

# Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Delivery Plan 2021/22

September 2021



# Introduction

The pandemic has changed all our lives, with upheavals unimaginable in peacetime.

As a LEP, our efforts have been focused on protecting jobs and livelihoods by helping businesses remain open and adapt to the changing circumstances, while laying the foundations of a strong recovery that will allow everyone to achieve their potential and enjoy the best quality of life.

Over the past 18 months, LEP business support teams, working with partner councils, have helped channel £1 billion in support grants to over tens of thousands of businesses, as well as putting in place programmes offering advice and guidance to help businesses navigate the difficult circumstances.

Sadly, its impact will be felt for some considerable time to come - in jobs lost, businesses forced to close and young people's education disrupted - but there are many reasons to be optimistic.

In May, Tracy Brabin was elected as the first Mayor of West Yorkshire, unlocking £1.8 billion of new funding through devolution and powers for the region. Already, we can see how this is making a difference to the lives of people across West Yorkshire and fulfilling pledges made by the Mayor, with investments in better transport, skills, housing and regeneration.

As a region, we have proven time and time again what we can do when given the opportunity, as our track record with the £1 billion Growth Deal secured by the LEP shows. Independent analysis of its impact shows it has helped to create or protect over 45,000 gross jobs, been a catalyst for economic growth, and delivered on average £12 worth of lasting benefits to the City Region for every £1 of public investment.

West Yorkshire is an attractive region for investment. We have seen strong interest from employers looking to establish or grow a presence here, with the region increasingly being the preferred UK location for many businesses.

Through necessity, we have also seen a flourishing of innovative new business practices that will stand our region in good stead for the future. And while the UK's exit from the EU has caused disruption to international trade, there are global opportunities with markets we haven't yet fully engaged with that can be developed.

The pandemic has been a wake up call that we need bold new thinking around how we create an economy that works for everyone. We are working tirelessly to make sure our recovery is as strong as it can be, and that everyone has the opportunity to share the benefits of economic growth and prosperity.

**Sir Roger Marsh OBE DL**  
**Chair of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership and the NP11 Group of Northern LEPs**

# Making a difference across Leeds City Region

This year has seen unprecedented challenges to how we live, work and do businesses.

The LEP and the Combined Authority have worked tirelessly to support businesses and individuals through the pandemic and into the recovery, alongside our local authority partners, putting in place programmes offering advice and guidance to help navigate the difficult circumstances.

We have also continued our long-term mission to build a strong, inclusive and resilient economy that works for everyone by investing in skills, connectivity and our communities, and have taken further steps to tackle the climate emergency.

## Supporting Leeds City Region through the pandemic

- Worked with the Combined Authority and our five West Yorkshire Local Authority partners to help distribute over £1 billion to support businesses
- Helped over 3,500 businesses respond to the challenges of the pandemic with direct funding, advice or business coaching and mentoring from a business professional
- Delivered almost £3.5 million in grants to around 1,500 small businesses to help them improve resilience, adapt products and services to reach new customers and markets and update ICT equipment and software
- Working with the Combined Authority and partners in the public, private and third sectors, developed the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan which has the scope to create thousands of jobs good new roles in the high-growth areas of the future. Submitted in August 2020 and seeking £1.4bn from Government. Revised during the Summer 2021 against the context of deployment of local Combined Authority 'gainshare' funds
- Developed a COVID-19 Transport Recovery Plan and set out our long-term plans for a transport network to connect all West Yorkshire's communities to jobs, education and opportunity
- Developed lesson plans for use at home during the pandemic through our FutureGoals Remote and worked closely with schools and colleges to support our most disadvantaged young people

## Boosting businesses, communities and skills

- Connected a further 1,000 homes and businesses in hard-to-reach and disadvantaged areas to full-fibre broadband so all communities can benefit from superfast internet access
- Put inclusive growth at the heart of everything we do, so everyone can share in the benefits of the recovery, and agreed our long-term ambitions to tackle economic and social disparities in all our communities

- Started to develop a 'fair work charter' for the region, to recognise employers that commit to good practices, such as paying a living wage, offering secure work, and development and progression
- With the Combined Authority, agreed a £13.5 million investment in our successful [re]boot and Employment Hub programmes to help 10,000 people affected by the pandemic to retrain and find new jobs, using funding unlocked through the devolution deal
- Agreed a £6 million scheme to encourage a new generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders, to set up innovative, new businesses with the potential to create sustainable jobs and tackle some of the key challenges facing the region post-pandemic
- Worked with local employers to pledge over £1.3 million to fund local Apprenticeship opportunities through our Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Service

