

LLEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS
3.00pm, 16 August 2022
National Space Centre

AGENDA

TIME		ITEM	REPORT	DECISION / INFORMATION	LEAD
15:00	1.	Welcome and Apologies			Chair
	2.	Declarations of Interest			All
15.05	3.	Minutes and actions LLEP Board Meeting 14 June 2022	Paper A	Decision	Chair
15.10	4.	LLEP Update	Paper B	Information	Sue Tilley
15.30	5.	Board Recruitment Chair's Appointment - Way Forward	Paper C	Information	Anil Majithia
15.45	6.	LLEP Finance Report • Operational Budget Outturn 2021/2022 • LLEP Reserves 2021/2022	Paper D1 Paper D2	Information	Colin Sharpe Elizabeth Botmeh
16.00	7.	LEP Network Chairs/CEO's Conference and Dinner Update	Verbal	Information	Emma Anderson
16.15	8.	AGM	Verbal	Information	Sue Tilley
16:30	9.	Enterprise Zone Implementation Plans - Not for publication	Paper E	Decision	Cheryl Maguire
16.45	10.	Sub-Group Updates	Verbal	Information	All
17:00	11.	AOB			

Future meeting dates

LLEP AGM – 28 September 2022, City Hall

LLEP Board – 18 October 2022

LLEP Board, 13 December 2022

Paper A



LLEP Board of Directors

3pm, Tuesday, 14 June 2022

Face to Face meeting: The University of Leicester, Council Room 1, Fielding Johnson Building

Organiser: Sharif Chowdhury

Chair: Andy Reed OBE (AR)

Directors: Emma Anderson (EA), Sonia Baigent (SB), Peter Bedford (PB), Lorraine Boorman (LB), Nishan Canagarajah (NC), Verity Hancock (VH), Kevin Harris (KH), Anne-Marie Hunt (AH), Anil Majithia (AM), Cllr Jonathon Morgan (JM), Terry Richardson (TR)

In Attendance: Elizabeth Botmeh (EB) Sharif Chowdhury (SC), George Oliver (GO), Colin Sharpe (CS), Stewart Smith (SS), Sue Tilley (ST), Jo Dexter (JD)

Apologies: Chas Bishop (BP), Alison Greenhill (AG), Dr Nik Kotecha OBE (NK), Ajmer Kaur Mahal (AKM), Neil McGhee (NM), Jaspal Singh Minhas (JSM), Cllr Danny Myers (DM),

Minutes Taken By: Sharif Chowdhury (SC)

CC To: All

MINUTES

1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u>	
1.1	AR welcomed those present to the meeting.	
1.2	Apologies were received from JMH, RM, CB, NK and NM.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	
2.1	There were no Declarations of Interest.	

Minute		Action
3.	Minutes and Actions LLEP Board of Directors Meeting Held on 12 April 2022	
3.1	The meeting was recorded as a true and accurate record.	
3.2	AM provided an update on Action Point 4.4 regarding the recruitment of a new chair where the mechanics of the recruitment process is in place and is expected to be completed by January 2023.	
3.3	AM informed the Board that a two-stage interview process will be in place, the first being a stakeholder engagement exercise with a panel chaired by Nishan Canagarajah.	
3.4	It was informed that there have currently been no interested candidates so far, and private board members are able to apply.	
3.5	GO reported that a job description has been sent to Leicestershire Live for wider advertisement of the post, and a press release will be made. However, it was said that general PR will not be as useful as word of mouth sharing of information for the director level appointments.	
3.6	AM highlighted the is potential for an additional recruitment of three directors to the LLEP Board. EB noted that the members will need to be females to suffice BEIS requirement of being 50/50 on the Board by next year. The Board agreed for EB and GO to publish the advertisement as soon as it is ready for publishing.	
3.7	Discussions were had regarding how the LLEP should encourage more candidates to apply by providing the county deal, economy growth strategy information whilst being clear on the role of LLEP's in the interim.	
3.8	Action Point - A paragraph pitch to showcase the LLEP's Unique Selling Point to potential new members (GO)	GO
3.9	Action Point - KH shared that the LLEP Board does not have large corporate representation and suggested that CEOs are contacted to make sure the LLEP is on their agendas.	All
3.10	ST updated on the Action Point 7.11 regarding the key priorities which include the UKSPF, the Delivery Plan 2022/2023 and prep for 2023/2024, the AGM and Annual Report.	
3.11	The Board noted that Clare James has left the LLEP Board and expressed thanks to Clare for all her contributions.	

<u>Minute</u>		<u>Action</u>
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p> <p>4.5</p> <p>4.6</p> <p>4.7</p>	<p>County deal / Integration</p> <p>ST provided background that Leicestershire is one of nine areas under discussion surrounding a county deal and NR told a meeting on the 19th of May that the Leicestershire County Council and the City Council will continue to work with all partners including the LLEP.</p> <p>JD provided insight that the timetable of expectations includes an agreement to be made by 2023 as the elections will be in 2024.</p> <p>PB also informed the Board that a meeting has also been held between representatives of the LLEP at County Hall to discuss LLEPs.</p> <p>NC shared the benefits of having the meeting with the key political leaders to work together and best represent the business voice. NC shared that there was a mutual understanding that the LLEP has a role to play.</p> <p>NC echoed the importance that the LLEP to continue to engage in any discussions and not distance ourselves despite the challenges.</p> <p>The Board discussed viewpoints regarding the county deal and acknowledged that there is a small window of opportunity to influence any upcoming discussions</p> <p>AR emphasised the difficult role for the LLEP as a body including various stakeholders from across the Community and the need to ensure the County economy is best served by the best possible outcome. He urged all partners including government to work on a solution for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland</p>	
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p>LLEP Ltd Company Accounts</p> <p>EB referred to Paper C which seeks the board approval of the Leicester and Leicestershire Partnership LTD Company accounts for 2021/22 and the submission to companies' house.</p> <p>Decision: The Board APPROVED the LLEP Company accounts for 2021/22. The accounts will be submitted to companies' house following the presentation to the company members at the Annual General Meeting.</p>	
<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p>Delivery Plan</p> <p>SS presented paper D relating to the Delivery Plan and informed a second delivery plan is required for submission to government for the year 2023-</p>	

Minute		Action
	2024 with Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) aligned to levelling up white paper.	
6.2	SS informed the Board that the Delivery Plan includes internal KPI's. However, there have been challenges in defining targets for the Growth Hub as the budgets was being announced and has been significantly cut by 50%.	
6.3	GO emphasised the Delivery Plan is still a working document, and maps in with the Economic Growth Strategy and government policy.	
6.4	Feedback was provided on the Delivery Plan by Board members including the need to bring forward the opportunities brought to by the LLEP and ensuring the messaging is concise to avoid key information being lost. AM shared the view that the Delivery Plan needs to convey the impacts the LLEP is making.	
6.5	Action Point - JM shared the view that the future role of LLEP's should be included at the end as this would be more inward looking, whereas the wider community are more interested in knowing the impacts at the beginning of the document.	SS/GO
6.6	JM highlighted the positives of the document that none of the information is repeated and represents the vast amount of work the LLEP is doing which all needs to be included and presented in a way that is easy for the reader.	
6.7	Action Point - NC highlighted the need for a one-page document which summarises the added value the LLEP provides, and the considerable impacts that would be lost without the LLEP. NC recommended using an infographic which demonstrates the wider remit of the LLEP.	ST/SS
6.8	VH commented on the presentation of the funding and grants section which does not convey the LLEP's efforts in delivering the key outcomes.	
6.9	KH highlighted the importance of ensuring audiences understand the efforts the LLEP makes in collaboration by showcasing and demonstrating the strengths including working with other key partners such as D2N2.	
6.10	AR informed the Board that the Delivery Plan will be sent to the government important and will be used as a selling document.	
6.11	Action Point - Executive Summary of the of 250 words to provide a snapshot of the LLEP Delivery Plan.	GO

