



LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

# DELIVERY PLAN 2022-23

JUNE 2022



# DELIVERY 2021/22

## Careers developed

**200+**   
virtual insight experiences organised by Careers Hub for students to meet local employers including Cadent, Lendlease, Cavendish Nuclear and Leicester City Football Club

**80** Enterprise Advisors working with LLEP Enterprise Coordinators to support Careers Leaders in every school and college

**60** partners from business, education, the public sector and voluntary groups engaged by our new Digital Skills Partnership

**24k** World of Work Leicestershire labour market guides published and delivered to schools, colleges and other agencies supporting young people



**1** Apprenticeship and Local Skills Strategy

## Investments made

**£4m** loan to support the £17m redevelopment of the Gresham building in Leicester, which opened in November



**£50k** for Blaby Digital Tourism and Heritage Trail

**£1.6m**

to support an Employment and Skills fund addressing digital poverty, NEET support, business Grants for SMEs, place Marketing and Tourism Promotion and Low Carbon

**£37k**

for extension of the wayfinding system and better pedestrian and cycle links between the city centre and outlying areas

**£337,500**

to enhance links between important areas of retailing in Leicester city centre - with focus on areas with a significant proportion of small independent units

**12,000 sq ft**

of conference facilities and state-of-the-art Gresham Works co-working spaces in the building

**£50k**

for a feasibility study for the redevelopment of Market Harborough rail station and surrounding area

## Businesses grown

**£750k**

for a small-scale business grant programme for businesses in rural Leicestershire and market towns

**1,125** new businesses



**2,970**

enquiries from local businesses wanting support

**234** businesses join our Peer Networks



**211** workshops delivered



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**This is the first of two Delivery Plans requested by Government in its March 2022 letter to each of the 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Plan covers the period 2022/23 - a second Plan covering 2023/24 will be published by the LLEP in November.**

The purpose of this Plan is to set out how the LLEP intends to utilise its strategic economic function through to March 2023.

Leicestershire was one of nine local authority areas identified for devolution in February 2022 in the Levelling Up White Paper. At time of writing, discussions were ongoing between City and County as to how devolution might be achieved in Leicester and Leicestershire. The LLEP is aware that it is operating in a transitional period and is working with all of its stakeholders to achieve a positive outcome. Therefore:

- **The first section** of this Plan introduces the LLEP's overarching Economic Growth Strategy 2021-30. It

then summarises how its Four Pillars - innovation, productivity, inclusivity and sustainability - map against the emerging Levelling Up and County Deal agendas.

- **The second section** shows how the LLEP will work to four strategic priorities under each pillar. This will maintain regional growth as the LLEP continues to support all of its stakeholders as they work to deliver the best possible devolution outcome.
- **The third section** returns to the Economic Growth Strategy. It reviews and scores how much influence the LLEP has over each of the 12 Missions. This is necessary because publication of the Economic Growth Strategy pre-dated by two months that of the Levelling Up White Paper. For example, the Delivery Plan finds that the LLEP is in a position to strongly influence productivity, skills and R&D but less influential over reduction of crime.
- **The final section** of the Delivery Plan sets out how projects, functions and opportunities will be utilised before March 2023 to further the Government's agenda.





## Three months ago, Government sent a letter to LEPs. It outlined their potential future role.

The letter asked that all LEPs publish a delivery plan to set out how they intend to use the full range of their core functions to support their local economies and local decision-making.

That is the purpose of this document - but there remains inevitable uncertainty around setting of targets at this early stage in the process. This has translated into some looser objectives than we would like for the period through to March 2023.

The Government has offered to work with LEPs on developing measures to report against future Delivery Plans and we await their next contact.

Going forward, LEPs will discuss and agree delivery metrics with Government in advance of publication; we expect to submit our draft plans for 2023/24 in November.

Until then, the day job continues! We will keep on doing all we can to create economic prosperity in Leicester and Leicestershire. As well as appointing a new Chair and several new directors in coming months, we have an AGM to prepare for and many events and projects to stage.

In the background, we will continue working closely with our local democratic structures as an impartial contributor to the devolution agenda. As emphasised in the Government letter, there is real

importance in LEPs having a strong, independent and diverse local business voice to feed into its local public sector partners.

In doing so, we utilise our LLEP Board and its wide range of expert voices. These range from local SMEs to large national corporations, alongside leaders from our universities, education, local authorities and the voluntary sector.

