

creating economic prosperity

llep

Leicester & Leicestershire
Enterprise Partnership

QUARTER TWO UPDATE

JULY 2019

Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership

2019 Quarter 2 Update

LLEP Limited

LLEP Review Implementation

Following the Government published *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*, the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnerships became a Company Limited by Guarantee¹ on 8th April 2019.

At present 14 of the LLEP board members are directors of the company, with the 15th currently undergoing registration.

Membership of the company is currently limited to the directors, however, there are plans to broaden this in the future in line with the Articles of Association.

The previously held annual meeting now becomes a legally required Annual General Meeting, called by the Chief Executive Officer for the members of LLEP Ltd. Members will have the right to propose resolutions and vote at the AGM.

The objectives for which the LLEP company were established are:

- Strategy: Developing an evidence-based Local Industrial Strategy (or any other such successor document that the Government requires LEP's to develop and adopt from time to time) that identifies local strengths and challenges, future opportunities and the action needed to boost productivity, earning power and competitiveness across the area;
- Allocation of funds: Identifying and developing investment opportunities; prioritising the award of local growth funding; and monitoring and evaluating the impacts of activities to improve productivity across the local economy;
- Co-ordination: Using their convening power, for example to co-ordinate responses to economic shocks; and bringing together partners from the private, public and third sectors; and
- Advocacy: Collaborating with a wide-range of local partners to act as an informed and independent voice for their area.

¹ <https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/11932434>

Although the LLEP is a limited company, all the of the functions of the LLEP will remain with the accountable body, a service level agreement is currently being negotiated with Leicester City Council and the LLEP, in order to enable the LLEP to function broadly in the same way as before the company formation, with staff employed by the accountable body and the Chief Executive reporting to the board.

Local Assurance Framework

Following the Strengthening LEPs Review published in July 2018, the government published a revised National Assurance Framework (NAF) for LEPs. The NAF builds on the recommendations made in the Mary Ney review, the Public Accounts Committee and CIPFA guidelines issued to S151 officers.

The Local Assurance Framework (LAF)² has undergone a considerable redraft since the previous revision in June 2018. Although the Articles of Association sets out how the company will operate, the LAF sets out in greater detail how the LLEP will be governed.

The purpose of the LAF is threefold:

- To define and set out the mechanisms by which the LLEP, the Accountable Body and Government can be assured that money is being spent at the right time, in the right way on the right things;
- To assure the collaborative nature of work between the Accountable Body and the LLEP in resource allocation decisions;
- To detail the governance arrangements, membership and roles and responsibilities of groups who are involved in the decision-making processes, in addition to the stages of approvals required to develop operating programmes to oversee all funding.

Building on the previous version of the LAF and encompassing the recommendations made by CIPFA, the LAF clearly sets out the role and expectations of the Accountable Body and the S151 officer. In summary, the S151 officer now has a more formal structured role within the LLEP, for example, they have a duty to consider the financial implications of any decision before and during the process. They have the right to carry out such checks, as deemed necessary, to independently confirm that the LLEP has systems to ensure proper administration of financial affairs.

The accountable body also has a duty to ensure that the LLEP complies with all legal duties such as equality, social value, procurement, environment and state aid legislation.

Following the recommendation in the NAF the LLEP is registered as a data controller with the Information Commissioner Office. However, as a non-statutory body we are not formally subject to Freedom of Information requests, although, we will endeavour to comply with any request.

² <https://www.llep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Local-Assurance-Framework-LAF-2019.pdf>

With a greater emphasis on transparency, the LAF sets a commitment to publish more information. The LLEP will publish all spend over £500 on a monthly basis along with a hospitality and gifts register. The LLEP will disclose the salaries of the senior management team and publish declarations of interest of board members and the senior management team.

The LAF sets out how the LLEP Chief Executive Officer and LLEP representatives will attend regular meetings, including local authority scrutiny committees. In addition, the accountable body will set an annual programme of audit activity.

In future it is proposed that the members of the company will form a scrutiny committee to satisfy and test the robustness of the governance of the LLEP.

