estate in the city centre to create a vibrant and thriving neighbourhood. Attracting significant private investment the scheme will deliver improved roads and public realm, and deliver over 6,500m² commercial floor space as well as 410 houses.

Total LLEP project investment £20m



10. Pioneer Park and Space Park Leicester

A series of inter-related projects to prepare the infrastructure and create the environment to develop a global hub for technology businesses.

The total LLEP investment £16.5m

- National Space Academy Extension at the National Space Centre - offering flexible teaching, exhibition, presentation and event space creating greater opportunities to inspire and support more students to enter science and engineering courses and apprenticeships.
- Developing Commercial Workspace (Pioneer Park) - creating new, high-quality managed workspace and grow-on units linked to the successful DOCK workspace.
- Infrastructure - providing major infrastructure and services to unlock 4Ha of brownfield sites to enable the workspace and space park developments to come forward.
- Space Park Leicester - the first phase of the development of a global hub for space research, learning, public engagement, innovation in space, space-enabled technology and creative businesses through collaboration of industry and academia.





Growth Deal

Our flagship £126m Local Growth Fund (LGF) is our largest capital programme supporting the delivery of 20 projects with impacts for skills delivery, transport and major infrastructure works and large-scale regeneration schemes.

In 2017/18 we invested £24m in projects as diverse as improvements to the Midland Mainline – working with our neighbouring LEPs D2N2 and Sheffield, to the MIRA Technology Institute (MTI) – created to offer bespoke training for the next generation of engineers through an industry-led collaboration with some of the top education institutions in the Midlands.

The scale and nature of these large capital projects means that the full economic impacts will be delivered over the next 5-10 years. However, in our third year of delivery we have celebrated our seventh project completion and some of the impacts of the programme are now beginning to be realised.

- Our investment of £4.6m in road improvements to the A511 growth corridor has enabled the construction of 552 houses, the creation of 140,000m² commercial floor space, attracting Amazon into Leicestershire and supported the delivery of over 700 jobs.

- Our seventh project completion of the programme was the Local Sustainable Transport Fund in Hinckley delivering over 21km of sustainable transport routes to reduce congestion to developments in Earl Shilton and Barwell, and improve

connectivity with the MIRA Technology Institute and wider Enterprise Zone.

- Our £3.25m in road improvements in the surrounds of the Lubbesthorpe Strategic Employment Site have so far enabled the delivery of 100 houses with 11,582m² of commercial floor space planned for delivery shortly.

- Our £7.2m investment in Connecting Leicester which has transformed the fabric of Leicester City Centre including the introduction of new public space at Leicester's Market Square.

- Our multi-million pound investment in Space Park Leicester and the wider infrastructure of Pioneer Park has shown strong progress with flooding improvements delivered, protecting more than 1200 properties, and site preparation and clearance at the home of the new Space Park; a global hub for space research, learning, public engagement and innovation. Space Park is already attracting some big names from industry and academia, having secured the location of offices for the National Centre for Earth Observation, demonstrating the potential of this transformational project.

HEADLINE STATS



**CELEBRATED
COMPLETION OF
OUR SEVENTH PROJECT**

Local Sustainable Transport in Hinckley.



£24m

invested across
12 PROJECTS.

**1560
JOBS
CREATED**



**652
HOUSES
DELIVERED**



CASE STUDY

A511 Junction Improvements: breaking down barriers to accelerate growth

One of the aims in the LLEP's Strategic Economic Plan is to unlock key housing and employment sites. To contribute to this aim, the LLEP granted £4.64m from its Growth Deal to Leicestershire County Council for a project to make improvements to the A511/M1 and the A511/A42 junctions.

Modelling of the highways network had shown that without specific interventions to improve the junctions, strategic growth in the surrounding area could not occur. As a result planning conditions were in place that prevented further strategic growth in North West Leicestershire from happening until the junctions were sufficiently improved.

Before the LLEP funding was approved the only available approach to delivering these improvements was via seeking developer contributions, but this is a complex and timely process. The funding from the LLEP enabled the planning conditions to be lifted and development proposals to proceed before the road improvements were complete. The acceleration of the junction improvements enabled this growth in the surrounding area to be unlocked at a much earlier stage.

