



WORCESTERSHIRE



Worcestershire  
Local Enterprise Partnership

# 2019/20

## Delivery Plan

# Be a part of it!



**WORCESTERSHIRE**

Worcestershire has one of the fastest growing economies in the country. It is a great place to live, to visit, to work and to invest.

To raise the profile of the development opportunities and the skilled staff that Worcestershire has to offer, a new approach to promote the county, regionally, nationally and internationally has been launched.

To find out more, and to join the our network of county champions, The Worcestershire 1000, go to [www.oneworcestershire.com](http://www.oneworcestershire.com)

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# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP) is one of 38 LEPs in England and is responsible for creating and delivering economic growth and jobs in the county.

This is achieved through an effective partnership approach with business, local government, the third sector and higher and further education working together with a common, shared purpose.

WLEP is responsible for developing and delivering Worcestershire's 10-year Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) which was agreed by all partner organisations and submitted to Government in March 2014.

WLEP is, therefore, working to create 25,000 jobs, increase Gross Value Added (GVA) by £2.9bn and contribute towards the delivery of 21,500 new homes by 2025.

A total of £71.71m of Growth Deal funding has been made available by central government between 2015 and 2021 for agreed economic projects to ensure that Worcestershire is a connected, creative, dynamic economy that delivers increased prosperity for all those who choose to live, work, visit and invest here. This includes a range of schemes, for example, to improve: skills, rail connectivity, access to key employment sites and Superfast Broadband.

WLEP is also responsible for a €68m EU programme which contributes to the delivery of all parts of the Strategic Economic Plan and provides specific grant funding to support business expansion and training with a focus on moving individuals into work.

WLEP also works with partners to bid for and deliver additional funding for projects including, for example, the £54.5m Local Majors Programme Fund awarded for dualling Carrington Bridge. WLEP continues to work across the National LEP Network to explore shared best practice and innovations which underpin local-to-national business growth.

Stay up to date by signing up to Worcestershire LEP's monthly e-newsletter [www.wlep.co.uk](http://www.wlep.co.uk)

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OBJECTIVES	BASELINE	PROGRESS	CURRENT
Increase GVA by £2.9bn by 2025	£11.3bn	£2bn 69% Delivered	£13.3bn
Extra 25,000 jobs by 2025	235,000	40,000 160% Delivered	275,000
21,500 new homes by 2025	251,260	11,820 55% Delivered	264,950



To build a connected, creative, dynamic economy that will deliver increased prosperity for all those who choose to live, work, visit and invest in Worcestershire.

- Worcestershire LEP Vision

# CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I am delighted to be able to share the 2019/20 plans for Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership through this inaugural Annual Delivery Plan, as well as taking the opportunity to shine a light on some of the fantastic successes and achievements from across the partnership over the past 12 months.

This year promises to be a key one for WLEP, as we focus on the development of a Local Industrial Strategy for the county, which will seek to create the conditions to improve productivity and support inclusive growth across all of Worcestershire, looking ahead to a 2040 horizon. We will also be taking the opportunity to refresh our Strategic Economic Plan, which has been incredibly successful for Worcestershire since it was originally launched in 2014.

We have successfully secured funding from central Government, which includes £71m of Growth Deal funding, £5m 5G DCMS funding and €68m of European Funds, to invest in many fantastic projects & initiatives. This is a huge vote of confidence from central Government in our vision and actions:

**To build a connected, creative, dynamic economy that will deliver increased prosperity for all those who choose to live, work, visit and invest in Worcestershire.**

A substantial number of these projects have now been completed and local businesses and residents are benefiting from them. These include the delivery of new/improved infrastructure (e.g. Hoobrook Link Road,

Kidderminster) to investment in modern educational facilities to improve the supply of skilled labour for local employers (e.g. Worcestershire Group Training Association facility in Worcester) and business support programmes designed to support the growth and development of new and existing Worcestershire businesses, to name a few.

In addition to undertaking the projects which are realising the aspirations set out in our SEP, we have not rested on our laurels. WLEP continues to work with local partners and central government to push the boundaries and be ambitious in our efforts to support local economic growth. For me, this is best demonstrated by a couple of personal highlights from 2018.

