




The Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership First year achievements



1. Developed an Economic Growth Plan 2012-2020 which aims to:

- Create 25,000 jobs
- Attract £2 billion of private investment to the LLEP area
- Increase GVA by £4b to £23b



2. Identified priority sectors to boost growth where Leicester and Leicestershire already has strengths including:

- Food and drink manufacturing, which provides 12,000 jobs or 2.7 per cent of local employment – double the national average
- Distribution and logistics, which provides more than 51,000 jobs, or 11.6 per cent of local employment,

compared to a national figure of 8.9 per cent

- Tourism and hospitality, which provides 32,500 jobs and has potential to grow, through better co-ordination of attractions and developing links to local sports teams and motor sports
- Knowledge based businesses, which have potential to grow through links to the three local universities and attracting investment to science and innovation parks
- High-tech manufacturing, which provides 29,800 jobs or 6.9 per cent of local employment, compared to 5.8 per cent nationally – there is potential to boost exports in this sector through strong trade links
- Space and aerospace, linked to expertise at the University of

Leicester, with the potential to create up to 100,000 new jobs in this sector nationally over the next five years

3. Achieved significant private sector engagement

- Through a series of events (“Area-based Priority Workshops”), the LLEP has developed a programme to actively engage with private and public sector senior representatives in each district to identify and facilitate priority actions.





Key achievements of the first year on a project-basis:

- Secured LEP Start-up Capacity Fund and Growth Transition Funding (GTF), totalling £400K.
- Successful bid for an Enterprise Zone at MIRA Technology Park, set to create 2,000 jobs and attract £300m private investment. MIRA also recently awarded close to £20m of Regional Growth Funding to assist with the road infrastructure improvements that will serve the new development.
- £25m RGF to boost jobs and private sector development, secured through Rounds 1 & 2.
- A programme bid of £12.75m submitted for RGF Round 3 to create 2,000 new jobs and lever over £37m of private investment - primarily targeting SMEs in the manufacturing sector, accelerating job growth and creating significant international trade and export opportunities.
- Developed a co-ordinated business support and referral service and CRM system ensuring local businesses access national and local business support programmes including International Trade and Export, Manufacturing Advisory Service, Growth Accelerator and Mentoring.
- Successfully facilitating the introduction of businesses to the RGF Assisted Asset Purchase Scheme, lending around £3.0m to SMEs through NatWest Bank. A further £2.9m of future opportunities is in the pipeline. It is anticipated this growth fund lending will create around 160 jobs in Leicester/shire.
- Delivering the Better Business for All (BBfA) national pathfinder - one of only two LEPs in England chosen to lead the programme, which is making great headway in helping SMEs and regulatory bodies alike, to understand one another's requirements and to reduce the regulation barriers faced by businesses starting up or expanding.
- Following £13.4m Growing Places Fund allocation, the
- LLEP has approved the first five projects totalling £4.4m aiming to accelerate economic development by unlocking stalled sites for employment and housing growth. The balance of £9m opened to bids on 18th June 2012.
- Inward Investment service in partnership with UKTI - refining and improving the UKTI proposition to target foreign investment into Leicester and Leicestershire.
- Managing a unique, electronic 'property search facility', providing live commercial property information and availability, linked to all commercial estate agencies in the area.
- Delivered a new 'Open for Business' guide to promote the LLEP area for inward investment.
- Two successful HAF (Higher Apprenticeship Fund) bids initiated and submitted with partners to Government - one successful and awaiting finalisation.
- Employment and Skills Challenge event held, bringing key training providers together with the business community to identify priorities for
- the employment and skills agenda, which was used to inform the economic growth plan targets.
- An employment & skills task & finish group has been set up to deliver 19 identified practical actions, matching skills to business needs.
- Carried out extensive market intelligence and an engagement & economic assessment of the area including an annual business survey of 1000 businesses. Information has been used to inform the Economic Growth Plan and identify the key priority sectors.
- Created an e-newsletter which is sent out every six weeks to public and private sector, reaching over 6,000 businesses in the area and key stakeholders.
- Redeveloped and revitalised the LLEP web site to improve and simplify access to information.
- Active social media including widely-used LinkedIn site (nearly 300 members since Oct 2011) and twitter account.

