

## LLEP INVESTMENT PANEL

3pm 3 JUNE 2021

### MS Teams Call



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### AGENDA

TIME		ITEM	REPORT	DECISION / INFORMATION	LEAD
15.00	1.	Welcome and Apologies			Chair
	2.	Declarations of Interest			All
15.05	3.	Minutes of LLEP Investment Panel 11 March 2021	Paper A	Decision	Chair
15.15	4.	MIRA EZ Infrastructure Project Business Case <b>NOT FOR PUBLICATION</b> <b>By virtue of paragraph 3 as defined at Annex 7 of the Local Assurance Framework</b>	Paper B	Decision	Cheryl Maguire Andy McDonald
15.45	5.	Digital Skills Business Case	Paper C	Decision	Fiona Baker Stewart Smith
16.15	6.	Local Growth Fund / Getting Building Fund Update	Paper D	Information	Cathy Martin
16.30	7.	AOB			All
	8.	Dates of Future meetings 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2021			



**NB: In line with our Local Assurance Framework (LAF) these minutes are published as a draft record until formal ratification at the subsequent meeting.**



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## LLEP INVESTMENT PANEL

### Minutes of the Meeting

11 March 2021

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#### Attendance and Apologies:

<b>Members</b>		<b>Representing</b>	
Andy Reed OBE	<b>AR</b>	LLEP Board of Directors	Chair
Emma Anderson	<b>EA</b>	LLEP Board of Directors	
Sonia Baigent	<b>SB</b>	LLEP Board of Directors	
Dr Nik Kotecha	<b>NK</b>	LLEP Board of Directors	
Ajmer Kaur Mahal	<b>AKM</b>	LLEP Board of Directors	
Neil McGhee	<b>NM</b>	LLEP Board of Directors	
Cllr Terry Richardson	<b>TR</b>	LLEP Board of Directors	
<b>Officers</b>			
Cathy Martin	<b>CM</b>	LLEP	
Stuart McAvoy	<b>SM</b>	Leicester City Council – Accountable Body	
Helen Miller	<b>HM</b>	LLEP	
Andy Rose	<b>ARo</b>	LLEP	
Colin Sharpe	<b>CS</b>	Leicester City Council – Accountable Body	
<b>Advisors</b>			
Josephine Dexter	<b>JD</b>	Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU)	
Jaqueline Moody	<b>JM</b>	Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU)	
<b>Applicants</b>			
Steven Lewis-Roberts	<b>SLR</b>	Pegasus (for the Broadnook developers)	

**Minute****Action**

<b>Minute</b>		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	
1.1	AR welcomed those present to the meeting.	
1.2	There were no Apologies for Absence.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
2.1	EA declared that Freeths had given professional advice regarding the Broadnook development.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Actions of Last Meetings</b>	
3.1	HM presented the latest version of the action log.	
3.2	HM noted that the previous State Aid enquires would need to be rolled forward due to the complexity of the subject.	
3.3	ARo noted a confidentiality issue relating to those expressing interest in the land at Haywoods.	
3.4	HM stated that there was a reasonable amount of provision for education relating to employability at present. A desire for further employability training was expressed by some Panel Members.	
3.5	HM noted that the call for evidence relating to Digital Skills had gone out.	
3.6	HM noted that an update on Norton would be presented at the April Board meeting.	
3.7	The Minutes of the meetings held 21 January 2021 and 1 February 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Written Procedure – GBF Return</b>	
4.1	HM reminded the Panel of the Written Procedure process and stated that the GBF Written Procedure had now gone to the Government.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Growing Places Fund – Broadnook Garden Village</b>	
5.1	ARo noted that Davidsons Development, and not Davidson Development, were the lead developers for the site.	
5.2	ARo noted with regards to loan security, work was ongoing to get the Titles clear.	
5.3	ARo noted the figures of the numbers of houses to be built on the plots.	

**Minute****Action**

5.4	ARo noted the details of the development contribution from the developer.	
5.5	It was noted that the Accountable Body would officially make the loan and hold the security.	
5.6	ARo noted that an interest rate of 5% had been secured by the developer on other finance.	
5.7	ARo noted that the LLEP would advance funding, first, with the second payment being made by the applicants.	
5.8	At this point, SLR joined the meeting.	
5.9	SLR noted that Charnwood Borough Council had issued a hybrid application, which included details of highway infrastructure and the quality of the development.	
5.10	SLR gave background on the developers of the site, noting their local focus and reputation on carbon issues.	
5.11	SLR stated that the vision for the site was a garden village to deliver high-quality accommodation and employment space.	
5.12	SLR noted that employment land would be developed at an early stage.	
5.13	SLR noted that the site would strive to have zero carbon buildings, and that infrastructure would be put in place for cycling.	
5.14	SLR noted that there would be living space for 4000-5000 people at the site, alongside a retirement village.	
5.15	SLR noted that the agreed percentage of affordable housing on the site was 17.6%, less than Charnwood Borough Council's minimum of 25%. With more proportions given to schools and a retirement village to offset the difference.	
5.16	SLR noted that the land would be sold on a phased basis, with the land value coming out in those phases. It was suggested that there could be a deferral of dividends to the landowners.	<b>ARo</b>
5.17	SLR stated that the site would be more likely to build out due to there being a single landowner and that a huge amount of details had gone into producing the hybrid application, meaning that key infrastructure deals had been designed and costed.	
5.18	SLR noted that a Design and Access Statement had been agreed with Charnwood Borough Council, with strict conditions within the Statement.	

**Minute****Action**

5.19	SLR noted that Cedars Academy was the closest secondary school, and that additional cycling infrastructure would be put in place to improve access to the school. Investment would also be provided to improve capacity at Cedars.	
5.20	SLR noted that the County Council would adopt the roads on a phased basis.	
5.21	SLR noted that High Speed Broadband would be in place for all homes on the site.	
5.22	SLR noted that no Cemetery Provision had been discussed, but that there would be significant green space retained by the applicant where there could be space for a Cemetery.	
5.23	SLR noted that the intention was to create a separate Parish Council for the community, and that Charnwood Borough Council and the three Parish Council areas covered by the land had all agreed to this.	
5.24	SLR noted that the Garden Trust would initially be run by the trustees of the developers, but that it would eventually become community run.	
5.25	SLR noted that significant areas of open space would be delivered in each stage of development.	
5.26	SLR noted that local resources would be prioritised in the development of the site.	
5.27	At this point, SLR left the meeting.	
5.28	ARo stated that the development would happen without LLEP funding, but that without it development would be much slower. It was also stated that LLEP investment would give current investors comfort and that the project fell into the GPF portfolio.	
5.29	It was requested that formal answers could be pursued to questions raised to SLR by Panel Members. ARo will prepare the response, it was also noted that panel members needed to be aware of those issues that would not be legally enforceable by the LLEP but were for the planning authority to have considered as part of the application.	<b>ARo</b>
5.30	Concerns were expressed regarding the ability to exercise security and a query was raised in relation to whether there should be a charge for the applicant to meet as this would be administratively burdensome	
5.31	CS noted that the interest rate minimum would be 5% to operate on a Market Investor Principle and that any proposed lower rate would need to be justified on that Principle.	