Firstly, in securing Worcestershire as the first Government-funded 5G testbed to pioneer Industry 4.0 applications, working as part of the Worcestershire 5G consortium – a hugely important piece of work locally, nationally and internationally which saw the UK's first 5G-enabled factory trials go live in February 2019 at Worcester Bosch. Early research suggests 5G applications could increase productivity by up to 1%,

which equates to billions of pounds to the UK economy if rolled out nationally.

Secondly, WLEP successfully launched BetaDen, the county's first Technology Accelerator in October 2018, which gave a new home to seven Worcestershire-based entrepreneurs and provides a revolutionary platform for businesses to develop next-generation technology, such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and applications for Industry 4.0.

As I'm sure you'll agree, this all makes for an exciting and challenging time as we look to deliver on existing commitments, whilst looking ahead and planning for a, connected, vibrant, productive, and prosperous Worcestershire up to 2040 and beyond. Our ongoing commitment to collaboration and partnership working will be crucial as we look to develop these plans with you. We have momentum and an opportunity to build on our early success together to achieve the vision for 'One Worcestershire'.

CHAIR  
MARK STANSFELD



# SUCCESSSES & ACHIEVEMENTS

Since inception in 2010, WLEP has established a fantastic track record of delivery. Here are some examples of the successes and achievements in Worcestershire from across the partnership over the past 12 months



BetaDen, the county's first Technology Accelerator was launched and an initial cohort of 7 entrepreneurs have been supported to develop their ideas



## BUSINESS GROWTH

- > Construction of Pershore College's AgriTech Research Centre was completed
- > Heart of Worcestershire's Centre of Digital Engineering (CODE) was launched
- > Worcester Six Business Park announced more occupiers to move onto this key game-changer employment site for the county, including Spire Healthcare, Siemens, Kimal and Kohler Mira
- > Worcestershire Food & Drink Association launched their new website to promote the independent food and drink sector in the county and raise its profile locally and nationally

The Worcestershire 5G Testbed launched the UK's first 5G live factory trial



## INFRASTRUCTURE

- > Brand new Energy Strategy for Worcestershire launched with ambitious vision and targets for clean growth across the county
- > Commenced UK's first live 5G Industry 4.0 testbed Factory Trials working with local employers and Worcestershire 5G Consortium
- > Worcestershire 5G Testbed recognised as 'Most Commercially Viable Use Case' at the '5G Realised Use Case Awards' event
- > A flood alleviation scheme at New Road, Worcester was completed to minimise impact of flooding on the local economy during flood events
- > 'Woo Bikes' scheme launched – environmentally friendly electric bicycles are launched, working in partnership with the University of Worcester
- > Worcestershire's superfast broadband network reached 95% coverage across the county

## SKILLS

- > The University of Worcester was ranked No. 1 in the UK and joint 4th globally for Gender Equality
- > Over 360 people attended the annual Worcestershire Apprenticeship Awards 2018 event which champions employers and apprentices across the county
- > Worcestershire LEP successfully won its bid and was announced as 1 of 20 Careers Hubs in the UK – which will see us work with all Middle and Secondary schools across the county
- > State of the art engineering centre was launched in Evesham to tackle shortage of engineering skills in the area
- > Worcestershire-wide Labour Market Information (LMI) profiles were produced at District and County level and launched at the Annual Skills Show

Skills Show 2019 had over 5,000 young people and over 100 employers attending



Inward Investment visit to Israel and French delegation hosted in Worcestershire



## PROFILE

- > A new 'Worcestershire' brand was launched to a very positive reception at WLEP Annual Conference 2018
- > Worcestershire LEP was successful in its bid to secure 'High Potential Opportunities' support from Government's Department for International Trade (DIT), which will seek to attract global investment into the county by showcasing the 5G and Cyber commercial opportunities afforded by the county
- > The Worcestershire LEP Inward Investment Team have developed an attractive 'soft landing' proposition to attract international firms to the county. This involves affordable co-working space, PR support and access to relevant customers and networks.

# PRIORITIES FOR 2019/20

2019/20 promises to be a productive year for WLEP. There are a number of key priorities which will be worked on and delivered over the next 12 months. These are set out against the three key areas reviewed by central Government in their Annual Performance Review of all LEPs.

## 1. STRATEGY

- > WLEP will develop a county-wide Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) which is distinctive to Worcestershire by working in partnership with local stakeholders and central government. The LIS will aim to improve productivity of the local economy and support inclusive growth across the county.
- > Alongside this, WLEP will refresh our county's Strategic Economic Plan and project pipeline, setting an ambitious vision for Worcestershire up to 2040 and beyond.
- > WLEP will also develop and launch an Inward Investment website for Worcestershire which will seek to raise the profile of the county, and promote opportunities to attract global investment.



