

# LLEP UPDATE OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2020



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## QUARTERLY UPDATE

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OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020

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## **LLEP Limited**

Following the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Limited first year as an incorporated company, we held our AGM for company members and the general public on 2 December 2020. Due to the ongoing restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic the LLEP held a virtual meeting.

During the AGM, the Chair of the board Kevin Harris presented a video highlighting our achievements across 2019/20, that are published in the Annual Report.

Andy Reed presented the company accounts, these vary from the operational running accounts, which are overseen by the Accountable Body.

Following the resignation of Karen Smart from the board of directors in the summer, the members voted to appoint two new private sector directors, Lorraine Boorman and Clare James.

This now brings the number of directors to 19, of which 13 are from the private sector. In addition, women now make up one third of all board appointments.

[Click this link to view the AGM presentation slides and Q&A on the LLEP website](#)

## **Strategy**

### **Economic Recovery Strategy**

Having reviewed the first draft of the Economic Recovery Plan, the Economic Recovery Cell (ERC) members made a few suggestions to make the plan more succinct. This included reducing the size of the plan to have fewer more impactful outcomes through the prioritisation of proposals, included and a greater level of consideration to cross-cutting themes such as low carbon and digitisation. A decision was also made to step away from the Local Industrial Strategy themes as a basis for the Economic Recovery Plan and to move towards more relevant themes given the impact of the pandemic. These included:

- Business Recovery
- People, Employment, and Skills
- Green Recovery
- Innovation, Science, and Technology
- Infrastructure

A Partner Matrix was developed along these themes with the assistance of ERC members, this involved understanding the key short-term recovery priorities and listing interventions where funding had been allocated which would aid the achievement of these priorities. The Partner Matrix also included details on inputs, outcomes and impact, and members

undertook responsibility for the delivery of interventions. This will be used to monitor the delivery of interventions and their contribution to the fulfilment of priorities.

The tender specification for the procurement of consultants to draft the longer-term Economic Recovery Strategy was also developed and sent out to prospective consultants.

[Click this link to view the Economic Recovery Strategy](#)

### **Skills Advisory Panel (SAP)**

Feedback from the Skills Advisory Panel meeting on 29 September 2020 on the Draft Employment, People and Skills Recovery Plan, was incorporated in an updated version of the plan in October, including the 'golden threads' of low carbon and digital skills.

The SAP also discussed potential ideas to support skills recovery linked to funding from repurposed GPF underspend. These were adapted into business cases to be put before the LLEP Investment Panel for assessment.

The area Local Skills Report (LSR) continues to be developed, ready for a draft version by January 2021, to be discussed at the January 7<sup>th</sup> SAP meeting. This is a high-level document that defines skills for each LEP area, setting out core data, successes, and challenges that feeds into the Skills and Productivity Board, who can then compare areas. Local skills case studies were added to the report in December. The LSR needs to be completed by March 2021 and will be updated each Autumn.

### **Business Survey 2019/20**

The Leicester and Leicestershire Business Survey is now complete.

Interviewing began on the 27 January 2020 and was suspended at the end of March for an indefinite period, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Between 27 January and 16 March 2020, 335 telephone interviews were completed. These interviews were conducted prior to the Government issuing advice on social distancing.

A further 415 telephone interviews were conducted between 17 March and 30 March 2020 after the Government issued advice on social distancing. These interviews were conducted during a period of business closure, a move towards remote working and restrictions on journeys out of the home for non-essential purposes.

A further 250 telephone interviews were conducted between 3 August and 23 September 2020. These interviews were conducted following the national lockdown that was in place, a time when the pandemic was still on-going and during a period when local lockdown restrictions had been imposed in Leicester and the Oadby and Wigston district. The extent to which trading had resumed varied by industry sector and was influenced by measures such as social distancing with some customer-facing businesses still not allowed to trade at all.