Part two of the LAF details Programme Development and Management. The LLEP's approach to commissioning, programme development and monitoring will ensure key processes are in place to enable effective project and programme management. These will include systems to:

- Provide transparency and assurance arrangements.
- Set budgets, re-allocate funds, monitor and review programmes and initiate project interventions.
- Ensure robust and proportionate economic appraisal processes are in place to ensure value for money.
- Provide a critically robust review and challenge process through a series of gateways.
- Satisfy public procurement regulations, legal and state aid requirements.

Key changes to the revised LAF include publishing the assessment criteria for business cases; the requirement for all expression of interests to include a logic model, the expectation made around evaluations of LLEP funded projects, and the commitment to using a programme management solution.

All projects are now required to have a state aid assessment and be reviewed by the Accountable Body before a funding decision is reached.

LLEP Delivery Plan

In May, the LLEP published its Delivery Plan for the 2019-20 period. The Plan sets out the LLEP's priorities and objectives for the next 12 months as well as the activities that will be undertaken to meet our objectives and long-term ambitions for the local area.

Key priorities for 2019-20 include:

- The delivery of our Local Growth Fund, Growing Place Fund, Business Rates Pool and European Structural and Investment Fund programmes.
- The development and agreement of a new Local Industrial Strategy with Government.

- The continued development and delivery of the MIRA Technology Park and Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zones.
- The delivery of our Business Gateway, Careers Hub and Enterprise Adviser Network projects.
- The development of a new Skills Advisory Panel for Leicester and Leicestershire.

A copy of the Delivery Plan can be downloaded from the LLEP website at the following link:

www.llep.org.uk/strategies-and-plans/delivery-plan



Staffing Changes

Michelle Hodgson, Local Growth Fund Programme Manager, left the LLEP in June to take up a new position at Homes England. Michelle worked at the LLEP for almost four years and was instrumental in helping the LLEP to secure its outstanding rating for delivery within the recent Annual Performance Review. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her every success in her new role.

Ebyan Abdullahi, Project Officer, joined the LLEP's Strategy Team in April from Leicester City Council and will support Andy Rose, Economic Strategy Manager, on the Place agenda. We welcome her to the team.

Rosie McCartney-Chrisp, Enterprise Coordinator, joined the LLEP's Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) Team and will report into Gerarde Manley as the Careers Hub Manager.

Strategy

Local Industrial Strategy

Background

In July 2018, the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) was one of six Wave 2 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) invited by Government to prepare a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).

The LIS will be long-term, based on clear evidence and aligned to the national Industrial Strategy. It will identify local strengths and challenges, future opportunities and the action needed to boost productivity, earning power and competitiveness. It will also guide the use of local funding streams as well as any future spending from national schemes.

To prepare the LIS, the LLEP has:

1. Undertaken a review of relevant national, regional and local information sources.
2. Established a task and finish group composed of local stakeholders to oversee the preparation of the evidence base.
3. Issued a public Call for Evidence.
4. Commissioned a detailed review of the Leicester and Leicestershire economy.



Call for Evidence

In December 2018, the LLEP issued a public Call for Evidence to enable stakeholders to submit information they thought should be included within the evidence base and should be taken into consideration during the preparation of the Local Industrial Strategy's emerging priorities. This remained open to submissions until 8 February 2019.

Around 50 responses were received by the deadline consisting of a combination of individual and organisational submissions from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

To analyse the responses received through the call, the LLEP utilised a researcher placement secured from the University of Leicester. A single report was prepared summarising all responses received through the call and listing all of the documents uploaded to the electronic feedback form. This information was then fed into the Economic Review.

Three common themes emerged from the responses received to the call. These were the need to improve skills across the LLEP area; increase the amount of workspace to support businesses to start up and grow; and that there was no 'silver bullet' to improve productivity across Leicester and Leicestershire.

Economic Review

To build the Local Industrial Strategy evidence base, an overarching review of the Leicester and Leicestershire economy has been commissioned utilising the additional capacity funding provided through the LEP Review.

The Review has been undertaken by Oxford Economics using a six-stage methodology based around the five Foundations of Productivity and four Grand Challenges outlined within the national Industrial Strategy.