We are well aware of the opportunities being created in our region, from excellent careers and skills training through our Enterprise Zones to the continuing development of the UK's only inland Freeport as it brings huge development around East Midlands airport.

But, throughout our work, we will not forget the people we are all there to serve. We know that external economic forces are impacting the lives of people in our region. We know that inequality in opportunity hinders the local and national economy.

The 12 Missions seek to address this. We will continue using our united local voice, convening local partners from the public and private sector, to work together to do the same.

**ANDY REED OBE**  
**LLEP INTERIM CHAIR**



# ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY 2021-30

Our Economic Growth Strategy was published in December 2021. It seeks to use local capabilities, innovations and skills to build a productive, innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy at the cutting edge of science and technology

that supports the health of people and the planet. The Economic Growth Strategy delivers on Government Levelling Up priorities through our four core Strategic Pillars as we work towards our goals through to 2030.



READ OUR  
ECONOMIC  
GROWTH  
STRATEGY

## Productivity

We aim to increase GVA and productivity as we continue developing a leading science and technology-led economy. Our priorities are:

- Developing entrepreneurial, resilient and high growth businesses
- Attracting and growing international businesses, investment and visitors
- Increasing employment and skills for growth
- Creating world class business locations

## Innovation

We aim to become leaders in global innovation and increase innovative activity across the whole business base. Our priorities are:

- Global innovation leadership
- Increasing and broadening innovation activity among businesses
- Successfully pioneering and applying emerging and new technologies
- Innovation for sustainability

## Inclusion

We aim to create a resilient, adaptive workforce where all residents have access to skills and career progression and are paid the living wage. Our priorities are:

- Informing choices and routes to job and skills progression
- Improving skills and qualifications attainment and employability of the workforce
- Improving access to work, labour market inclusion and wellbeing at work
- Improving jobs quality, in-work progression and pay

## Sustainability

We aim to become a leader in zero carbon solutions, with sustainability principles built into everything we do. This will be achieved by developing:

- Sustainable places, city and town centres
- Sustainable transport and connectivity
- Sustainable energy
- Sustainable business

*This vacancy arrives at a time of change for LEPs which presents a real opportunity to shape our role alongside local and national partners for years to come*

*Andy Reed OBE, inviting expressions of interest in May 2022 for the role of Chair of the LLEP Board. The appointment process concludes in July 2022.*



## Getting Building Fund

Progress continues to be made with projects which will deliver a boost to the local economy, following our allocation of £20m from the Getting Building Fund.

The allocation came from the Government's £900 million GBF for investment in local, shovel-ready infrastructure projects which stimulate jobs and support economic recovery. Ours are:

- £1.7m Granby St/St George St Regeneration Gateway. Leicester City Council project to improve facilities for sustainable transport and provide better links across the city centre.

- £10.5m St Margaret's Gateway. Leicester City Council's rebuilt bus station opened in June 2022 as part of a major regeneration scheme.
- £6m SportPark Pavilion 4. Loughborough University has work underway to grow the sports cluster at Loughborough University Science & Enterprise Park. It is due to be completed 2022.
- £1.8m M1 Junction 23 and A512 Access Improvements. Leicestershire County Council-led road network improvements are completed. They will increase capacity and ease congestion unlock land in Charnwood for new homes and employment.



# OUR FOUR PILLARS

Each Pillar of our Economic Growth Strategy has four associated priorities. These 16 priorities underpin a strategic approach to all of our work through to 2030. The Pillars also inform our planned outputs during the period of this delivery report.

By reviewing delivery annually, we are responsive to changing short-term conditions while remaining true to our longer-term goals. Below are some of the outputs we plan in 2022-23 as we move further towards an enterprising local economy for everyone in Leicester and Leicestershire.

## Productivity

We will increase GVA and productivity, and continue to develop a leading science and technology-led economy

### Priorities 2022-23

- Supporting entrepreneurial, resilient and high growth businesses
- Attracting and growing international businesses, investment and visitors
- Employment and skills for growth
- World-class business locations

### How we will deliver

We will deliver our priorities in 2022-23 by:

- Drawing together and enhancing existing provision, developing and coordinating a cohesive framework for local start-up support, and meeting increased demand for support via the Business Gateway Growth Hub
- Providing ongoing advice and support to businesses through the Growth Hub
- Supporting productivity improvements, digital transformation, HR and skills, and diversification through Growth Hub webinars and 1-2-1 support
- Supporting delivery of the Business Tourism Service and the activities of the Tourism Advisory Board, which is funded through the Business Rates Pooling and repurposed Growing Places Fund



## Innovation at Charnwood Campus

New lab space was created to accelerate clinical research and growth in global pharmaceutical and biotechnology markets at Charnwood Molecular on the Charnwood Campus.