## Tackling the climate emergency

- Working to reduce the carbon impact of our transport and road system through CityConnect and by starting to deliver projects to promote public transport, cycling and walking through the £317 million Transforming Cities Fund
- Continued the process of becoming a net zero carbon economy by understanding the changes our region will need to make to buildings, industry, land use and agriculture, power, and transport to achieve this
- Helped 123 businesses to lower their carbon impact through the Travel Plan Network and the RE:Biz resource efficiency programme
- Supported 10 schemes to become more energy efficient and reduce their carbon emissions through our unique Energy Accelerator programme, to save 250,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>

# About the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership

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 Mayor of West Yorkshire and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, with the goal of stimulating growth to create jobs and prosperity for everyone who lives, works and does business here.

The majority of our work benefits the five local authority areas of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield known collectively as Leeds City Region.



We also work closely with our partners in York, Harrogate, Craven, Selby and Barnsley to ensure that the LEP's work and investments continue to have maximum benefit for the wider region's economy.

# Our Growth Deal with Government

## A transformational investment in our region

In 2014, the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership and West Yorkshire Combined Authority secured the largest ever Growth Deal with the government.

It has made available £1 billion to invest in our region's public transport, infrastructure, and digital connectivity, develop new housing, support regeneration, and invest in clean energy and environmental resilience, including flood alleviation measures to help protect thousands of homes and businesses.

It has also helped people to develop their skills to improve their employability, access jobs and realise their potential, as well as supporting businesses to help them grow or locate in the region and create good jobs for local people.

As the Growth Deal came to an end in March 2021, we commissioned independent consultants Arcadis to understand the positive impact it had on our region.

Independently, Arcadis found that the Growth Deal:

- Is set to create or protect over 45,000 gross jobs throughout the lifetime of its investments
- Will deliver on average £12 worth of lasting benefits to Leeds City Region for every £1 of public investment
- Has been instrumental to economic growth and progress throughout the region since 2015

# Highlights

## LEP Chair honoured with knighthood

LEP Chair Sir Roger Marsh OBE DL was Knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. The honour has been given for his services to Business, to the Economy and the Community in Northern England.

## Mayor of West Yorkshire joins LEP Board

Tracy Brabin was elected as the first Mayor of West Yorkshire in May 2021, representing the interests of 2.3 million people across the region. The Mayor has responsibility for transport, housing and planning, and finance powers, as well as the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and is a member of both the Combined Authority and LEP.

## LEP festival spotlights innovation

Over 1,150 people from across the region attended more than 40 events from 21 organisers as part of the inaugural West Yorkshire Innovation Festival, created by the West Yorkshire Innovation Network and coordinated by the LEP. The festival spotlighted innovation across the region as well as sharing insight into the support available to help businesses with new ideas for products, processes or services.

## UK Investment Bank and Bank of England choose Leeds

The Bank of England has chosen Leeds as the location for its new northern hub, with the city also being named as the home of the new UK Investment Bank. The two announcements bolster the City Region's status as England's undisputed second centre for financial services outside of London.

## Supporting growth in West Yorkshire's TV and games industry

The LEP in partnership with Indielab launched the Indielab West Yorks: The Creative Catalyst Accelerator programme to support the screen production and games industry and boost growth across West Yorkshire.

## Support for young people in uncertain times

Through its FutureGoals project, the LEP put in place support to help young people develop skills in-demand by employers at home during the lockdown and understand more about career options, practice interview techniques and tips on creating a CV.

## Five years of Business Support Service

The LEP's Business Support Service celebrated five years since its launch in 2015. It has supported 14,800 businesses across the region to grow and develop - or over 10% of the region's business, largely SME, base - helping to create over 9,000 jobs and 3,000 apprenticeships. The Business Support Service has invested nearly £49 million into businesses across the region, unlocking a further £339 million of private sector investment.

## Attracting businesses to the region

Despite the economic challenges of the past 18 months, we have 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:

- Smart-sensor firm **Utterberry** chose Leeds City Region as the location from which to develop and deploy its world-renowned technology and create 800 jobs in Leeds.
- Data warehousing company **Snowflake** is opening an office in Leeds with strong growth ambitions over the coming years
- Immersive sound specialists **ZoneMe** has established itself in Leeds and is building a development centre
- **Switch Mobility**, a global-leading manufacturer of zero-emissions public transport
- The new **UK Infrastructure Bank**, which is providing £22bn of infrastructure finance to tackle climate change and support regional and local economic growth across the UK
- Fast-growing digital agency **dxw**, which opened a satellite office in Leeds during the summer of 2018 with support from the LEP, relocated its national HQ to its Leeds base.