Emerging findings from the Review include:

- The LLEP area has over one million residents and is growing faster than both the regional and the UK average. However, population growth is forecast to slow over the next decade, resulting in a shrinking working age population.
- The LLEP area makes up a significant part of the regional economy. In 2018, it generated £24.5 billion of GVA, equivalent to around a quarter of the East Midlands total.
- The LLEP's productivity is above the regional average but significantly below the national average. This gap has widened over the past decade as the LLEP's productivity growth has not kept pace with the rest of the UK.
- Productivity improvements rather than jobs growth will become increasingly important for driving GVA growth within the LLEP area due to an expected slowdown of growth in the working age population.
- The local sectoral structure is skewed towards relatively lower value-added activities, particularly within manufacturing.

- Residents of the LLEP area typically earned less than those in both the wider East Midlands and across the UK.

Next Steps

To complete the LIS, a first draft will be prepared during June and July which will be brought to the Board for approval at its meeting on 6 August 2019. A final draft will then go to the Board for approval at its meeting on 1 October 2019.

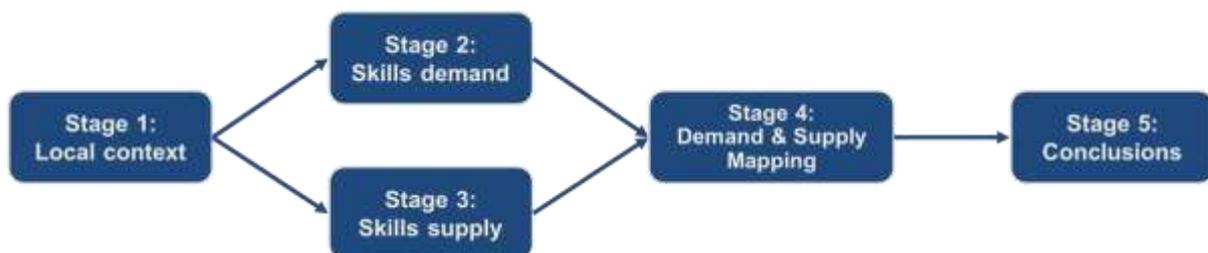
The final draft will be submitted to Government in early October 2019 for a departmental write round, with the approved version being formally signed off by the LLEP Board at its meeting on 3 December 2019.

Skills Advisory Panel

The inaugural meeting of the Skills Advisory Panel (SAP), which replaces the People Board, took place on 6th June 2019. At the meeting the panel endorsed the proposed methodology for identifying skills and employment priorities in the LLEP area to influence interventions and investment decisions now and in the future. In doing so, analysis must meet the following four standards:

- **Gather evidence** from high quality data sources on current and future local skills and labour market challenges.
- **Reflect explicitly** on the potential impacts of global issues on local labour markets.
- **Produce key headline outputs** highlighting current and future local skills challenges.
- **Develop action plans** to address local skills and employment priorities and influence interventions and investment decision.

The proposed methodology will meet the above standards, identify local skills priorities, build a robust narrative and provide fit-for-purpose recommendations which will also inform and reflect the people priorities of the Local Industrial Strategy.



Work has commenced on gathering evidence and more work will take place on the analysis of skills demand and supply over the coming months. In order to do so the LLEP has invested in additional data tools, to enable improved visualisation of skills and employment data. As part of this exercise we will also be consulting with businesses, providers and other stakeholders to ensure that we have a robust understanding of skills issues within the LLEP area.

To ensure that there is strong communication and engagement with the Skills Advisory Panel and key stakeholders we intend to produce a monthly Skills Newsletter to disseminate information effectively to influence and enable the delivery of comprehensive action plans.

The anticipated timeline for SAP analysis is as follows:

Action	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Stage 1 - Local Context Analysis								
Skills Advisory Panel Inaugural Meeting								
DfE SAP Programme Team Summer Review								
Stage 2 - Skills Demand Analysis								
Stage 3 - Skills Supply Analysis								
Stage 4 - Demand and Supply Mapping								
Draft summary report presented to Skills Advisory Panel								
DfE SAP Programme Team Autumn Assessment								
Consultation with wider stakeholders								
Final draft summary and recommendations completed								
Skills Advisory Panel approve skills and employment priorities, Skills and Employment Strategy and Action Plan.								

