

LEP delivery plan v3 – updated Aug 2020

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1. Introduction

By Roger Marsh OBE DL, Chair of the LEP

This year is proving to be the most remarkable we have faced in living memory. The COVID-19 outbreak is undoubtable the greatest challenge our region, the UK and the world has ever known. It has united us in our appreciation of the NHS and key workers and divided us in the impact it has on our lives, and the outcomes for the most vulnerable in our society.

Here in the Leeds City Region, up to a quarter of businesses were forced to temporarily shut their doors, with as many as 300,000 people being placed on the Government's furlough scheme.

As a LEP, we have been at the forefront of our region's response to the pandemic, playing a key role in establishing the Economic Recovery Board to ensure businesses can survive the immediate economic shock while putting long-term measures in place. We worked quickly to support our region's economy putting in place a package of measures to help safeguard the thousands of jobs and businesses affected. We also used our capital grants scheme and supported our

partner councils, which have already channeled £430 million to more than 37,000 businesses in the region.

Turning crisis into opportunity

Over the long term, the historic £1.8 billion devolution deal signed by the region's leaders and Government in March 2020 will allow the LEP to work in partnership with the Combined Authority to build on the support already available and help businesses and the Leeds City Region economy recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The devolution deal also includes a new Mayor for West Yorkshire who will be elected in May 2021 to give our region a stronger national voice, adding to that of the LEP.

As a region, we have proven time and time again what we can do when given the opportunity. Since 2015, the £1 billion Growth Deal that the LEP secured has helped thousands of businesses to grow and create jobs. Now, with this devolution deal, we have the chance to go much, much further.

A personal thanks

As chair, over the last seven years, I have witnessed the tireless work and endless hours our people and our partners have invested in helping our region's businesses and communities. It is this passion and dedication that will ensure our economy can emerge stronger and build the kind of future to which the people of our region aspire. I'm a big advocate for arguing that the Leeds City Region, and indeed the whole of the North, is the key to solving many of our national issues, and I'm confident we can lead the way out of the current economic and social crisis facing our nation.

2. What is the LEP?

We unlock the Leeds City Region's vast economic potential by enabling businesses to grow and develop. We work with partners across the public and private sectors, including the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, with the goal of stimulating growth that will create jobs and prosperity for everyone who lives, works and does business here.

The majority of our work benefits the five local authority areas known collectively as Leeds City Region.

Insert LEP map – illustrating current geography with former districts highlighted in a different colour

A new LEP geography for 2020

In order to comply with Government guidelines for local enterprise partnerships that no longer permit overlapping geographies, the LEP reluctantly agreed to change its geography. From 1 April 2020 onwards, the LEP formally covers the districts of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield. Strong partnership

arrangements have been put in place to ensure that the LEP's work and investments continue to have maximum benefit for the wider region's economy, particularly in York, Harrogate, Craven, Selby and Barnsley.

3. A positive impact across Leeds City Region 2019/20

From March 2019 to March 2020 our work has:

Boosting businesses

We supported 3,000 businesses:

- 227 to innovate
- 153 to be investment-ready
- 126 to improve their financial health and resilience
- 67 to reduce their energy, water and waste use
- 264 to trade overseas

Strengthening skills

We've helped:

- 1,000 businesses with education, apprenticeships and sector skills initiatives
- 2,209 people to gain in-demand skills
- 8,600 disadvantaged students to learn about the world of work with careers support
- 40 businesses commit to working with schools and colleges
- 21 businesses commit to a skills plan for employees

Winning investment

We've enabled:

- 137 businesses looking to locate to our region
- 35 businesses open new sites in our region
- 1,237 new jobs created
- £46 million private sector investment
- 99 foreign-owned companies account managed

Our Growth Deal with Government

In 2014, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Leeds City Region LEP secured a £1 billion Growth Deal.

This has enabled West Yorkshire to make a strong start:

- Bringing close to £3 billion public and private sector investment into the region to boost growth and jobs.
- Creating 20,600 jobs and adding £2.1 billion a year to the economy.
- Putting in place a £1 billion package of transport investment to upgrade transport links, making it easier for people and businesses to get around.
- Helping 4,800 businesses to grow since 2011, unlocking close to half a billion pounds of private sector investment.
- Creating over 4,300 work opportunities for young people aged 16-24, including 2,000 apprenticeships.