Minute		Action
7.	LLEP Team Report	
7.1	ST reported on the LLEP Team report which includes important highlights on the UKSPF, Growth Hub and Enterprise Zones. AR informed the Board that meetings have been held with Nick Jennings surrounding LUSEP and he is aware of the issues.	
7.2	Action Point - ST and AR to discuss regarding the challenges for the LUSEP site on energy as the Enterprise Zone meetings will be held in the end of July.	ST
7.3	ST provided the latest statistics on the Growth Hub including the 12 different support programmes which have supported 198 business and 172 within the SUBS (Start Up Businesses).	
7.4	Key outputs include 1149 Growth Hub enquiries, funding commitments of £408k programmes from £347k on BEIS and £61k on ERDF and 211 workshops in 2021/22 supporting 1519 businesses.	
7.5	LB queried the impacts behind the figures and percentages shared on the headline figures and how it compares to or initial objectives. ST shared that the LLEP are intending to create a dashboard to provide further details behind the impacts of these figures.	ST
7.6	SB agreed with LB's comments and will lead a project provide the resources to ensure to help understand the risks, progress made and the impacts on business by providing outward messages.	
7.7	NC referred to one of the key priorities in inclusion as many people within the region still don't have access to online facilities. ST highlighted that this is a project driven by ERDF and there is a need for the universities and Growth Hub to work together to reach out to communities.	
7.8	SS shared that a demographics report commissioned by De Montfort University is now available and includes population data, the projected workforce, movement, and different patterns.	
7.9	ST updated that KH will no longer represent the LLEP on MEIF Strategic Oversight Board and that AMH has kindly agreed to attend the meetings and LB will join the MEIF Regional Advisory Board.	
7.10	ST reported that the LLEP are still waiting for a final decision from BEIS regarding the Made Smarter bid has been made by the East Midlands cluster.	

<u>Minute</u>		<u>Action</u>
8.	Sub-Group Updates	
8.1	Updates for the subgroups had been outlined in the item 7. ST advised that Innovation Board had approved three new members onto the Innovation working group.	
8.2	The agenda item was rolled over to the next meeting.	
9.	Comms update	
9.1	GO reported there are several publications in line including the Delivery Plan and the Annual Report. GO informed the Board of the upcoming press releases including the Impact Press release BEIS, Restocking the business base update and the outcomes.	
9.2	GO updated that the LLEP have a PR schedule to provide regular content. Key featured topics in the forthcoming weeks include the recent Innovation Away Day, the actions arising from the Innovation Board and the Growth Strategy document which highlights key impacts.	
9.3	GO noted that several case studies have been gathered which will be showcased, and the Delivery Plan is currently being developed to inform the region on the planned activities of the LLEP.	
9.4	NC highlighted that a potential announcement on the Space Park may be upcoming and further information will be provided to GO in due course.	
10.	AOB	
10.1	There was no further business.	



LLEP Team Report

- **Purpose of the Report**

To update Board members on emerging issues not covered by the agenda, PR and comms work.

LLEP update

Following a request at the previous board meeting, this team update aims to focus on impacts of the LLEP.

Due to the timing of the meeting, the report contains some end of year data for 2021/22 which was not validated at the time of the previous meeting – most notably for the Enterprise Zones, Careers Hub and ERDF funding. Therefore, the report is rich on information but not quite as concise as originally intended.

The LLEP have a busy and exciting autumn on the horizon, and it is proposed that the next report will focus on new work and projects.

Enterprise Zones

- The metrics for measuring the success of EZ's are set out by Government and include attracting new businesses, job creation, physical development (both new and refurbished floorspace), and the generation of business rates. An overview of the progress of the Enterprise Zones is highlighted in the tables below. These were originally presented to April Board; however, they are now updated to include Q3 and Q4 2021/22.
- The Business Rates generated is expected to be higher when the 2021/22 figures are confirmed. Due to the processes involved in confirming Business Rates figures there is a delay in this information being available from the Billing Authorities. It should be noted that the linear correlation between the business rates and floorspace figures for the Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation EZ is impacted by the demolition works undertaken in Leicester Waterside during this period.
- The figures used for the forecasts are taken from the original bids submitted to Government for Enterprise Zone status. These are forecasts rather than targets due to the inherent difficulties in predicting development of this nature and scale, and which are subject to known variables such

as economic downturns and unknown ones such as pandemics. An example of this is the unforeseen changes in economic climate, Government priorities, and finance availability during the first 10 years of the MIRA Technology Park EZ which has made completion of the full development of the site in this timescale, as forecast by the bid, unachievable.

- A GVA assessment of the impact on the local economy of the Charnwood Campus Medicinal and Synthetic Chemistry Research Centre, which received £3.4m investment of LLEP EZ Retained Business Rates, has been undertaken and calculated at £10.257m GVA per annum.
- MIRA Technology Park have advised that they have already seen an increase in investor enquires and businesses onsite committing to expand, in relation to the announcement of £2.5m LLEP EZ Retained Business Rates investment in the Low Carbon Innovation Hub project.

MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone 2012 - 2022

	Forecast	Achieved
New Businesses Onsite	34	28
Jobs Created	2,552	642
New and Refurbished Floorspace	159,166 sqm	18,946 sqm
Business Rates Generated	£31.83m	£8.22m

Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone 2017 - 2022

	Forecast	Achieved
New Businesses Onsite	127	26
Jobs Created	2,230	1,799
New and Refurbished Floorspace	94,185sqm	156,334 sqm
Business Rates Generated	£10.7m	£8.69m

Business Gateway Growth Hub (BGGH)

The Growth Hub supported **3,254** ERDF* eligible businesses between Dec 2019 and July 2022. 1747 accessed less than 3 hours support whilst 1,507 received ongoing support which exceeded 12 hours in 306 cases.