The space will house 150 scientists and was officially opened by the Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire in April 2022.

The new lab space addresses a national need for highly specialised bio-chemistry facilities that will drive life-saving medicinal discoveries of the future.

The project was supported by a £3.4million investment from the LLEP, in partnership with Charnwood Borough Council, using Enterprise Zone reinvestment funding.



## Innovation

We will show global innovation leadership and increased innovation activity across our whole business base.

### Priorities 2022-23

- Supporting our outstanding R&D strengths and innovation achievements
- Helping businesses to successfully pioneer and apply emerging and new technologies to become more competitive and resilient
- Increase and broaden innovation activity among businesses
- Innovation for sustainability

### How we will deliver

- Continuing to support life sciences, space and earth observation at our Enterprise Zones and facilitate funding ambitions for Space Park 3
- Supporting business through our Ambition to Grow programme
- Driving up opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange, pooling of resources, and applied problem solving via our Innovation Board
- Improving the region's culture of innovation, as well as increasing awareness of the business performance benefits, through specific actions agreed by our Innovation Steering Group. This will include a Leicestershire Innovation Festival
- Developing peer-to-peer idea exchanges through our Growth Hub and following the MIT Reap model of innovation support for SMEs
- Continuing to partner with the Midlands Engine Investment Fund, which has provided millions of pounds of finance for LLEP businesses since 2020

*The energy and enthusiasm we saw during the Innovation Festival was so encouraging - we have to keep that going*

*Dr Nik Kotecha DL OBE, Chair of the LLEP Innovation Board, after the Leicestershire Innovation Festival in February 2022*



# OUR FOUR PILLARS

## Inclusivity

We aim to create a resilient, adaptive workforce where all residents have access to skills and career progression and are paid the living wage.

### Priorities 2022-23

- Informing choices and routes to job and skills progression
- Improving skills and qualifications attainment, and employability of the workforce
- Improving access to work, labour market inclusion and wellbeing at work
- Improving job quality, in-work progression and pay

### How we will deliver

- Engaging with all schools and colleges in our area through the Careers Hub
- Working with schools and colleges to support We Discover as we seek to support young people with SEND to make informed choices and have routes to job and skills progression
- Working with local employers to create virtual insight experiences for young people and adults in Leicester and Leicestershire
- Using our NEET prevention project to work with local young people
- Supporting seven LLEP-funded local digital poverty projects with training and digital-ready devices, including a device loan scheme, through our Digital Skills Partnership
- Continuing the development of SportPark

## Sustainability

We aim to be a leader in zero carbon solutions, with sustainability principles built into everything we do.

### Priorities 2022-23

- Creating adaptable and resilient town and city centres, rural areas and urban communities by delivering sustainable sites for housing and jobs in strategic locations that can be serviced by sustainable transport while protecting the environment and built heritage
- Building and promoting sustainable modes of transport, decarbonising road transport and improving digital connectivity while also supporting healthier growth
- Supporting business decarbonisation and sustainable business practices
- Increasing renewable energy generation and implementing smart energy networks, including the emerging hydrogen agenda

### How we will deliver

- Investing through the Business Rates Pooling Fund in projects including Loughborough town centre regeneration and green growth corridors
- Working with Midlands Connect to fund a study looking at the decarbonisation of East Midlands Airport
- Working with businesses to encourage their employees to use more active and sustainable forms of transport for commuting and in-work journeys
- Supporting businesses to access the Zellar programme to identify low carbon measures and increase their energy efficiency
- Establishing a local hydrogen intelligence group

## Net Zero regeneration at St Margaret's

Leicester gained a new bus station in June 2022 as a 1980s building was stripped back and replaced with a modern, energy efficient transport hub.

The St Margaret's Gateway project was supported by a £10.5million allocation from the Getting Building Fund. This was allocated to the LLEP to deliver shovel-ready infrastructure projects, create jobs and support economic recovery.

As well as being a fully net zero carbon building with an improved internal layout, the new bus station increases space for national and regional services from 18 to 24.