Working together throughout 2019/20, we:

- Invested £10.19 million in the next phase of flood alleviation across seven projects in the Leeds City Region safeguarding 23,177 jobs and 500 businesses from flood risk.

- Paid out 59 Resource Efficiency Fund grants helping save businesses nearly 2 million kWh of energy – enough to charge every Nissan Leaf electric car sold in UK at least twice.
- Worked with 15 projects across the City Region which will result in carbon savings of 250,000 tonnes of CO₂ – the same amount of energy used to charge 31 billion smart phones – through our Energy Accelerator programme.
- Invested £33.4 million into the new Quarry Hill campus at Leeds City College benefitting more than 3,000 students.
- Celebrated the first year of Nexus – the world leading innovation and research centre at the University of Leeds – which received £3 million funding.
- Invested £60 million in improvements to bus, road and rail travel across our region.
- Developed plans to build new railway stations at Elland, Leeds Bradford Airport, White Rose and Thorpe Park, working closely with our partners and local communities.
- Continued to deliver the second phase of our £45 million Enterprise Zone programme.
- Worked with 60 businesses and 24 schools through our CityConnect programme to help more people to travel by bike and on foot.
- Added 18.5km of high quality, segregated routes, to our region's growing cycling and walking network, including Bradford's Canal Road Cycleway, Leeds City Centre Cycle Superhighway and a series of towpath improvements on the Rochdale Canal around Hebden Bridge.

Attracting businesses to the region

The past 12 months has seen a number of high profile businesses choose to set up, or scale up, in the region. The strong growth in high-tech and digital companies underlines Leeds City Region's status as the UK's digital heartland and is supported by [#welcome](#), the LEP's £2.4 million digital inward investment fund.

Companies that have chosen to base themselves in the City Region include:

- FinTech company iwocca, one of one of Europe's largest business lenders, which will create up to 100 new jobs by 2023.
- Link Group, a leading global provider of financial administration services, which is establishing a new £27m Northern Hub, with space for 850 employees.
- Industrial IT and automation systems provider Novotek UK & Ireland, which has opened an innovation centre in Leeds.
- AND Digital, which is expanding its offering with a brand-new office – known as a 'club' – in Halifax, West Yorkshire.

Following Channel 4's decision to establish its national headquarters in Leeds, we have also seen a significant growth in independent producers setting up or expanding in the region. The presence of Channel 4 has accelerated activity and acted as the spark for expansion and investment across the City Region. We estimate that the impact of Channel 4 will be £1 billion over the next 10 years, creating 1,200 jobs.

Committed to transparency and value

This year, the LEP has continued its journey to become the most transparent LEP in the country, implementing a series of measures that go much further than the national best practice guidance.

The LEP holds all its meetings and sub-committee meetings in public, publishes reports and minutes from its meetings on the Combined Authority website, and publishes details of grants awarded to businesses in Leeds City Region. The LEP also works to an Assurance Framework that ensures all funding is subject to a consistent level of rigour and scrutiny.

4. Our plans for 2020/21

Over the next 12 months our focus will be on supporting our region to successfully recover from both the short and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Board and making the most of the historical £1.8 billion West Yorkshire devolution deal. This joint commitment will be at the heart of everything we do as we work with our partners to ensure we emerge as a stronger, more resilient region.

As the LEP, we will work to influence the shape and size of future regional funding, including the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the 2020 spending review, while maximising delivery against European funds.