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 ten years, creating 1,200 highly-paid jobs.

## Our plans for 2021/22

Over the next 12 months we will continue to support our region to successfully recover from both the short and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, rethinking and reimagining how we work and do business, while also 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 can build a stronger, fairer and more resilient economy.

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

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

### Boosting Productivity and Resilience

Helping businesses to grow and invest in the region and their workforce, to drive economic growth, increase innovation and create jobs.

- Help people find and retain good jobs, with support to access employment opportunities and retrain through our Employment Hub, [re]boot and FutureGoals programmes - particularly those in sectors most affected by the pandemic
- Boost employment and apprenticeship opportunities through the Schools Partnership, Skills for Growth and Levy Transfer Services
- Continue to develop and implement the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan, including supporting people to start and grow new businesses and create good jobs
- Help businesses to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and respond to the challenges and opportunities of the UK's changing international trading relationships

### Delivering 21st Century Transport

Creating efficient transport infrastructure to connect our communities, making it easier to get to work, do business and connect with each other.

- Ensure our region's transport network recovers from the impact of COVID-19 and make sure the bus network offers safe, affordable travel that meets the needs of our communities
- Cap travel costs for under-19s with our Fare Deal for Young People, which guarantees they will pay no more than £1.20 for a single bus journey throughout the region under a new simplified single fare structure
- Respond to changing commuter patterns with flexible ticketing that allows passengers to buy blocks of tickets to use as they are needed through our MCard Mobile App
- Reduce long-term reliance on the car by delivering ambitious improvements to transport infrastructure through the £317 million Transforming Cities Fund and our CityConnect programme

- Continue to develop plans for a West Yorkshire Mass Transit system and work with our partners to secure HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail

## Enabling Inclusive Growth

Enabling as many people as possible to contribute to, and benefit from, economic growth in our communities and towns.

- Help 10,000 people affected by the pandemic to retrain and find new jobs with a £13.5 million investment in our successful [re]boot and Employment Hub programmes, using funding unlocked through the devolution deal
- Help our most disadvantaged young people achieve their goals by continuing to work closely with schools and colleges, and support SMEs to create more apprenticeship opportunities
- Deliver a Fair Work Charter, championing the role of better pay and working conditions for both employers and workers
- Ensure that affordable travel is available for everyone, particularly the under 25's, jobseekers and those without bank accounts, to reduce the inequalities heightened by the pandemic
- Continue to improve access to superfast broadband connections to meet our goal of 40,000+ premises in disadvantaged areas

## Tackling the Climate Emergency

Growing our economy while cutting emissions and caring for our environment.

- Ensure a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate our plans for a net zero carbon economy by 2038 at the latest
- Help protect around 3,000 homes and over 1,000 businesses across Calderdale and Kirklees with a £1.7 million investment in natural flood management projects
- Continue to help businesses become more energy efficient with support and advice, and support further low carbon schemes through the Energy Accelerator programme

## 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:

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The Combined Authority and the LEP have continued to work with the Government to help influence the design, structure and quantum of funding from the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), the successor programme to European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and local growth funding. The UKSPF has the potential to deliver real benefits, for the people and communities of West Yorkshire, if the Government agrees to 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 Sir Roger Marsh OBE DL – we continue to champion the role of the Northern Powerhouse. The NP11 has been influential in making the case for levelling up 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 the City Region's transport priorities are reflected both in the programme itself and through funding opportunities. Working with TfN, the LEP will continue to champion investment in our rail networks, particularly through the delivery of HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and the Transpennine Route upgrade.