**Minute****Action**

5.32	CS noted that the issue of the cost to the Accountable Body of releasing multiple charges as houses/plots are sold had been raised.	
5.33	HM reinforced the view that any interest rate less than market rate would create subsidy issues which would slow down the process.	
5.34	There was discussion on how the Panel would report back to the Board on this matter. It was suggested that a document be produced which would clearly lay out the position of the Panel for the Board to approve. ARo stated that detailed legal work could likely only commence once the Board had given approval. HM noted that the item would be reported to the Board, regardless of the decision made by the Panel.	
5.35	ARo noted that the land valuation was expected at the end of March.	
5.36	It was suggested that a Heads of Terms document could be produced for the transaction, clearly laying out the intended terms. It was stated that such a document could not be brought to the Board by the time of its next meeting. There was discussion on the prioritisation of conditions within that document and what the LLEP was able to ask for.	
5.37	It was suggested that it could be made clear to applicants in the application process, what the LLEP would look favourably upon such as green infrastructure so that applicants could know in advance what the LLEP would be expecting.	
5.38	<p>It was AGREED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Panel supported the recommendations in the paper, subject to a Heads of Terms document being produced and accepted, clearly laying out the conditions of the agreement.</li> <li>2. An item be brought to a future Panel meeting to discuss how the LLEP can lay out their preferences to potential applicants.</li> </ol>	<p>HM/ARo/AR</p> <p>HM/ARo</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Programme Monitoring</b>	
6.1	<u>Local Growth Fund Outputs</u>	
6.1.1	CM explained the background of the data returns and gave details of what the returns meant.	
6.1.2	CM noted that the deliverables targets had not yet been met, and as expected some likely wouldn't for several years.	
6.1.3	CM noted the structure of the Programme Monitoring reporting.	
6.1.4	At this point NK left the meeting.	

**Minute**

**Action**

6.1.5	CM noted that RAG ratings were currently based on deliverability rather than outputs, but that outputs would eventually become the basis for the RAG ratings.	
6.1.6	CM noted that in contracts there was a clause that if outputs weren't met then funding could be claimed back. To date this has not been acted upon. There was a tolerance level for how far away from targets the outputs could be.	
6.1.7	HM noted that the outputs achieved for the LLEP were stronger than many other LEPs.	
6.1.8	It was AGREED that:  1. The recommendation in the paper be approved by the Investment Panel meaning that there would be no future requirement for the investment panel to sign of returns to Government	<b>HM/CM</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Close of Meeting</b>	
7.1	HM noted that a new Governance Officer had been recruited and would be taking over the responsibilities of the Democratic Support Officer. HM recorded her thanks to the Democratic Support Officer.	
7.2	The meeting closed at 5.56pm.	



## Decision Report

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### DIGITAL POVERTY BUSINESS CASE

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#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement of the Investment Panel to recommend to the LLEP Board approval for investment of repurposed Growing Places Funding in skills interventions relating to digital poverty, as endorsed by the Skills Advisory Panel.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The LLEP Investment Panel is advised to recommend to the LLEP Board the allocation of repurposed GPF funding as outlined in the business case attached at Appendix 1.

#### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 The LLEP Economic Recovery Plan has provided a clearer picture of potential gaps in funding and support to meet local needs.
- 1.2 The LLEP Board has agreed to the repurposing of £1.6m of Growing Places Funding for a range of interventions, including support for addressing digital poverty. At the request of the Investment Panel, further work has been undertaken on the business case for Digital Poverty, attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.3 The Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) meeting which took place on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 requested that a call for evidence on digital poverty should be undertaken to inform the allocation of additional funding. That piece of work has now completed (Appendix 2) and informs the attached business case (Appendix 1).

#### **Summary of appendices:**

1. Digital Poverty Business Case
2. LLEP Digital Poverty Call for Evidence Analysis Report

#### **For further information please contact:**

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## LLEP CASE -COVID RECOVERY

Overview	
Investment area	Digital Skills
<p>Provide a brief overview of the proposed support</p>	<p>This proposal is designed to be <b>complementary</b> to the existing Business Case to establish a Digital Skills Partnership which was approved by Investment Panel on 3 November 2020. The pandemic has brought issues concerning digital poverty into sharp focus as a risk to the area’s inclusive growth ambitions. Digital poverty can be defined as the inability to access or utilise digital technologies effectively. It is predominately caused by a lack of digital skills and/or an inability to access digital technology (for example, unable to afford a laptop or broadband, or live in a rural area with poor broadband). In a world where almost every job now demands some digital capability, and where the majority of teaching has taken place online for the last year, addressing the digital divide is imperative to secure future economic growth.</p> <p>Analysis of the LLEP’s Call for Evidence on Digital Poverty suggests that there are three main themes impacting on individuals’ ability to participate in the digital society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet and data access</li> <li>• Access to devices</li> <li>• Ability to be able to use digital devices / software</li> </ul> <p>It is therefore proposed that the LLEP issues a call for applications from relevant organisations for innovative projects which would address one or more of the above causes of digital poverty and offer a sustainable solution for a range of beneficiaries. Potential project might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the development of community internet ‘hubs’ through provision equipment to make lasting improvements to infrastructure e.g. of wi-fi boosters to improve sustained connectivity</li> <li>• Providing a sustainable solution through supporting schemes that refurbish, recycle and reallocate devices for loan or low-cost purchase.</li> <li>• Where there are gaps in provision, supporting the delivery of training with support targeted at disadvantaged residents.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals will need to consider existing live projects in the Leicester and Leicestershire area which are currently being delivered through other funding streams, e.g. ESF, DWP or ESFA funding and avoid duplication. The funding may, however, provide an opportunity to test and deliver a ‘pilot’ project which can demonstrate effective outcomes and has the potential to be scaled up subject to further funding becoming available, e.g. through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.</p>

<p>Please explain the need for funding and how this contributes to economic recovery.</p>	<p>The <b>LLEP Digital Poverty Call for Evidence</b> was launched in March 2021 and lasted for six weeks to mid-April 2021. In all, 31 detailed responses were received to the survey questions and other evidence was gathered directly from partners such as local authorities, public health, colleges and voluntary groups. The analysis and findings from this report have informed the development of this business case and three strong themes emerged from partners as being key factors in how digital poverty could be addressed:</p> <p><b>Ability to access the internet for free</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Via public buildings e.g. libraries, clubs and other public buildings</li> <li>• For school aged children</li> <li>• Provision of data for those who need it to access services</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills and training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic training available on how to access services and socialise online</li> <li>• Community courses and bespoke 1-2-1 help where required</li> <li>• Targeted towards job seekers, parents of school aged children, job seekers</li> <li>• Support, rather than training, to help with basic digital tasks</li> </ul> <p><b>Access to equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment loan schemes for students and job seekers</li> <li>• Laptops and equipment provided at no cost or low cost</li> <li>• Better use of 'old' equipment via refurbishment and recycling</li> </ul> <p>Digital skills will be of key importance in a post COVID era where working practices could change and where those without digital skills will be disadvantaged in terms of employment prospects. The level of digital skills across the population and the workforce is still below where it needs to be, and skills gaps could impact life chances as well as slowing the economic recovery.</p> <p>The <b><u>2020 Lloyds Bank Consumer Digital Survey</u></b> found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UK workforce is still digitally underpowered –an estimated 52% of the workforce lack digital skills in the workplace. This is particularly prevalent in the manufacturing, retail and construction sectors, all important sectors in the local economy. Those in entry level jobs are most likely to be affected by the impact of COVID-19 as they are also likely to have the lowest digital skills, limiting their ability to move in the job market.</li> <li>• Equally as concerning, given the scarring effect that we know Covid-19 is predicted to have on young people, the survey also found that working 15-24-year-olds are significantly less likely to have the digital skills required in the workplace than their older counterparts who are 25-54.</li> </ul> <p>In 2016 it was estimated that within the next 10 to 20 years, 90% of jobs will <u>require some sort of digital skills</u> and this trend is thought to have been accelerated by the pandemic. This highlights that the digitally excluded will be increasingly at a disadvantage in the employment market, beginning with the simple ability to apply on-line for a job.</p>
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In addition to the need for increased digital skills at all levels to effect economic recovery there are also issues relating to the social gap in access to technology. Anecdotally, schools in the LLEP area report that many families within deprived areas rely on a single mobile phone for an internet connection, which is neither a realistic option for online learning nor a sustainable source of internet access due to limited data allowances.