We also continue to work in partnership with the NP11 – the 11 Northern LEPs – to strengthen our voice, combining that effort, where appropriate, with business, industry and community groups

Doing so will help us achieve our priorities for the coming year:

Boosting Productivity

Helping businesses to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and helping people find and retain good jobs

- Support businesses to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and respond to the challenges and opportunities of Brexit, providing intensive support to 1,000 businesses.
- Develop specialised business support programmes tailored to COVID-19 recovery.
- Finalise and implement the Local Industrial Strategy and Strategic Economic Framework and develop a pipeline of interventions across the foundations of productivity.
- Complete delivery of the Future Ready Skills Commission - an independent Commission of experts and leading thinkers working to create an improved skills system for the UK and deliver better outcomes at a local level.
- Support people to access employment opportunities and to retrain, particularly those in sectors affected by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Complete investment of Growth Deal into projects by March 2021 helping to create and safeguard jobs across the Region.

- Deliver another 170,000 square footage of commercial space through the Enterprise Zone programme.

Enabling Inclusive Growth

Enabling as many people as possible to contribute to, and benefit from, economic growth

- Helping our most disadvantaged young people achieve their goals by working closely with schools and colleges – including supporting them to recover from the COVID-19 crisis.
- Work with schools and colleges in disadvantaged areas to boost careers advice.
- Provide support for SMEs to create more apprenticeship opportunities, particularly to address an anticipated decline in demand for apprentices following the COVID-19 crisis.
- Deliver superfast broadband connectivity to over 44,000 premises across the city region through the Broadband programme.
- Support people to access employment opportunities and to re-train, particularly those in sectors undergoing structural change and/or affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Tackling the Climate Emergency

Ensuring a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating our plans for a net zero carbon economy by 2038 at the latest

- Deliver eight priority projects in the Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan
- Help 150 businesses to lower their carbon impact and support employees to walk or cycle to work through the Travel Plan Network and the ReBiz resource efficiency programme.
- Support a further eight low carbon low energy projects through the Energy Accelerator
- Complete the installation of a further 44 ultra low emission vehicle charging points around the region.
- Establish a connectivity plan and pipeline, promoting active and decarbonised travel for all communities and Covid-19 recovery.

Delivering 21st Century Transport

Ensuring our region's transport network recovers from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic whilst laying the foundations for future improvements

- Increase bus patronage and customer satisfaction through the West Yorkshire Bus Alliance
- Continue to develop plans for a Mass Transit system for West Yorkshire.
- Work with our partners to secure HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail for our region.
- Continue input to the Integrated Rail Plan, which will inform how to quickly bring forward rail improvements for the North of England alongside HS2.
- Deliver new high-quality cycle and walking routes through Phase 3 of the City Connect programme and provide temporary cycling and walking solutions to reduce car usage.

- Start delivery of an ambitious programme of transport infrastructure improvements through the Transforming Cities Fund, to reduce reliance on the car and promote public transport, cycling and walking.

5. Strategic activity and influencing

This year, the LEP will also continue its strategic activity, working closely with a wide range of partners to influence policy-making for the benefit of the region, to make the most of the opportunities of devolution and support business and individuals as we recover from the impact of COVID-19.

Key activities include:

Building on the opportunities of devolution

The West Yorkshire devolution deal agreed with Government offers unprecedented opportunities for the City Region, unlocking £1.8 billion of government funding over the next 30 years. It means that more of the decisions that affect our region will be taken here and will allow us to invest in public transport, support businesses, improve skills and living standards while tackling the climate emergency.

The LEP will continue to work closely with the Combined Authority, and this close integration is a model of efficient partnership working that has been fundamental to our success. This strong partnership approach in pursuit of our shared interests will be further enhanced by the arrival of a West Yorkshire Mayor, who will also be a member of the LEP Board.

Supporting the region through Covid-19

In the wake of COVID-19, the Leeds City Region and UK face their greatest challenge in a generation. As the LEP, we stand ready to work with our partners at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Government to do all we can to support businesses and individuals across the region at this time and through the economic recovery.

Local Industrial Strategy

The LEP is a Local Industrial Strategy for Leeds City Region, designed to support business productivity, innovation and skills, while driving clean and inclusive growth. Sitting at the heart of a long-term strategic policy framework, the Local Industrial Strategy is a fundamental part of the LEP's efforts to level up Leeds City Region and support the region's economy as it recovers from the impact of Covid-19.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The LEP is continuing to work with Government to help shape the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund that will support regional economic growth after the UK leaves the EU. The LEP will continue to call for this funding to exceed existing domestic and EU funding allocations for the Leeds City Region and put more control of funding decisions in local hands.