Below are some key headlines from the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Survey:

- There are clear indications of a downward trend across a range of indicators. Investment in new products or services have, however, held up better and may be a direct response to the impact of the Coronavirus.
- The Business Survey demonstrates that as the year has progressed there have been increases in the share of businesses reporting negative business performance.
- Expectations of general business conditions in the next two years suggest some recovery however, there is still a significant degree of pessimism amongst respondents.
- When asked what obstacles or difficulties businesses felt they might face over the next two to three years, the Coronavirus and related issues predominate (reduced customer demand, cash flow, customer confidence etc.).
- Concerns around the Coronavirus include a combination of factors, further outbreaks, staff and public social distancing restrictions, concerns around staff returning from furlough and associated costs and maintenance of supply chains.
- By the end of 2020 it is likely that 1 in 8 businesses will have made staff redundant. This is more likely within businesses that have continued to trade through lockdown but at significantly reduced or even slightly reduced levels than within those that closed during lockdown.
- Although the furlough scheme was designed to prevent redundancies, those businesses using it are more likely to have made staff redundant.
- The survey demonstrates that businesses are looking for increased flexibility and more businesses are employing staff on flexible contracts.
- Nearly two thirds of businesses taking part in the survey indicated that they have a skills gap within their workforce. Marketing and sales and communications were identified as areas that need developing. The move towards homeworking has demonstrated gaps in technical and job specific skills. The imposition of measures relating to social distancing etc. has also exposed a need for more businesses to understand issues relating to health and safety.
- As a direct result of the Coronavirus there has been a rise in businesses that have introduced or increased their ability to trade online. There is an association with investment in digital technologies and aims for growth. Nearly half of all those establishments that have invested in digital technologies expect to need new skills as a result.

### **LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update**

The LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update is a tool that is produced on a monthly basis. The update is a direct response to events that have impacted the local and national economies and place a bearing on the wellbeing of business, the local workforce, and residents.

Content includes information relating to research and reports, Government announcements, claimant data, furloughed employees, the Self Employment Income Support Scheme, job postings and business closures and incorporations.

Copies of Business and Economic Intelligence Updates can be found on the LLEP website.

[Click this link for the Business and Economic Intelligence Updates](#)

### **Labour Market Dashboard**

Produced monthly, dashboards provide a snapshot of the local labour market.

Dashboards are available for the Local Enterprise Partnership, local authority, and district areas. Data used relates to employment, unemployment, claimant rates, qualifications, and those not in employment, education, and training.

The latest version of the labour market dashboards can be found on the LLEP website.

[Click this link for the latest Labour Market Dashboards](#)

### **Labour Market Information/Skills**

Accessible labour market information is important, to support young people, adults and those who support people with skills across the LLEP area.

The World of Work Leicestershire (labour market guide for young people) was completed in September 2020, and has a new page on entrepreneurship, and a focus on sectors that are less likely to be affected by the impact of Covid-19, plus employability tips. 22,000 copies have been printed and cascaded into schools and colleges in October 2020, and copies were also sent to libraries and Job Centres.

[Click this link to view the Work of Work Leicestershire for Young People](#)

An updated guide for adults is being collated at present, with a focus on finding work in a challenging market, retraining, lifelong learning, and employability.

The skills team is working closely with the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) team on a set of new videos about key sectors, building on a pilot video on the logistics sector that was narrated by a young person.

An overview general labour market film resource, featuring recruitment firm Macildowie, for schools and colleges was the first one to be completed, along with a quiz and lesson plan that education and other skills providers can use. Further films linked to sectors will be shorter (five minutes), with a complimentary lesson plan and quiz, so that users can adjust session to the time that they have with their students.

North West Leicestershire has a set of nine working groups to support skills in the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway area. The LLEP is leading on the task and finish group for *Resources for schools, parents, and potential employees*, (initial meeting on 26 November 2020), after starting to map out what resources are available to support young people's understanding of the logistics sector. Tasks will be allocated at the next meeting and new resources to support 'myth busting' and encourage young people and adults into the sector will be created as outcomes.

District snapshots were piloted in early 2020, with local employer and sector information. Updated versions will be created in 2021 with a focus on vacancy information and employers.

## **Apprenticeships**

Covid-19 has had a large impact on apprenticeships locally, and has affected the launch of T Levels, a new level three technical option.

The LLEP is 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. Activity will promote the T Level option, including raising awareness of the 'Plan for Jobs' incentives, including commencing an area provider forum. An initial meeting of training providers took place on October 15, and an online survey to assess what value/outputs the forum should support. Providers confirmed that they would value a local LLEP led forum to share good practice, deliver actions, and resources to raise awareness of apprenticeships, traineeships, and T Levels across the LLEP area., which will be taken forward.