**The Edge Foundation** reports that at the onset of Covid-19 it was estimated that one million children cannot access the internet, either because they have no computer or laptop, no connectivity, or both. Around 8% of 16-24-year-olds can only access digital technology through their phones, excluding them from many online learning platforms and restricting them from receiving and submitting work online.<sup>1</sup>

The **Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)** has identified that the economic impact of acquiring basic digital skills can lead to increased earnings of between 3% and 10% , improved chances of finding work for someone who is unemployed and an increased likelihood that someone who is inactive will look for work.

COVID-19 will not only accelerate the usage of societal and technological trends such as increased on-line shopping and the use of contactless technologies but will also accelerate digitisation and automation across the economy, and across sectors as diverse as logistics, insurance and agriculture. These changes will have significant implications for the need for workers to upskill and reskill and place new demands on employers and the skills system to respond to this.

This is further exacerbated by rising levels of unemployment across Leicester and Leicestershire with percentage increases across the board as shown below:

**Universal Credit Claimants Searching for Work - Young People aged 18-24**

Area	Feb-20	Mar-21	Difference	% Increase
Leicester City	1,482	3,574	2,092	141.2
Leicestershire	1,348	3,290	1,942	144.1
LLEP Area	2,830	6,864	4,034	142.5

**Universal Credit Claimants Searching for Work - People aged 50+**

Area	Feb-20	Mar-21	Difference	% Increase
Leicester City	1,558	3,680	2,122	136.2
Leicestershire	1,413	3,534	2,121	150.1
LLEP Area	2,971	7,214	4,243	142.8

**Universal Credit Claimants Searching for Work - 0-6 Months Unemployed**

Area	Feb-20	Mar-21	Difference	% Increase
Leicester City	3,220	4,197	977	30.3
Leicestershire	2,767	3,785	1,018	36.8
LLEP Area	5,987	7,982	1,995	33.3

Source: DWP Stat-Explore

There has also been a corresponding increase in Universal Credit Claimants NOT seeking work. This may be an indication of low levels of digital skills, as

	<p>we already know that those with digital skills are more likely to be able to work from home than those without.</p> <p><b>Universal Credit Claimants Searching for Work - No Work Requirements</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area</th> <th>Feb-20</th> <th>Mar-21</th> <th>Difference</th> <th>% Increase</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Leicester City</td> <td>4,606</td> <td>7,513</td> <td>2,907</td> <td>63.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leicestershire</td> <td>5,731</td> <td>9,047</td> <td>3,316</td> <td>57.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LLEP Area</td> <td>10,337</td> <td>16,560</td> <td>6,223</td> <td>60.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: DWP Stat-Explore</p>				Area	Feb-20	Mar-21	Difference	% Increase	Leicester City	4,606	7,513	2,907	63.1	Leicestershire	5,731	9,047	3,316	57.9	LLEP Area	10,337	16,560	6,223	60.2
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LLEP Area	10,337	16,560	6,223	60.2																				
Funding Requested	£300,000																							
<b>Key dates</b> Earliest possible start date for the project post approval, funding contract and procurement																								
Proposed Start Date	September 2021																							
Proposed End Date	March 2022																							

<p>How will this intervention be delivered ? Provide a brief commentary to demonstrate that the project will be commenced by the stated date and the delivery criteria</p>	<p>This project will be delivered through a call for a single organisation, or consortium, to deliver an innovative project designed to address one or more of the three factors contributing to digital poverty within the LLEP Digital Poverty Call for Evidence: Summary and findings, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet and data access</li> <li>• Access to devices</li> <li>• Ability to be able to use digital devices / software (skills)</li> </ul> <p>The project will address the needs of one or more of the following sections of the community most likely to experience a lack of digital skills / access to devices and connectivity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those furthest from the labour market</li> <li>• Young people at risk of becoming NEET</li> <li>• Households in areas of deprivation experiencing digital poverty</li> <li>• Recently redundant seeking work opportunities in alternative sectors</li> <li>• Women, BAME, people with disabilities and those with neurodiversity.</li> </ul> <p>Whilst the successful project is not expected to deliver to all of the above cohorts but will be expected to provide a clear and coherent rationale for the identification of need, and specific interventions to be delivered, together with clear and realistic milestones for outputs, outcomes and impact.</p> <p>Examples of projects might include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeting interventions to areas of food poverty as the two issues are often co-existent, thus taking solutions to the community.</li> <li>• Buddying schemes to connect low-skilled users with more digital savvy helpers – tapping into the rise in volunteering experienced during the pandemic. This could include remote support and accommodate different languages.</li> <li>• An equipment loan system to provide equipment for job seekers, workers or students (pilot scheme already be in place in Leicester City). This could also be tied to training courses.</li> <li>• Recycling and refurbishment of IT equipment in a co-ordinated way, via a recycling hub or commercial innovation could increase the supply of affordable devices.</li> <li>• Integration of digital skills into ESOL courses</li> </ul> <p>Funded initiatives will ideally boost existing projects in breadth or depth or provide added value to existing provision. Therefore, we would expect projects to begin within a short time frame after the approval of funding. Delivery criteria will be built into the bidding process. However, entirely new initiatives that meet the criteria and time scales will not be ruled out.</p>
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**Strategic Case**

The objective is to provide detailed evidence to demonstrate that the project has a clear rationale, it will deliver economic growth benefits resulting from further investment, it is affordable with a clear funding strategy and delivery issues are understood.

**Problems, Barriers to Growth and Rationale for Intervention**

<p>How is the project State Aid compliant? Briefly explain why support is State Aid compliant.</p>	<p>The project is state aid compliant in that the procurement of delivery will comply with Leicester City Council procurement processes and procedures, therefore three of the four State Aid Tests (Selective Advantage, Distorting Competition and Affecting Trade between member states) will not apply.</p>
<p><b>Economic Case</b>  <b>Demonstrate that the project will best deliver existing and future needs, with clear outputs, outcomes and economic impacts.</b></p>	
<p><b>Investigation of Options</b></p>	
<p><b>Rationale for public sector intervention:</b> You must demonstrate that the funding requested is the minimum required in support of the project and that you have exhausted all other private sector funding opportunities.</p>	<p>The need to address digital skills has been identified by a range of stakeholders including the Skills Advisory Panel, Smart Leicester and the Work and Skills Forum. The funding is deemed as the minimum to cover the costs of a single pilot programme within the LLEP area.</p> <p>Private sector funding is not considered to be an option due to the current economic crisis. However, we would expect applicants to consider how the funding could be maximised through utilising existing funding streams for the delivery of digital skills and qualifications, e.g. Adult Skills Budget, Adult and Community Education etc.</p>
<p>Demonstrate that a range of options has been considered. Why is this solution the best option? What are the impacts of doing nothing?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are a number of national programmes being rolled out including the JETs scheme, digital boot camps, SWAPs and RESTART which will include an element of digital skills, in addition to a potential one Institute of Technology for Leicester and Leicestershire. However, this project offers an opportunity to develop an innovative and targeted approach best fitting the needs of our area.</li> <li>2. The impact of doing nothing is that we will not have addressed the needs of individuals within our community, limiting their chances of gaining employment and restricting the economic recovery of the area as a whole.</li> </ol>
<p>Demonstrate and evidence that the funding would represent value for money. (max 400 words)</p>	<p>This funding represents value for money in that it has the potential to both deliver digital skills and provide a blueprint for an approach which might be replicated subjected to the availability of further funding and demonstration of success.</p>
<p>Is the project scalable? If so, what is the minimum amount of funding required.</p>	<p>The project has the potential to be scalable if successful, subject to further funding being available.</p>
<p><b>Outputs, Outcomes and Impact</b></p>	
<p><b>The funding recipient will be responsible for reporting against relevant outputs, outcomes and impacts detailed below, outputs may vary depending on the type of project submitted and associated target outcomes.</b></p>	
<p><b>Impacts</b>  Please identify the impacts this project will have. Consider issues including unlocking sustainable economic growth, social inclusion, wellbeing and environmental sustainability.</p>	