The work was completed over a two year period and the direct benefit of the scheme has been to increase capacity of the A511/A42 and A511/M1 junctions. Improvements to key roundabouts have resulted in significantly reduced queuing times and traffic growth associated with growth in Coalville can now be accommodated.

The impact of the investment will be realised over a number of years, but already over 500 new homes have been completed with a further 6000 projected over the next 10 years (a net increase of over 1000 homes from the original plans). In addition, over 140,000m² of commercial floor space has been built with a further 130,000m² currently in progress.

Developments already completed are supporting over 700 jobs and saw the on-line retailer Amazon open a new fulfilment centre in Coalville.



European Union
European Structural
and Investment Funds

HEADLINE STATS

SUPPORTED
LAUNCH OF THE

£250m
MIDLANDS
ENGINE
INVESTMENT FUND

with its first Leicestershire investment deal.

£7m
ERDF
invested



in **LOW CARBON**
technology / transport
infrastructure.

£5.2m
ESF
INVESTED

in our poorest communities to
help them into employment.

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

Working with the Managing Authorities of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), the LLEP, through its strategic and technical support, has continued to facilitate the delivery of our ESIF programme throughout 2017/18.

We have made strong progress in committing over 80% of our £108m allocation across the three core funds; European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), supporting businesses and people in urban and rural areas to innovate, diversify, and grow.

As the main source of funding to support our local businesses to invest in research and innovation, improve their digital awareness and reduce carbon usage, the ERDF programme in Leicester and Leicestershire has a broad range of support on offer across 20 projects.

In 2017/18 a number of those key support projects have entered their second and third years of delivery and the maturity of the support offer has grown providing businesses with a range of advice, mentoring, space, and finance for growth from the very successful Collaborate and Digital Growth

programmes to the recently launched £250m Midlands Engine Investment Fund (MEIF), offering small business loans, debt finance, proof of concept and equity finance funds.

Our £3m EAFRD programme, supporting rural businesses to diversify, innovate and grow, currently supports over 20 businesses in rural communities to access grant funding ranging from £35,000-£160,000.

The ESF programme is designed to support local people into employment, helping them to develop the skills needed by our employers. During 2017/18 we saw our programme extend to encompass 13 projects.

A refresh of the evidence base took place to develop the remaining calls in response to market failures and changing market need, to inform the remaining years of programme delivery.



CASE STUDY

European Social Fund (ESF) supporting people to up-skill and enter work

The Leicester and Leicestershire workforce are our area’s most valuable asset and the driving force of economic growth. There are large skills disparities across the area but inclusive growth – supporting people to gain the right skills and meaningful employment – is critical to our economic success. This is the goal of the LLEP ESF programme.

Two projects facilitated by the LLEP through its ESF “Active Inclusion” allocation, matched with funds from the Building Better Opportunities Programme are the “YES” and “GREAT” projects managed by Voluntary Action Leicestershire. These projects aim to work with people who are furthest from the labour market and bring them into employment or training.

The “YES” project works with young people under 25 years and the “GREAT” project works with families across Leicester and Leicestershire.

During 2017-18 these projects have engaged with 299 local people. Of these, 69 have already exited the

projects into employment and 53 have exited into either education or training, whilst many others continue to work towards their desired exit into the workforce or education and training.

“If it wasn’t for you guys then I wouldn’t have been able to come this far. I’m more confident and am ready to take on more things and think about myself for a change.”
Suzi - GREAT participant

“The GREAT project has made 100% difference. I don’t know where we’d be without it. It’s changed our lives.”
Jo and Jade - GREAT participants

“The YES project has supported me in many different ways ... I can take part in a range of activities such as creating music, graffiti and other arts and it has also helped me to get back into the gym ... the project has helped me with my confidence.”
Jordan - YES participant



Enterprise Zones

Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, Life Sciences, Automotive and Space are the strengths of our two Enterprise Zones.

The Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone launched in April 2017 comprising three unique sites.

research, teaching and enterprise in space technologies.

Charnwood Campus, the UK's only Life Sciences Opportunity Zone, offers world-class flexible laboratories and specialist manufacturing facilities for the bio-medical and pharmaceutical sectors. Since its launch it has attracted major international investment in its first year from Almac and 3M creating over 400 jobs on campus.