## **Funding**

### **European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)**

All ESIF Reserve Funds are now expected to be used to aid the UK's post Covid-19 economic recovery. Under ESF there is currently £350m available, whilst under ERDF there is approximately £70m.

The LLEP's ERDF Technical Assistance project has now ended. However, the LLEP will continue to support, where needed, the ERDF Managing Authority (MHCLG) as well as our local ERDF projects. We have a further 12 months for our ESF Technical Assistance project.

### **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

All local ERDF projects totalling £55.59m are now "in contract" apart from those who have secured additional funding to extend their current activities, but where these funds are not currently required until their existing contracts come to an end in 2021 / 2022.

## European Social Fund (ESF)

Under the ESF Programme, 22 projects have secured approximately £57.46m. We continue to work with local projects both through the ESF Provider Network Forum which meets on a quarterly basis, as well as attending tri-partite meetings together with the contract holders. This work will continue until at least to the end of December 2021. We are currently liaising with the co-financing organisations (CFO) and the ESF Managing Authority (DWP) to try and secure additional funding to extend our current projects but also where the ESF Reserve Funds would be best placed to aid our local economic recovery post Covid-19.

## Programme Delivery

### Getting Building Fund

In quarter three the LLEP received confirmation from MHCLG that it has been allocated £20m under the Getting Building Fund to support 4 projects:

- St Margaret's Gateway
- SportPark Pavilion 4 at Loughborough University
- Granby Street/St George Street Regeneration Gateway
- J23 M1/A512 Access Improvements

Since receiving funding approval, the LLEP has been liaising with projects to prepare funding agreements including setting milestones, agreeing spend and output profiles. All the agreements have now been drawn up and should all be in place by mid-January 2021.

### Local Growth Fund

The LGF programme is well on its way to achieving full expenditure by the end of the year with c£2m left following the receipt and processing of Quarter 3 claims in December. Of the 6 projects due to claim their final grant in this financial year, 4 have now claimed their remaining balance. Final claims are expected mid-March for payment by year-end.

A summary of the claims to date for 2020/21 and forecasts for the next quarter is below:

2020/21	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	FORECAST	TOTAL
Project £m's	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Leicester North West Major Transport Scheme (A50/A6)	216,408	1,733,301	0.00	0	1,949,709
Leicester Strategic Flood Risk Management Strategy	0	123,355	312,487	1,586,991	2,022,833
Commercial Workspace Pioneer Park	653,700	1,333,895	77,913	0	2,065,508



National Space Centre Vision 2025	0	0	180,721	474,046	654,767
Space Park Leicester	1,569,135	2,283,067	0.00	0	3,852,202
M1 J23	3,762,996	3,588,702	0.00	0	7,351,698
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,202,239</b>	<b>9,062,320</b>	<b>571,121</b>	<b>2,061,037</b>	<b>17,896,717</b>

The National Space Centre has made good progress since the Project Change Request was approved in October, and the spend in this quarter was above forecast. Progress will continue to be monitored, particularly in light of the recent lockdown announcements however, currently there are no concerns.

The Leicester Strategic Flood Risk Management project has £1.3m left to claim by year-end, therefore more of a concern. The project comprises various individual schemes, the majority of which are either completed or near completion with two schemes potentially at risk of winter weather conditions. However, despite the heavy rain over the Christmas period, no issues have been reported.

The LLEP will continue to liaise with the Accountable Body regarding the financial position and any risk in expenditure, so that any unspent funds can be managed to make them available into 2021/22.

### **Growing Places Fund**

The development of the former Fenwick department store on Market Street is progressing well. The building will include an aparthotel with workspace, retail space and will significantly add to the regeneration of the area.

The development is now ready for site visits and a date for the LLEP board of Directors to visit the site will be confirmed shortly.

Interest from business tenants will be generated soon and the premises will offer workspace to a 'community of entrepreneurs' that is welcomed in the current climate.