### Working in partnership

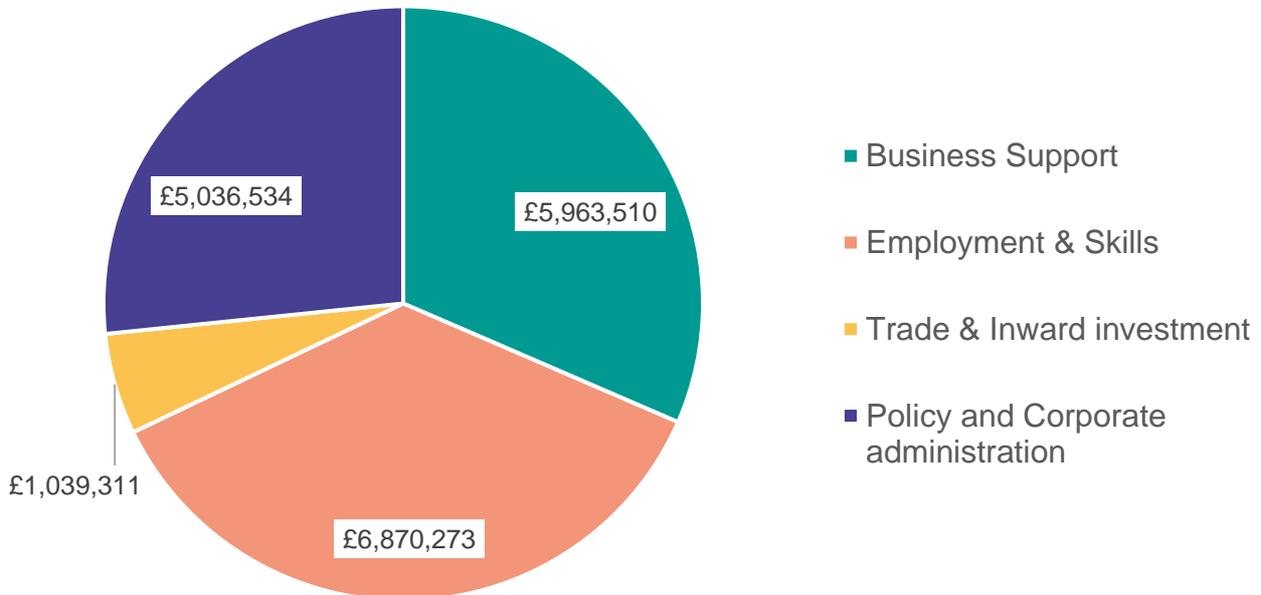
Having implemented the changes set out in the Government's Strengthening Local Enterprise Partnerships report, we remain committed to working with our partners at the Sheffield City Region LEP and the York and North Yorkshire LEP, with the aim of ensuring our work can continue to benefit our City Region 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.

### Future of LEPs

We are engaging with the Government as part of its ongoing review of LEPs, which is examining questions on future funding, the approach to levelling up, and institutional structures of devolution. An announcement on the future of LEPs is expected in October 2021 as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The LEP will continue to engage with the Government to support the review and influence the outcome until it is completed.

# Our Finances

## How we spend our money (£18.9m)



*NOTE: Due to rounding, totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.*

The LEP's income comes from a variety of sources. In addition to LEP Core Funding, we use Government, European and private sector funding to provide support to local businesses and increase skills levels.

Private sector sponsorship pays for some 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.

As a public body we must ensure that our budget is balanced. The aims and activities of the LEP and WYCA are set out in shared policies, plans and strategies, focussing on better economic outcomes for the region.

## Our Board

The LEP Board, under a private sector chair, brings together business, council, community and university leaders – working with private sector businesses and industry bodies – to ensure that our work meets the needs of employers in the region. Its remit covers the whole of the Leeds City Region and also meets in public.

- **Sir Roger Marsh OBE DL (Chair)**
- Tracy Brabin - Mayor of West Yorkshire
- Prof Shirley Congdon - Vice-Chancellor and CEO, University of Bradford
- Helen Featherstone - Deputy Director, Yorkshire Sculpture Park
- Kate Hainsworth - CEO, Leeds Community Foundation, Diversity Champion
- Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe - Leader, Bradford Council
- Amir Hussain - CoE, Yeme Architects
- Councillor Denise Jeffery - Leader, Wakefield Council
- Councillor James Lewis - Leader, Leeds City Council
- Councillor Shabir Pandor - Leader, Kirklees Council
- Rashik Parmar MBE - IBM Fellow and Vice President, Technology
- Professor Simon Pringle - Managing Director, Project Rome
- Kamran Rashid - Director, The Socially Conscious Company
- Mandy Ridyard - Finance Director, Produmax
- Mark Roberts (Deputy Chair) - Co-founder, Beer Hawk
- Councillor Tim Swift MBE - Leader, Calderdale Council
- Kully Thiarai - Creative Director and CEO, Leeds 2023
- Andrew Wright - Chairman, AW Hainsworth Ltd

# Working in Partnership

Partnership working is at the heart of everything we do. In 2021/22, we'll continue to work with our partners to move further towards our vision for our region.

## Combined Authority members:



## Working with:



## Find out more

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