MIRA Technology Park (MTP) is now in its sixth year of delivery as an Enterprise Zone. It continues to be an international success and is the largest automotive technology park in Europe and the only transport sector focused Enterprise Zone in the UK.

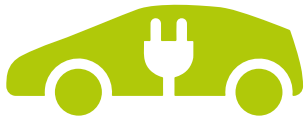
Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park (LUSEP) is one of the most accessible and largest science parks in the UK. Home to an already thriving community from dynamic start-ups to R&D global brands, it offers a world class research base and graduate supply. Building on the success of the Advanced Technology Innovation Centre (ATIC), access improvements and development plans for the site are being put forward for planning whilst the site continues to receive strong interest from innovative technology firms.

During 2017/18 a further 30 high-skilled engineering jobs were created, and the site attracted seven new companies taking the cumulative jobs created to date to over 500. Nearly 40 businesses have been attracted to the site since its Enterprise Zone designation, including the likes of Clear Motion, Intrepid Control Systems, Vocis and Bharat Forge.

At Leicester Waterside, construction has begun on a £50m development including major leisure facilities and 13,106m² of office space. Alongside this, £43m of residential development is also under construction. In the Pioneer Park area adjacent to the National Space Centre, pre-development has begun on Space Park Leicester, which aims to become Europe's leading site for innovative

MTP has continued to build on its international reputation of cutting-edge research and innovation in the automotive sector, with the opening of the £8m advanced emissions test centre, completing trials of the world's first liquid nitrogen hybrid bus and in October 2017 announcing £80m of co-investment with government and academia to develop a global Connected Autonomous Vehicle test and validation ecosystem in the UK. The site's role as a key part of the UK's world-class automotive infrastructure was recognised by a visit from His Royal Highness, The Duke of Cambridge, to see the pioneering research, engineering and test services provided by MTP to the global transport industry.

HEADLINE STATS



£80m

of co-investment in **MIRA TECHNOLOGY PARK (MTP)** to create world class connected and autonomous vehicle testing facilities

up to £200m

of investment plans announced across the **Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone sites.**

430 JOBS CREATED



across the Enterprise Zones in 2017/18.



Growing Places Fund (GPF)

Our Growing Places Fund (GPF) is a £12m revolving loan that we have used effectively to fund significant essential infrastructure to unblock barriers, to release the housing and economic development potential of key sites.

During 2017/18 we saw the repayment of the majority of outstanding capital loans from our original nine schemes, over the first three rounds of investment. These projects to date have created 1650 jobs, helped build 371 new homes and developed 11,238m² of industrial and commercial floor space across 39.1 hectares.

With the return of our original investments, in 2017/18 we went back out to market to support further projects. We changed our approach and increased our flexibility in response to market need by moving to a rolling programme – in this way we could work flexibly with the development timescales and be even more responsive to opportunities. We received a good response and are under negotiations for a £4m investment to support key infrastructure in North West Leicestershire.

HEADLINE STATS

 **85%**
OF ORIGINAL INVESTMENTS
across nine projects returned

1650
JOBS
CREATED 

 **371**
new
HOMES
11,238m²

of **industrial**
and
commercial
floor space
across 39.1
hectares.





Enterprise Adviser Network

The Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) in Leicester and Leicestershire continues to go from strength to strength, recognised nationally as an exemplar network of schools, colleges and business leaders working together to enrich opportunities for young people to understand and be inspired by career opportunities open to them.

The interest from schools and volunteer business leaders in the programme has continued to grow throughout 2017/18 with 69% of schools and colleges in Leicester and Leicestershire actively engaged in the programme. Our Enterprise Advisers (EAs) are leaders of local industry who offer their valuable time and expertise to help bridge the gap between education and industry, thus preparing the workforce for the future. Our EAs come from all sizes and sectors of industry including East Midlands Airport, Colab Creation, Growthmesh, Sempervox, Highcross Leicester, Aggregate Industries, Leicester Racecourse, UK Mail and Rolls Royce.