Championing the Northern Powerhouse

Through the NP11 – a Government-funded body made up of the Chairs of the 11 Northern local enterprise partnerships and chaired by Roger Marsh OBE DL – we continue to champion the role of the Northern Powerhouse. The NP11 has been influential in making the case for rebalancing the UK economy towards the North.

Transport for the North

The LEP, working closely with the Combined Authority, will continue to be an active partner of Transport for the North (TfN) to ensure that the City Region's transport priorities are reflected both in the programme itself and through funding opportunities. Working with TfN and the new Northern Transport Acceleration Council, the LEP will also continue to champion the need for investment in our rail networks, particularly through the delivery of HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and the Transpennine Route upgrade.

Strategic transport pipeline

The LEP supports the Combined Authority's strategic transport plans, particularly the development of an integrated City Region transport network. These proposals will be developed in conjunction with the National Infrastructure Commission following the announcement that the region was one of five places they have chosen to work with to develop transport plans. The plans will be developed to link with our policies on infrastructure, housing and flood prevention.

Working in partnership

Having implemented the changes set out in the Government's Strengthening Local Enterprise Partnerships report, which have resulted in a new LEP geography, we remain committed to working with our partners at the Sheffield City Region LEP and the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP, with the aim of ensuring our work can continue to benefit the our City Region economy, people and communities, and the North as a whole. Investment secured by the LEP under its previous governance arrangements will continue to be available across the whole City Region geography.

6. Governance and finance

The LEP Board

The LEP Board, under a private sector chair, ensures that our work meets the needs of employers in the region and supports our long-term goal of delivering inclusive growth for the benefit of everyone who lives and works in Leeds City Region. Its remit covers the whole of the Leeds City Region and it meets in public.

The LEP Board brings together members with diverse backgrounds and perspectives in the private sector, including business, the arts, social enterprise and academia, alongside council leaders representing the districts of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield.

With a total of 18 members, 13 members of the Board are from the private sector and five from the public sector, with equal numbers of men and women.

The Chair has invited representatives of Craven, Harrogate, Selby and York to continue to attend Board meetings as observers in line with the LEP's commitment to allow discussion, debate and decisions to be taken with the benefit of a regional understanding.

Roger Marsh OBE DL Chair, LEP Board Combined Authority Member Deputy Chair, Investment Committee Chair NP11	Mark Roberts Co-founder Beer Hawk Deputy Chair, LEP Board	Rashik Parmar MBE IBM Fellow and Vice President Technology Chair, Employment and Skills Panel Councillor	Joanna Robinson Managing Director, Mansfield Pollard SME Representative Chair, Business Communications Group
Andrew Wright Managing Director, Reliance Precision Chair, Business Innovation and Growth Panel	Amir Hussain CoE, Yeme Architects	Kate Hainsworth CEO, Leeds Community Foundation Diversity Champion	Mandy Ridyard Finance Director Produmax
Professor Shirley Congdon Vice-Chancellor and CEO, University of Bradford	Kully Thiarai Creative Director and CEO, Leeds 2023	Kamran Rashid Director, The Socially Conscious Company	Helen Featherstone Deputy Director, Yorkshire Sculpture Park
Simon Pringle Managing Director, Project Rome	Cllr Judith Blake CBE Leader, Leeds City Council Chair, Business Investment Panel	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe Leader, Bradford Council Chair, West Yorkshire Combined Authority	Cllr Denise Jeffery Leader, Wakefield Council
Cllr Shabir Pandor Leader, Kirklees Council Chair, Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel	Cllr Tim Swift MBE Leader, Calderdale Council Deputy Chair, West Yorkshire Combined Authority Chair, Place Panel	Cllr Keith Aspden (Leader of York – observer)	Cllr Richard Cooper (Leader of Harrogate – observer. Represents interests of Selby and Craven)

INSERT IMAGES OF BOARD MEMBERS

Where our funding comes from and how we spend it

As a public body we must ensure that our budget is balanced. Capital funding comes through the LEP Growth Deal, our West Yorkshire-plus Transport Fund, the recently secured Getting Building Fund and other investment grants that support our capital infrastructure programmes, including improvements to road, rail and cycleways, regeneration schemes, new college facilities and housing developments.

