

Appendix 2: Examples of the working relationship between the public and private sector in West Yorkshire

- Unlike many other LEP areas, in West Yorkshire the LEP and the MCA were integrated at an early point – with the MCA acting as accountable body for LEP funds, and the LEP Chair sitting on the MCA as a voting member.
- As a result, both the MCA and the LEP developed common economic plans, in particular the ‘Strategic Economic Plan’ and subsequent ‘Strategic Economic Framework’.
- The private sector members have been present on MCA decision making Committees, and this was enhanced with the new MCA committee structure adopted in June 2021, which has voting private sector members on all committees, and LEP members as vice chairs on the majority of committees.
- Private sector members have therefore been highly influential in shaping:
 - The criteria for business grants and then on individual grant decisions;
 - The strategy for skills and employment programmes;
 - Encouraging and facilitating inward investments, export events and trade visits;
 - Overarching economic, skills, innovation and growth strategy

Of particular note was the ‘COVID economic recovery taskforce’ – a task and finish board that ran 2019-21 and developed the regional economic response to the pandemic, and influenced the covid-specific programmes implemented by the MCA/LEP. This included both LEP members, and wider business representative groups, plus some key individual businesses, and increased voice from the VCS sector, FE/HE and Trade Unions.

All of the LEP/CA business facing activity has been undertaken under the brand of ‘The LEP’. This has served well during the period that the LEP was the conduit for both Government funding for business support and economic regeneration (under the 2014-19 ‘Growth Deal’), but is proving confusing for stakeholders now that the Mayor is in post, and Government is promoting local Government as the core conduit of Government funding.

Finally, it is important to note that the LEP in West Yorkshire/Leeds City Region is seen to be high performing and a national exemplar. It has passed every annual [LEP Annual Performance Review](#), achieved all of its spend and delivery (output) targets, including those around gender and diversity on the LEP Board itself. An independent assessment of the [Growth Deal](#) forecast that it will deliver exceptional economic returns with a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 12.1 : 1 when all other leveraged public and private investment is factored in, significantly out performing most central Government economic programmes.