The LLEP board agreed to repurpose some GPF funding. A total of £1.6million is available for economic recovery investment in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Themes for this investment were agreed by the board of Directors in October 2020 and the following investment proposals have been developed thus far:

- Employment and Skills fund - £500k
- Digital Poverty - £90k
- NEET Support - £100k
- Business Grants £300k
- SME Kickstart support £500k

- MIT REAP seed corn delivery £100k
- Low Carbon delivery £100k

## **MIT REAP**

### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Regional Entrepreneurial Acceleration Programme (REAP)**

On October 4<sup>th</sup> there was a proposal taken to the LLEP Board to build on the investment that had been made by the LLEP and BEIS into MIT REAP in 2019, to accelerate entrepreneurship and innovation by mapping and developing an innovation framework to support our economy. The proposal was successfully received and will lead to the secondment of a dedicated Innovation Officer, to support the delivery of a number of activities over the next fifteen months.

The request for the formation of an Innovation Board was also successful with Prof Bob Allison nominated as LLEP Board Champion for Innovation and MIT REAP programme and Dr Nik Kotecha, Andy Reed and Anil Majithia nominated themselves for the Innovation Board.

The formation of the Innovation Board will provide dedicated interventions and package of activities to enable and support the delivery of the 'Beacons and Bootstraps' vision across the LLEP area. The MIT REAP Programme focusses on the engagement with key stakeholders holders including corporates, innovation-driven enterprises and manufacturing companies, to deliver the 'must win battles' as part of the MIT REAP Programme and support the transition and innovation supported recovery from Covid-19.

The team continue to work with MIT and finalising the proposals with a two day 'Grande Finale' planned in early February.

## **Business Gateway Growth Hub**

Over the course of the pandemic the Business Gateway has seen a 500% increase in the number of enquiries from Businesses looking for support. To put this in context between March 2020 to December 2020 the Business Gateway received just under **half of the 10,000 total enquiries** received since the Gateway was formed in October 2014.

Business Gateway grant awards, which have been delivered through the Growth hub for both the Business Growth and the COVID kick start grants since April 2020, amounted to £1.2m.

Key activities this quarter included supporting businesses with EU transition advice and setting up a peer network programme.

The EU transition period came to an end on 31 December. Each week since March 2020 the Business Gateway produced a business intelligence report on the impact of the pandemic and any issues affecting local businesses on EU transition. This intelligence was fed directly

to government with information on business shocks, business sentiment and any challenges that should be escalated in relation to the pandemic and EU transition.

In December 2020 the Business Gateway was offered a grant to provide activities to support businesses in issues relating to the ending of the transitional period for the UK leaving the EU on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 ("EU Transition issues"). Those activities include outreach and engagement with businesses on EU Transition issues.

The Business Gateway has contracted with a specialist team of business advisers who respond to telephone enquiries and offer a diagnostic / risk assessment for the business. Each business utilising the dedicated support line will result in the production of an action plan in addition to referrals to additional support provision including our ["Trading with Europe"](#) support programme and the wider Growth Hub support services.

The Business Gateway is also working with a telemarketing company to contact businesses regarding the support on offer. To date 5000 businesses have been contacted which has resulted in 45 referrals for EU report.

Peer Networks is a national initiative delivered through growth hubs. The longer-term aims are focused on reducing the UK productivity gap by helping business leaders find practical solutions to strategic and operational challenges to improve the resilience of SMEs.

The Growth hub was invited by BEIS to undertake the creation of a series of peer networks (cohorts), with owners or managers from the SME business community participating in each network. Led by an experienced facilitator, these peer networks will deliver 18 hours of action learning through 2-3-hour sessions. Individual one-to-one support (coaching,

A procurement exercise to appoint dedicated suppliers was undertaken to deliver the scheme across a range of sectors:

- Agriculture
- Digital and Creative
- Fashion and Textiles
- Manufacturing
- Food and Drink Manufacturing
- Manufacturing
- Retail
- Tourism and Hospitality
- High-growth businesses (any sector)

Intense activity and additional telemarketing have delivered results with 147 businesses registered. Initial feedback from the businesses is extremely positive.

As businesses were hit by a second lockdown, we focussed on promoting access to finance messaging and providing resilience support. The Business Gateway participated in Leicester Business Festival during November and ran two business support webinars; How to align your purpose and strategy and Managing change in an uncertain world.