Electric bus charging points have been installed and the new building will offer secure storage for up to 100 bicycles, as well as a new hub for the city's e-bike share scheme.





# ENTERPRISE ZONES

Enterprise Zones (EZs) are a key feature of our local economy. They touch upon all four pillars in the breadth of their work - from cutting edge research and innovation to the inclusive redevelopment of brownfield sites. EZs bring high quality jobs to previously overlooked areas.

Our EZs offer significant advantages to help businesses grow and gain a competitive edge. They are a driving force of local economies, unlocking key development sites, consolidating infrastructure, attracting businesses, and creating jobs.

Our region has two EZs. Together, they cover almost 290 hectares across four individual locations. Each EZ focuses on our local strengths in sector-specific research, development, and innovation - but each has a distinct offer to businesses from around the world.

Our Board has agreed a pipeline of priority projects for investment to support the delivery and acceleration of developments on the sites. These will be delivered through forward funding against future EZ business rates uplift.

## MIRA Technology Park

MIRA Technology Park is a world-leading research and development park and is home to international businesses at the cutting edge of new mobility technologies.

Investment in new road and security infrastructure will immediately unlock development sites for new buildings and act as a catalyst for opening up the next

major phases of land earmarked for future development.

Funding has also been agreed for revolutionary charging and testing infrastructure for electric and hydrogen vehicles linked to a Low Carbon Innovation Hub that will support companies as they focus on developing low carbon technologies.

## Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone

### Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park (LUSEP)

One of the UK's largest combined university and science parks, LUSEP boasts clusters of knowledge-based, high growth businesses across several sectors, including energy and low carbon technologies, advanced engineering, and sports technology.

The first phase is home to over 90 high-tech companies, from dynamic start-ups to R&D facilities of global brands and national sports governing bodies. Development on next phases is underway, with the creation of a Grade A office building for a leading software developer and highways access improvements directly into the site providing design and build opportunities for prospective occupiers.

## East Midlands Freeport

The UK's only inland Freeport will drive economic regeneration across the East Midlands for decades to come.

The LLEP is part of a unique combination of public and private sector partners, from across the East Midlands region, underpinning the project. Together, they are focused on creating thousands of jobs, boosting skills and accelerating our region's commitment to decarbonisation and Net Zero through low carbon energy investments.

The Freeport has the potential to bring huge benefits to the local economy and aligns with several of the LLEP's stated ambitions and duties.

### INTERNATIONALISATION

Freeports will be hubs for global trade and investment by focusing on delivery of a diverse number of investment projects within their regions. They will make trade processes more efficient.

### INNOVATION

Freeports will become hotbeds for innovation by focusing on private and public sector investment in research and development. They will create dynamic environments that bring innovators together to collaborate in new ways. Freeports offer space to develop and trial new ideas and technologies.

### SUSTAINABILITY

The East Midlands Freeport has stated its ambitions to position our region as a 'green tech' trailblazer in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in pursuit of Net Zero. The aim of freeports is to support decarbonisation and each Net Zero emissions by 2050 or earlier.

## Charnwood Campus

Charnwood Campus combines nature with modern facilities to create the ideal conditions for start-ups, SMEs and established enterprises within the bioscience, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector. It was the first Life Sciences Opportunity Zone (LSOZ) in the UK. The site builds on the East Midlands legacy of pharmaceutical research and development activities.

The Campus comprises high quality, modern laboratories, production plants and office space. New lab space, created in partnership with the LLEP through a £3.4million investment using Enterprise Zone Retained Business Rates, was completed last year and officially opened in April 2022.

## Leicester Waterside

Leicester Waterside is a gateway to the city and split across two areas: Waterside and Pioneer Park.

Waterside is a key regeneration area, perfect for high-value employment and Grade A office space, while Pioneer Park is fast becoming a thriving innovation-based community and unique location for collaborative research and development.

A further phase of Space Park Leicester, as well as new workspace through the Dock developments with funding from the LLEP, will continue to build on this creating a significant global hub for businesses, researchers, academia, and innovation.



# LEVELLING UP

This Delivery Plan is shaped and driven by three core documents:

- LLEP Economic Growth Strategy 2021-2030 (December 2021)
- Government Levelling Up White Paper (February 2022)
- Government Future Role of LEPs letter (March 2022)

The Levelling Up White Paper focuses on 12 Missions

identified by Government as a route to making the UK a fairer, more prosperous place. Its purpose is to more evenly spread wealth and opportunity.