Top 10 query topics (Jan 2019 – July 2022)

Access to finance and funding was the most popular enquiry to the growth hub, covering 20% of requests (data covers all enquiries, not just ERDF funded businesses)

Area of interest	Number of businesses	Percentage
Access to finance & funding	3,077	20%
I want help with planning for growth	2,480	16%
I want help with business resilience/COVID 19	1,480	10%
I want help in relation to trading with Europe	1,365	9%

I want to sell more products & grow my client base	1,038	7%
I want to do more with technology	783	5%
I want to start my own business	773	5%
I need to train my people/recruit new talent	734	5%
I want to use innovation to develop a new product or service	613	4%
I want to improve operational efficiency	602	4%

*ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

Careers Hub and Enterprise Adviser Network

- **The LLEP Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is now well established** with 13 members and still recruiting. Recent activity includes delivering a Future Workplace event including a live challenge on creating solutions for sustainable workplaces with input from Spenbeck who specialise in the sector. A YAB member now also sits on the national CEC Youth Advisory Group.
- **The YAB are invited to the LLEP AGM** and will be introduced to the LLEP board. A briefing will be issued in advance of the AGM and the future plans of the YAB will be shared with Directors for consideration.
- **One of eight Careers Hubs nationally to secure £100k funding** for a one-year project to better engage parents and carers of year nine students with local labour market information. Project includes meaningful employer engagement with parents and a programme of activities linked to transport and logistics, low carbon, and digital sectors. Launches Autumn 2022.
- **Ten schools took part in an intensive careers education pilot** in 2021/22 which saw significant impact on a stretching Hub KPI for all schools and colleges to have a world class stable careers plan for the whole of their institution. This pilot will scale up in 2022/23.
- Over half of LLEP Hub schools and colleges are now achieving upwards of 94% of this KPI and the Hub average is 85.5%.
- **A pilot to increase the number of Apprenticeship Ambassadors in the LLEP now has over 15 candidates** who are being trained to work in schools, raise the profile of apprenticeships and inspire young people in with their own personal journey. Ambassadors joining include Jaguar Land Rover, EON, GXO and Leicester City Council.
- **An independent evaluation on the first three years of the LLEP Careers Hub has been concluded.** Findings highlighted that LLEP Hub schools and colleges out-perform schools and colleges elsewhere in England in respect of progress towards achieving Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Careers Guidance. Recommendations from the report are now part of the 2022/23 Hub strategic plan. Executive Summary <https://bit.ly/3BhGCrz>.
- Richard Copson from Access Ratings has been **recognised nationally as a Career Champion** for his work as a LLEP Enterprise Adviser with Ash Field Academy. This is in addition to the funding awarded for an innovative work experience hub in the school providing young people with SEND real work experience by bringing the world of work directly into the school. Article <https://bit.ly/3OBWkqg>.

LLEP Skills Team

- A LLEP skills coordinated **event was held to support advisors who help people** into work feel more confident about **promoting apprenticeships to all ages**, with approximately 55 attendees
- The **Building the Workforce of the Future guide** is being updated, to encourage SME employers to offer experience of the workplace, with local case studies and highlighting business benefits, ready to launch in the Autumn.
- Mercia Park are working with the LLEP on easy-use resources to promote opportunities on site.
- The LLEP funded **Kickstart extension project** closed for referrals in May 2022, and to date has supported 52 area businesses with 69 kickstart extensions, many of which have resulted in jobs or apprenticeships.

Business Intelligence

The recently published LLEP report '[The Leicester and Leicestershire Economy 2022](#)' has been very well received by partners with the report's findings influencing local resource conversations.

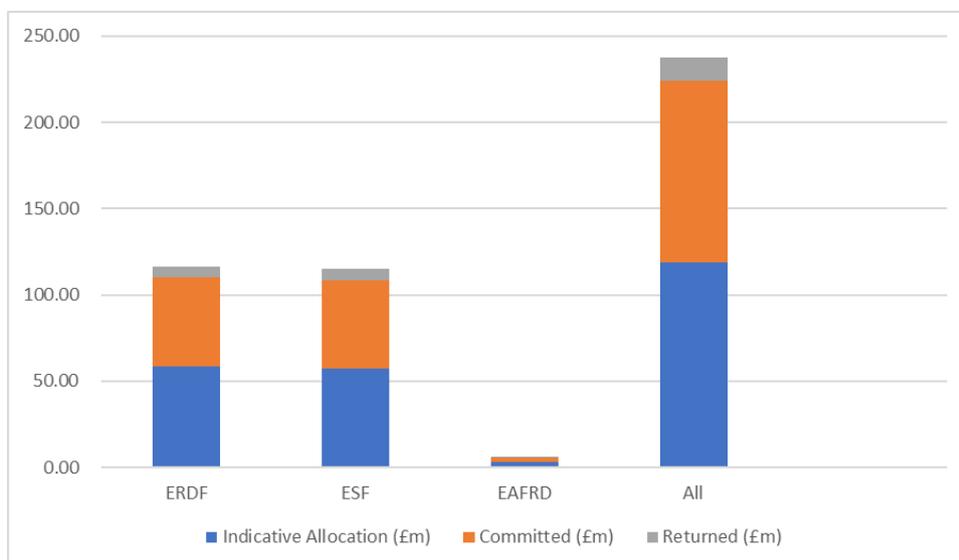
Programmes

ESIF Programme 2014-22

The funding period for the European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF) was 2014-20 with delivery of activities continuing up to December 2023. Leicester and Leicestershire were allocated an indicative allocation totalling £112m in 2014, rising to £118m in 2018.

All ERDF funds had to be 50% match funded together with a minimum ERDF contract value of £1m. The decision was taken early on by the local ESIF Committee to match fund 75% of our ESF Programme with national funds where possible provided by the ESFA, Building Better Opportunities (Big Lottery Fund) and DWP.

Table 1: LLEP ESIF Funding Allocations



Following the final funding calls in June 2019, all uncommitted ERDF funds were then used collectively to provide additional support to the Midlands Engine Investment Scheme, as well as towards the funding of UK national covid economic recovery schemes such as the Small Business Grants Scheme and Town Centre Recovery Fund delivered through Local Authorities.

Table 2: Number of Enterprises Receiving Support (ERDF)

ERDF Priority Axis	Contracted	Performance Framework Targets for 2023	Claimed up to Q3 2021	Percentage of Target Achieved up to Q3 2021
PA-1 (Innovation)	599	395	416	69%
PA-2 (ICT)	1,400	1,317	845	64%
PA-3 (Business Support)	2,441	2,047	2,191	90%
Total	4,440	3,759	3,452	78%

Table 3: Participants Assisted (ESF)

Total Number of Participants Contracted up to Q1 2022	Commitment up to Q1 2022	Total Claimed up to Q1 2022	Percentage Claimed up to Q1 2022
34,210	30,215	34,911	113%

Table 4: Green House Gas Reductions (ERDF)

Performance Framework Target (Tonnes of CO ₂)	Total Contracted (Tonnes of CO ₂)	Achieved to Date (Tonnes of CO ₂)	Percentage of Contract Achieved by Q3 2021
6,385	3,104	940	30%

The next official report is due in January 2023.