The relationship between schools and colleges has led to some fantastic events throughout the year. From mock interviews involving KPMG and the Armed Forces to business networking at Loughborough University's Advanced Technology Innovation Centre, and a Takeover Day which saw 15 Year 10 students take over a number of key roles in Highcross for the day ranging from Customer Services Ambassador roles to the General Manager. The variety of engagement is offering young people the opportunity to increase the number of encounters they have with businesses and get an insight into their future career possibilities.

We've also continued to widen our engagement with schools and colleges through innovative platforms like our Meet the Sector event. The event led by the LLEP Skills team, who lead on providing labour market information for schools, was aimed at teachers, school heads and career leads to increase their awareness of Leicestershire's key employment sectors and what they look for in young people. Led by local businesses such as IDI Gazeley, Santander and National Space Agency, a series of sector-based Labour Market Information videos were developed. These have been well received by schools as an innovative and accessible way of getting more employer voices in the classroom to inspire young people.

As part of the Leicester Business Festival, the LLEP EAN held the region's largest ever Careers Speed Networking Event. Over 280 pupils had the opportunity to network with over 120 employers. The event saw students 'speed network' with employees from a host of industry sectors including key local businesses such as Mattioli Woods, BT, Morningside Pharmaceuticals, NHS and Santander. The event was a huge success with 94% of students reporting that they felt more informed about their career choices.

HEADLINE STATS



230,000

employer interactions from the region's largest careers speed networking event



69% of LLEP schools and colleges engaged through EAN



53
SCHOOLS linked with 60 business volunteers



CASE STUDY

Enriching opportunities for students and business to interact to gain employment skills

Businesses from across Leicestershire came together to provide mock interviews for Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College (WQE) students. The drop-in surgery format enabled students to see as many of the business volunteers as they wanted to.

Each student attendee was asked a number of questions by the business volunteer, encouraging them to think about some of the real life examples they might want to use in a real life interview panel.

At the end of each interview, business volunteers from companies including KPMG, McDonalds and the Armed Forces, took time to provide feedback to the students about how well they interviewed. They offered hints and tips for future interviews, as well as sharing their own invaluable experiences.

Over 50 students came to the drop-in surgery. The one-to-one sessions meant that there was plenty of time to go through a range of questions

asked by the volunteers. Furthermore, this format provided an opportunity to reflect on specific elements of the interview technique such as providing strong examples, how well the student presented themselves to interviewers and strategies for dealing with what can sometimes be a challenging situation.

'I found the mock interview session at college really useful. The feedback I got from the interviewers really helped me improve my skills and grow in confidence. My advice is definitely to go to multiple interviewers so you can act on the feedback you've been given and see your skills improve throughout the day.'

Dilan - Student, WQE College

'Mock interviews are a really important part of our careers plan for the year and an invaluable opportunity for students to practice their interview skills with a real employer, in a safe environment.'

Kate O'Farrell - Careers Education Manager, WQE College



Growth Hub - LLEP Business Gateway

The Growth Hub for Leicester and Leicestershire - LLEP Business Gateway - has continued to expand its service in 2017/18 as a single point of access to business support; helping over 3,791 businesses to grow.

HEADLINE STATS



Business engagement continued to grow increasing our reach with **Business Advisers** working intensively with **244 new clients** they had not worked with before.



41,800
unique users
OF THE BUSINESS GATEWAY WEBSITE

an increase of 9% on 2016/17



Increased our followers
TWITTER: 1,824
& 1045 GROUP MEMBERS
ON LINKEDIN @ 31 MARCH 2018

The Growth Hub provides businesses across the region simplified access to a network of over 60 providers, supported by a team of advisers who offer dedicated advice for businesses to understand their needs and barriers to growth. They facilitate introductions and help businesses to access specialist expertise across a range of themes from innovation, to marketing, to funding. Delivered through a partnership approach, our focus remains on getting the right help for any client, wherever they are across the Leicester and Leicestershire, to help them achieve their growth aspirations.

The Gateway in 2017/18 expanded on its workshop series, delivering 22 free sessions attended by 609 delegates, across a range of business topics, identified by businesses, with the aim to motivate, inspire and inform. These fully funded workshops, delivered in partnership with the private sector, use

professional expertise to create learning opportunities and collaboration to further business growth.