Annual Economic Profiles

Annual economic profiles are now complete. The LLEP economic profiles provide an understanding of the different facets of the local economy by pulling together data from national data sources. Brought together, these provide a snapshot of the local area. Profiles are available at local enterprise partnership, local and district authority area. Topic areas include population, qualification levels, occupations, earnings, employees, enterprises, business births and deaths, business survival rates and gross value added.

The annual economic profiles can be accessed at;

<https://www.llep.org.uk/our-economy/districts/llep-area/>

Business Survey 2019

The Leicester and Leicestershire Business Survey is a telephone survey that has been conducted since 1994. The last survey was undertaken in 2017 and, like its predecessors, provides a robust source of intelligence about the local business community and economy.

The LLEP, working with Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council, are currently inviting quotations for the provision of consultancy services to undertake a 2019 Leicester and Leicestershire Business Survey.

The Business Survey is used to influence key partnership strategies, commissioning specifications and funding bids and has provided a key source of evidence for the LLEP and its partners that demonstrate business need and opinion.

The Business Survey is a four-stage process:

Stage 1 - Deals with the completion of initial paperwork (complete).

Stage 2 – Procurement.

Stage 3 - Research and reporting.

Stage 4 – Design and print of Business Survey materials.

Currently work is being undertaken on the second stage of the work. The procurement process is near completion and a shortlisting process has been completed.

The Business Survey 2017 can be accessed by following the link:

<https://www.llep.org.uk/our-economy/research-reports/business-survey/>



Labour Market Information/Skills

The LLEP has a focus on providing accessible labour market information (LMI) to better inform partners, stakeholders and providers about opportunities across the LLEP area.

LMI Guides

The LLEP collates a 36-page **young person's labour market guide** for students, careers leads, teachers and parents to provide an accurate, accessible summary of the range of key sectors and opportunities across Leicester and Leicestershire. This guide is refreshed annually, along with a lesson plan. To date, 17,000 copies have been cascaded to schools, colleges and wider partners. Work on the 2019/20 version will commence in July 2019.

An **adult labour market guide** has also been produced for partners who support adults into work. To date, 4,000 copies of the guide have been cascaded to adult skills partners, libraries and job centres.

Both guides are available electronically along with additional LMI resources at: <https://www.llep.org.uk/investing-in-our-people/choosing-a-career/guide-to-the-local-labour-market/>

In addition, the LLEP skills team organised **three labour market one-hour workshops** in May 2019 with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) advisers to further enhance their skills and labour market knowledge. Approximately 80 DWP advisers attended in total.

A joint LLEP skills and Careers and Enterprise Company continuing professional development (CPD) event for teachers is currently being coordinated by the LLEP skills team. This will be held on **26 September 2019 and will focus on the manufacturing sector**. In addition, the LLEP skills team are coordinating **a short film to promote manufacturing sector opportunities**, due to be filmed in July 2019.

The LLEP cascades out a monthly school and college newsletter. This includes labour market updates, CEC news, help with meeting Gatsby benchmarks and employer offers. To sign up to the newsletter, please contact Anna Cyhan at anna.cyhan@llep.org.uk.

Localised LMI data

The LLEP is looking to further enhance its current labour market resource offer by **creating snapshots of district information** across the LLEP area. These will show key skills in demand, most advertised vacancies, specialist skills required by employers and qualifications most requested by employers from advertised vacancy information in a given area. There will be a list of the top 75 local employers by district on the back, listed by either turnover or number of employees, and showing the relevant sector that the employer is in. The summaries will help to raise awareness of very local skill needs. The Hinckley and Bosworth area pilot template is now complete. Other district areas will start to be completed over the summer.

Skills Summit – launch of Building the Workforce of the Future

The LLEP skills team worked with the East Midlands Chamber as part of the **EMC Skills Summit, July 9, 2019**. The skills team coordinated a workshop to launch a LLEP area

snapshot guide for businesses, ***Building the Workforce of the Future***, which highlights the benefits of offering all ages experience of the workplace to help business needs. The guide was created by the LLEP skills team, along with input from key local skills and education provider.