The remit of LEPs is such that it is beyond our scope to impact upon each individual mission. However, there are several Missions where our strategic advocacy, coordination and allocation of funds can make a difference.

## The 12 Missions



### PAY, EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY WILL HAVE RISEN IN EVERY AREA OF THE UK

Each area will contain a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

LLEP INFLUENCE | ●●●●



### THE UK WILL HAVE NATIONWIDE GIGABIT-CAPABLE BROADBAND AND 4G COVERAGE

There will be 5G coverage for the majority of the population.

LLEP INFLUENCE | ●



### INCREASED DOMESTIC PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

An increase of at least 40% outside the Greater South East and at least one third over the Spending Review period. Additional Government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.

LLEP INFLUENCE | ●●●●



### INCREASED NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN ACHIEVING THE EXPECTED STANDARD IN READING, WRITING AND MATHS

In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard. The percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.

LLEP INFLUENCE | ●



### IMPROVED LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY

Services across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.

LLEP INFLUENCE | ●



### SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING HIGH-QUALITY SKILLS TRAINING

In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually. This will be driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest-skilled areas.

LLEP INFLUENCE | ●●●●



### NARROWING OF THE GAP IN HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY (HLE) BETWEEN LOCAL AREAS

Narrow the gap between highest and lowest performing areas and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.

LLEP INFLUENCE | ●



### WELLBEING WILL HAVE IMPROVED IN EVERY AREA OF THE UK

The gap between top performing and other areas will be closing.

LLEP INFLUENCE | ●



### PRIDE IN PLACE

Factors such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and their engagement in local culture and community will have risen in every area of the UK

LLEP INFLUENCE | ●●●



### RENTERS WILL HAVE A SECURE PATH TO OWNERSHIP

The number of first-time buyers will be increasing in all areas by 2030. The Government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%. The biggest improvements will be in the lowest performing areas.

LLEP INFLUENCE | ●



### REDUCTION IN SERIOUS CRIME

Homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen by 2030. The focus will be on the worst-affected areas.

LLEP INFLUENCE | ●



### A DEVOLUTION DEAL FOR EVERY PART OF ENGLAND THAT WANTS ONE

The deal offered will have powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

IMPACT ON LLEP | ●●●●





# FUTURE LEPS LETTER

Following a nationwide review by Government, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) sent a letter to all LEPs in March 2022.

As well as describing how LEPs will be gradually integrated into local democratic institutions, the letter detailed their future role. It specified several work areas. The letter stated that the future role of LEPs will be to:

- Embed a strong, independent and diverse local business

- voice into local democratic institutions
- Carry out strategic economic planning, in partnership with local leaders, that clearly articulates their area's economic priorities and sectoral strengths. This should involve building and maintaining a robust local evidence base identifying local strengths and challenges, future opportunities, and actions needed to support priority sectors aligned to relevant Levelling Up Missions
- Continue to deliver a number of functions on behalf of Government departments, shaped by the local business voice where relevant.

## Our functions for Government

**GROWTH HUBS**

We provide businesses with support including funding, consultancy and events on behalf of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

**LOCAL DIGITAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIPS**

We bring together businesses, charities, and other partners to tackle local digital skills challenges on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITY**

We provide local business intelligence, grant funding and levelling-up focused projects on behalf of the Department for International Trade (DIT)

**CAREERS HUBS**

We provide high quality careers education for young people on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE)

**LOCAL SKILLS ANALYSIS VIA SKILLS ADVISORY PANELS**

We gain better understanding and resolution of local skills mismatches on behalf of the DfE

**MONITORING AND ASSURANCE**

We monitor, for performance and compliance, existing local growth programmes and funds for which LEPs are responsible



### An independent view on County Deal

The LLEP continues to provide independent business-led support to local partners as they move forward in negotiations with Government over a proposed County Deal.

A County Deal for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland would change our role and we are working closely with our local authorities to help reach the best settlement for the local economy.





# GROWTH & INVESTMENT

## International trade

The LLEP area has significant potential to develop international trade. East Midlands Airport (EMA) is home to the UK's largest dedicated air cargo operation. It is also the UK's only inland freepoint.

The region's importance was recognised in the Financial Times European Cities and Regions of the Future 2022/23. Castle Donington, home of EMA and surrounding developments was voted fourth European Micro city for Business Friendliness. In the same publication, we were ranked as fourth best LEP for Foreign Direct Investment Strategy.