Outputs and outcomes	Quantity (e.g. number of jobs, number of new homes)	Baseline value	Assessment (e.g. who will measure the outcome, when and how will it be measured)
Number of participants / households engaged	Minimum of 200 participants with no upper limit on the number of participants. It is expected that unit costs will vary depending on whether the programme includes access to devices.		Measured by provider reported to LLEP via Verto / 1/4ly update reports
Number of participants / households completing a programme of learning	75% of starts on learning programmes expected to complete		Measured by provider reported to LLEP via Verto / 1/4ly update reports submitted with claims
Number of participants demonstrating progression as a result, e.g. accessing further training, securing employment.	25% of beneficiaries access further training or progress to employment		Measured by provider reported to LLEP via Verto / 1/4ly update reports submitted with claims
Production of case studies	10 case studies completed		Frequency TBC
Programme evaluation and impact report	Quarterly update reports and final evaluation reports		Measured by provider reported to LLEP via Verto / 1/4ly update reports plus final evaluation report.
Improved connectivity in the community	At least 5 community hubs reporting improved internet access for community users		
Local stock of recycled or refurbished internet ready devices increased	Up to 5 devices as proof of concept with clear pipeline for more		
<p>Please outline whether the intervention will be targeted</p> <p>Who will be affected by the intervention? Will the impact be positive or negative? Please explain. (Max 100 words)</p>	<p>The interventions described will enable effective targeting of future resources to beneficiaries across the age spectrum in need of support. This is likely to be at a number of levels (although a single project is likely to focus on a specific level):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to data and devices</li> <li>• Ability to use digital devices, access services (e.g. banking, online job applications) and to be able to support digital learning within households. .</li> </ul>		

<p>Please identify how the intervention supports sustainable economic growth, social inclusion, wellbeing and environmental sustainability.</p>	<p>This project's outcomes will support inclusive economic growth in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of digital skills and access to digital devices and data to enable access to a wider range of jobs.</li> <li>• Addressing digital exclusion in both young people and adults, thereby providing a route to employment, and access to services, including NHS and health, increasing wellbeing and providing access to social inclusion as well as prevention of financial loss due to digital exclusion.</li> <li>• Overall, this project will be a contributory factor in the area's economic recovery, enabling a cohort of residents to better operate in the 'new normal' age of digitalisation.</li> <li>• A successful project to reuse and recycle devices will reduce digital waste, including rare earth materials, and boost the circular economy</li> </ul>
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<p>Please explain any criteria that should be considered as part of this intervention</p>	<p>Potential applicants will need to demonstrate a track record of delivery and have the resource and capability to initiate delivery at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Consideration will need to be given to how the intervention will be delivered, in the context of potential periods of lockdown which prohibit face to face tuition.</p> <p>Applicants will need to ensure that the scope of the project does not displace or duplicate existing activity funded through alternative funding streams, but that where appropriate, other funding streams can be used to maximise project impact.</p>
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**Financial Case**  
**Demonstrate adequate consideration of costs and funding strategy. Please provide the annual cost profile for the life of the project. You will be expected to deliver the scheme within the cost profile when agreed. Confirmation will be required that any cost overruns will be met by the project sponsor.**

<p>What is the total cost of the project/support (£'s)?</p>	<p>£300K</p>
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**Funding Requirements and Match Funding**

<p>What is the total minimum funding requirement being requested (£'s)?</p>	<p>£300K Delivery and management costs</p>
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<p>What is the total match funding that will be provided (£'s)?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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**Capacity and Risk Management**  
 Briefly explain the most significant risks to the **overall delivery** of the project, including financial and commercial risks, and proposed mitigation (e.g. resource capacity, procurement issues, uncertainties on business cases, cost overruns. Identify proposed mitigation measures. add rows as necessary)

Risk Identifier	Risk name	Description of risk including potential impact and mitigation
1	Lack of interest in delivering the programme	Impact: insufficient capacity to deliver on this agenda in LLEP area Informal discussions with a range of providers have established that there is an existing level of interest in such a project. Awareness raising among local partners and key stakeholders following release of tender.
2	Insufficient take up of the programme	Impact: levels of digital skills remain low Mitigation: applicants to specify how they will attract participants onto the programme
3	High drop-off rate on programme	Impact: participants are not engaged and remain disenfranchised by lack of digital skills Mitigation: Ensure positive destinations and employer engagements are available from the start of the programme.
4	Lack of employer participation	Impact: programme does not have external input and becomes a more traditional tutor-led programme/less industry insight, Mitigation: Early engagement piece with employers for stronger buy-in and introduction of a pledge to support.
6	Overlap or duplication with other government / local provider schemes	Impact: Confusion on the difference between this project and existing projects Mitigation: Scoping exercise by prime contractor on local / national programmes and clear messaging on this programme.
7	Ability to delivery due to COVID restrictions	Impact: Programme does not get delivered or halted Mitigation: Government guidelines to be followed

**Supporting Information**

Supporting Documents – If you have a Business case already developed for other funding please include this in your response alongside any other relevant documentation	LLEP Call for Evidence on Digital Poverty: Summary Analysis and Findings
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## LLEP Digital Poverty Call for Evidence Analysis

**May 2021**



## Introduction

Digital poverty can be defined as the inability to access or utilise digital technologies effectively. It is predominantly caused by a lack of digital skills and/or an inability to access digital technology (for example, unable to afford a laptop or broadband, or live in a rural area with poor broadband).

The issue has been subject of much discussion during the past year at a national level, but local knowledge was often anecdotal or disjointed. To address this knowledge gap, the Digital Poverty Call for Evidence was requested by the LLEP Skills Advisory Panel to provide more granular data on digital poverty across Leicester and Leicestershire and ensure that any funds available, such as the repurposed Growing Places Fund, were targeted appropriately. The LLEP Digital Poverty call for evidence was launched in March 2021 and lasted for six weeks to mid-April 2021. In all, 31 detailed responses were received from a survey (see appendix for questions) and other supplementary evidence was gathered directly from partners such as local authorities, public health, colleges and voluntary groups.

Exclusion from the online world is generally a symptom of social and economic deprivation. Approximately five million adults are digitally excluded in the UK and are often marginalised with lack of education or employment, disability, or age identified as risk factors. This means that the most vulnerable individuals in society, who could see the greatest benefit from the implementation of digital public services, are typically those least able to utilise them.

## Summary

Digital poverty impacts all age groups but the problems identified impact different age groups in different ways.

### Young People

Digital poverty for young people came into focus during school closures when teaching was forced on-line. This created a high risk of a digital divide between 'haves' and 'have nots' - ultimately affecting pupil's ability to engage with academic work which in turn could have lifelong negative impacts. Some of the moves to digital education are becoming embedded as student's homework and other information are increasingly provided digitally.

Main issues for young people:

- Affordability (devices and data)
- Access to the right devices (sharing devices at home or only having access via a smartphone for academic work)
- Connectivity (limited access to broadband, reliance on public hot spots)

Young people were less likely to lack the basic skills or knowledge to participate digitally. However, this was identified on some occasions (for example for students with additional needs), along with lack of parental skills when help is required.

## Adults

The adult group could broadly be divided into two groups: working age adults and older residents. Issues are not exclusive to each group, merely more or less prevalent.

The main issues identified with adults were:

- Basic or no digital skills
- Access to the right devices
- Affordability

Whereas barriers to education were frequently highlighted for young people, digital exclusion for adults, especially older people, meant barriers to services which are increasingly on-line, including support services. Like education, some aspects were accelerated by the pandemic but have now become embedded.

## Risk factors

Groups commonly identified as being at risk of digital exclusion, include:

- Older people
- People who live in rural areas or socially isolated
- People on low incomes (Unemployed and living in social housing)
- People with low levels of education
- People with poor health/long term medical conditions/disability

Multiple risk factors can be present in the same individual or household and demographic data by geography can help identify where these risks may be higher.

## Evidence

### National and local evidence from external sources

It is commonly believed that everyone now has online access, but this is not the case. There is still a significant minority that are digitally excluded, and they are amongst our oldest and poorest citizens.

