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## Foreword from the Chair

I am extremely delighted to present the Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership's (LLEP) Annual Report for 2016/17 which highlights our achievements and key programmes over the year.

It has been a busy period for the LLEP with major events impacting on the region including Brexit, a General Election, Government launching a Midlands Engine Strategy and Green Paper Industrial Strategy; all of which influence our focus and activity.

Some highlights from the past year include the Government announcement of our second Enterprise Zone, the Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone. This exciting project brings the potential for significant number of jobs and inward investment into the area over the next twenty-five years.

This year the LLEP was successful in securing £25.87 million of Local Growth Funding to develop three exciting projects at Leicester Space Park, National Space Centre and road improvements to the M1/J23 and A512 which will unlock new homes and employment land.

The LLEP's £108 million European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) commenced delivery with £19.9 million providing twelve projects to support local businesses and £15.1 million providing thirteen projects to support local people into employment and to develop their skills.

Our Growth Hub, the LLEP Business Gateway, secured £750,000 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to expand its service with face to face support and introduced free monthly workshops on a range of business topics including accessing finance and marketing.

In 2016 we saw the official launch of our Enterprise Adviser Network at the National Space Centre. This initiative aims to enrich links between industry and education through leading business volunteers acting as 'Enterprise Advisers (EAs)'. The network is continuing to expand with more EAs and local schools / colleges signing up.

This annual report describes the works of the Partnership over the last year and reflects the success of the region. There is still much to be done to realise our ambition for the city and county and our revised Strategic Economic Plan for 2018-23 will state how we intend to achieve this.



Nick Pulley  
Chair of the LLEP

## Vision & Priorities 2016/17

The LLEP's strategic vision is:

***'To create a vibrant, attractive and distinctive place with highly skilled people making Leicester and Leicestershire the destination of choice for successful businesses'***

The LLEP's objectives set out in our Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) are to:

- Invest in infrastructure to unlock key development sites and improve connectivity.
- Provide effective support for SMEs and to accelerate growth of our priority sectors.
- Ensure that local people are equipped with the relevant skills that businesses need.

This year has been an extremely busy time for the LLEP and we've had some major successes which will help focus our future programme of work.

For the second year running we achieved 100% spend of our **Local Growth Fund (LGF)** Programme. So far, the LGF has enabled us to support a total of twenty projects which are now underway and spent 100% of the £32m allocation by the end of 2016/17. Our LGF Programme increased by £25.87m to an overall total of £126m following our successful bid for Growth Deal 3.

We successfully secured a second Enterprise Zone. The new **Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone** could potentially create over 21,000 new jobs and attract £123 million investment into the area over the next twenty-five years.

Delivery of the **MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone**, the UK's only automotive focussed EZ made significant progress from an £850,000 funding pot which supported business development, marketing and skills.

The local authorities **pooled business rates** generated £2m in 2015/16 and with this funding we established a Project Development Fund. Through the first round £355k was awarded to five projects. We also established a Revenue Project Fund and awarded a further £466k to revenue projects in our pipeline.

The LLEP's **Growing Places Fund** has been a great success and held up nationally as a model of best practice. Over the last twelve months, there is visible evidence of completed projects including funding the up-front road infrastructure to open-up and service the Optimus Point site at Glenfield which will accommodate significant job creation.

We continued to invest our £108m **European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF)** with more calls planned throughout 2017 following the Government's commitment to continue funding projects post Brexit. We committed £52m of our ESIF allocation in 2016/17 to support local businesses, invest in innovation and low carbon projects and support skills and employment initiatives.

The Growth Hub, **LLEP Business Gateway**, business support service is funded through European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and national funding. During 2016/17 the

service was strengthened with business advisors providing direct face to face support to local businesses. To date the Business Gateway has received 38,124 website hits, serviced over 2579 enquiries and the business advisors have provided direct support to 435 businesses.

Our **Enterprise Adviser Network Programme** has been recognised as a national exemplar and continued to strengthen links between our schools, colleges and businesses. To date the programme Enterprise Co-ordinators have recruited 35 schools and partnered them with 35 advisers from industry.