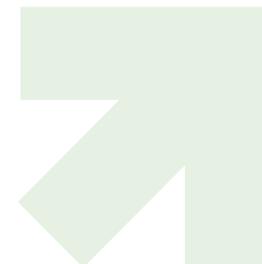
KIDDERMINSTER  
RAILWAY STATION



THE KILN



WORCESTERSHIRE  
PARKWAY STATION



## 2. DELIVERY

### LOCAL GROWTH FUND PROGRAMME

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

- > A38 Improvements – Phase 1 at Barley Mow Lane to be completed in Summer 2019/20 with plans for future phases to be defined later in 2019/20
- > Superfast Broadband – Contract 2 roll out due to be completed in Spring 2020
- > Malvern Hills Science Park (Phase 5) – construction to complete in Spring 2019/20 providing an extra 16,000 sq ft of additional floor space for new companies or existing tenants seeking to grow their business
- > Upton-upon-Severn Flood Alleviation scheme – scheme to be fully completed in Spring 2019/20 which will reduce impact of future flood events at this historic flooding hotspot
- > Pershore Northern Link Road – construction on the first element of this scheme is due to commence Autumn 2019/20 which will upgrade links and address congestion around Pershore whilst unlocking access to surrounding housing and employment land
- > Churchfields Urban Village Highway Infrastructure – construction due to commence in Autumn 2019/20 on this housing-led scheme which is a joint investment between WLEP, GBSLEP and Homes England working with Wyre Forest District Council

- > Kidderminster Rail Station – scheme to be fully completed in Winter 2019/20 which will see a brand new station building and improved facilities for the second busiest rail station in the county
- > Worcestershire Parkway Rail Station – scheme to be fully completed in Winter 2019/20 providing a brand new railway station for the county which is a key element of the Worcestershire Rail Strategy

#### BUSINESS SUPPORT

- > The Kiln – scheme to be fully completed in Autumn 2019/20 and will see the opening of a fully refurbished existing building into collaborative working space for professionals and entrepreneurs, to support the innovation eco-system that WLEP are passionate about cultivating across the county

#### SKILLS

- > Heart of Worcestershire College's Duckworth Centre for Engineering – construction and fit-out of Phase 1 (Midland Road, Worcester) to be completed Autumn 2019/20 in preparation for new academic year intake. This is the first part of a two-phase multi-site engineering skills centre for automotive, heating and plumbing skills.

### DCMS FUNDED PROGRAMME

- > Worcestershire 5G Testbed – Phase 1 of Industry 4.0 pilot due to complete in Summer 2019/20 to understand benefits and learning from application of 5G in live production environments
- > Urban Connected Communities – WLEP to explore collaboration with West Midlands Combined Authority to share experiences and knowledge so that learning can be applied to the Industry 4.0 work-stream included as part of the regional 5G programme

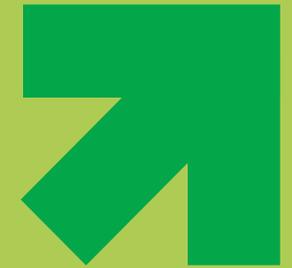
### GROWING PLACES FUNDED PROGRAMME

- > BetaDen – WLEP to develop and agree a sustainability plan for BetaDen to ensure continuing support for the evolving innovation / entrepreneurial ecosystem across Worcestershire

## 3. GOVERNANCE

- > WLEP to continue to implement and operate effective governance arrangements to ensure a business-led WLEP Board that is compliant with national best practice

# STRATEGIC ACTIVITY & INFLUENCING IN 2019/20



In addition to the activities already outlined in this Delivery Plan, WLEP also plays a key role in identifying, coordinating and influencing opportunities on a broader scale which goes beyond the geographic borders of the county. This is achieved by working closely with stakeholders at a local, regional and national level to explore and develop opportunities that could potentially afford benefits to the county and wider region in terms of our economy, connectivity, sustainability and growth ambitions. Key areas of interest for WLEP to develop further in 2019/20 are set out below:

## SECTORS

- > WLEP to collaborate with the Cyber Resilience Alliance, which comprises three other LEP geographies, to explore the Science & Innovation Audit report findings as we develop our LIS and SEP and identify potential areas to collaborate with central Government around our Cyber Security cluster and expertise
- > WLEP to collaborate with neighbouring LEP geographies to explore potential opportunities afforded through the Agri-Tech West Alliance

## PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- > WLEP will continue to actively support and engage with the North Cotswold Line Taskforce to inform the emerging business case for attracting investment in this key rail route for the county and surrounding geography
- > A46 – WLEP will continue to work with Midlands Connect and partners in promoting this key economic growth corridor for investment and improvement

## DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- > Midlands Engine Digital Board – WLEP to lead on the establishment and development of a pan-Midlands digital strategy
- > Urban Connected Communities – WLEP to collaborate with West Midlands Combined Authority on the shared learning gleaned through the 5G Industry 4.0 test bed programme to support regional rollout and maximise the benefits and economic impact

As we look to refresh the Strategic Economic Plan, review our project pipeline and develop our Local Industrial Strategy, WLEP will continue to perform this crucial role, to ensure a coordinated approach in identifying county-wide solutions, whilst also collaborating across geographic borders where there are recognised opportunities.

Dualling of Carrington Bridge, Worcester - WLEP played a key role in supporting development of a business case for Government funding. Construction commences 2019/20.

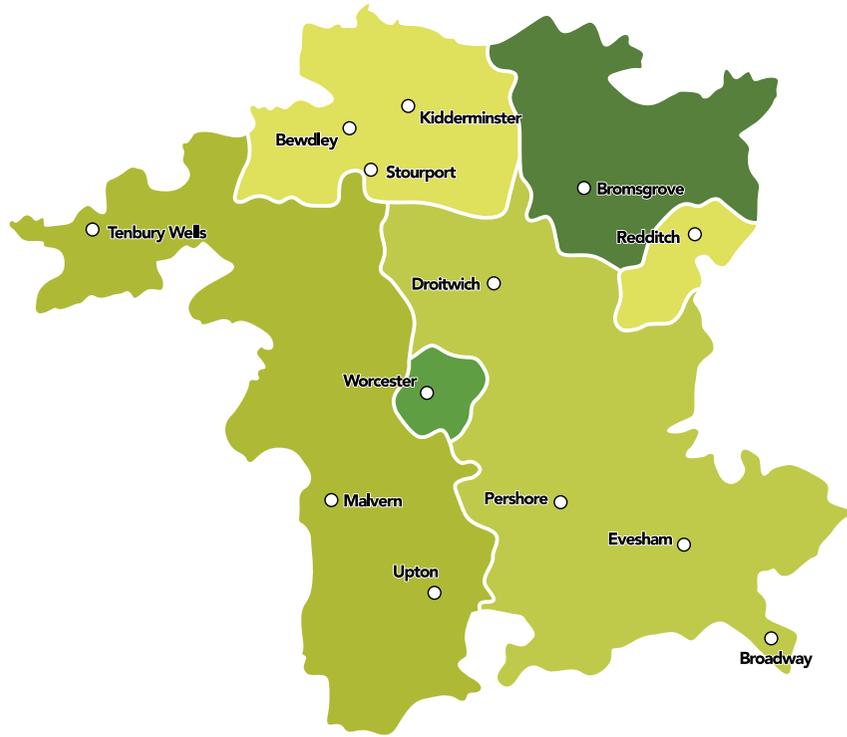
# LOCAL GROWTH FUND MONITORING & EVALUATION

WLEP is committed to the monitoring and evaluation of its funded schemes. Further information about our monitoring and evaluation framework can be found on our website - [www.wlep.co.uk/governance](http://www.wlep.co.uk/governance)

The following table outlines the headline benefits achieved / forecast against our Local Growth Funded programme.

	Jobs and Apprenticeships	Housing Units	New or improved learning/training floorspace (m <sup>2</sup> )	New learners assisted
<b>Actual achieved to date</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>7,910</b>	<b>729</b>
Forecast in 2019/20	787	511	1,393	343
Current Forecast for 2020/21	1,118	564	14,602	344
<b>Total Actual &amp; Forecast to 2024/25</b>	<b>5,569</b>	<b>3,295</b>	<b>23,905</b>	<b>1,416</b>





## Get involved with Worcestershire LEP:

-  **LinkedIn:** Worcestershire LEP
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