According to ONS<sup>1</sup> figures, 10% of the UK adult population (5.3 million) are non-internet users<sup>2</sup>. The 2019 UK Digital Index found that 11.9 million people in the UK lack basic digital skills they need to get by in today's world. Six million people do not know how to turn on a device and 7.1 million people cannot open an app. Older people; low-income groups and asylum seekers are amongst the groups most likely to suffer digital exclusion<sup>3</sup>.

In addition, the East Midlands region is not doing as well as some other parts of England<sup>4</sup>:

- 11.5% of the East Midlands population are non-internet users (third highest out of nine regions)
- 71% of the East Midlands population have the 5 basic digital skills (joint lowest)
- 9% of the East Midlands population have no digital skills whatsoever (third highest)

### LLEP call for evidence

The LLEP call for evidence included a specifically written survey but also asked partners to submit any evidence collected from their own service.

### Digital issues for Adults

#### *LLEP survey*

The survey conducted by the LLEP included information from a range of partners which reflected the experience of a variety of service users. The responses represent issues highlighted by partners working in local authorities, voluntary sector, schools, colleges, specialist services for vulnerable people as well as other local stakeholders.

The graph below categorises the information received into broad themes.

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<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics (2019) Exploring the UK's digital divide, London: ONS

<sup>2</sup> Defined as people who have never used the internet or not used it in the last three months

<sup>3</sup> Lloyds Bank (2019) UK Digital Consumer Index:

[https://www.lloydsbank.com/assets/media/pdfs/banking\\_with\\_us/whats-happening/LB-Consumer-Digital-Index-2018-Report.pdf](https://www.lloydsbank.com/assets/media/pdfs/banking_with_us/whats-happening/LB-Consumer-Digital-Index-2018-Report.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> ONS op cit.



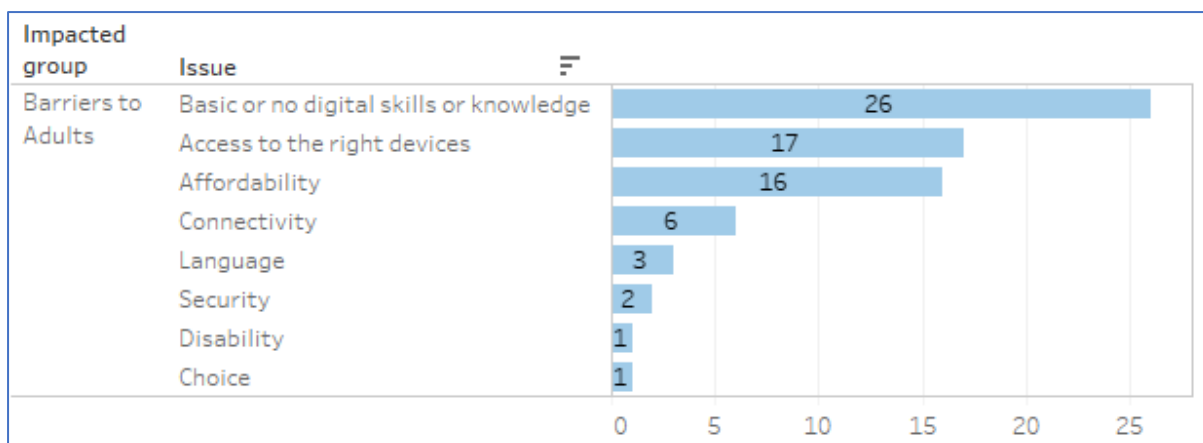


Figure 1 Responses to LLEP Survey on barriers to digital inclusion  
Source: LLEP

The above problems led to several practical issues, many of which were exacerbated by life under lockdown:

- Barriers to socialising and lack of awareness of tools that may help
- Difficulty in accessing services, many of which are moving on-line
- Difficulty to engage in consultation or feedback to express issues
- Difficulty in finding and carrying out work if digital skills required

### STAR evidence

STAR (Supporting Tenants and Residents) provides housing support for council tenants in Leicester, focussing on those who have been homeless or are at risk of being homeless. This is an especially vulnerable group.

STAR Digital Exclusion Data March 2020-March 2021-recorded from STAR Referral form is below. The data demonstrates how the most disadvantaged are impacted.

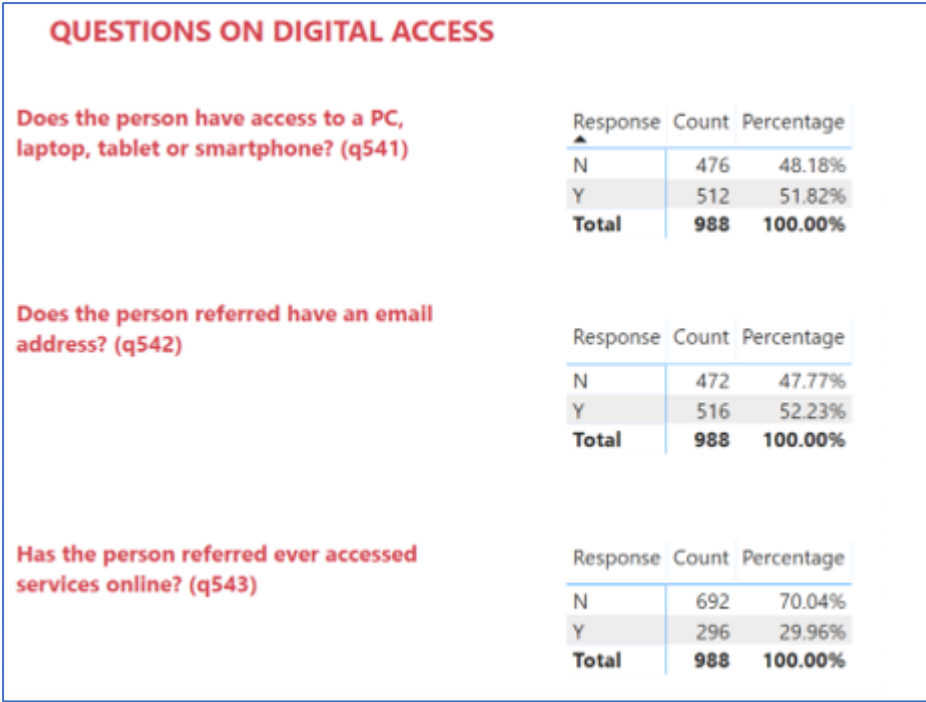


Figure 2 STAR Digital Access  
Source: STAR

STAR commented that the service uses considerable resource to combat digital exclusion, although this is not the main focus of the service.

**GREAT Project**

The GREAT Project (Getting Ready for Employment and Training) aims to help mainly out-of-work parents move towards work and training. A survey found that between 10-30% of people had some limitations on digital access that could inhibit work or access to services:

**Hardware:**

28 out of 35 had good and up to date hardware

**Access to Hardware:**

21 out of 35 own computer and don't need to share

**Access to smartphone:**

32 out of 35 had access to a smartphone

**Access to wi-fi:**

30 out of 35 had good access to wi-fi

**Leicester Health and Wellbeing Survey (2018)**

The Leicester Health and Wellbeing survey was conducted in 2018. Although this is older data, the survey included 2224 response in a survey by Ipsos and provides good local insight. The survey found that:

46% of 65+ year olds don't use internet compared to 11% overall. The figure dropped from 59% in 2015 and it is fair to assume the figure has further dropped since 2018. However, the numbers are very high for a significant proportion of the population.