The LLEP's level of **communication and business engagement** is a critical element that runs through the heart of all of our work. In total there were 68 events that took place across the LLEP work areas, ranging from meetings and workshops to large scale events such as the Careers Speed Networking and the high profile Food and Drink sector event at the House of Commons. We delivered a series of business breakfast events and engaged with over 500 businesses to support the development of our sector growth plans.

The LLEP maintains a positive and regular flow of communication that allows us to be more open and transparent, which is important to build trust in our brands, services and our ability to deliver.

### HEADLINE STATS

138 jobs created and 7 new companies attracted by the MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone.

The new Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone could potentially create over 21,000 new jobs and attract £123 million investment into the area over the next twenty-five years.

Pooled business rates generated £2m and established a Project Development Fund. In the first round £355k was awarded to 5 projects. Established a Revenue Project Fund and awarded a further £466k to revenue projects in our pipeline.

LGF Programme increased by £25.87m to an overall total of £126m following our successful Growth Deal 3 bid.

£52m of ESIF allocation committed last year to support local businesses and people.

Optimus Point site at Glenfield which will accommodate 2,000 jobs.

Business Gateway had 38,124 website hits, serviced over 2579 enquiries and the business advisors have provided direct support to 435 businesses.

# Key Investments Map

## Leicestershire

**Superfast Broadband**

**LGF:** Improving coverage of at least 24Mbps speeds to 98.4% in Leicester City and 97.3% in Leicestershire. Supported by £3.1m. Project Completed

**River Soar Flood Risk Management**

**LGF:** Deliver improvements to the green infrastructure along the River Soar and Grand Union Canal through Leicester safeguarding 2,200 homes and reducing flood damage by £22m. Supported by £7.5m

**A511 Growth Corridor**

**LGF:** Improvements to the A511/M1 junction 21 and the A511/A42 junction 13 required to improve capacity supporting delivery of 5,000 houses. Supported by £4.64m. Project Completed

**Optimus Point, Kirby Road/Ratby Lane - GPF3 (Wilson Bowden)**

**GPF:** Construction of 400m spine road to open up 20 Ha of serviced plots for 116,760m<sup>2</sup> commercial workshop and 250 new houses. Supported by £3.1m

**Strategic Employment Site Lubbethorpe**

**LGF:** Improvement to Leicester Lane to unlock delivery of 4,250 houses and 1,600 new jobs at 84,000m<sup>2</sup> of new commercial floorspace. Supported by £3.25m

## FUNDING STREAM

Local Growth Fund (LGF)

Growing Places Fund (GPF)

Enterprise Zone (EZ)

**Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone**

**EZ:** Charnwood Campus. Providing simplified planning, superfast broadband investment incentives and cluster support for the Life Sciences sector.

**Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone**

**EZ:** Loughborough University. Providing simplified planning, superfast broadband investment incentives and cluster support for the Advanced Manufacturing, Energy and Low Carbon sectors.

**Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone**

**EZ:** Pioneer Park and Waterside. Providing simplified planning, superfast broadband investment incentives and cluster support for the High-Tech R&D and Space Technologies sectors. Waterside will provide high grade employment and grade A office space.

**Old Dalby Enterprise Village**

**GPF:** Provision of new infrastructure and access road to deliver 4,200m<sup>2</sup> of new freehold plots of employment space aimed at SME owner occupiers. Supported by £950,000

**Melton Cattle Market**

**LGF:** Improvements and development to 33,980m<sup>2</sup> of Melton Mowbray Livestock Market to meet Defra requirements and ensure continuous operation of this key economic asset to the town. Supported by £3.5m

**Bridging the Gap**

**LGF:** Reunification of Great Central Railway track to create a unique continuous 18 mile line from Nottingham (Ruddington) to Leicester (Birstall) and reconnection to the Midland Mainline. Positive impact on local visitor economy. Supported by £1m

**A50 Transport Corridor**

**LGF:** Improving movement and accessibility in and out of the City with resurfaced roads, footpaths, new cycle ways and pedestrian crossings. Supported by £16.2m

