

Local Enterprise Partnerships – Government’s Own Business-Led Organisation Unique Catalysts to Deliver the Plan for Growth

Created by Government, entrusted by Government, led by business, excited for the future

For over 10 years LEPs have formed a unique partnership of over 2,000 business, 180 Local Government and 250 FE/HE leaders to accelerate business-led local growth. These key decision makers have driven infrastructure investment, productivity improvement, skills development, and business support, working with highly capable executive teams to ensure relevance, agility, flexibility, democratic accountability, and value for public money in delivering complex programmes. Collaborating locally, regionally, and nationally, convening partners, balancing agile urgent pandemic response with delivery of business as usual, LEPs’ impact has been significant.

This major local and national asset can now be deployed to deliver the Prime Minister’s Ten Point Plan and the Plan for Growth, with the LEP Review providing an opportunity to refocus these unique partnerships to help the country emerge from the pandemic fitter, greener and more inclusive.

LEPs’ unique, proven capabilities will help Government realise the Plan for Growth

- Enabling the transition from **Industrial Strategy to Plan for Growth** – LEPs owned Local Industrial Strategies and have already transformed these into Economic Recovery Plans which are now being executed.
- Ensuring the right **investments** are made and their impacts measured:
 - **Infrastructure:** LEPs provide a business led evidence based strategic framework which can support Local Authorities in their new capital remit in the Levelling Up and Communities Funds. This sort of approach has already been taken with Towns Boards, delivering ground-breaking programmes in places like Truro, Scarborough, Stevenage and 98 other towns.
 - **Skills:** LEPs’ Skills Advisory Panels and relationship with the Careers and Enterprise Company has delivered an impressive Employer Advisor Network, and brought business leaders alongside Universities, FE colleges and apprenticeship scheme providers to shape local courses, ensuring the right skills for the right jobs. Every LEP Board has FE/HE representation.
 - **Innovation:** LEPs’ integrated working with Universities, Catalysts, Catapults, Enterprise Zones and Freeports provides the environment and incentive for the private sector to invest in innovation. Already LEPs have attracted in excess of £8bn private sector investment, alongside public funds.
- Bringing LEPs’ forensic understanding of local economies and social challenge, providing a deep insight into what **Levelling Up** really means and how to realise it for local communities.
- Harnessing local partners commitment to **Net Zero** including “green credentials” in project assessment and targeting investment, creating capabilities of national and international significance.
- Convening LEPs’ comprehensive sector expertise to contribute to **new strategy formulation**, bringing private sector and academic know how to push boundaries taking informed investment risk decisions that only the unique LEP partnership construct currently offers to Government.
- Continuing to excite over 2,000 leaders from all sizes and forms of business to give their time, shaping local strategy, bringing practical experience of what works, ensuring projects are well scrutinised and using their networks to great effect.
- This level of **business engagement** when added to the major impact LEP Growth Hubs have, especially for SMEs and budding entrepreneurs, is the reason why nearly 4m businesses will interact with LEPs and their Growth Hubs this year, more than most of the commercial BROs combined.

LEPs: Government’s catalyst for the Ten Point Plan and Plan for Growth – together we can Build Back Better

LEPs are the only organisations bringing together business, Local Government, FE and HE in one joined up apolitical team, operating across an economic not political geography, and underpinned by proven Assurance Frameworks. LEPs know that they must evolve along with policy and are enthusiastic for the future. LEPs hold the key to delivery of the Plan for Growth and as Government’s own business led organisation are proven partners when it matters most, collaborating to realise a Global Britain and to Build Back Better.