## Issues affecting children

### LLEP call for evidence

The chart below categorises responses into broad themes:

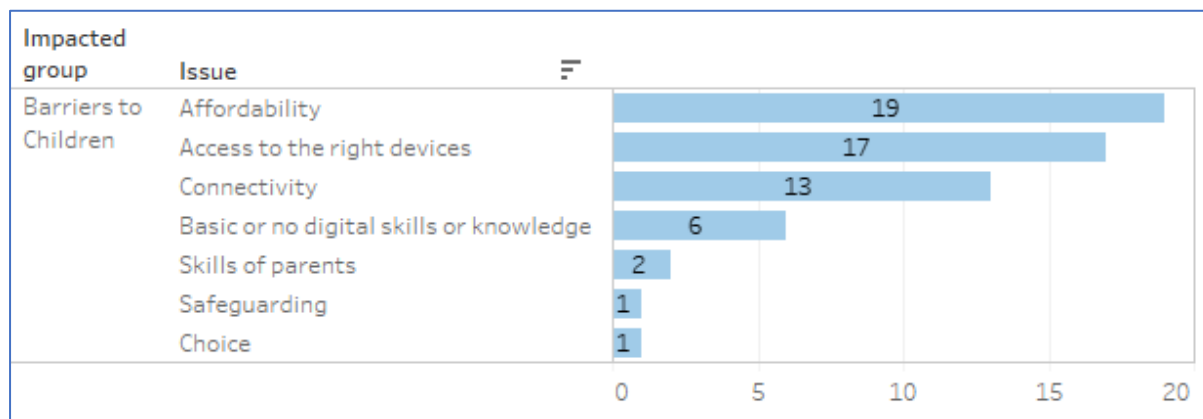


Figure 3 Digital exclusion for young people

Digital exclusion for young people has become a high-profile issue during the Covid-19 pandemic as education moved on-line for young people from reception age to university.

Although young people are regarded as part of a 'digital generation'. A number of issues were highlighted:

- Young people are often familiar with particular apps or websites but this may not extend to other software which may be required for education for example
- Young people often access services via phones, which are not ideal for prolonged digital learning. This also requires data, which can carry a cost or require visiting a digital hotspot for a public network
- There is not a digital 'level playing field' for young people. Broadband connectivity, access to devices and parental knowledge can all significantly impact a young person's experience and ultimately life chances.

### Loughborough College and Education

Loughborough college provided the following information in the call for evidence:

More than 900 students aged 16-18 and 90 adults are in receipt of a bursary from the college due to low income.

A survey by the college showed that:

- 70 students indicated that they did not have a reliable internet connection at home.
- 75 students indicated that they had no access to a device to access online learning.
- A further 200 students indicated an issue with accessing online learning due to a number of factors, including: having one device in the household with other household members, broken devices, only access only via a mobile phone, having

an old device unable to support new technology, no WIFI, access only to mobile data etc.

- 128 students with an EHCP, 65 of whom are high needs, many of whom experience difficulty accessing digital learning independently.

There are 4 FE colleges and several sixths forms in the LLEP area and this is only a sample from one institution. Other anecdotal information has frequently mentioned post-16 course drop out (including Adult Education and job skills schemes) when students have been unable to fully participate due to digital barriers of connectivity, equipment or skills.

## Issues for Business

### LLEP call for evidence

The call for evidence also considered the impact on business. However, it must be noted that the vast majority of responders were not employed in private business but were providing responses based mainly on opinion or anecdotal information. The strongest overall themes related to the disruption to business with additional skills and costs being required to meet the transition.

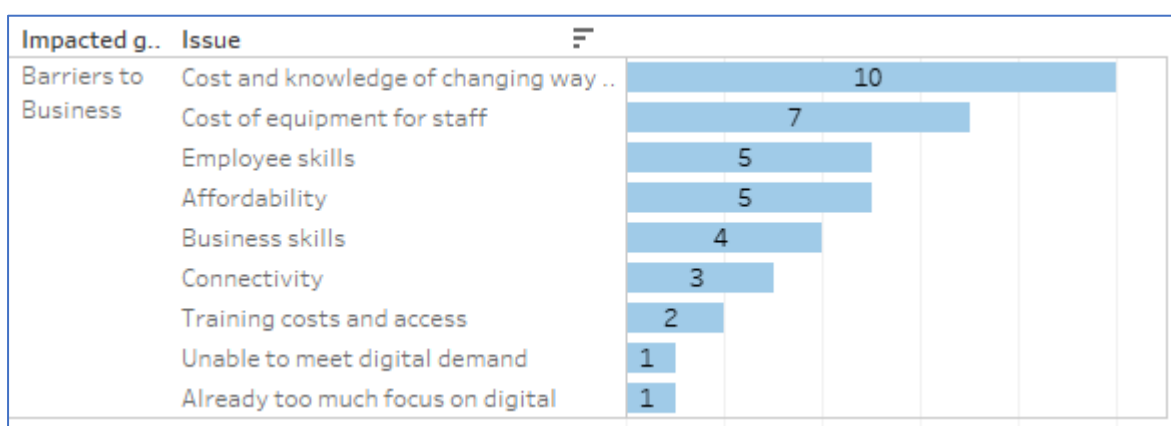


Figure 4 Impact of digital poverty on business  
Source: LLEP

### Business Tracker survey

The Business Tracker survey was conducted by the LLEP between December 2020 and January 2021. This provides information about how digital poverty could have an impact on job seekers and the pool of labour available to local businesses.

- In the last year, 64% of businesses have had staff working from home who don't usually
- One third of businesses can operate with a substantial proportion of staff working from home
- Pre Covid, 64% of businesses had **no** provision to work from home

- 60% of businesses are planning to offer more flexibility in the future

The clear implication from both the call for evidence and the Business Tracker survey is that any prospective employees will need at least a basic level of digital skills. There may also be a requirement for employees to have adequate connectivity and knowledge to work independently.

## Qualitative evidence

The call for evidence collected many examples of how issues identified translated to practical problems for LLEP residents.

Reaching People worked with the city council to deliver Easter food and activities to disadvantaged families. Within this single example, much of the statistical data is brought to life with real world examples, transferable to different scenarios.

### Easter food activities

– “...the needs are much bigger than I thought and we have not had this kind of evidence of need before.” Jenny Hand Reaching People

Issue identified	Real life example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Digital Skills and Knowledge</b></li> <li>• <b>Affordability / connectivity</b></li> </ul>	<p>Registering children for the scheme:</p> <p>“..parents struggled with a form that required them to scroll down to enrol more than one child – so things we might think easy and clear – are a struggle or slow to come through if you <b>don’t have the data so you give up before you get to the end.</b>”</p> <p>This is how access to services can be restricted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Language barriers</b></li> </ul>	<p>In Belgrave and Highfields there was a clear issue of translation and huge area of need – phones can translate using google but not everyone has mobile data – they use phones for free communication WhatsApp or Zoom for free for 40mins so the skills together with language are absolutely critical plus the access to data. (this scheme had 600 children a week)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Digital Skills and Language</b></li> </ul>	<p>More than 200 had to be registered while they were in the queue as they had not been able to use the online form.</p> <p>This highlights where human support is still required to access services in some cases.</p>

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## **STAR (Supporting Tenants and Residents)**

STAR also provided real-life examples:

"I manage a service, STAR which supports vulnerable and excluded tenants. Every task made digital is another task my Housing Related Support Workers need to support vulnerable tenants with. We need 'digital buddies' for vulnerable people to sit with, in Libraries, or to support people at home after Covid. Most of the people we work with will not attend training, they need one to one support for practical tasks, like setting up an email address etc.

We are one of the few services that ask for any data about digital exclusion. Our data shows 50% of vulnerable tenants do not have devices, if they do poverty may mean they have little data,

over 50% do not have email addresses-crucial in accessing services, a further 70% do not access online services.

They also are not accessing online services without support. These are some of the most excluded groups who are excluded further due to the move to online services".