**Former Velodrome Site**

**GPF:** Re-development of a brown field site to create a new access for 46 new residential units and unlock site for a further 70 units. Supported by £500,000

**MIRA Skills Training Centre**

**LGF:** Development of a 2,192m<sup>2</sup> hybrid building comprising classroom space and workshop/laboratory space for training to fulfil the employment requirements of the MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone and wider area. Supported by £9.5m

**MIRA Technology Park EZ**

**EZ:** Providing simplified planning, superfast broadband investment incentives and cluster support for the transport R&D sector. Supported by £1.1m

**Local Sustainable Transport Fund (Hinckley)**

**LGF:** Improve the walking and cycling experience with 21.4km of new cycle ways to reduce journey times and improve accessibility. Supported by £3.64m

**North City Centre Access Investment Programme**

**LGF:** Linked transport and public realm improvement works to roads, cycle ways and footpaths to regenerate the area and create better accessibility. Supported by £8.96m

**Abbey Quarter - Abbey Park Road**

**GPF:** Provision of 81 homes to act as a catalyst to unlock Wolsey Island to be developed which, could be in the region of 750 -1,000 homes. Supported by £982,000. Project Completed

**Connecting Leicester (Market and Central)**

**LGF:** Improving pedestrian access and bus routes to Leicester City Centre, creating 966m<sup>2</sup> of new office and workspace and improvements to market trading area. Supported by £7.2m

**Skills and Innovation Village**

**LGF:** Construction of new Motor Engineering Facility and Construction Technology Centre to support more learners and apprentices in to these sectors. Supported by £3.27m. Project Completed

**Ashton Green**

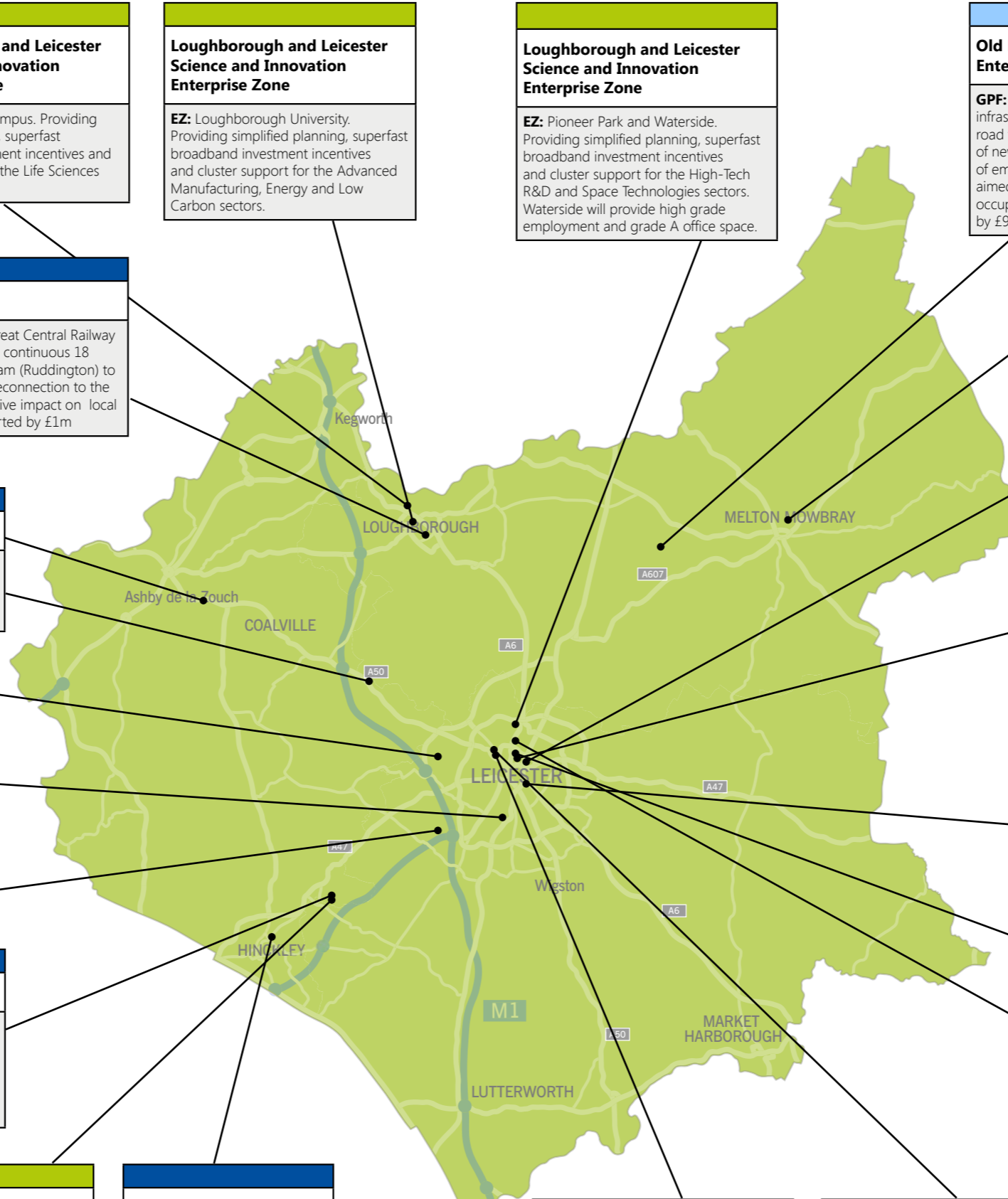
**GPF:** Creating a new access road from Beaumont Leys Lane to Bennion Road roundabout to open up 5Ha of employment land creating 10,000m<sup>2</sup> of manufacturing, warehouseing and office space. Supported by £920,000