Capital Programmes

Since 2012 the LLEP has managed various capital programmes:

- Growing Places Fund (GPF) is a £12.3m revolving loan scheme, specifically targeted to assist stalled transport and infrastructure projects. Of this fund £1.674m was repurposed to aid post-Covid recovery, on projects such as digital skills, Kickstarter programme, Business Support.
- Local Growth Fund (LGF) £126.66m to drive local growth by enabling the provision of new homes and space for businesses, high quality skills and training facilities, new jobs, broadband, innovation, flood defences and key transport improvements across the city and county.
- Getting Building Fund (GBF) £20m allocated to “shovel ready” projects to contribute towards post-Covid Economic recovery.
- Business Rates Pooling (BRP) £30m was established by the seven districts councils, Leicester City Council, the County Council and the Combined Fire Authority. Income is generated from the business rates uplift and allocated to economic priorities will still be managed through the LLEP

LGF and BRP projects are monitored until 2025 and GBF until 2026

Growing Place Fund Impacts	
Output	Actual to date
Floorspace refurbished (M2) 	9291m ²
Floorspace Created (M2) 	195599
Housing Units 	371
Jobs Created 	1786
Business moving onto sites developed 	46

Site Preparation (hectares to be developed) 	35.5
Newly Created/Improved Roads (km) 	3.71km
Newly Created/Improved Cycle Ways (km) 	2.77m
Income generated for the LLEP 	£1,177,019.55

Local Growth Fund Impacts		
Output	Achieved by March 31st 2022	Remaining Forecast
Floorspace created (M2) 	330181m²	7015m ²
Floorspace refurbished (M2) 	2100m²	0
Housing Units 	3242	7740
Jobs Created 	1779	6272
Jobs Safeguarded 	222	127
Learners Supported 	18831	8000

Businesses Supported 	42	97
Newly Created/Improved Roads (km) 	28.64km	0
Newly Created/Improved Cycle Ways (km) 	39.55km	0

Getting Building Fund Impacts*	
Output	Remaining Forecast
Floorspace refurbished (M2) 	4600m ²
Housing Units 	2600
Jobs Created 	1059
Learners Supported 	9
Businesses Supported 	10
Newly Created/Improved Roads (km) 	3.7km
Newly Created/Improved Cycle Ways (km) 	700m

*First output figures expected from May 2022 onwards.

Business Rates Pool Impacts		
Output	<u>Achieved by</u> <u>March 31st 2022</u>	<u>Remaining</u> <u>Forecast</u>
Floorspace created (M2) 	6653m²	1956m ²
Floorspace refurbished (M2) 	4883m²	35322m ²
Jobs Created 	32	590
Jobs Safeguarded 	324	257
Learners Supported 	3944	120
Businesses Supported 	1344	0
Newly Created/Improved Roads (km) 	1.9km	48.78km
Newly Created/Improved Cycle Ways (km) 	5.3km	31.3km

Productivity /Made Smarter

The East Midlands Manufacturing Made Smarter bid has been successful in securing significant funding from BEIS, this will see the rollout of funding and support programmes to manufacturing businesses across the region who wish to take advantage of industrial digital technology implementation. A steering group has

been convened with partners across the three participating LEPs (D2N2 (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire) and GLEP (Greater Lincolnshire) which has set out a framework for delivery, key risks to be aware of and required actions ahead of a potential October 2022 launch of the programme.

Sustainability

- **Sustainable Business**

Companies with fewer than 250 employees account for almost 20% of the UK's carbon emissions, reminding us of the critical role that SMEs play in the transition to net-zero. To date **86 businesses** have signed up to our Zellar programme with a further 14 licences available. We have held 2 Task Group meetings where case studies from businesses were provided including Welcomm Ltd attending the meeting in person to tell us of their positive experience. Zellar is a digital platform to help businesses reduce carbon emissions.

- **Sustainable Transport and Connectivity**

Having secured the support of the Manchester Airport Group (MAG) and East Midlands Airport (EMA) we are currently in the process of procuring consultants to work with EMA to provide a feasibility study as to how, moving forward, we can potentially decarbonise our logistics sector.

- **Sustainable City and Towns**

We have presented at several key events in support of the work being done by our partners including at the Charnwood Campus Enterprise Zone, De Montfort University and Hinckley and Bosworth District Council.

LLEP media coverage

£48k - estimated value of media coverage during May- July period

George Oliver has continued to raise the profile of the LLEP via a variety of outlets including well-known local and national outlets, as well as several business news websites and newsletters.

Highlights include:

- **Central News** coverage of St Margaret's bus station which is estimated at a further £15k
- **BBC News Online** coverage of MIRA expansion
- Several articles in the **Leicester Mercury** (print and digital)



LLEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

16 AUGUST 2022

Information Paper

OPERATIONAL BUDGET 2021/22 - OUTTURN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Board of the year-end finance position of the LLEP's operating budget for 2021/22.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the outturn figures for the financial year 2021/22 and the deficit taken from the reserves.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The budget set and approved by the Board forecasted a draw on reserves of £390k. The year-end position for 2021/22 was a deficit of £308k. This is a favourable variance of £82k against the planned budget.

3.2 The position is shown in the table below, followed by an explanation of the key variances

	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Actuals	Budget Variance
Income			
Grants	575,000	575,000	0
Contributions	250,000	265,100	(15,100)
National and Local Programme Income	1,499,500	1,348,400	151,100
Fees, Interest and Other Income	364,500	256,000	108,500
Total Income	2,689,000	2,444,500	244,500

	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Actuals	Budget Variance
Expenditure			
Staffing	1,093,900	825,900	(268,000)
Running Costs	345,100	306,800	(38,300)
Accountable Body Costs	170,000	145,400	(24,600)
Programme Delivery	1,470,200	1,473,900	3,700
Total Expenditure	3,079,200	2,752,000	(327,200)
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(390,200)	(307,500)	(82,700)

3.3 Reserves at the start of the year stood at £2,029k. These decreased to £1,721k by the end of March 2022 as a result of the £308k deficit for the year.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 National & Local Programme Income was £151k lower than lower than was budgeted. Some income streams did not perform as expected; the budgeted contribution of £100k for the Enterprise Zones was only partly received, and the ESF technical assistance project programme closure was delayed.

3.4.2 The Business Gateway Growth Hub received additional funds, not covered at the time of formulating the budget to support a Business Start-up programme on behalf of the district councils. In addition, as a result of the successful Peer Networking programme, a further allocation was received.

3.4.3 The Enterprise Adviser Network was successful in its application for £10k funding for the Data Accelerator project, as well as £20k for Apprenticeships and Tech Levels Project and received a further £4k from CEC for a SEND LMI Platform. Note that these additional funds were expected in the financial year 2022/23. In addition, £25k match funding was received from the University of Leicester to recruit a new pathways coordinator.

3.4.4 Fee, Interest and Other income received was £108k lower than was budgeted at the start of the year; this was partly due to the postponing of the biannual business survey, undertaken on behalf of the City and County Council, as well as a lack of income for the management of the Getting Building Fund programme.

3.4.5 Due to the increase in interest rates additional income was generated on capital balances held by the Accountable Body.

3.5 Expenditure

3.5.1 CLGU advised of their expectation that any recruitment will be confined to that which is necessary to maintain the existing head count, where there is evidence that this is business critical. A £268k underspend on staffing arose due staff leaving.

3.5.2 The LLEP underspent against its running cost budget by £38k despite outsourcing communication work which couldn't be carried out internally due to recruitment difficulties. Accountable Body costs reduced due to a reduction in desk spaces linked to the hybrid model of working.

3.5.3 Additional costs arose during the year on Programme Delivery, linked to the additional Programme income highlighted above. In addition, the Growth Hub exceed its budget by £27k by providing additional support programmes.