### **Cath Lewis STAR**

## Potential solutions

### Overarching themes from the evidence

Three strong themes emerged repeatedly in the evidence as factors to address digital poverty:

#### Ability to access the internet for free

- Via public buildings e.g. libraries, clubs and other public buildings
- For school aged children
- Data provided for those who need it to access services

#### Skills and training

- Basic training available on how to access services and socialise online
- Community courses and bespoke 1-2-1 help where required
- Targeted towards job seekers, parents of school aged children, job seekers
- Support, rather than training, to help with basic helpful tasks

#### Access to equipment

- Equipment loan schemes for students and job seekers
- Laptops and equipment provided at no cost or low cost
- Better use of 'old' equipment via refurbishment and recycling

Less common than the three main themes, an alternative view was also presented...

#### Less reliance of Digital Services

Although the survey was strongly targeted at increasing digital literacy and access, a small number of respondents were sceptical of the digitalisation of society. This is included concerns such as:

- 'Digital only' removes personal choice and preference
- A proportion of society who cannot participate digitally are at increased risk of further exclusion
- Young people are already living in a highly digitalised world and more balance to 'off screen' life was required

#### Ideas of how the main themes could be implemented:

The table below shares some of the ideas from partners about how digital poverty could be address in practice across Leicester and Leicestershire. These ideas are not intended to be proposals but may provide some inspiration for future work:

Idea to address Digital Poverty	Issues addressed and groups benefitting

<p><b>Target interventions to areas of food poverty</b> as the two issues are often co-existent, thus taking solutions to the community.</p>	<p>Economically disadvantaged groups</p>
<p><b>Tablets and large screen devices could be targeted towards older users</b> for ease of use, boosting opportunities for social interactions (popular apps are usually more secure than internet searching and emails). This could extend to greater awareness and use for less mobile users to control household tasks like lighting, heating and other devices by voice controlled technology.</p>	<p>Older citizens at risk of loneliness or isolation</p> <p>Improve quality for older residents</p>
<p><b>Buddying schemes</b> to connect low-skilled users with more digital savvy helpers – tapping into the rise in volunteering experienced during the pandemic. This could include remote support and accommodate different languages.</p>	<p>Help anyone who is digitally excluded across all age and social groups.</p>
<p><b>Internet access for all</b> had several suggestions such as: internet access via equipment in libraries and other public buildings but also hot spots and 5G connectivity for users own devices.</p>	<p>Disadvantaged groups would benefit the most including job seekers and those trying to access digital services.</p> <p>Young people able to access school and college work.</p>
<p><b>A voucher system</b> for job seekers and students who require internet access.</p>	<p>Mainly disadvantaged groups who do not have broadband access at home.</p>
<p><b>An equipment loan system</b> to provide equipment for job seekers, workers or students (a pilot scheme may already be in place in parts of Leicester). This could also be tied to training courses.</p>	<p>Those trying to find work or stay in work.</p> <p>Families where children cannot participate fully in education due to lack of equipment.</p>
<p><b>Recycling and refurbishment of IT equipment</b> in a co-ordinated way, via a recycling hub or commercial innovation could increase the supply of affordable devices.</p>	<p>Primarily of benefit to economically disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>Also of benefit to the environment and potential to generate income.</p>



<b>Integrate digital skills into ESOL courses</b>	Overcomes language barriers involved in accessing online services.

Some responses suggested more specific projects which could be considered in further detail if funding became available.

### Projects already in place

A number of projects addressing digital poverty are already operating in Leicester and Leicestershire. The following were highlighted in the Digital Poverty call for evidence. This is not intended to be a fully comprehensive list of activity in the area.

#### Moneywise Plus - Reaching People project

Projects aimed at the economically inactive, unemployed and job seekers. Providing financial and digital skills to help people access employment and training opportunities.

#### Free internet access in community

For example, the Mario Tinenti centre in the Hastings ward of Loughborough as well as libraries across the county.

#### Digital Inclusion Project

To loan devices for up to 12 weeks for digitally excluded in Highfields and St Matthews area of Leicester city (Leicester City Council project)

#### Leicester Ageing together

Providing a range of support for older people in the city only.

#### National and corporate schemes

A variety of national and corporate schemes were mentioned including Department of Education support for schools and schemes by Barclays and the Knightsbridge Building Society.

Mobile phone data distributed via schools during lockdown learning.

#### Support directly from schools and colleges

This has included the loan and distribution of equipment as well as facilitating free data SIM cards from mobile phone providers.

## Appendix A – Digital Poverty survey questions:

Name - Name
Email address - Email
Organisation name (if applicable) - Organisation
Generally speaking, how do you access online services? - online access
In your view, what are the main digital poverty issues for these groups in Leicester and Leicestershire? - digital issues - adults
In your view, what are the main digital poverty issues for these groups in Leicester and Leicestershire? - digital issues - YP
In your view, what are the main digital poverty issues for these groups in Leicester and Leicestershire? - digital issues - business
What infrastructure is needed to help close the digital poverty divide? - close digital divide - adults
What infrastructure is needed to help close the digital poverty divide? - close digital divide - YP
What infrastructure is needed to help close the digital poverty divide? - close digital divide - business
Are you aware of any projects / programmes (current or future) designed to support those in digital poverty, (for example, access to devices, digital skills support, etc) - digital support programmes
Project / programme 1 - Project name 1
Project / programme 1 - Provider 1
Project / programme 1 - Audience 1
Project / programme 1 - Duration 1
Project / programme 1 - Objectives 1
Project / programme 1 - support 1
Project / programme 1 - area 1
[Option to add details on up to 5 projects)
Please share any data or supporting evidence you may have on digital poverty in Leicester, Leicestershire, or a local district area. - digital poverty data upload

## Information Report

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### **LOCAL GROWTH FUND (LGF) AND GROWING PLACES FUND (GBF) UPDATE**

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#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress and activity concerning the Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Fund programmes and Quarter 4 2020/21 performance.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Investment Panel is recommended to note the report.

#### **LOCAL GROWTH FUND**

#### **3. PROGRAMME/PROJECT PROGRESS**

- 3.1 As Panel members will be aware, of the original £123m allocation for LGF, £17,896,717 remained to be spent in 2020/21 to reach the financial programme deadline at year-end. The two remaining projects submitted claims in Q4 and as a result we are pleased to report that full programme spend has been achieved.
- 3.2 The priority was to achieve full LGF spend by end March 2021, however many of the projects still have match funding and outputs to report therefore this will continue to be monitored and an update is provided in section 4.
- 3.3 A comprehensive monitoring exercise has been undertaken, liaising with project managers, to establish exact positions with regards to match funding and outputs with a view to moving towards project evaluations and closure where possible.
- 3.4 As a result, two projects have now been closed (MIRA Technology Institute and Skills & Innovation Village) and two evaluations are under review. However as many of the projects will not achieve outputs until future years then there are unlikely to be many more closed.

## PAPER D

3.5 The table below provides the position for each project.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Outputs Remaining</b>	<b>Match Funding Remaining</b>	<b>Current Gateway</b>
Skills & Innovation Village	Completed	Completed	<b>Closed</b>
Skills Training Centre (MTI)	Completed	Completed	<b>Closed</b>
Superfast Leicestershire	Completed	Completed	Evaluation
Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) Hinckley	Completed	Completed	Evaluation
A511 Growth Corridor	Yes	Completed	Evaluation*
Connecting Leicester Wave 2 (Market Area)	Yes	Completed	Evaluation*
Melton Mowbray Livestock Market: Phase 1	Yes	Completed	Evaluation*
Lubbesthorpe Strategic Employment Site (SES) Access Improvements	Yes	Completed	Evaluation*
North City Centre Access Investment Programme	Completed	Completed	Project**
Leicester Waterside Regeneration Area	Yes	Completed	Project
Developing Commercial Workspace - Pioneer Park	Yes	Completed	Project
Coalville Workspace Project	Yes	Completed	Project
River Soar Corridor Improvements	Completed	£855,828	Project
Market Harborough Line Speed Improvement	Completed	£12,507,000	Project
National Space Centre: Vision 2025	Yes	£1,699,809	Project
M1 Junction 23 & A512 Improvements	Yes	£7,688,032	Project
Space Park / Pioneer Park Infrastructure	Yes	£2,200,000	Project
A50/A6 - Leicester North West Major Transport Investment Corridor	Yes	£6,584,719	Project
Space Park Leicester (Phase 1)	Yes	£3,514,209	Project
Bridging the Gap	Yes	£2,970,068	Project

\* Although in the 'Evaluation' Gateway, these projects are still in the monitoring phase

\*\* This project needs to complete a final report in Q1 before moving to Evaluation and Closure

3.6 In terms of individual project progress below are some highlights:

- **River Soar** - the majority of works have now been completed including environmental improvements at Everards Meadows, green infrastructure at Aylestone Meadows, towpath improvements and landscaping at Wolsey Island North. Marsden

## PAPER D

Lane Ramp will be completed in Q1 along with access improvements at Blue Band Bridge and the installation of wayfinding signage. A press release will be arranged following completion.