Marketing activities included print adverts in several publications, including:

- Roundabout Hinckley Magazine (Sep/Oct issue)- A one-page display advert
- IoD East Midlands (Oct issue)- Webinar promotion
- MAHA Magazine (Oct issue) Webinar promotion
- Niche Magazine (Nov/Dec issue) - editorial coverage of our grant both online and in print
- Business Network magazine (Nov) - further coverage of our case study with Round Corner Brewing

Two blogs were issued, one from Morningside Pharmaceuticals titled: 'Worried about Brexit trading unknowns' and the second from Loates HR Consultancy titled: 'Getting creative to avoid redundancies'

Social media accounts have all increased in followers/ fans during the past quarter. There was less increase during December, due to scaled down activity:

Social Channel	October	November	December
<b>Twitter followers</b>	2866	2902	2906
<b>LinkedIn page followers</b>	692	718	721
<b>LinkedIn Group</b>	1222	1247	1247
<b>Facebook fans</b>	397	401	401

The PPC campaign continued and had a good quarter in terms of performance, with 19 enquiry form submissions which is an increase of 26%.

The website homepage was updated with a new navigation panel, to make searching for content easier for visitors. New pages have been created for upcoming sector support projects: Textiles & Fashion/ Food & Drink/ Investment Readiness/ Accelerator Programme/ Peer Networks.

<b>BizGateway Website Oct to Dec 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>13,588 unique new visitors to the website</b></li> </ul>
<b>BizGateway e-newsletters Oct to Dec 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>9 e-newsletters sent</b></li> <li>• <b>40,788 e-newsletters were sent</b></li> <li>• <b>achieving 23.6% click to open rate</b></li> </ul>

## Enterprise Zones

The Business Rate Legal Agreements for the Leicester and Loughborough Enterprise Zone have been signed. This means that the LLEP and the respective Billing Authorities have progressed the Forward Funding Agreements which will enable future investment in the Enterprise Zones.

The Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park was successful in securing funding from the historical business rates for the Restocking the Business Base Project. It is intended to enable the creation of a new generation of businesses by supporting individuals whose employment prospects have deteriorated, to equip them with new skills to enable them to develop a new generation of businesses which are 'fit for the future'; agile, focused on emerging markets and committed to scaleup and growth. In turn, rejuvenating the local economy by helping to generate new jobs, value, and innovations. To achieve this, early stage business founders will be equipped with the skills, knowledge, resources, and networks to rapidly test, validate, setup and grow their businesses.

MIRA Technology Park has successfully secured a significant inward investment. Britishvolt, the UK's foremost investor in advanced battery technologies and have announced their intention to site their new global headquarters at MIRA. The new facility will spearhead the development of battery technologies for future electrified vehicles. This closely follows the UK Government's announcement to ban all petrol and diesel vehicle production by 2030.

The new 5000 square metre facility, set to be fully operational by 2022, will house Britishvolt's leadership team. Further developments are also being considered which could see Britishvolt expand the site, opening up the opportunity to bring highly skilled and specialist jobs to the region.

### **Careers Hub and Enterprise Adviser Network**

The recruitment of an additional Enterprise Coordinator in November will see all remaining mainstream secondary schools and colleges invited to joining the Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN). They too will receive LLEP support to strengthen their links between careers education and the world or work. Currently 80% of schools are now part of the (EAN).

The network has over 63 Enterprise Advisers (EAs) and this is set to increase with the new Enterprise Coordinator in post. We welcomed new Enterprise Advisers from Cadent Gas, 2Funky Arts, Adept Care Homes, Brocklesby's Pies and LendLease.

Unbox Your Future saw 1,500 innovative careers 'packages' delivered to the homes of young people age 16-18 in the city and county who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The follow-up survey highlighted that 68% of young people who responded spoke to someone else about the resources in the box, usually a parent, family member or friends. One of the objectives of the box was to spark a careers conversation and explore their ideas.

The team continue to support schools on their recovery curriculum and strategic careers planning during Covid-19. Given challenges faced by schools with providing encounters for young people with employers and experiences of the workplace this has been a key focus.

Support has included delivering a 'Schools Get LinkedIn' training event during Leicester Business Festival to help schools with increased employer and alumni engagement to support the delivery of their career plans.