For further information please contact

Colin Sharpe
Deputy Director of Finance
Leicester City Council (Accountable Body)
0116 454 4081
Colin.Sharpe@leicester.gov.uk

Elizabeth Botmeh
Head of Delivery & Governance
Tel: 0116 454 2925
Email: Elizabeth.Botmeh@llep.org.uk



LLEP Board

16th August 2022

Appendix 1

SUMMARY RESERVES

Overview

Reserves as at 1st April 2022 **£1,721,000**

Commitments

Redundancy £178,000

Notice pay £159,800

Capitalised Costs (pension) £200,000

Potential Clawback of programmes £30,000

Tax liabilities - Services provided by LCC VAT £300,000

Contribution towards ongoing monitoring of programmes £150,000

LLEP Contribution towards CEC team £50,800

Income paid in advance £189,200

Total Commitments **£1,257,800**

Uncommitted Reserves **£463,200**



LLEP Board

16th August 2022

Appendix 1

SUMMARY RESERVES

Overview

Reserves as at 1st April 2022 **£1,721,000**

Commitments

Redundancy £178,000

Notice pay £159,800

Capitalised Costs (pension) £200,000

Potential Clawback of programmes £30,000

Tax liabilities - Services provided by LCC VAT £300,000

Contribution towards ongoing monitoring of programmes £150,000

LLEP Contribution towards CEC team £50,800

Income paid in advance £189,200

Total Commitments **£1,257,800**

Uncommitted Reserves **£463,200**



LLEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

16th August 2022

Decision Paper

RESERVES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the current reserves position and the anticipated reserves moving forward into 2023/24.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The LLEP Board is recommended to note:

- i. The reserves held at the end of March 2022;
- ii. The revised estimates of potential calls upon those reserves; and
- iii. The uncertainty surrounding the 2023/24 budget.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Following the budget outturn for 2021/22, the Accountable Body currently holds reserves of £1,721,000 on behalf of the LLEP.

3.2 The budget approved by the Board in April for 2022/23 was a balanced budget. However, without the benefit of the interest that was earned on GPF loans, there would have been a £209k shortfall in the budget.

4. RING FENCED RESERVES

4.1 The Board will recall that the previous Finance Strategy and reports to the Board in 2021 stated that £1.4m of reserves could be accounted for by potential staff redundancy costs, pension liabilities, tax liabilities consequent upon incorporation and income received in advance.

- 4.2 Following staff changes, a re-evaluation of the potential calls upon reserves has highlighted that this has now fallen to £1.25m. The noticeable drops are, as expected, within the allocations for redundancy and notice pay.
- 4.3 Estimates for other elements remain largely the same, including pension liabilities, tax liabilities consequent upon incorporation and grant income received in advance. In addition, CEC funding operates on an academic year basis whilst LLEP funding is for the financial year; provision has been made to cover the remaining 5 months' salary costs.
- 4.4 Appendix 1 provides a more detailed breakdown. Unallocated reserves therefore currently stand at £463k.

5. BUDGET PLANNING

- 5.1 The Board will recall that income into the LLEP for 2022/23 has reduced significantly; core funding has fallen by 25% and Business Gateway Growth Hub by 50%. Whilst this has been accommodated within the budget for 2022/23, this is less likely to be the case for 2023/24.
- 5.2 There is much that is currently unclear about the 2023/24 budget, but indications are that without any action to reduce costs, there could be a budget shortfall in the region of £500k. The extent to which this could not be offset by sourcing additional income or reducing expenditure would need to be funded from the unallocated reserves.
- 5.3 Significant risks in relation to planning for the 2023/24 budget include the following:
 - The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has not made any decisions around the future funding of LEPs beyond the current financial year;
 - Income will be lost from the closure of some LLEP programmes in 2023/24, in particular ESIF, which has been running since 2015;
 - The current arrangements for the Business Rates Pool, for which the LLEP takes a 2.5% management fee and draws the required 50% match funding for the core, needs to be renegotiated for 2023/24. Local authorities are under increasing financial pressure, so there may be reluctance to contribute towards the required match funding.
 - The 2022/23 budget assumed a pay increase for the year of 2%. This is now likely to be much higher. The same risk applies to inflation on running costs. If there are no underspends to offset this there may be a draw on the reserves;
 - Assumptions have been made for 2023/24, based on existing staff and a paired down spending plan, which excludes developing any strategic policies or updating any existing ones, whilst maintaining a business-as-usual approach;
 - The Board will recall that the budget approved for 2022/23 removed all vacant posts, which include the role of LLEP Chief Executive, it is unclear at this stage if this post will be recruited to;
 - The current political uncertainty could lead to delays with the county deal, which has financial implications in regard to ongoing staffing costs;

- The LLEP is transitioning towards a more strategic economic planning role, which will involve building and maintaining a robust local evidence base that identifies local strengths and challenges, future opportunities and the actions needed to support priority sectors, aligned to the relevant levelling up missions. It is unclear at this stage as to whether wholesale changes will need to be made to current LLEP structure and what costs will be involved.

The LLEP and Accountable Body are alert to the potential financial risks in 2023/24 and will seek to explore additional income sources and reduce expenditure to minimise any potential draw on reserves.

Summary of appendices

1. Summary reserves position

For further information please contact:

Colin Sharpe
Deputy Director of Finance
Leicester City Council (Accountable Body)
0116 454 4081
Colin.Sharpe@leicester.gov.uk

Elizabeth Botmeh
Head of Delivery & Governance
Tel: 0116 454 2925
Email: Elizabeth.Botmeh@llep.org.uk



Introduction

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Contents

LLEP Operating Budget	2021/22 [£000s]
Grants	575
Contributions	265
National and Local Programme Income	1,348
Fees, interest and other income	256
Total Income	2,444
EXPENDITURE	
Staffing	826
Running costs	307
Accountable body costs	145
Programme Delivery	1,474
Total Expenditure	2,752
	[308]

232

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Governance

Priorities

- Review Board membership of existing Governance structures
- Support the development of new Governance:
 - Finance and Audit Committee
 - Scrutiny Committee
 - Innovation Board
- Refresh the Local Assurance Framework to reflect changes in governance
- Review our Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Commence process for election/re-election of Chair of the Board
- Review Directors' terms
- Undertake a Skills Audit among Board members and utilise findings in Board recruitment and

The LLEP was incorporated in April 2019 as a company limited by guarantee. Its Board is a business-led partnership of leaders from the private, public and education sectors.

The Board is supported by four advisory boards, which provide strategic guidance for our programmes of work set out in the Economic Growth Strategy 2021-30. Advisory Boards also provide oversight of the main Board.

As a LEP, we are committed to a policy of being open and transparent. Our Assurance Framework sets out how the LLEP is governed and was updated in line with the National Assurance Framework in September 2021.

All Board members and staff adhere to the Nolan principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Both Board members and staff sign a Code of Conduct in addition

to any register of interests.

We are committed to having a Board which embraces diversity and promotes equality. Our diversity champion, Rani Mahal, continues to share best practice and encourages diversity and inclusion across the LLEP work streams.

In addition, the recently refreshed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy includes three key objectives for the diversity champion:

- Actively promote and raise awareness of equality, diversity, and inclusion issues.
- Identify areas in which the LLEP can improve equality, diversity, and inclusion outcome
- Ensure that all decisions take into account and value the community in which the LLEP represents.