To continue to inspire and facilitate entrepreneurship, the Gateway proudly continued its support for the 3rd Leicester Business Festival (LBF), running three events over the fortnight including a festival key event; Manufacturing Growth Challenges held in partnership with Norton Motorcycles.

Business Adviser Support

"I needed support with my business, in particular with the structure, plan and strategy. The planning and information from the business adviser was fantastic as it gave me a sense of direction and clarity which was exactly what I was looking for."

Workshops

How to do your own PR and Video Marketing -

"The workshop was excellent. I learnt new skills and valuable tips that I can easily and immediately put into practice."

LinkedIn and the Mobile Academy Workshop -

"The practical tips will be very useful. Good to network with other delegates. These free workshops are ideal for a small business!"



CASE STUDY

Growth Hub: making it simple for business to access support to grow

Businesses that access external support are more likely to grow, but it can be confusing as to what support is available, the quality of that support and whether it is right for your business.

The Business Gateway offers free and impartial advice to businesses to help them get the right support to achieve their ambitions – saving time and energy.

DPI (UK) Ltd was established in 2014 and specialises in the manufacture of light boxes and frames specifically for tension fabric systems.

The management is very experienced but as with every business, funds, red tape and building the right team that buys into the big vision can be challenging.

DPI contacted the Business Gateway and an Adviser completed a business diagnostic with them that identified some areas to focus on to achieve their growth aspirations. The Adviser supported the company to access a range of locally available opportunities through our network of business support to address these areas that were slowing growth.

DPI were successful in securing investment from the ERDF funded NBV Grant for Enterprise and Collaborate projects to assist with a move to larger premises and investment in new capital equipment as well as strategy consultancy for the directors of the business and specific CAD training from the Manufacturing Growth Programme.

This combination of support has resulted in growth plans being brought forward by 12 months and assisted the business to achieve 58% growth this year and creating new job opportunities.

'It was a surprise to find all this help and funding readily available and all it took was to be open and honest regarding our business challenges and ask for help.'
Sandra Wiggins, Director of DPI (UK) Ltd



Communications and Engagement

The achievements over the course of the year show comprehensive engagement with the target audiences outlined in the LLEP's Communications Plan. To name a few key headline achievements, we have:

- Ran 46 LLEP events attended by over 1200 people
- Featured 531 times in the media, an increase of 177%
- Increased our Twitter followers by 17.3 % to over 4670 followers
- Increased our LinkedIn Group members by 7.8% to 1045 members
- Had over 31,400 unique web visits, up 79.6% from the previous year

We supported a Midlands Engine delegation with both public and private sector representatives from across the region at MIPIM 2018. This was the second year the Midlands Engine came together as a united presence at the international property event and enabled us to showcase Leicester and Leicestershire to over 4,700 property industry professionals and potential investors.

Our profile has been elevated substantially on a local, regional and national level particularly through media, social media and through key events such as the Leicester Business Festival.

Case Study Leicester Business Festival 2017

The LLEP initiated the first ever Leicester Business Festival (LBF) back in 2015 with the aim of driving inward investment and stimulating economic growth by placing Leicester and Leicestershire front and centre of the UK's business agenda.

In 2017, the annual festival returned for its third year as a Community Interest Company, run by business for business. The event was bigger and better than ever featuring over 150 events, across 13 sectors, attracting more than 10,000 visitors to the city and county making it the largest business event in the region.

With a total reach of over 31m people the festival promotes Leicester and Leicestershire as a thriving hub for business. LBF 2017 boasted some spectacular, highly topical and nationally important events which span right across the region and its sectors, including;

- The UK's first national basketball conference
- Innovation in Charnwood
- Behind the scenes tour of DHL at East Midlands Airport
- The LLEP Annual Report launch and Midlands Engine Vision for Growth event
- Smart Energy Revolution and Significance of the Space Sector

LBF17 had something for everyone.

HEADLINE STATS

Over 10,000 attendees visiting 150 events in two weeks

91% of attendees said the events were good or excellent

85% said LBF positively affected their business

26.8% of attendees were from outside of Leicester and Leicestershire

78 international delegates

Governance and Finance

Local Assurance Framework

As a partnership of public and private partners, we are responsible for managing and administering significant amounts of public funding to enhance the economy of Leicester and Leicestershire. It is critical that we deliver these responsibilities in an open and fair way to ensure that we are accountable to government, our partners and wider stakeholders for the appropriate use of public money. The way in which we fulfil this duty is set out in our Local Assurance Framework (LAF).