Our area is positioned at the heart of the Midlands 'Logistics Golden Triangle'. We are well-positioned to meet demands of both importers and exporters across the UK. The diversity of Leicestershire's population and large overseas student population also brings opportunities for global business. Our Business Gateway Growth Hub, support by local partners such as Inward Investment, promotes international trade by:

- Signposting local businesses, especially SMEs, towards exporting
- Maintaining close involvement with the Freeport and businesses onsite
- Supporting e-commerce and digital trade efforts alongside the local Digital Skills Partnership
- Using our peer-to-peer networks to share knowledge and experience of local exporters.

### MISSIONS MET:



## Local business intelligence

We continue to play an integral role in the provision of business intelligence, providing insights on the state of the local economy and the future direction of travel.

Following publication of the White Paper and its 12 missions, this role takes on added significance. We combine analysis and processing of published datasets with commissioned intelligence to provide a unique and accessible picture of the region. This includes:

- Labour Market Profiles
- Interactive dashboards for sector and occupation data, employment data and job postings
- Monthly Economic Intelligence report
- Commissioned deep analysis, such as our Sector Profiles and demographic analysis of the LLEP area.

### MISSIONS MET:



## Grant funding

We have traditionally played a central role in the management and distribution of European funding.

We are uniquely placed in the local market to support partners with the local roll-out of UK Shared Prosperity Funding.

We are also managing a number of live grant-funded projects, including seven designed to address digital poverty, which have been commissioned as part of our Covid recovery support package.

### MISSIONS MET:



## Levelling Up projects

Our long-stated ambition has been to move towards a high-skill, high wage economy. In this regard, we share the principles of Levelling Up.

Our Enterprise Zones continue to expand and produce high-quality skilled jobs in science and space technology as we continue to encourage talented people to stay in our region.

For those working towards a high-skilled job, we continue to support the local skills ecosystem through the Skills Advisory Panel.

We have also actively invested in a Digital Skills Partnership to bridge the digital divide and remove barriers to both getting and progressing in work.

### MISSIONS MET:



## Key

- Pay, employment and productivity
- Research & development
- Public transport connectivity
- Broadband and 4G
- Primary school achievement
- High-quality skills training
- Narrowing gap in healthy life expectancy
- Improved wellbeing
- Pride in place
- Secure path to home ownership
- Reduction in serious crime
- Devolution deal





# CAREERS & SKILLS

## Careers Hub

The Careers Hub works with every school and college in the LLEP area, covering all geographies in the city and county.

We have provided 83 Enterprise Advisors from the business community and have drawn in external funding for projects which support SEND, apprenticeship ambassadors, data analysis, and parental engagement.

Our priorities and funding are aligned to the academic year. Over 2021-22 and 2022-23, we will work with our network to deliver on the priority workstreams agreed locally and nationally with the CEC:

- Providing support and expertise to all schools and colleges in developing a progressive careers education strategic plan mapped to the Gatsby Benchmarks
- Delivering an innovative careers curriculum accessible by all schools in the region
- Building on existing projects to support parental engagement

- in the careers education space
- Stimulating more inclusive opportunities particularly for our young people with SEND
  - Collaborating with partners to create sustainable education-business links including East Midlands Enterprise Gateway (EMEG), Charnwood Talent and Skills Institute and the Freeport
  - Amplifying technical and vocational routes for effective transitions at key points in a young person's education
  - Capacity-building of careers leaders through a programme of continuing professional development
  - Strengthening of 'youth voice' in the work of the Careers Hub and the wider LLEP

### MISSIONS MET



## Thinking about apprenticeships

Our Careers Hub teamed up with the Government's Behavioural Insights Team for an innovative project designed to get pupils and families thinking differently about apprenticeships.

UK-wide research found that two-thirds of young people have not discussed traineeships or T-Levels at school. Just over 14% of students had never heard about apprenticeships.

Therefore, our project builds a network of Apprentice Ambassadors to go into schools and colleges to answer young peoples' questions about their experience and inspire others to consider it as a career path. It means our scheme:

- addresses skills and employment gaps in core regional industries
- focuses on opportunity in areas where take-up of apprenticeships is lower
- works with Government with behavioural insights to stimulate interest

## Skills Advisory Panel

Our SAP will work closely with the new Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) which each LEP area will have from summer 2023.