Our SME representative, Jaspal Singh Minhas, continues to provide the SME business voice on the Board.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021/22

- Revised Terms of Reference across all boards
- Removed references to outdated legislation
- Supported the development of a new Innovation Advisory Panel
- Updated definition on co-opted board members
- Published expenses policy and register
- Updated responsibilities of the Accountable Body
- Published scoring criteria for project appraisals
- Updated commitment to supporting Social Value Act
- Revised Local Assurance Framework AF to ensure compliance v4 2021 National Assurance Framework
- Published a Monitoring and Evaluation plan



LLEP Board changes

Our Board Members play a key role in helping us to shape the local economy. They do so by influencing local and national government, as well as providing effective governance to the partnership.

Board Members make key investment decisions and oversee our spending. They are responsible for ensuring that the partnership's investments deliver value for money and achieve maximum economic impact.

During the year, we saw two changes to our Board Membership:

- Councillor Nick Rushton was replaced by Councillor Peter Bedford as the Board member for Leicestershire County Council

- The retirement of Professor Robert Allison as Vice-Chancellor of Loughborough University led members to vote for Professor Nishan Canagarajah, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, as the Board's Higher Education Lead.

As a company limited by guarantee we continue to seek applications for LLEP membership.

Priorities

- Implement the key interventions from the short-term Covid-19 Economic Recovery Action Plan, focused on the priority themes of:
 - Business
 - People, employment and skills
 - Innovation
 - Low Carbon
 - Infrastructure
- Launch the LLEP Economic Recovery Strategy
- Prioritise three pieces of research to support and inform our strategy:
 - A 12-month Business Tracker Survey to monitor and measure business sentiment over the year
 - A Natural Capital Evidence Review to assess current levels of data, identify gaps, and make recommendations to how this can be used as part of policy-making
 - Sectoral Research into the impact of the economic shock across the LLEP area

ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY 2021-30

The LLEP Economic Growth Strategy (EGS) 2021-2030 was launched in December. It includes a framework of priorities to aid recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and create economic prosperity.

In preparing the strategy, the process of understanding local economic priorities involved us conducting an evidence review of existing local strategies and action plans.

In addition, we led a series of workshops, involving 120 participants representing various partners. Themes covered during these workshops included skills, enterprise, infrastructure and

climate change.

Following this process, and subsequent public consultation, the EGS was created and published to a positive reception from local partners. It is underpinned by four key pillars:

- Productive
- Innovative
- Inclusive
- Sustainable

SECTOR PROFILES

To articulate the strengths and challenges of the local economy, a decision was taken to develop a profile on each of 15 key sectors of interest within the LLEP region.

This process would help to inform and ensure the effectiveness of any potential interventions, strategies and plans moving forward. Furthermore, the profiles would provide a detailed insight into the key business issues emerging as a consequence of both Covid-19 and EU Transition.

They would also include input from sector representatives and feed into the development of priorities contained within the EGS. This ensured the EGS was reflective of local business sentiment.

As well as providing an understanding of the current position of each sector, the profiles highlighted future skills challenges. They were published in Autumn 2021 and can be found on the LLEP website.

BUSINESS TRACKER SURVEY

The second and third fieldwork period of the Business Tracker Survey were conducted during this financial year.

Its focus is on business performance, export and import, environmental issues, and issues related to business support.

The survey was vital in informing development of the EGS and ensuring support is appropriately targeted via the Business Gateway Growth Hub. Its key findings were:

- More than a third of organisations had experienced difficulties with recruitment
- One in five need to develop new digital skills in the workforce
- Two in five had taken environmental action in six months prior to taking part in the survey. This was an upward trend since the first wave
- The EU remains the most important trading partner for both imports and exports
- More than a quarter expected to increase the amount of remote working as part of their long-term planning
- Almost 9 in 10 businesses felt confident about the future, while almost 2 in 3 are predicting growth in next 12 months

NATURAL CAPITAL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

A strategic assessment was conducted to understand how our natural capital assets could help us and our partners to achieve local economic and social development ambitions.

The assessment fulfilled four key aims:

- It presented a review of the current evidence on natural capital and identified any gaps in knowledge

- It presented a high-level review of the national and local policy and institutional frameworks that are likely to drive investment into natural capital
- It included a SWOT analysis of the policy review, informed by a stakeholder workshop
- It suggested an appropriate work plan to deliver a Natural Capital Investment Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

The LLEP produced several documents to inform local partners of the local picture. These included the Business and Economic Intelligence Report, which was introduced in 2020 to track the ever-changing economic picture. It can be considered a living document, in that it is updated and circulated monthly.

Other reports included:

- Monthly Labour Market Profiles, at LLEP and district level
- Annual Economic Profiles, bringing together data from a variety of sources to help provide a snapshot of the local economy in LLEP, local and district authority areas



Investment

Priorities

- Implement the key interventions from the short-term Covid-19 Economic Recovery Action Plan, focused on the priority themes of:
 - Business
 - People, employment and skills
 - Innovation
 - Low Carbon
 - Infrastructure
- Launch the LLEP Economic Recovery Strategy
- Prioritise three pieces of research to support and inform our strategy:
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 - Sectoral Research into the impact of the economic shock across the LLEP area

Local Growth Fund

With all Local Growth Fund (LGF) allocation successfully distributed in 2020/21, our focus in 2021/22 was to obtain and report on the deliverable outputs and outcomes achieved by each project.

Of the 20 LGF projects, eight have reported on all deliverables, six of which reported all figures in 2021/22. These are detailed below.

A further five projects are expected to provide all output and outcome figures by the end of financial year 2022/23. The remaining projects continuing to report on outputs, such as new



housing and job creation figures, up until 2026.

Key outputs and outcomes of the six LGF projects completed in 2021/22 are:

MARKET HARBOROUGH LINE SPEED IMPROVEMENT **£13 MILLION ALLOCATED**

improved journey times for non-stop passenger and freight train services through realignment of rail infrastructure, at up to 85mph line speed, station improvement works, with new footbridge constructed

NORTH CITY CENTRE ACCESS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME **£8.96 MILLION ALLOCATED**

new/resurfaced roads, cycleways and footways, 6.04km completed

improved links to Charter Street, new bridge constructed

A50/A6-LEICESTER NORTH-WEST MAJOR TRANSPORT INVESTMENT CORRIDOR

£16.2 million allocated

New or resurfaced roads, cycleways and footways, 12.04km completed

pedestrian crossing facilities, 57 created

SUPERFAST LEICESTERSHIRE **£3.1 MILLION ALLOCATED**

Superfast broadband coverage to eligible SMEs, 5,528 supported

Increase in broadband coverage in Leicester from 91.9% to 98.91%

LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND (LSTF) HINCKLEY **£3.64 MILLION ALLOCATED**

New cycleways, 26.7km created

Pedestrian counts, 20 created

RIVER SOAR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT **£7.5 MILLION ALLOCATED**

Savings arising from reduced flood damage, estimated £54.9 million

Number of homes safeguarded, 1,852

Growing Places Fund

Progress continues to be made on the Repurposed Growing Places Fund (GPF) funding of £1.6m. This was allocated in 2020/21 to aid economic recovery following the Pandemic.

The decision will result in more than £1.6m of funding to support:

- An Employment and Skills Fund to address digital poverty and enhance NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) support
- Business Grants for SMEs

Getting Building Fund

The Government made £900 million available through the new Getting Building Fund (GBF) in 2020. This was for investment in local, shovel-ready infrastructure projects to stimulate jobs and support economic recovery across the country.