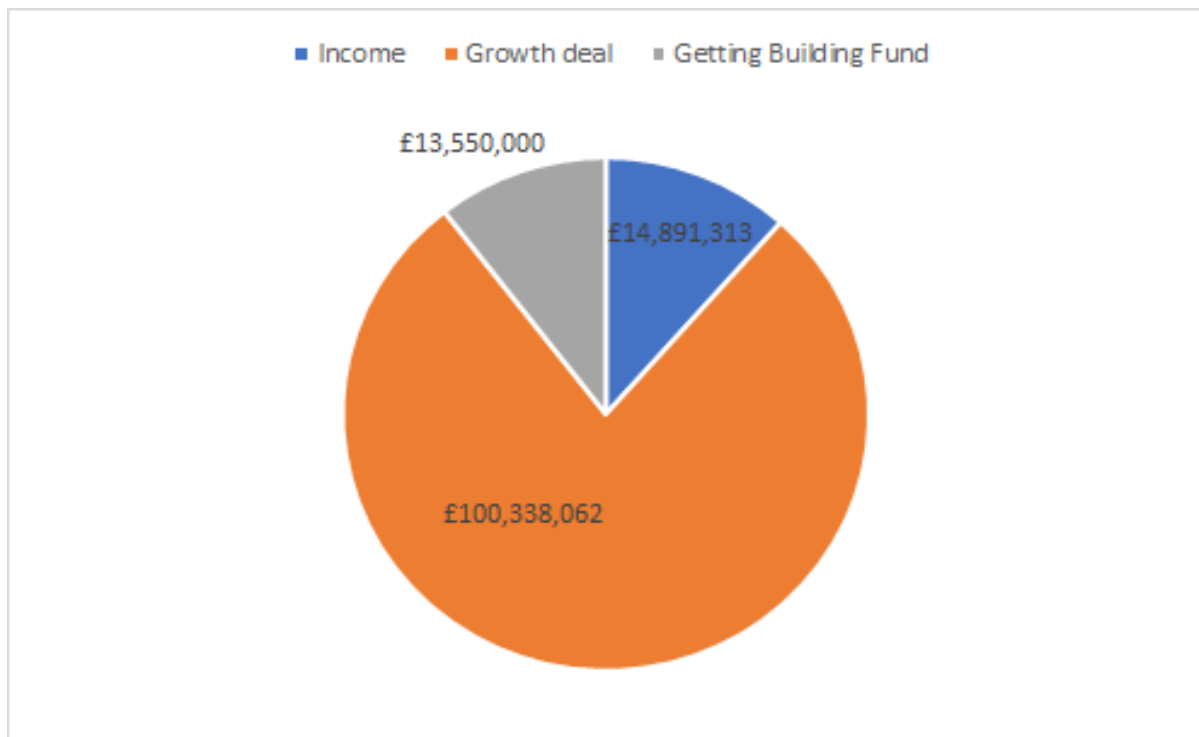
We also bring in Government, European and private sector funding to support our economic services and support for businesses. Private sector sponsorship pays for increasing amounts of our trade and investment work to attract new companies to the region, and we generate income through our bus stations and sales of MCard.

We have developed a Capital Investment Strategy and are also working on a Medium Term Financial Strategy which will identify how we will make savings from services in line with the reduced revenue funding available to our council partners. Like all public bodies, we face financial pressures and consistently look for ways to save money, particularly in our corporate services.