LEP's have come under increasing scrutiny in 2017/18 in recognition of the increased scope and scale of their role in directing investment and developing local economies. In response to the Ney Review (October 2017) new framework guidance was published by government to reflect the increased levels of assurance required.

As a partnership with an Accountable Body (Leicester City Council) we have always held good governance as key importance in fulfilling our role. Working with our Accountable Body we have responded to each of the government's recommendations in detail, amending the LAF appropriately and increasing our focus on transparency of information accessible through our website. Our principles of transparency, accountability and deliverability remain at the centre of how we operate as a partnership.

Transparent in the way that we engage, how we appraise projects for funding, and how decisions are taken and by whom; this is critical to ensuring that public money is spent in the correct way, delivering Value for Money for the taxpayer.

Accountable in the decisions we take as a partnership. That decision makers do so at the appropriate time, based on adequate information, and that any Member's conflicts of interest are declared, noted, and dealt with in the appropriate manner following the code of conduct.

Deliverability is critical to the LLEPs success as a partnership. Whilst being transparent and accountable in the use of public money, the LLEP must maintain a sharp focus on delivering real economic change for Leicester and Leicestershire. As a partnership the LLEP has a track record of delivery that is second to none, and agility and focus on delivery is ever more important in this turbulent global political landscape. Our goal remains the same: to ensure that the Leicester and Leicestershire area is one of the most productive, innovative and prosperous economies in the Midlands Engine and the UK.

LLEP Board Members



Nick Pulley
Regional Director,
Santander Corporate Bank
LLEP Chair



Kevin Harris
Partner, RSM UK
LLEP Vice-Chair



Dr Sharon Redrobe OBE
CEO, Twycross Zoo
LLEP Vice-Chair



Emma Anderson
Director, Freeths
Board Member



Andy Reed OBE
Director, SajeImpact
Board Member



Anil K Majithia
Chair, Voluntary
Action LeicesterShire
Board Member



Andrew Cliffe
Managing Director,
East Midlands Airport
Board Member



Dr Nik Kotecha OBE
CEO, Morningside
Pharmaceutical
Board Member



Jaspal Singh Minhas
Managing Director,
Electrical Design
& MFG Co Ltd
SME Representative
Board Member



Prof Robert J. Allison
Vice-Chancellor and
President, Loughborough
University
Board Member



Marion Plant OBE
Principal and CEO, North
Warwickshire & Hinckley
College and South
Leicestershire College
Board Member



Cllr Mike Hall
Leader, Hinckley and
Bosworth Borough
Council
Board Member



Cllr Terry Richardson
Leader, Blaby District
Council
Board Member



Nick Rushton CC
Leader, Leicestershire
County Council
Board Member



Sir Peter Soulsby
City Mayor, Leicester
City Council
Board Member

Financial Statements

2017-18

Income

£000's

Grants	540,000
Local Authority Contributions	168,000
National and Local Programme Income	1,019,503
Fees, interest and other income	402,797

Total Income

2,130,300

Expenditure

Staffing	1,143,391
Running costs	134,866
Accountable body costs	113,560
Programme Delivery	378,883

Total Expenditure

1,770,700

Net Surplus/(Deficit)

359,600

Priorities for 2018/19

The coming year is going to be a critical time for the LLEP. We will continue to excel in delivery of investment programmes, whilst simultaneously developing our Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). We will continue to place the needs of industry at the centre of what we do; engaging in Sector Deals for our priority industries and actively supporting the implementation of the Midlands Engine Vision for Growth. We have solid foundations on which to seize these opportunities and place Leicester and Leicestershire at the beating heart of Midlands Engine and the UK economy.

Overview:

Local Industrial Strategy

The development of a new Local Industrial Strategy for Leicester and Leicestershire will be our key priority for 2018/19. Our immediate objective will be to prepare a sector-focused Local Industrial Strategy Prospectus by the summer of 2018 that will set out our main strategic priorities and interventions for the next decade; using this as the basis for further negotiation with government of a full LIS.