We were allocated £20m from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a boost to the local economy. Four projects were chosen based on their impact on the region's economic growth - both in the short and long-term - and their strategic fit with current economic priorities.

ST MARGARET'S GATEWAY

Work on the new carbon neutral bus station was completed in summer 2022. It is believed to be the first bus station in the UK to be built to net zero carbon standards.

The design includes LED lighting, mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, air source heat pumps and 750 square metres of solar panels. These will generate enough energy to power the station and feed extra energy back into the grid.

There will also be increased capacity for national and regional bus services, with the number of bus bays increasing from 18 to 24. Electric bus charging points will be installed, and the new building will feature secure storage for up to 150 bicycles.

M1 JUNCTION 23 AND A512 IMPROVEMENTS

This project upgraded 2.5km of single carriageway to dual carriageway and remodelled five junctions on the A512. It also constructed a new access roundabout and resulted in improvements to Junction 23 of the M1.

By reducing congestion and improving accessibility, the scheme will improve resilience on a key route linking Loughborough with the M1 and the wider Strategic Road Network.

The project supports further development of the Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone, Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park (LUSEP) and Charnwood Campus. This will bring job and business opportunities to the area. The project will improve access to LUSEP in particular.

The work, which was completed in May 2021, will also facilitate planned growth in the Loughborough area. It will bring forward development of the West of Loughborough Sustainable Urban Extension (WOLSUE) and the smaller Shepshed housing sites.

SPORTPARK PAVILION 4

This project supports the ambition to complete the SportPark



The project will create a gateway to the city centre that will support strong links between the railway station and Leicester's two bus stations. It will also enhance important links to the Cultural Quarter, improving access to work, leisure and tourist destinations across the city centre.

- Place marketing and tourism promotion
- SMEs (Kickstart) extension
- MIT REAP seed corn funding delivery
- Low Carbon delivery

All the scheme projects became operational during 2021-22.

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development by constructing Pavilion 4 - a 2,000 m2 extension included in the original building design.

The previous three (pavilions) have provided 6,000 m2 of accommodation and have been a great success, achieving very high levels of occupancy, excellent collaboration and interaction. They have supported the creation of 600 jobs.

SportPark provides the office headquarters for many of the country's top sports governing bodies and national sports organisations, confirming Leicestershire's leading place in the sports economy.

GRANBY STREET/ST GEORGE STREET REGENERATION GATEWAY

This project facilitates sustainable travel into and across Leicester city centre by creating and improving pedestrian/cycle facilities and public realm.

Business Gateway Growth Hub

Priorities

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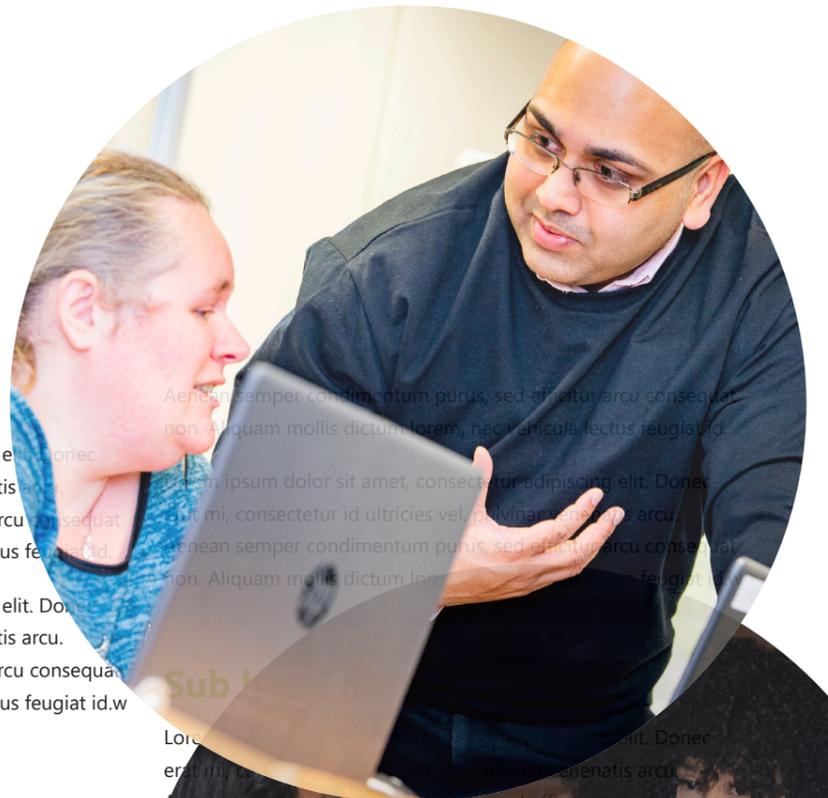
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Careers Hub and Enterprise Advisers

Priorities

- ▢ All eligible schools and colleges to be part of the Enterprise Adviser Network
- ▢ Increase schools and colleges completing a Gatsby Benchmark audit from 94% to 100%
- ▢ Increase number of Enterprise Advisers from 65 to 85
- ▢ Grow membership of our Cornerstones employer group from six to 10

and Leicestershire.

These interactive live sessions involve employees ranging from senior managers to apprentices working in these companies. Young people had the chance to hear first-hand about career pathways and ask questions.

BRIGHT GREEN FUTURES

As part of our low carbon work, we launched a Careers Hub climate action strategy entitled Bright Green Futures, which provides all young people with the chance to become agents of change, creative problem solvers and future leaders. It also saves schools money and reduced carbon footprints.

CORNERSTONE EMPLOYERS

Our group of Cornerstone Employers continued to grow. It has been focused on supporting the Careers Hub on [We Discover] and a digital skills awareness project linked to our Digital Skills Partnership.

APPRENTICESHIPS AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROJECT

Working in partnership with all local FE colleges, the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce and the Government's Behavioural Insights Team, we launched an innovative project to support parents and carers of Year 10 students to explore and better understand traineeships, T-levels, and apprenticeships.

This included providing parents with [conversation starters] to help them better engage with their children on careers education while helping parents and carers to build their own knowledge.

The Careers Hub is one of the first in the country to develop a progressive careers curriculum for schools which is underpinned by a full resource library to help integrate careers into the curriculum and the classroom.



239 All eligible schools and colleges in the region are now part of the Enterprise Adviser Network and Careers Hub. This was up from 91% at the beginning of the year.

Our Enterprise Coordinators work with more than 80 Enterprise Advisers, supporting careers leaders in every school and college to make high-quality, 21st Century careers education a reality for everyone, everywhere.

WE DISCOVER PROJECT

Our two-year We Discover project seeks to support young people with special education needs and disabilities [SEND] to transition into high-quality education, employment, or training.

It is an innovative and intensive programme of activities which seeks to ensure young people can make informed choices and will have routes to job and skills progression when they transition to their next step.

