

Background

The Prime Minister's speech at the Manchester Science and Industry Museum and the Chancellor's 2020/21 Spending Review statement in the Commons set out the focus areas for the new administration. Key areas for LEP attention include:

- Commitment to “level up” all regions by boosting productivity, skills and living standards.
- Creating “a new economic plan”
- Developing a “National Infrastructure Strategy” due in the autumn. This “infrastructure revolution” will include; faster broadband; better signal coverage; cleaner energy; better transport; more trains and buses; and a major push on science and technology. All core LEP areas.
- The £3.6bn New Towns Fund. Stated aims are to improve transport, broadband connectivity, skills and culture in the 100 towns named. Again; core LEP areas.
- PM referenced the strength of ‘localism’ – each place has “unique heritage, a unique character, and a unique future.” LEPs are at the heart of this approach, translated into their Local Industrial Strategies.
- Big push on transport technologies “celebrating the dawn of a new age of electric vehicles, not just cars or buses, but electric planes, made possible with battery technology being developed now in the UK.” LEPs are leading on this in many of these areas. (Highlight below).
- PM said they will be “bringing forward plans on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund”

LEP TOP PITCH

1. LEPs are the only **business led** private public partnerships focussed on local economic growth and productivity.
2. They represent **thousands of businesses** of all sizes across England from start up's to FTSE 100's
3. LEPs currently have over **338 senior business leaders on their boards** – **52%** of all LEP Board Members are business leaders.
4. These business leaders are from a **huge spectrum of UK business** including; BAE Systems, Accenture, IBM, Nat West Bank, EDF Energy, PwC, Siemens, Santander Bank, GiffGaff, Caterpillar, Astra Zeneca, Wates etc.
5. LEPs know **local strengths**, industry trends, labour market intelligence, challenges and opportunities and can drive policy initiatives through business engagement on the ground.
6. This gives **LEPs major leverage capability** into businesses up and down the country through a single gateway – The LEP Network
7. We have unique **brokering capability** that injects a business pace and gets projects delivered on time to budget. Since 2014 to March 2018 LEPs had leveraged over **£7.6bn** in private investment, helped build **93,200 homes**, created over **180,000 jobs** and supported over **196,000 businesses** on the ground. (Source: LEP Network).
8. We are the **local business voice** uniquely positioned to support the Government's new economic plan, help “level-up” across the country, lead on delivering the UKSPF (see UKSPF para below), and underpin a National Infrastructure Strategy.
9. LEPs helped hundreds of thousands of businesses up and down the country through **Growth Hub Network** - the top visited page by businesses on the LEP Network website (July 2018 – July 2019 46,000).
10. **Invested over £9bn** in local growth programmes in response to, and in consultation with, local businesses. The attached one pager gives the measurable benefits and how LEPs are exploiting ground breaking technologies, highlights include:



UKSPF

The PM said plans will be coming forward “shortly”. LEPs need to play lead role in this space. Some LEPs/MCA’s have been vocal on their position e.g: [CIOS](#), Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, [Mayor of London, England’s Mayors Statement](#). LEPs have also submitted public [responses to the APPG](#) report on Post Brexit Funding (namely: Cornwall, Greater Lincolnshire, Humber, Liverpool City Region, Sheffield City Region, Tees Valley MCA, Leeds City Region). The latest statement is [from LGA](#).

It is estimated that the UK was [allocated €16 billion](#) (about £14 billion) under ESIF for the period 2014-2020. Current beneficiaries of that funding in order are: Wales (highest), Scotland, London, Cornwall, North East, Northern Ireland, Tees Valley, South East Midlands, Thames valley Berkshire, Oxford, and Bucks. ([Source: Institute for Government](#)). Measured on a ‘per capita’ basis, Cornwall is the biggest recipient.

LEP delivering the UKSPF

- LEPs are ideally placed to lead on directing SPF funds to evidenced based priority areas across the country.
- They have triple lock accountability: NAF, Delivery Plan, and Annual Assessments.
- They ARE the local business community (that INCLUDES local authorities) that can help design long-term, ambitious plans tailored to the strengths and needs of their areas.
- LEPs LIS are road map to enable that to happen.
- EU funds are “expensive to administer and poorly targeted”. LEPs will help ensure that the SPF is cheap to administer, low in bureaucracy and targeted where it is needed most.

Some examples of what LEPs are doing:

Housing Regeneration: Coast to Capital LEP is driving investment in housing to support the biggest challenge in its region – affordable homes. Better housing is key to improving local infrastructure and vital to economic success. The latest Housing Infrastructure Fund investment of £58m into the area underpins the LEP’s approach.

Space Mission: Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP is working with its public and private partners to develop the UK’s first ever spaceport – ‘Spaceport Cornwall’. The first phase will create 150 jobs and generate £200m for the Cornish economy. Many of the new roles will be locally sourced including opportunities across operational support and engineering.

Automotive Technologies: Leicester LEP is leading the development of an innovative collaboration between education and industry designed to address skills shortages in connected and autonomous vehicles and electric cars. The Training Centre provides an essential solution to the skills and jobs needs in the local and regional area, offering 2,500 training places each year aimed at the advanced manufacturing and automotive sectors.

New Life for Batteries: Coventry LEP led a bid with the University of Warwick, Coventry City Council and the West Midlands Mayor, to secure Coventry as home to the £80m UK Battery Industrialisation Centre that will help the UK become a global leader in battery technology

Electric vehicles: Oxfordshire LEP (OxLEP) is putting the county at the forefront of emerging electric and autonomous vehicle technology with £25m (via LGF) towards three autonomous vehicle projects. Investments include a pilot programme led by Oxbotica involving a collaboration with Addison Lee with the view to provide self-driving services in London by 2021.



Clean Energy and Carbon Reduction: Marches LEP initiated and delivering Energy Strategy based on the future assessments of the needs of the local area – it will create more than 1,000 jobs in the low carbon and renewables sector, see half of the region’s electricity produced by renewable sources by 2030, and cut fuel poverty to below ten per cent.

Jobs and Homes: The LEP is working with business and local authority partners delivering an ambitious growth strategy for Lancashire underpinned by £3bn of investment in the next decade, delivering over 30,000 new jobs and 24,000 new homes.

Space Park Takes Off: The LEP has invested £12.88m in ‘Space Park Leicester’ to develop a global hub for space research, learning and innovation that will create 200 high tech jobs and 10 new businesses in Phase One.

Town regeneration: Nottingham LEP (D2N2) is regenerating town regeneration drive working with a range of partners (Further Education, Heritage, Innovation, Local Authority, and Private Business) to broker and develop projects in a £600 million programme headed up by Nottingham City Council to regenerate the south side of Nottingham.

Cyber Security: Gloucestershire LEP initiated a joint public/private sector collaboration to create the UK’s first dedicated hub to support the growth of new cyber security businesses. The park is a key strand of economic growth for the region thanks to Growth Deal Funding of £22m.