**Leicester Waterside**

**GPF:** To consolidate 1Ha of existing public sector land holdings within the Waterside Project area, that will become the new Waterside Enterprise Zone. Supported by £1.05m

**Leicester Waterside**

**LGF:** Major regeneration project delivering 6,503m<sup>2</sup> commercial floor space, 410 houses, new roads and public realm. Supported by £20m





# European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF)

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) are the European Union's main source of funding for supporting jobs and growth across member states. Within England, the programme is delivered across the 38 different LEP areas, each of which has been allocated a share of the £6 billion available for the 2014-2020 programme period to invest in local projects.



## HEADLINE STATS

£108 million of European Structural Investment Funds allocated to support projects in Leicester and Leicestershire between 2014 and 2020.

£19.9 million of European Regional Development Fund offered to 12 projects to support research and innovation, enhance the use of ICT, improve the competitiveness of SMEs and support the transition to a low carbon economy.

£15.1 million of European Social Fund offered to 13 projects to support people into employment and improve skills.

£1.8 million of European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development offered to support rural businesses, food manufacturing and tourism infrastructure.

# Growth Deal

## HEADLINE STATS

Bring forward at least £180m of additional investment from local partners and the private sector

Deliver 3,100 jobs and allow 1,300 homes to be built by 2021.

Over £126m of Local Growth Funds

The LLEP signed a Growth Deal with the government in 2014. This has to date secured £126m of funding through the Local Growth Fund (LGF). This funding, matched by a range of other resources, will support economic growth in the area through to 2021.

The programme is supporting 20 large capital projects covering skills, capital works, large scale infrastructure works and regeneration schemes. The programme is a significant capital transformation programme, the effects of which will take many years to realise. Together, the Growth Deal projects are expected to bring forward £180m of additional investment from local partners and the private sector, deliver 3,100 jobs and allow 1,300 homes to be built by 2021.

Whilst many of the projects being funded through the Growth Deal will not be completed for several years, this year some projects have finished, including new facilities for teaching and learning at Leicester College and new facilities for Melton Cattle Market that will retain this important asset in its current location for years to come.

The LLEP submitted a successful bid to Growth Deal 3 and secured a further £25.87 million of Local Growth Funding to develop 3 new projects:

- The Leicester Space Park, a national hub for space research, learning, public engagement and innovation
- National Space Centre extension to maintain the site as a leading visitor attraction, develop workshops for schools and deliver apprenticeships in space engineering
- Road improvements to the M1/J23 and A512 which will unlock significant land for new homes and employment.