Where our funding comes from in 2020/21

Total income: £128.7 million

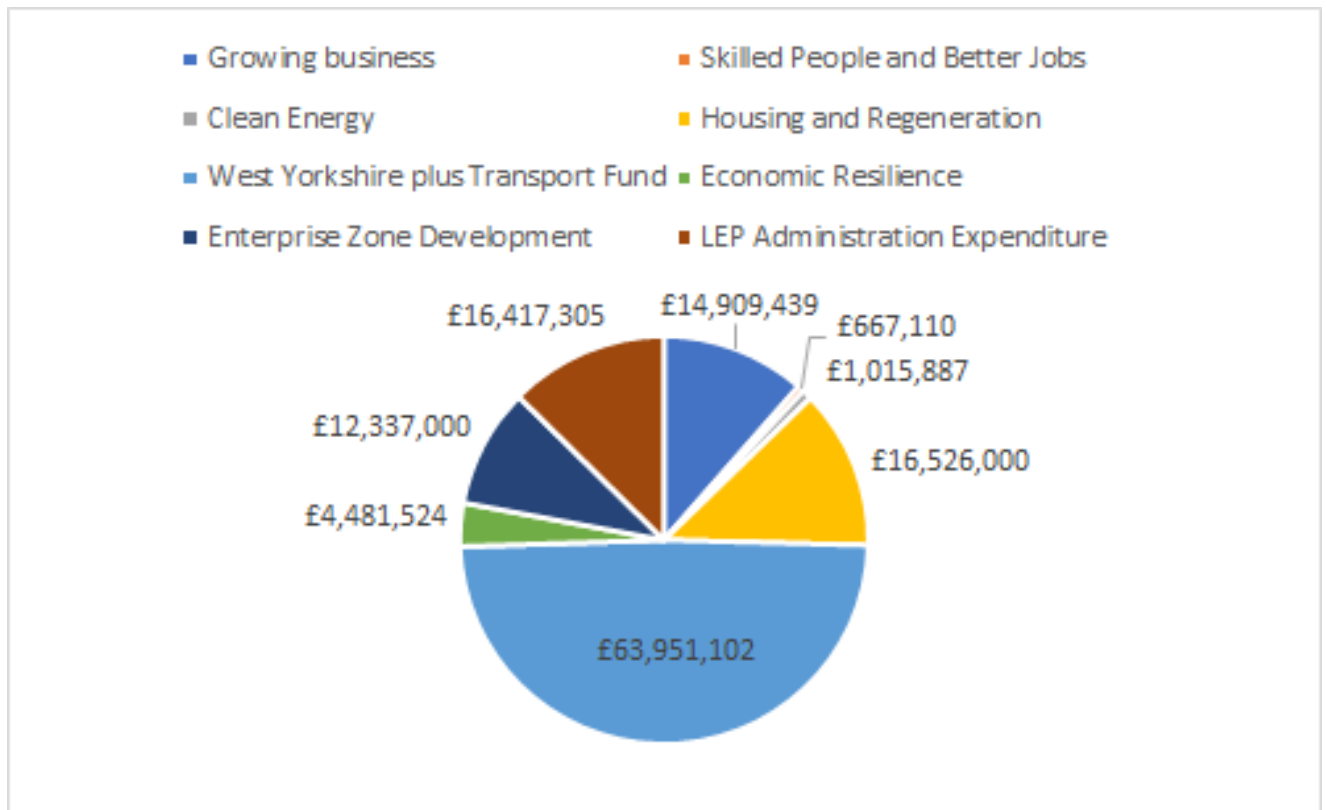
Income	£14,891,313
Growth Deal	£100,338,062
Getting Building Fund	£13,550,000
Total	£128,779,375



How we will spend our money in 2020/21

Total budget: £130.3 million

Growing business	£14,909,439
Skilled People and Better Jobs	£667,110
Clean Energy	£1,015,887
Housing and Regeneration	£16,526,000
West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund	£63,951,102
Economic Resilience	£4,481,524
Enterprise Zone Development	£12,337,000
LEP Administration Expenditure	£16,417,305
Total	£130,305,367



Our partners

Partnership working is at the heart of everything we do. In 2020/21, we'll continue to work with our partners to move further towards our vision for our region.

Combined Authority members:

Insert council logos:

Bradford

Calderdale

Kirklees

Leeds

Wakefield

Working with:

Insert council logos:

Barnsley

Craven

Harrogate

North Yorks

Selby

York

Contact us – **INSERT LEP CONTACT INFO AND SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS**

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