An electronic copy of the snapshot guide is available at www.llep.org.uk/investing-in-our-people/employment-skills

Energy Infrastructure Strategy and Midlands Energy Hub

Following the previous update, the Midlands Energy Hub has employed the regional team supporting local delivery of the Local Energy Strategies. The LLEP now has a Regional Senior Energy Projects Officer who will be working with partners to support the Energy Infrastructure Strategy. The Midlands Energy Hub will also be supporting this role through Nottingham's experience of developing energy projects along with delivering funding through the new Rural Community Energy Fund (more details below).

As these roles develop, they will continue to feed into the Midlands Energy Hub and also into BEIS to ensure that local energy issues with regards to development of the Energy Infrastructure Strategy are better understood by central Government.

Early work on the Energy Infrastructure Strategy is now focused on bringing together the key local partners to start work on the eight specific projects identified in the strategy. Alongside this work, De Montfort University are re-invigorating a local Experts Reference Group to inform the local zero carbon agenda and support development of the strategy.

The Energy Infrastructure Strategy is also feeding directly into the Local Industrial Strategy to ensure that clean sustainable growth and a zero carbon Leicester and Leicestershire are central to the LIS.

The two top-tier local authorities have recently declared a Climate Emergency and so the local commitments have changed since the Energy Infrastructure Strategy was published – added to this central Government has also committed to zero carbon by 2050. We are considering how we need to reflect these changes so that we can ensure that our work is complimenting other developments.

We are looking at where there are other developments that can support the ambitions of the Energy Strategy. The final tranche of ERDF funding is supporting development of carbon saving projects linked to the Energy Strategy, and we are engaging with other partners to identify projects, particularly where there might be grid connection problems, which could be mitigated using renewable technologies.

The Midlands Energy Hub is in the process of launching the new Rural Community Energy Fund – this is a fund to support community led energy projects. There will be 2 stages available – stage 1 for up to £40,000 available to gauge feasibility of a project followed by stage 2- up to £100,000 to support development of business and planning of feasible

projects. This fund is open to expressions of interest with full details expected in the next few weeks – see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-community-energy-fund>



Funding

European Structural and Investment Funds

European Regional Development Fund

Our ERDF Programme is currently worth £58,337,000. We have currently committed £46,155,000 (79.1%). To bring our programme up to 100% commitment we planned to launch a further set of calls totalling £12,180,000. These were released at the end of June and will be our final calls. These will close on 30th September. Our calls are as follows:

- ERDF PA-1 (Innovation) - £1.71m
- ERDF PA-2 (ICT) - £0.89m
- ERDF PA-3 (SME Competitiveness) - £5.74m
- ERDF PA-4 (Low Carbon) - £3.91m

To launch these calls, the LLEP held an event on 4th July at City Hall. To ensure maximum take-up the LLEP has been working with partners to develop a pipeline of projects which will hopefully lead to a sizeable number of projects under all priority axis' and will result in 100% commitment of our ERDF Programme. Activities can be delivered up to June 2023.

As with all LEP areas, after these calls any remaining uncommitted funds will be returned to the Government and will go into a national "Reserve Fund". It is anticipated that a further national call will be launched in early 2020.

European Social Fund

ESF Open Calls

For the £1.3million Graduate Retention Open Call under IP.2.1, a single organisation submitted a Stage 2 application by the deadline of 20 May. This application is currently in appraisal.

The outcome of the Stage 2 application for the Skills for Sector Led Growth open call is expected to be announced soon.

A further three Open Calls specifications will be released in September 2019 under 1.P. 2.1. and I.P.2.2

ESFA Opt-in Calls

The ESFA Skills Support for the Workforce contract under Investment Priority 2.1 was awarded to SERCO. The contract will run in line with the other two ESFA Opt-in contracts from April 2019 to July 2021.

National Lottery Community Fund Opt-in Projects

Project extensions are being considered where they meet the eligibility criteria and will be progressed with the Managing Authority using the Project Change Request (PCR) process in June. Big Lottery Fund have notified that ESF provision will now use the revised branding of National Lottery Community Fund.

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

The LLEP area was awarded £3.059m EARFD under the ESIF Programme 2014-20. This is a national fund and could be used to support rural businesses by offering grants of between £35,000 and £175,000. These grants could support up to 40% of their total project costs and were available in three key areas – food and drink production, business support and tourism infrastructure. All calls closed in May 2018.