Within Leicester and Leicestershire, the ESIF programme is devolved through the LLEP. Our original ESIF allocation was approximately £108m and we have already made good progress in committing this funding despite the outcome of last year's referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union. The ESIF fund is composed of three core elements and through these we have allocated £52m in 2016/17 to support local businesses, invest in innovation and low carbon projects and support skills and employment initiatives to support local businesses and people.

Between April 16 - March 17 we issued four European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) calls offering £19.9m of funding. We now have twelve projects operating within the LLEP area, with a number of other project applications currently being assessed, providing a broad range of support to local businesses.

For the European Social Fund (ESF) programme, we also issued seven calls offering £15.1m of funding. There are

currently thirteen projects operating across the LLEP area, with several others in development, supporting local people into employment and helping them to develop the skills needed by our employers.

For the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) programme, we issued two calls for rural food processing and rural tourism infrastructure totalling £1.8 million. Both of these calls will remain open until the end of 2017 or until such time as all of the funding is allocated to projects.

Over the course of the next year, our intention is to commit up to 94% of our ERDF and ESF allocation by March 2018. We will release further calls for proposals to encourage the submission of high-quality projects that will support businesses and individuals across Leicester and Leicestershire. We will also continue to work with providers to coordinate the delivery of local European funded activity to ensure maximum impact and value for money.



## Growing Places Fund (GPF)

Infrastructure is essential to realising the LLEP's ambition for continued economic and housing growth, enabling it to happen and ensuring it is sustainable in both urban and rural settings.

### HEADLINE STATS

Optimus Point unlocking developments creating over 850 new jobs; over 370 homes; and industrial and commercial unit floor space ranging from 2787m<sup>2</sup> to 13935m<sup>2</sup>.

Forward funding of infrastructure can be challenging to secure in advance of development. In the current economic climate many otherwise viable schemes are not able to proceed because capital constraints have reduced the flow of investment in the physical infrastructure which unlocks development, delaying the creation of much needed jobs and homes.

Since its inception in 2012 we have deployed our Growing Places Fund (GPF) allocation to help address these constraints, enabling targeted investment in pieces of infrastructure, which has unlocked and accelerated development.

Through three calls for proposals the LLEP Board has approved nine schemes totalling over £12m of GPF investment

which will unlock developments creating over 2,100 new jobs; 1,500 homes; and 164,000m<sup>2</sup> of industrial and commercial floor space.

In 2016/17 Optimus Point completed. We have also made three investments totalling over £4.3m to provide the road and on site infrastructure to facilitate the development of the 26.3 hectare Optimus Point at Glenfield – currently representing one of the largest speculative developments of employment space in the East Midlands.

The loan investment from the nine schemes began repayments back into the fund during 2014/15 and by 2016/17 we had £7.4m to reinvest in the local economy so launched the fourth round of calls for projects.

## Enterprise Zones

The LLEP area is now fortunate to boast two Enterprise Zones (EZs). MIRA Technology Park, designated in 2011, is regarded as one of the top performing EZs in the country. Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone was announced in February 2017.

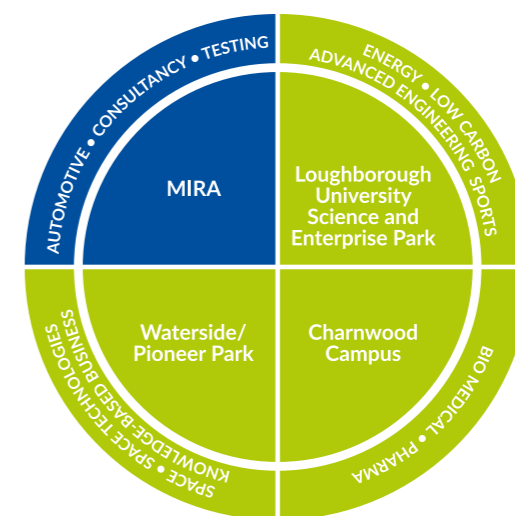
Within the last 12 months Mira Technology Park has added over 2,500m<sup>2</sup> office and workshop space, with another 706m<sup>2</sup> gaining approval, and opened eight new serviced office suites. A specialist automotive skills centre, MIRA Technology Institute, developed with local colleges and universities, has been approved and is due to welcome students through its doors in 2018.

