

Leeds City Region Growth Deal, Independent Impact Assessment

Study Brief & Approach:

Arcadis was commissioned to conduct an independent impact evaluation of the non-transport element of the Growth Deal. The evaluation team completed desk-based research, held interviews with staff, delivered a stakeholder survey and completed economic modelling between January and March 2021.

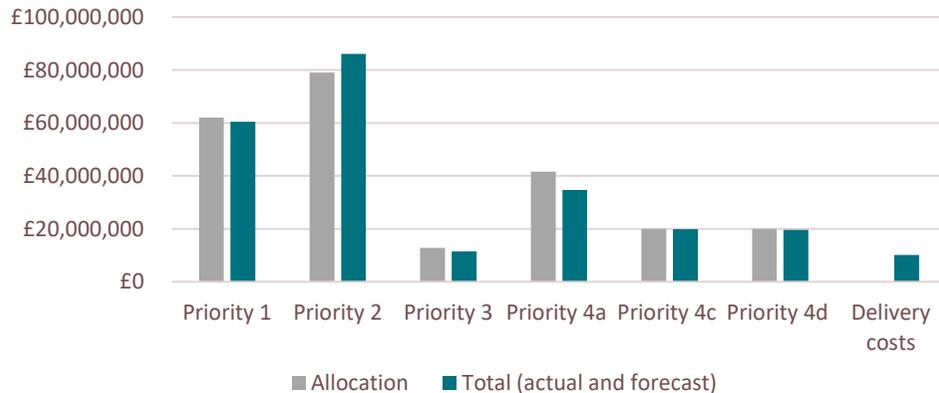
Growth Deal Overview:

The non-transport projects had a total allocation of £235.55 million. Projects were categorised across the four Strategic Priorities contained in the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

The LEP's Strategic Investment Priorities:

- Priority 1: Supporting growing businesses.
- Priority 2: Developing a skilled and flexible workforce.
- Priority 3: Building a resource smart city Region.
- Priority 4: Delivering the infrastructure for growth.

The chart below shows actual expenditure across the Growth Deal Priorities compared to the original allocation.



Growth Deal Delivery:

- The spend forecast for Growth Deal has been achieved. With a current forecast of £242,251,402 against an initial target of £235,550,000, equating to an over-spend of £6,901,402.

- In relation to core outputs the current forecast is to exceed the target for leverage, and significantly exceed the target for homes created.
- The forecast for jobs created is 75% of the target but a strategy is in development to close this gap by March 2025.

Growth Deal Impacts:



Conclusions:

- The strategic priorities contained in the original and updated SEP were relevant and appropriate, and the Growth Deal has made a major contribution towards achieving them.
- The performance on the expenditure targets was highly effective, particularly given how challenging the allocation was.
- The delivery of the Growth Deal will achieve excellent returns with £5.25 of leveraged private and public investment for every £1 of funding. In turn, this will deliver £9.7bn of cumulative long-term benefits to the LCR economic over the longer term, representing excellent value for money.
- A series of recommendations were presented to improve the development & delivery of future programmes.