Despite having been told that there will be no further calls, the Rural Payment Agency (RPA) is currently consulting with local ESIF Committee's regarding their intention to give projects until September 2019 to submit their final applications and commit the funding. Any

“uncommitted” funds will be returned to the Government and used to create a national EAFRD “Reserve Fund”. Like that of the other Managing Authorities, they then intend to release a final national call in early 2020. This will only be held under business support and tourism infrastructure. This is still, however, subject to Ministerial approval.

The LLEP has currently committed up to £2.64m (68%) under EAFRD. This is in line with the national picture. Project appraisals by the RPA have been slow to complete and as a result how much the LLEP will be returning to the Government is dependent on whether or not all of our current commitments are realised, we may return anything between £335,000 and £995,000.

Rural businesses in Leicestershire will still have an opportunity to apply under this national call should this go ahead.

Growing Places Fund

Our Growing Places Fund (GPF) is a £12.6 million loan scheme, specifically designed to boost local transport, infrastructure and commercial development plans. It is directed at projects which are currently stalled or development proposals which can be accelerated with an injection of a short-term loan funding (3 to 4 years).

To date we have awarded ten loans totalling £13.5 million and, by successfully managing the repayments, we are able to offer further loans totalling £10.8 million in 2019.

There are currently some applications to use this funding and we are awaiting confirmation if these can move forward.



Programme Delivery

Local Growth Fund

By the end of the 2018/19 financial year, of the 20 projects funded through the Local Growth Fund 14 have now received their full funding allocation. All remaining projects will receive their outstanding allocation by the end of March 2021 when the LGF programme closes.

In April MIRA Technology Institute (MTI), funded with £9.5m Local Growth Fund, won the Innovation in Education and Training category in the Leicester Mercury Innovation Awards 2019. The award recognised the MTI as an innovative collaboration between education and industry. The institute has been created to address skills shortages in the new disruptive technologies surrounding connected and autonomous vehicles and electric cars.

The latest phase of the Market Harborough Line Speed Improvement Programme completed on schedule at the start of June. The project, funded with £3m LGF from the LLEP, as well as LGF allocations from D2N2 (£5m) and Sheffield City Region (£5m), is part of the wider Midlands Mainline upgrade project and is set to decrease journey time to London. The recent stage saw six days of major engineering works at Market Harborough train station allowing almost 4km of newly laid track to be connected into the existing infrastructure. A new pedestrian bridge over the tracks, improvements to the platform and carpark have also been carried out.



LLEP Business Gateway

The Business Gateway continues to deliver support to businesses through one to one support and a series of business themed workshops. The total number of enquiries stands at circa 4700 enquiries with around 1000 of those businesses having been supported directly, and the remaining businesses having been referred to other support within the business support ecosystem.

During this quarter we have also appointed a new developer for the Business Gateway website, which we expect to be live in the early Autumn, we have also appointed consultants to undertake an independent evaluation of the Business Gateway (we will provide key findings on this in the next update) and had confirmation that the ERDF funding has been appraised and is awaiting contract.

The Business Gateway team have met with the majority of Local Authority partners and will continue to work with these partners to develop new ways of delivering the Business Gateway services and to provide more bespoke information to individual authorities.



Enterprise Zones

MIRA Technology Park

MIRA Technology Park (MTP) continues to lead the way as a successful Enterprise Zone. In April MTP won the 'Setting the Pace' award at the UK Science Park Association (UKSPA) Awards 2019. This was in recognition of the Park's commitment to providing world-class facilities and exceptional research and development solutions for its tenant companies. UKSPA is a membership organisation which supports sites across the UK which facilitate the development and management of innovative, high-growth, knowledge-based organisations.



HanKuk Carbon, a leading Korean composite material manufacturing company, opened its first European office on the Technology Park in May. The office will enable the company to strengthen its ties with vehicle component manufacturers across Europe and develop further links with other business sectors. The location at MIRA will also enable them to capitalise on the growing cluster of Connected Autonomous Vehicle and Electric Vehicle companies in the area who have a requirement to reduce the weight of their vehicles.

Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone

Leicester Waterside

The completion date for a major new office development in the Waterside area has been brought forward to July. The No.1 Great Central Square building will offer up to 33,000sqft of office space in a prime location. Occupants will benefit from high-spec accommodation, strong local road, rail and air links, and the business benefits of being in an Enterprise Zone.

Further stages of the development scheme include the creation of a 154 bed hotel, a 95 bed aparthotel and the renovation of the Great Central Railway Station building. All are due to complete later this year.



Charnwood Campus

In early May, Charnwood Campus hosted a delegation from the City of Mentor, Ohio, USA. Mentor has become a focal point for US biomedical companies due to its proximity to the world-renowned Cleveland Clinic. The site visit was facilitated by Medilink Midlands who have developed a strategic collaboration with the city to promote bilateral trade and investment. The delegation explored the campus, including a tour of 3M's new facilities onsite, and took part in a roundtable discussion involving Charnwood Borough Council, East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, 3M, Charnwood Campus and the LLEP.

Careers Hub and Enterprise Adviser Network

The Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN), bridges the gap between education and employers by pairing individual Enterprise Advisers with a school or college to help build a strategic employer engagement plan with a focus on Gatsby Benchmarks five and six (encounters with workplaces and encounters with employers).

As of 31st May 2019, there are 70 schools and 64 Enterprise Adviser (EA) in the EAN. The LLEP EAN continues to be seen as a national exemplar with over 70% of schools and colleges actively engaged. All mainstream schools and colleges in the area will be invited to join the EAN and increase the number of EAs as the programme scales up.

Building on EAN activity the LLEP also has a Careers Hub. This is an extension of the support already provided through the EAN. There are 20 schools and colleges in the Hub working

towards achievement of all eight Gatsby Benchmarks by 2020. The Hub is a community of practice sharing good careers practice with all schools in the LLEP area.

The Hub and the wider EAN are meeting or exceeding a high proportion of benchmarks compared to national averages.

To support the work of the Carers Hub a group of strategic Cornerstone Employers have been convened. These are businesses invested in education and committed to increasing the encounters young people have with the world of work. LLEP Cornerstones include AXA PPP Healthcare, Dunelm, East Midlands Airport, Leicester City Football Club and Crown Packaging. The inaugural meeting and launch of the strategic delivery plan for Cornerstones took place in May 2019 attended by the Rt. Hon. Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education.

Communications

Secretary of State for Education Visit



At an event at King Power Stadium on 17 May, the Rt. Hon. Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education, met representatives from the LLEP's newly-launched Careers Hub, and some of the Cornerstone Employers it is working with. He also had a chance to talk to students from Beaumont Leys School, and heard about the experiences they've been able to access through the LLEP Careers Hub.

Midlands Rail Hub launch



Plans to reinstate direct rail services between Leicester and Coventry for the first time since 2004 form part of a £2 billion package of improvements to transform east-west connections on the Midlands' rail network.

The Rail Minister Andrew Jones MP visited Leicester on 27 June, together with Sir John Peace, Chair of Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect to meet with Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor, Nick Rushton, Leader of Leicestershire County Council and Andy Reed, Deputy Chair of the LLEP. They were

joined by other representatives from the Midlands for a round table discussion at City Hall.

The Midlands Rail Hub outlines plans to build 15 pieces of new and improved infrastructure to enable 24 extra passenger trains every hour on the regional network, reduce journey times and grow the economy by bringing the East and West Midlands closer together.

The plans, which can be completed in phases between 2024 and 2033, have been submitted to the government by Sub-national Transport Body Midlands Connect, in partnership with Network Rail and with the backing of 47 partner organisations including local authorities, LEPs, chambers of commerce, HS2 and East Midlands Airport.

Events Round-Up

The LLEP and Business Gateway growth hub exhibited at several events this quarter and were involved with events both locally and nationally. Here are the highlights.