In November the EAN team coordinated and hosted a Careers Provider Marketplace to help Careers Leaders in schools navigate the range of careers education platforms available to them. This is increasingly important as schools look at blended delivery models during Covid-19.

Enterprise Coordinators continue to meet virtually with schools and EAs on a termly basis.

## **Energy Infrastructure Strategy and Midlands Energy Hub**

Energy and carbon work has continued at pace and progress has been made across several areas.

Energy retrofit training provision - part/fully funded places are now available for Leicester and Leicestershire businesses who want to improve their offer or transition into the energy efficiency market.

[Click this link for more information on training providers and what is on offer](#)

On-Street Residential Charging Scheme is seeing Leicestershire local authorities submitting funding bids to increase the number of chargers available to residents without their own driveways.

Midlands Energy Hub have published their report looking at where a network of infrastructure scale Energy and Transport Hubs might be located to make the best use of local assets, potential uses and traffic flows across the Midlands – East Midlands Airport was the top location in the Midlands highlighting the opportunity locally to drive this forward.

[Click this link to read the Midlands Transport Hubs Final Report](#)

A report is being finalised working with local partners to identify the size of the Leicester and Leicestershire Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services Sector – this will be vital information as the LLEP starts to identify how best to support growth in this sector as a vital part of the Green Recovery.

The Rural Community Energy Fund is still available for communities wishing to explore the feasibility of renewables schemes in their area – anyone interested in applying for up to £40,000 for technical assistance and feasibility assessment can contact the LLEP for details.

## **Communications**

### **Press Releases**

#### **October 2020**

##### **Business Gateway Round Corner Brewing – the business that can!**

Melton Mowbray based Round Corner Brewing is set to double its output this year thanks to a £25,000 grant from the Business Gateway Growth Hub.

##### **Growth Hub launches Peer Networks Programme**

A new peer-to-peer networking programme will enable local business leaders to collaborate with like-minded individuals to discuss current challenges and grow their organisations for future success.

#### **December 2020**

##### **LLEP appoints two new members to its board of directors**

Lorraine Boorman is Chairman and Chief Executive of Optima UK, while Clare James has recently been appointed Managing Director of East Midlands Airport.

### **New LLEP Website**

This quarter we launched the new LLEP website. The site was built from scratch with the purpose of simplifying the navigation, streamlining the information and content, and creating an easier user experience to educate visitors about LLEP activities and priorities.

[Click this link to visit the new LLEP website](#)

## **Engagement**


### **LLEP Social Media Overview – October to December 2020**

Our social media activity was reduced during October to December as we neared the launch of the new LLEP website and resources had to focus on creating and adding content and working on functionality with the developers.

	<b>Tweets</b>	<b>Engagement</b>	<b>Engagement by type</b>	<b>Link Clicks</b>	<b>New Followers</b>
<b>Twitter Overview</b>	55	205K	120 likes 81 retweets	0	6
	<b>Posts</b>	<b>Engagement</b>	<b>Engagement by type</b>	<b>Page Clicks</b>	<b>New Followers</b>
<b>LinkedIn Overview</b>	20	129	92 reactions 38 shares 5 comments	97	45

## 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 the annual LLEP AGM in December. The Business Gateway Growth Hub organised a series of webinars. Below is the summary of activity.

<b>Webinars</b>	<b>No. of Events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of Attendees</b>
Business Gateway Webinars	26	October	272
Business Gateway Webinars	14	November	131
 <p>LLEP AGM took place virtually in December 2020</p>	12	December	142

## Forthcoming Events



The Business Gateway continues event activity into 2021 with a wide range of webinars covering key business skills and knowledge, trading with Europe and sector support. They are also going to commence action planning workshops on a virtual basis that will be for 3 and 6-hour durations.

[Click this link to view the Business Gateway webinars](#)

The LLEP will deliver a webinar on 9<sup>th</sup> February for Economic Data Development to help partners, organisations and stakeholders who want to learn more about economic data for Leicester and Leicestershire.

[Click this link to find out more about the LLEP Economic Data webinar](#)

## **Personnel**

### **Staffing Changes**

Staff changes from October to December 2020 welcomed the arrival of Sonal Morjaria, Enterprise Coordinator with the Enterprise Adviser Network Team.