- **National Space Centre** – of the seven work packages that make up the Vision 2025 programme, three were completed by 31 March 2021 including installation of the new AV system, refurbishment of the schools learning centre to create the POD (Place Of Discovery): an exciting venue in which students will do workshops in one of the three newly-created workshop spaces: Sharman, Sellers and Peake. Bookings are starting to be taken for the summer term. A Changing Places facility has also been constructed. Design work continues on the 'Earth from Space' exhibition and the Mission Space scenic build will be completed by the end of the next quarter utilising non-LGF funding.
- **Space Park Leicester** - the keys to the first phase have been formally handed over from construction company Bowmer & Kirkland to the University of Leicester.
- **Leicester Waterside Regeneration** – the office development has been completed and handed over. The residential build is continuing and a show home ready for Easter.
- **Developing Commercial Workspace Pioneer Park** - practical completion of Dock 2 was issued in February 2021 with the first tenants to occupy in March and 50% of the new space already pre-let.
- **Pioneer Park Infrastructure** – remediation works on the site have progressed and should be completed by Q1 along with the commencement of roadworks and site levelling. There were some delays to the public realm around the National Space Centre but should be completed in Q1.

### PERFORMANCE ON SPEND/OUTPUTS

3.7 As stated above the LGF programme has met the Government deadline of full grant expenditure by year-end. Below is the final table of spend for 2020/21:

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2020/21</b>
Leicester North West Major Transport Scheme (A50/A6)	£1,949,709.63
Leicester Strategic Flood Risk Management Strategy	£2,022,833.77
Developing Commercial Workspace - Pioneer Park	£2,065,507.52
National Space Centre Vision 2025	£654,766.89
Space Park Leicester	£3,852,201.45
M1/J23 and A512 Improvements	£7,351,697.65
	<b>£17,896,716.91</b>

## PAPER D

- 3.8 One of the projects, River Soar, while claiming their full grant was unable to provide the relevant financial evidence in time for the Q4 claim so this will be provided in Q1. This was agreed with the Accountable Body.
- 3.9 As illustrated in the table in para. 3.5, many projects are still to spend and claim their match funding, as projects reach completion. The total outstanding is £38,019,665 with £13,105,255 expected in 2021/22.
- 3.10 In terms of outputs, the table below provides an update on progress towards the priority outputs which are those reported to government in the quarterly returns:

<b>Output</b>	<b>Overall Target</b>	<b>Achieved to date</b>	<b>Forecast 2021/22</b>
Jobs created/safeguarded	9,707	1,646	248
Housing units completed	9,403	1,741	1,183
New learning space	4,113	4,322	0
Learners Assisted (in courses leading to a full qualification excl. Apprenticeships)	1,718	2,215	0
Individuals Supported	16,000	0	8,000
Total length of new cycle ways (km)	40.736	38.75	0
Total length of newly built roads (km)	4.925	1.99	3.675
Total length of resurfaced roads (km)	10.367	8.39	0
Commercial floorspace refurbished (sqm)	1,100	850	250
Commercial floorspace constructed (sqm)	101,076	59,577	0
Commercial floorspace occupied (sqm)	4,800	0	4,800

As demonstrated above and highlighted in previous reports, the main risks are with the jobs and housing outputs as these are not due until future years with two projects being the main contributors: M1 Junction 23 and Lubbethorpe Strategic Employment Site. The latter project is also responsible for c44,000 sqm of the 'commercial floorspace constructed' which has not yet been achieved. Discussions are ongoing but this is not likely to come to fruition for another 5 or more years.

### **GETTING BUILDING FUND**

#### **4. PROGRAMME/PROJECT PROGRESS**

- 4.1 Funding agreements for all four projects were in place by Q4 and projects have been progressing quickly. Following the Q4 claims a total of £3.8m was defrayed in 2020/21 which was above the forecast of £3.5m. Of the £20m allocation, £10m was released to the Accountable Body on behalf of the LLEP for 2020/21 on the understanding that the Accountable Body could use 'Freedoms and Flexibilities' (a mechanism allowing exchange of funding between programmes) to ensure spend in year.

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4.2 In terms of individual project progress below are some highlights:

- **St Margaret's Gateway** – the demolition of the bus station was completed in March, 4 weeks ahead of schedule. Tenders for the main contractor were issued in January with a view to appointing in May.
- **Granby St/St George St Regeneration Gateway** – the designs are progressing with both schemes and tenders being prepared for contractors. Both due for completion in Q1.
- **SportPark Pavilion 4** – the planning application is underway with a positive alteration to the initial proposal. Taking on board the impact of Covid on working practices the car park has now been excluded in favour of 6 electric charging points, an extension to the floor plate and the inclusion of PVs on the roof as part of low carbon aims – which includes attaining Passivhaus accreditation.
- **M1 J23 A512 Access Improvements** – the full GBF allocation of £1.8m was claimed in Q4. The planned completion date has slipped slightly to 2nd June, largely down to the required re-design at the Hanson's junction, due to levels issues.

### PERFORMANCE ON SPEND/OUTPUTS

4.3 As stated above the GBF programme achieved spend of £3.8m in 2020/21, see table below:

Project Name	FORECAST	ACTUAL	2021/22
St Margaret's Gateway	£1,150,000	£1,574,915	£8,925,084
Granby St/St George St Regeneration Gateway	£250,000	£82,659	£1,617,341
SportPark Pavilion 4	£378,650	£378,650	£5,621,350
M1 J23 A512 Access Improvements	£1,800,000	£1,800,000	£0
	<b>£3,578,650</b>	<b>£3,836,224</b>	<b>£16,163,776</b>

As can be seen the Granby St/St George St Regeneration Gateway project came in quite a bit under forecast however St Margaret's Gateway, being ahead of schedule, was able to absorb some of this underspend.

4.4 **Outputs** – no outputs have been achieved to date and targets are shown below:

	TARGET
<b>St Margaret's Gateway</b>	
Jobs created	5
Construction jobs	12

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Apprenticeships	8
Bus only road (m) *	210
Cycle lane (m)	1475
Sheffield bike stands (14 for 28 bikes) *	14
Docking spaces/bike share *	18
Secure cycle parking *	106
Improved pedestrian facilities (m)	900
Housing units unlocked *	2,000
Carbon savings (tonnes) *	212.16
Accelerate delivery of hotel *	1
<b>Granby St/St George St Regen Gateway</b>	
New construction jobs	4
Apprenticeships	3
Public realm (m)	2,600
Length of Footway improved (m)	390
Indirect jobs *	2,000
Accelerate delivery of office space (sqm) *	25,000
<b>M1 J23/A512 Access Improvements</b>	
Unlock housing units	2600
Direct jobs	889
Indirect jobs *	846
Upgrading single carriageway to dual (km) *	2.5
Remodelling A512 junctions *	5
<b>SportPark Pavilion 4</b>	
Jobs created	165
Indirect jobs – wider economy/supply chain *	157
Construction jobs	125
Businesses assisted	10
Creation of commercial floorspace (sqm)	2,000

\* outputs marked are in addition to those under the Government agreement.

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