	Event	Date	Summary
	East Midlands Chamber Digital Growth Programme Conference 2019	11 April	From getting the most from your social media channels to making sure your business stands out from the crowd in online searches, this action-packed event helped businesses across Leicester and Leicestershire get the best from the latest digital technologies.
	Bulgarian Delegation	16 April	The LLEP welcomed a delegation from Bulgaria who came over from Leicester's twin town of Haskovo. They visited to learn about Investment opportunities in Leicester and Leicestershire.
	ICAEW/IOD Making it in Business Lunch	10 May	The ICAEW Making it in Business event in Leicester saw local members and businesses joining together for a day of networking and presentations from inspirational business leaders. This was a great opportunity for the growth hub to engage with local businesses and intermediaries.
	The Midlands Business Network	17 May	The exhibition welcomes a diverse mix of businesses from a range of sectors, including both SME's and large corporate organisations making this the perfect platform for growth hub B2B networking, brand recognition and business connectivity.

	<p>Women LEP Leaders</p>	<p>6 June</p>	<p>Over 150 senior women business leaders and entrepreneurs came together in London to celebrate women in leadership and to inspire more women leaders to get involved in the work of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) at board level. The LLEP board was represented by Emma Anderson and Karen Smart.</p>
	<p>Business Breakfast Briefing</p>	<p>11 June</p>	<p>Saahera Mahomed took the stage at the LLEP quarterly breakfast briefing to talk about careers education in Leicester and Leicestershire. The LLEP Careers Hub is looking to recruit Enterprise Advisers from businesses. The event also included an update from East Midlands Airport, latest news about the Business Gateway growth hub and a business readiness for Brexit update from BEIS.</p>
	<p>Business Support Provider Network Meeting</p>	<p>19 June</p>	<p>The Business Gateway growth hub held this quarterly meeting to update the business support network on latest offers and funding available across Leicester and Leicestershire.</p>
	<p>BBfA Awards</p>	<p>20 June</p>	<p>The LLEP supported the Better Business for All initiative at the National Regulatory Awards in London as they were finalists in the Best Partnerships Category.</p>

	<p>NWL District Council Breakfast Briefing</p>	<p>25 June</p>	<p>Andy Reed OBE, Deputy Chair of the LLEP presented a LLEP update at the North West Leicestershire District Council breakfast briefing to an audience of larger businesses from the area.</p>
	<p>Midlands Rail Hub Launch</p>	<p>27 June</p>	<p>Rail Minister Andrew Jones MP visited Leicester with Sir John Peace, Chair of Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect to meet with Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor, Nick Rushton, Leader of Leicestershire County Council and Andy Reed, Deputy Chair of the LLEP. They were joined by other representatives from the Midlands for a round table discussion at City Hall.</p>

Forthcoming Events

Annual General Meeting – 1 October 16.45 till 19.00 hrs

City Hall, Leicester

This public event will mark the launch of our Annual Report for 2018-19; giving everyone the chance to hear from the LLEP Board on the activities and impacts the LLEP has had on the people, places and businesses of Leicester and Leicestershire during the last financial year.

There will be an opportunity to pose questions to LLEP Board members, as well as understanding more about our Local Industrial Strategy; our long-term vision for economic growth in the area.

We welcome everyone to this event, as we celebrate our past successes and plan for even greater prosperity in the future.

Leicester Business Festival 2019 – 28 October till 8 November 2019

The 2019 Business Festival, headline partnered by Leicester Castle Business School, is now in its fifth year and plans are now underway for another successful fortnight.

Anyone can apply to run an event as part of the programme. The theme can be about anything, so long as the event stands to benefit the businesses and people in the region by creating a forum where others can listen, learn, share, engage, network, question or debate.

Another aim of the business Festival is to drive interest in Leicester and Leicestershire from an investment, or business development perspective, and events that help to positively place this region in a national spotlight are also welcome. This could include economic, sectoral or investment showcases or events that debate or address national business challenges, for example.

<https://www.leicesterbusinessfestival.com/>

Careers Speed Networking 2019 – 8 November 9.00 till 15.30 hrs

Leicester and Leicestershire employers are invited to take part in Leicestershire's largest youth speed networking event for careers information.

The innovative event, taking place on November 8th at Leicester Race Course, will provide 300 school and college students with an eye-opening opportunity into the world of work.

The LLEP and Careers and Enterprise Company (working with partners), are aiming to recruit 150 business volunteers to participate in this action packed morning. The event will focus on year 9-11 students (ages 13-16).