Governance

This year will see a new Chair of the LLEP Board as the present chair's term comes to an end in September. We will review our Local Assurance Framework (LAF) following the review of the National Assurance Framework for LEPs. This year we will also implement the recommendations following the review of LEP's roles and responsibilities which will be published in summer 2018.

Local Growth Fund Programme

We will continue to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) programme with diligence and flexibility. Of the 20 funded LGF Projects, two will complete in 2018/19; the MIRA Technology Institute (MTI) and the Market Harborough Line Speed Improvement (MHLSI) project. As more projects complete we will increase our focus on evaluating impact, to celebrate these successes and learn lessons to inform future investment strategy.

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Programme

During 2018/19 we will work to commit our remaining ESIF allocation; assisting the programme strategically and technically to support the Managing Authorities, encourage high quality applications and work with providers to coordinate the delivery of local European funded activity on the ground to make a meaningful impact to people and businesses across Leicester and Leicestershire.

Enterprise Zones Programme

We will continue to develop and deliver the investment plans for our two Enterprise Zones, supporting them through coordination and investment to develop exemplar regeneration and growth projects, and promote the sites, at MIPIM and beyond, as centres of excellence in their sectors.

Growing Places Fund Programme

Having changed its operation to a rolling programme, with the investment window open when funds are available; making it more flexible and responsive to developer demand, 2018/19 will focus on the promotion of this opportunity whilst assessing widening the funds scope, to bring forward the next wave of infrastructure and development projects.

Business Rates Pool Programme

We will continue to monitor the feasibility and revenue projects supported through to completion whilst working with our

Local Authority colleagues on the investment proposals for future Business Rates Pool monies.

Growth Hub – LLEP Business Gateway

The current Growth Hub ERDF project will complete delivery in December 2018. Successful completion of this programme will be critical as it will build the foundation for future service expansion and enhancement. We will pursue replacement funding opportunities to grow the service, in partnership with our network of support providers, but also focus on developing the opportunity for LLEP businesses to access support to be ready for investment and prepared to Scale Up.

Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) and Career Hubs

The EAN will expand this year; aiming to achieve 100% coverage of secondary schools and colleges across Leicester and Leicestershire, whilst offering more workshops and making our flagship Careers Speed Networking event better than ever. Furthermore, we will pursue securing one of 20 pilot Careers Hubs across the country to enable us to work with a group of schools and colleges across all eight Gatsby Benchmarks of good careers guidance.

Promotion and Communications

Our relationship with our partners is critical to our success. We have fantastic strengths and opportunities in the area and this year we will continue to promote and celebrate these at every opportunity from MIPIM as part of the Midlands Engine pavilion, to the region's largest business festival – the Leicester Business Festival 2018 – a showcase event to celebrate the strength of the business community across Leicester and Leicestershire.

Strategy and Evidence

The developing LIS, as our long-term vision for productivity and growth, will build on our strong evidence base and emerging strategy that we will continue to develop and support throughout

2018/19. The Strategic Growth Plan as the area's emerging spatial strategy will be critical to our sense of place and building on this will be our developing Energy Infrastructure Strategy that will inform the projects and delivery of the Midlands Regional Energy Hub.

At the heart of our growth and productivity are our people. We will continue to develop our understanding of the skills supply and demand requirements through our updated Skills for the Future study and our evolving response to the Careers Strategy.

Shaping and accessing future funding opportunities

Our ability to deliver investment and economic growth to Leicester and Leicestershire is the measurement of success of our partnership. Our current programme of activity is a strong base but the flexibility with which we operate is critical to our ability to respond to changing needs and emerging opportunities. We will work with partners to support and develop compelling bids for Government funds from Transforming Cities Fund, Strength in Places, and the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. Whilst seizing immediate opportunities we will also plan for the future and are committed to help shape the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to ensure that this funding is both flexible and responsive to local economic needs of the businesses and communities of Leicester and Leicestershire.

Contact details

To receive news and information about the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) programmes and activities visit: www.llep.org.uk/newsletter

If you require further information on anything within this Annual Review or are interested in becoming involved, please email the LLEP at the email address below.



Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP)
City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

+44 (0)116 454 2917 admin@llep.org.uk



@LLEPNews



LLEP Business Gateway