Leicestershire has been a Government trailblazer for LSIPs and has a published pilot plan. The SAP will work with new LSIP arrangements to meet the government ambition of an employer-led local system, led by Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs).

The SAP will continue to support the provision of local labour market information and skills needs via interactive dashboards and monthly reports.

The SAP will work to convene influential local partners to support the implementation of the LSIP and inform local providers and businesses of labour market supply and demand.

### MISSIONS MET



## Local Digital Skills Partnerships

We proactively established a local partnership in the summer of 2021. Its first round of meetings was held in Autumn 2021.

DCMS established eight trailblazer DSPs between 2018 and 2021. We were not among them, so established our own version. More than 70 local partners are engaged in our local DSP activities.

A major strand of DSP work is to address Digital Poverty and Inclusion. As such, we have funded seven local projects to help bridge the digital divide. Projects focus on three areas identified by LLEP research:

- Connectivity
- Skills
- Devices

We intend to grow the DSP in 2022-23 and have allocated funds to support this. Its success demonstrates strong partnership work both locally and nationally, including establishing relationships with both Microsoft and PayPal, to support local endeavours.

### MISSIONS MET



## Key



Pay, employment and productivity



Research & development



Public transport connectivity



Broadband and 4G



Primary school achievement



High-quality skills training



Narrowing gap in healthy life expectancy



Improved wellbeing



Pride in place



Secure path to home ownership



Reduction in serious crime



Devolution deal



# BUSINESS VOICE

The Future Role of LEPs letter also sets out specific areas where the business voice convened by the LLEP can be impactful and effective. This section describes how the business voice can help our work to meet the objectives outlined in the letter.

## Embed a strong, independent and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions.

Our strong and active LLEP Board contains a range of business experts who provide thought leadership and, where appropriate, support for officers when Board-level experience and expertise is beneficial.

Local government representatives, at both upper-tier and lower-tier levels, sit on both the Board and sub-boards. This ensures a flow of information between the LLEP and local democratic institutions.



## Carry out strategic economic planning in partnership with local leaders, including a robust local evidence base that identifies local strengths and challenges, opportunities and actions.

We have consistently provided a robust local evidence base. In the previous year this has included:

- Economic Growth Strategy 2021-30
- Sector Profiles of local key industries
- Local Skills Report
- The Future Workforce of Leicestershire
- Natural Capital Strategic Assessment

Alongside our specialist reports and demographic research, we deliver a monthly selection of interactive online dashboards covering employment statistics and job postings. We also provide annual data releases, such as the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). In addition, we publish monthly Labour Market Profiles and Intelligence Updates.



## Continue to deliver a number of functions on behalf of government departments, shaped by the local business voice where relevant.













The strategic priorities of our Business Gateway Growth Hub (BGGH) for 2022-23 include:

- Continuing to provide targeted support for sectors through skills development
- Strengthening links with District Councils to reach new audiences
- Providing business support around the Net Zero agenda
- Helping businesses better engage customers with disabilities
- Supporting the Innovation Board and maximising its impact in the business community.

A series of internal KPIs have been established to measure success during the period. These include working with 250 new businesses, increasing the number of businesses within each District Council area, and engaging with additional Professional Bodies to help develop new opportunities for our businesses.



## Key

-  Pay, employment and productivity
-  Research & development
-  Public transport connectivity
-  Broadband and 4G
-  Primary school achievement
-  High-quality skills training
-  Narrowing gap in healthy life expectancy
-  Improved wellbeing
-  Pride in place
-  Secure path to home ownership
-  Reduction in serious crime
-  Devolution deal

## Monitoring the needs of local business

Our fourth Business Tracker Survey launches in Summer 2022 as we continue to monitor and act upon the response of Business to the Pandemic. We have been tracking the experience of local businesses since December 2020, with the aim of using frontline responses to inform local policy.

More than 100 local small and medium-sized businesses, from all sectors and across city and county, took part in the third wave of surveys. Responses are used to monitor local business confidence, identify support needs, examine how SMEs are adapting to enforced change, and provide evidence for future funding bids.

As this will be the final surveying round, we will be publishing the latest quarterly results - as well as a summary report of all four waves.





## CALL US

+44 0116 454 2917

## EMAIL US

[admin@llep.org.uk](mailto:admin@llep.org.uk)

## VISIT US

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



All Rights Reserved  
Copyright LLEP © 2022

[www.llep.org.uk](http://www.llep.org.uk)