Showcasing this world class centre for excellence in transport technology more than 40 delegates from across the Japanese automotive industry attended a special event in July 2016. Tours of the bespoke property solutions, 100km of specialised proving ground and over £300m of test facilities demonstrated how a UK presence is essential to fully support global vehicle manufacture.

On the back of the MIRA EZ success, in February 2017 our second EZ was confirmed by Minister for Local Government, Marcus Jones, during a visit to Loughborough University. The new multi-site science and hi-

tech manufacturing focused EZ is set to create over 21,000 new jobs and £123million in retained business rates over the next 25 years through the creation of a 'zone of excellence' to support new and growing businesses to bring their innovative ideas and products to the market.

Each of the three sites within the new EZ is unique, offering specialist research and development facilities opportunities.



### HEADLINE STATS

MTP Jobs created – 532 to date

MTP tenants - 34 to date, including Jaguar, Landrover, Aston Martin, Honda, Bosch, Haldex, Pirelli and Lockheed Martin to name a few

MTP new floorspace – 2527m<sup>2</sup> this period



## Growth Hub - LLEP Business Gateway

The LLEP Business Gateway has become an established and trusted first-port-of call for advice, funding and general business support across Leicester and Leicestershire.

Businesses across the region are enabled to start, grow and succeed by contacting the Gateway as a one-stop shop for business support. Delivered through a partnership approach, our focus is on getting the right help for any client, wherever they are across the city and county.

The Gateway successfully supported Almac in their £16m investment project which will generate over 200 high-skilled jobs. This inward investment gained ministerial recognition and supported the delivery of the UK's first Life Science Opportunity Zone at Charnwood Campus.

In 2016/17 the Gateway launched a series of Gateway workshops on a range of business topics identified by businesses, to help provide them with access to expertise to motivate, inspire and inform. These free workshops are delivered in partnership with the private sector using their professional expertise to create learning opportunities and collaboration to further business growth.

The Gateway continues to grow engagement with businesses across Leicester and Leicestershire; inspiring them to start, scale-up a business and helping them to access the support they need to grow, when they need it.

The Gateway supported the annual Leicester Business Festival (LBF) for a second year, running three events over the fortnight, attracting close to 1000 attendees.

**TESTIMONIAL 1:**  
 "It can be really valuable to speak to someone outside the business who can offer impartial solutions and support, as well as a structured report and on-going advice. The Business Gateway Advisor has been so helpful."  
 Cathy Cliffe, Managing Director

LLEP Business Gateway is a trailblazer for joined up working of the Growth Hub and the Better Business for All (BBFA) programme; working with our regulatory partners to increase their participation and recognition as a key aspect of the business support ecosystem.

**TESTIMONIAL 2:**  
 "Great to have someone come in and listen to challenges, not be judgemental, and offer some new suggestions to develop the business that had not been considered before."  
 Chris Samwell, Managing Director



### HEADLINE STATS

Handled 2579 business support enquiries, a 40% increase on 2015/16.

Secured £1.1m of investment to run the service until December 2018

91% satisfaction rate from business

Monthly newsletter circulated to over 9000 businesses, increased open rate over the period of 6%

38,124 unique users of the BizGateway website (up 26% on 2015-16)

## Enterprise Adviser Network

The local Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) has been developed by the LLEP in conjunction with the Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) to enrich links between industry and education through volunteer 'Enterprise Advisers'.

An official launch at the National Space Centre in May 2016 marked the beginning of the EAN in Leicester and Leicestershire. Over 100 guests joined Education Secretary, Nicky Morgan and Claudia Harris, CEO of the CEC at the launch event which informed guests about the new initiative connecting local schools and colleges to businesses.