VIRTUAL INSIGHTS

Working with local employers including Cadent, Lendlease, Cavendish Nuclear and Leicester City FC, the Careers Hub created more than 200 virtual insight experiences for students in Leicester

Skills & Apprenticeships

Priorities

- Oversee the skills actions in the Covid-19 Economic Recovery Action Plan Matrix, including repurposing funds to support Covid recovery
- Appoint a Digital Skills Coordinator, to create a Leicester and Leicestershire Digital Skills partnership and lead on area digital skills research
- Create an area wide Apprenticeship Strategy
- Support the development of the Local Skills Improvement Plan and develop an area wide Local Skills Strategy
- Continue to provide real-time labour market information

has engaged more than 70 partners across the county. Sub-groups were established to consider Inclusion, support for employees and SMEs, and the workforce of the future.

OTHER WORKING GROUPS

Our skills team also chair several working groups to drive forward actions to support and address skills challenges:

- the ESF Provider Forum
- Education-Business Links group
- Apprenticeship Provider Forum
- EMEG resources Task and Finish group

APPRENTICESHIP STRATEGY

An Apprenticeship Strategy was produced and published in March 2022. It outlines actions to be taken to raise awareness of apprenticeships for both young people, adults and businesses.

The LLEP Careers Hub has subsequently secured funding to boost the local Apprenticeship Ambassador network. This will enable more championing of apprenticeships in the classroom from area apprentices.

LOCAL SKILLS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

We have also supported the development of an LSIP, which is being led by the East Midlands Chamber and is expected to form a key part of business-led skills decision-making in the future.

The initial pilot finished in March, with a national roll out expected later in 2022.

LABOUR MARKET INTELLIGENCE

We continued to provide high quality labour market information. Examples included:

- Interactive economic dashboards were made available to partners online



What we delivered

SKILLS ADVISORY PANEL

The Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) brings together members of the business community, education and voluntary sector to better understand and address local skills challenges.

The SAP approved funding for three strands of work focussed on improving access to the workforce:

Kickstart extension programme, to support young people stay longer in a work placement and increase the chances of full-time employment

NEET reduction programme for young people aged 16-18

Digital Poverty, seven projects have been funded to support access to devices, connectivity and skills. Projects cover a wide portfolio of ideas including laptop recycling, creation of digital hubs in communities and digital buddies to provide one-to-one support.

DIGITAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

A Digital Skills Partnership has been established by the LLEP and

- Area economic snapshot reports at district level were produced
- 24,000 World of Work Leicestershire guides were delivered to schools, colleges and partners
- the World of Work guide for adults was updated in January 2022
- we created two films with partners to promote jobs and opportunities at the growing East Midlands Enterprise Gateway, along with an updated World of Work film to promote the logistics sector

Our labour market resources were highlighted in recent University of Warwick Research as good practice.

A Local Skills strategy is due for completion in early 2022-23. This has been timed to include the findings of the LSIP and Government priorities for LEPs.

Enterprise Zones

Priorities

- MIRA Technology Park project commencement
- Charnwood Campus Medicinal and Synthetic Chemistry Research Centre completion
- Leicester Waterside place marketing proposal and project investment commencement
- Restocking the Business Base Project implementation and first cohort

What we delivered

MIRA TECHNOLOGY PARK ENTERPRISE ZONE

MIRA Technology Park welcomed Viritech and AIMMO to site. Viritech is developing one of the world's first hydrogen hyper-cars. It is the start point for a cleantech revolution based on zero emissions hydrogen powertrain development. The technology will extend into HGV solutions and marine, aerospace and power generation.

AIMMO offers one of the fastest and most accurate AI modelling and automated data labelling technologies. It is used extensively in the autonomous driving sector.

Evans Randall Investors signed a joint venture agreement with HORIBA MIRA to become the exclusive developer for MIRA Technology Park. They will oversee the next phase of development, which will deliver up to 4m sq ft of new space with a total GDV of up to £500m, encompassing R&D, office, and industrial facilities. This next phase will include projects funded through LLEP Enterprise Zone Business Rates Reinvestment.

Octopus Hydrogen and Octopus Renewables announced plans to develop a green refuelling forecourt on site providing hydrogen and EV charging facilities. On-site generation will supply sufficient green hydrogen to support the equivalent of 60 cars' worth of fuel per day. High-power EV chargers will deliver up to 300kW and build upon the existing network of more than 70 charging points already onsite.



Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone

LUSEP

Loughborough University, in partnership with Charnwood Borough Council, launched a business start-up accelerator programme. It will help local people work on unique, early-stage products or services.

The two-year Restocking the Business Base programme is delivered by LUinc. [Loughborough University's incubator] and part-funded by £314,000 from a Covid-19 Recovery Fund created using Enterprise Zone Business Rates. It supported 24 pre- and emerging start-ups in its first year, with recruitment of further cohorts underway.

CHARNWOOD CAMPUS

Charnwood Campus was awarded £3.14m, facilitated through an agreement with Charnwood Borough Council, to part-fund the refurbishment of a substantial three-storey, state-of-the-art laboratory facility for new tenant Charnwood Molecular.

Awarded from the Enterprise Zone Business Rates Reinvestment Fund, it supported the company's expansion on to the site, creating around 300 jobs.

LEICESTER WATERSIDE

Development of a new place marketing proposal for the Pioneer Park area commenced in summer 2021. Part-funded by the LLEP, it will create a distinctive destination to attract business investment and job creation by raising the profile of the site. Work will be completed and launched in 2022/23.

Several companies and organisations have announced they

will locate to Space Park Leicester, including Earthsense, which develops services to provide air quality monitoring on the back of cutting-edge research, and Rolls-Royce, which moved a team onto the site to push forward its work on nuclear power for space travel.

The Government-backed Satellite Applications Catapult expanded into the site, further demonstrating its commitment to supporting and accelerating the growth of the space industry in the UK.

East Midlands Freepport

Priority

- Support the development of the Freepport business case for submission to Government in Autumn 2021.

The East Midlands Freepport (EMF) was announced as a successful freepport bid by the UK Government in March 2021.

As the UK's only inland Freepport, it will drive economic regeneration across the East Midlands, focused on creating thousands of jobs, boosting skills and accelerating the region's commitment to decarbonisation and Net Zero through low carbon energy investments.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Progress on the Freepport during 2021/22 has mainly been around establishing the legal foundations. A confidential outline business case was submitted to the government by the Freepport in September 2021 with formal approval secured in March 2022. A Full Business Case (FBC) was due for submission in early 2022/23.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The LLEP has continued to engage in local conversations as members of working groups around skills and communications, allowing the LLEP to feed into the development of the submitted business case.

Engagement has enabled the LLEP to speak to partners about how the area can meet the forecast demands, for example skills requirements to support advanced manufacturing, logistics and green technologies.

NET ZERO

Our work considering the decarbonisation of the logistics sector, referred to in our net zero section, is one example of how the LLEP is preparing for the next stage of Freepport development which will see the site become operational.

The demand for LLEP activity around the Freepport is expected to increase during 2022/23 and beyond as the legal and procedure stages are completed and the port becomes active and open for businesses.

Accounts

LLEP Operating Budget

2021/22
[£000s]

INCOME

Grants	575
Contributions	265
National and Local Programme Income	1,348
Fees, interest and other income	256
Total Income	2,444

EXPENDITURE

Staffing	826
Running costs	307
Accountable body costs	145
Programme Delivery	1,474
Total Expenditure	2,752

Net surplus / deficit [308]



CALL US

+44 0116 454 2917

EMAIL US

admin@llep.org.uk

VISIT US

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



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