Worcestershire
Local Enterprise Partnership

Worcestershire Innovation Strategy

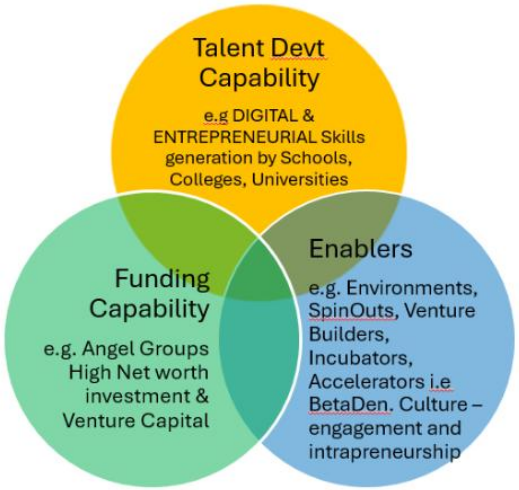
Ryan Protheroe

Worcestershire Innovation Strategy

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership

- Intention is to create a blueprint for innovation across the county.

- That it is aligned to, and evolution of the Plan for Growth
  - Builds upon the three core capabilities.
  - These are delivered through seven strategic pillars, aligned with Worcestershire's unique economic strengths and ambitions



- There has been on-going consultation with the LEP Innovation Board

- Should be adaptable and applicable to all future funding opportunities for our county

Worcestershire Innovation Strategy – Next Steps

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership

- *Requesting board feedback on draft strategy*

- Proposed timeline:
  - Main Board feedback deadline: December 2025
  - Draft complete: January 2026
  - Final strategy sign-off: Mid January – Early February 2026

- The Innovation strategy aligns with LIPF: it highlights the county's unique strengths and a LEP-led partnership model. Will be submitted as per bid application.

Worcestershire
Local Enterprise Partnership

Local Innovation Partnership Fund

Ryan Protheroe

LIPF - Overview

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership

- Local Innovation Partnerships Fund (LIPF) offers up to £20 million for non-mayoral regions like Worcestershire. It emphasises triple-helix collaboration and investments in high-potential innovation 'clusters' over a 5-year period.
  - Worcestershire falls under the 'Competed Strand' with a total pot of c. £160M

- Clusters are identified based on the Industrial Strategy eight high-growth sectors and frontier sub-sectors.
  - Focus is on cluster borders as opposed to hard LA boundaries

- The LIPF is designed to attract further investment. UKRI expects each pound of grant to be matched ~2:1 by private/university funding over a 7-year period.

- UKRI's requirement that LIPF projects be "near-to-market research and innovation with strong potential for commercial application".

- Two stage submission window of:
  - Readiness Check
  - Portfolio

LIPF - Worcestershire's Position

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership

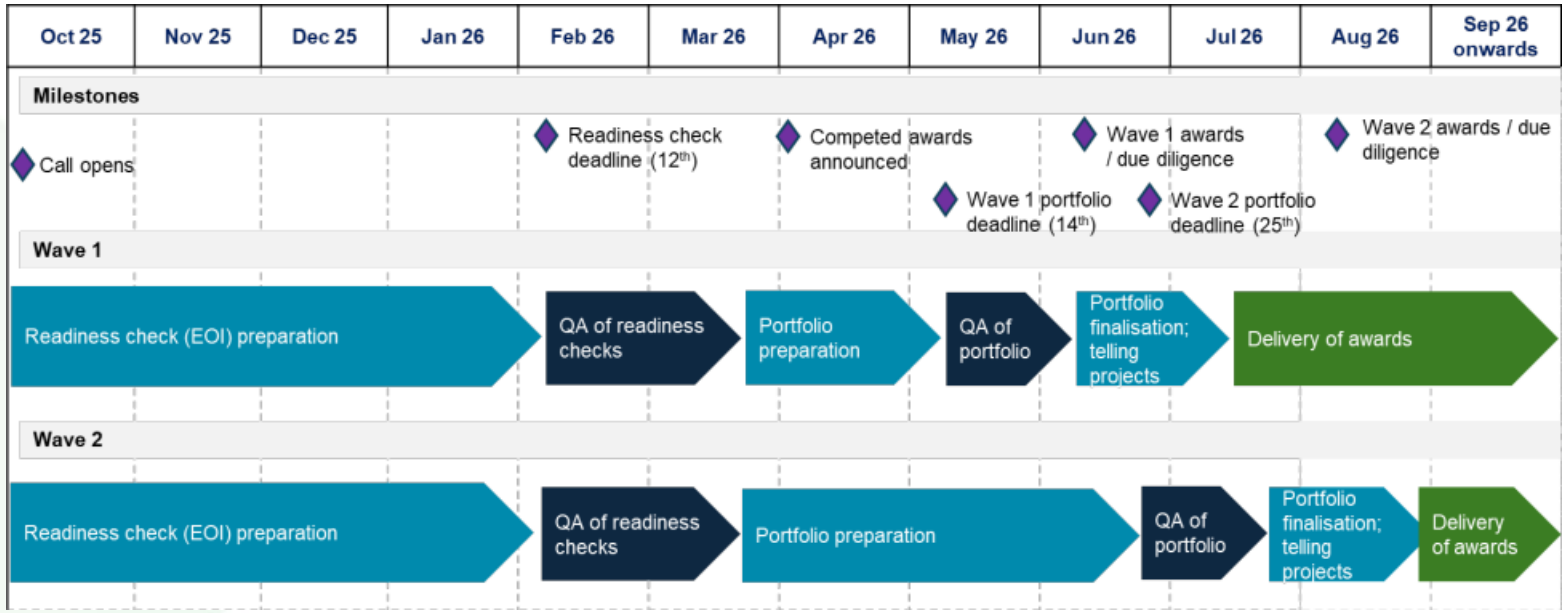
- WLEP to submit a bid as ‘lead bidder’ with WCC as the ‘Anchor Entity’.

- Our current focus with relation to the Plan for Growth, Industrial Strategy and DSIT Innovation Map Information:
  - Advanced Manufacturing
  - Life Sciences (Health & Care)
  - Food & Agriculture

- Potential continuation of WLEP Projects are eligible

- Requires stakeholder & governance structure for the bid.
  - This will involve expansion of Innovation Board who will provide governance and oversight of the fund.
    - *Request from the board to suggest any additional stakeholders who would be relevant to this bid.*

- University of Worcester is supporting in co-creation of bid writing.

LIPF - Timeline

- Readiness Submission
  - 12th February 2026
- Portfolio Submission
  - Wave 1 – 14th May 2026
  - Wave 2 – 25th May 2026 (Preferred)
- £200k Operational Exp. Award
  - April 2026
- £20m Awards
  - Wave 1 – July 2026
  - Wave 2 – September 2026