Networking Event as part of Leicester Business Festival. Over 270 pupils had the opportunity to network with over a hundred employers. Schools and colleges, who are part of the LLEP's EAN, sent pupils to the event. The morning session saw students 'speed network' under timed conditions with employees from a whole host of different businesses such as Hastings Direct, ASDA, Next, British Gas and PwC.

Since then, a total of 35 schools and colleges and 35 senior business leaders have been recruited, including companies such as BT Group, East Midlands Airport, Mattioli Woods plc, Highcross Leicester, Aggregate Industries, Leicester Racecourse and the NHS.

In March 2017, the LLEP hosted a unique event to raise awareness of careers support available to schools. Over 70 representatives from local schools and colleges came together to listen to education providers each give a one minute 'elevator pitch' on why schools should access their support. The event was the first of its kind in the UK.

In September 2016, an event to help schools embed employability took place. The LLEP updated over 60 attendees on the latest skills research. The event included an interactive local employer update.

Over the next academic year the EAN team will plan a series of topical events, themed EA network meetings and add 15 Schools and Advisers to the network.

In November 2016, the LLEP hosted the region's largest ever Careers Speed

## THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

### HEADLINE STATS

EAN - 40% of LLEP schools and colleges engaged through EAN

Investment - 140,000 hours of EA time has been invested in schools and colleges across the country

Impact - Three-fold increase in the proportion of schools with an employer engagement plan through EAN

Events - 97% of student said they felt more informed about their career choices as a result of attending the Careers Speed Networking Event. 100% of attendees rated the usefulness of the Meet the Provider event as good, very good or excellent





## Governance and Finance

### Local Assurance Framework

The work of the LLEP is guided by its Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). In addition, the way the LLEP take decisions, appraise projects and operate as a partnership is set out within the Local Assurance Framework (LAF).

The LAF underwent a review in late 2016 / early 2017, which merged the original LLEP constitution and the original LAF published in 2014. It also reflected the Government issued Local Enterprise Partnership National Assurance Framework (NAF) guidance published in October 2016. The principal points of this guidance focused around strengthening the transparency and accountability arrangements of LEPs.

The review of the LAF with the LLEP's Accountable Body Leicester City Council, partners at each level of the LLEP governance structure and with central government colleagues, identified that the LLEP's process and governance is already robust and well aligned with the expectations set out in the national guidance.

The LAF is focused on three central themes of transparency, accountability and deliverability.

**Transparent** in the way the LLEP engages, to how the LLEP appraise projects for funding, to how decisions are taken and by whom, is critical to ensuring that public money is spent in the correct way; ensuring that each public pound is put to best use to deliver the objectives of our Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).

**Accountable** in the decisions taken as a partnership. That decision makers do so at the appropriate time, based on adequate information, and that any conflicts of interest are declared noted, and that they are dealt with in the appropriate manner following the code of conduct.

**Deliverability** is critical to the LLEPs success as a partnership. Whilst being transparent and accountable in the use of public money, the LLEP must maintain a sharp focus on delivering real economic change for Leicester and Leicestershire. As a partnership the LLEP has a track record of delivery that is second to none, and agility and focus on delivery is ever more important in this turbulent global political landscape, ensuring that Leicester and Leicestershire is one of the most productive, innovative and prosperous economies in the Midlands Engine and the UK.

## Financial Statements

	2016-17
<b>Income</b>	£000's
Grants	605
Local Authority Contributions	168
National and Local Programme Income	306
Fees, interest and other income	725
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,804</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Staffing	1,053
Running costs	267
Accountable body costs	170
Programme Delivery	314
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,804</b>

## LLEP Board Members



**Nick Pulley**

Regional Director,  
Santander Corporate  
Bank  
LLEP Chair



**Kevin Harris**

Partner, RSM UK  
LLEP Vice-Chair



**Andrew Cliffe**

Managing Director,  
East Midlands Airport



**Andy Reed OBE**

Director, SajeImpact



**Jaspal Singh Minhas**

Managing Director,  
Electrical Design  
& MFG Co Ltd



**Dr Sharon Redrobe OBE**

CEO, Twycross Zoo



**George Gillespie**

CEO, HORIBA MIRA



**Paul Bott**

CEO, Vista



**Cllr Blake Pain**

Leader, Harborough  
District Council



**Cllr David Slater**

Leader, Charnwood  
Borough Council



**Nick Rushton CC**

Leader, Leicestershire  
County Council



**Sir Peter Soulsby**

City Mayor, Leicester  
City Council



**Marion Plant OBE**

Principal and CEO, North  
Warwickshire & Hinckley  
College and South  
Leicestershire College



**Prof Robert J. Allison**

Vice-Chancellor and  
President, Loughborough  
University

## Priorities for 2017/18

2017-18 is going to be a critical year for the LLEP as we will continue to manage our major funding programmes and develop strong relationships with local and national stakeholders and partners.

### Our key priorities for 2017/18 will be:

- Supporting Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect and Industrial Strategy
- Development and launch of our Strategic Economic Plan 2018 to 2023
- Continuing to support the delivery of our existing programme of investments

### Industrial Strategy/Midlands Engine

The LLEP responded to the Government's Industrial Strategy consultation and await the launch of the white paper. The role of the Midlands Engine will continue to grow in 2017. It focuses on five key themes – skills, innovation, transport, promoting the region and finance for business. The LLEP will play a key role in this work to ensure that both our public and private sector partners are central to the development and delivery of the Midlands Engine Strategy and Action Plan.

### Strategic Economic Plan 2018-23

In light of the changing economic circumstances for the region, 2017 will see the development of a new Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). The plan will be based on robust and up to date evidence and a strong engagement programme with local and national stakeholders. The new SEP will be closely aligned to the Midlands Engine and Industrial Strategies and the Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire.

### Local Growth Fund (LGF)

One of the LLEP's key priorities is to deliver our third years LGF allocation of £18m. The fund is supporting 20 large capital projects. We have an additional allocation of £25.87m through Growth Deal 3 and this funding will work with four main projects and accelerate delivery where possible.

### Growing Places Fund (GPF)

The first 3 rounds of this fund awarded loans totalling £12.5m. Loans will be repaid in full during 2017/18 allowing us to further invest in schemes

that are currently stalled or can be accelerated by an injection of GPF loan capital for infrastructure.

### Project Development and Revenue Fund

The LLEP will make use of available Business Rates Pool monies to develop our pipeline of projects and seek to support feasibility assessments and revenue projects that contribute to delivery of SEP priorities.

### European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF)

During 2017, the LLEP will work to commit our remaining ESIF allocation and procure projects that support businesses and individuals. We encourage and support the submission of high quality applications and will plan engagement events for providers to understand and submit proposals that meet the priorities of each call.

### Enterprise Zones

The LLEP intends to develop and deliver the investment plans for its Enterprise Zones and ensure they offer an attractive proposition to encourage new businesses in to the area.

### LLEP Business Gateway

The Growth Hub, LLEP Business Gateway, will continue to be a single place to access business support information and advice. A schedule of free to attend action planning workshops will be delivered each month and the Growth Hub will develop a strategy and programme of support for scale up businesses across Leicester and Leicestershire.

### Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN)

The project will have a full team of Enterprise Co-ordinators and will focus on engaging 60 local schools with 60 enterprise advisers. This will support local schools to develop a strategy and activities to support careers information and employability skills amongst young people who will one day become our future workforce.

2017/18 brings exciting opportunities for the the LLEP, not only in setting and delivering its own ambitious agenda, but also by helping to drive forward the priorities of the Industrial Strategy and the Midlands Engine.

## Further support and contact details

The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) needs input from local businesses. To receive news and information visit: [www.llep.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.llep.org.uk/newsletter)

If you require further information on anything within this Annual Report or are interested in becoming involved, please email the LLEP at the email address below.



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

+44 (0)116 454 2917    [admin@llep.org.uk](mailto:admin@llep.org.uk)

  @LLEPNews     LLEP Business Gateway

