Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership

ESIF Programme 2014-2020







Foreword:

From the Chair of the LLEP Board of Directors

It is my great pleasure to present this guide to our European Structural and Investment Funds programme. Through our ESIF allocation, the LLEP has been able to fund some fantastic projects, which have delivered on key priorities that we set out in our Strategic Economic Plan. We have supported over 5,700 businesses; created over 2,000 jobs; helped around 2,600 people gain employment; and assisted 5,400 people in gaining a qualification.

In addition to these wonderful achievements, our ESIF programme has released an additional £12m of private investment into the local economy here in Leicester and Leicestershire. This has helped to provide a much-needed boost for small and medium enterprises, as well as for our many rural businesses.

Our region has a strong track record for innovation, so it's great that we have been able to assist the development of ground-breaking technologies such as Spirit Digital's remote monitoring platform CliniTouch Vie. It is a point of particular pride that LLEP ESIF funding went into providing support to our NHS's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling health professionals to work remotely to help vulnerable patients with respiratory and heart conditions.

As we move towards the end of the ESIF programme period and following the UK's departure from the European Union, the LLEP will continue to support these vital projects. Our ESIF programme will continue up to 2023, providing much needed local investment as we put in place our COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

Kevin Harris

LLEP Chair



ESIF Programme 2014-2020:

Introduction

The aim of this booklet is to provide an up to date overview of our local European Structural and Investment Funds Programme 2014-20 (ESIF), together with highlighting some of the projects and activities being delivered across each of the investment priorities.⁽¹⁾

In 2014, the UK Government released £10.6b ESIF funds, in part through the Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) received an indicative allocation of £118.5m (€125.7m).

This funding was broken down into three distinct, but inter-connecting funds:

- £58.1m European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- £57.4m European Social Fund (ESF)
- £3.0m European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

This funding needed to be "match funded" either by national, public or private funds of 40% (EAFRD) and 50% (ESF/ERDF).

Projects were sought that would both deliver the activities as set out in the UK's ESIF Operational Plans whilst at the same time delivering our own local priorities highlighted in our Strategic Economic Plan and ESIF Strategy 2014-20.

By November 2020 the LLEP has achieved a total ESIF Programme commitment of £108.3m (91%)⁽²⁾. All uncommitted funds have now been returned to the UK Government to create a National ESIF Reserve Fund.

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(1) A full list of all our projects supported under ERDF and ESF can be found at the back of this booklet. Due to GDPR, LEPs are not informed of the successful grant holders under EAFRD.

(2) This is correct at the time of going to print but is subject to change due to the ESIF Programme still being "live".



Priority Investment 1:

Promoting Research and Innovation

In a global marketplace, UK businesses need to innovate more, both in terms of creating new products but also then getting them to market.

To aid this we utilised ERDF to invest in our research and innovation infrastructure including opportunities to cluster and benefit from knowledge spill overs and networks.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED INCLUDE

- £1.3m Leicester Innovation Accelerator (University of Leicester)
- £1.1m SoLSTICE (Medilink East Midlands)
- £0.91m PROSPER (Loughborough University)

Allocation £12.1m

10

ALLS ISSUED

FUNDING AWARDED

664 BUSINESS SUPPORTED

of which 422 businesses supported non-financially

- 249 Co-operating with Research Institutions
- 153 Businesses with New Products to Market

PROJECTS APPROVED



Aerospace UP (Nottingham University)

£0.7m ERDF investment

Aerospace Unlocking Potential (Aerospace UP) is a £20M three-year project (2020 to 2022) which aims to support the aerospace supply chain in the Midlands by helping to unlock its innovation potential.

Delivered in partnership with the Midlands Aerospace Alliance, this pan-Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) project, is available to SMEs in eight Midlands LEP areas including Leicester and Leicestershire.

Participating businesses will benefit from access to grant funding from between £1,000 -£100,000 to bring new, innovative products and services to the market.

By assisting the aerospace supply chain to grow, as well as providing the tools and support needed, Aerospace UP will form a critical part of the recovery of the Midlands aerospace cluster, which is one of the largest in the world and greatly impacted by the pandemic.





The Institute for Aerospace Technology (IAT) at Nottingham University is a major centre for aerospace research including aerospace electrification, future propulsion, aerospace manufacturing, aerospace materials, structures and operations working with global aviation leaders including Rolls-Royce, GE Aviation, Airbus, Boeing, BAE Systems, Bombardier and GKN, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises.

www.aerospaceup.com





Priority Investment 2:

Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT

Allocation £5.4m

Only a small proportion of our businesses are fully aware of the opportunities that ICT can provide.

To improve the knowledge and take-up of ICT in areas such as e-commerce, innovation and market research, we sought projects that will provide a comprehensive package of support tailored to the specific business.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED INCLUDE

- £2.0m Digital Growth Programme Phase 1 (East Midlands Chamber of Commerce)
- £2.6m Digital Growth Programme Phase 2 (East Midlands Chamber of Commerce)
- £0.89m Digital Upscaler (East Midlands Chamber of Commerce)



1,398 BUSINESS SUPPORTED

of which 12 businesses supported to take up broadband in excess of 30 Mbps

- 209 New Enterprises Supported
- 181 Businesses with New Products to Market

PROJECTS APPROVED

Digital Upscaler (East Midlands Chamber)

£0.89m ERDF investment

The Digital Upscaler is a unique £1.9m project part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and delivered by East Midlands Chamber.

It provides support to scale-up for ambitious SME businesses in Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire by providing them with the knowledge, investment and capacity to scale-up, by embracing new technologies.

The programme consists of:

- Intensive one-to-one digital adviser support
- Capital technology grants of between £10,000 - £50,000
- Funded diagnostic consultancy and support to implement new technology
- Digital strategy programme and tech forum

For more information visit: www.leics-digital.co.uk/digital-upscaler





The Chamber is the leading voice for business in the East Midlands. Members benefit from a wide range of business support services from lobbying and campaigning, together with helping them to realise their international trading ambitions, as well as showcasing and market making activities through to workforce training and development.

www.emc-dnl.co.uk





Priority Investment 3:

Enhancing the Competitiveness of SMEs

This allocation is to improve the competitiveness of our local businesses. In doing so, the objective is to strengthen the pipeline of high growth businesses in our local area.

We supported a range of activities to suit all types of businesses, including start-up support, product innovation, business units, loans and grants.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED INCLUDE

- £6.3m Leicestershire Business Growth Hub (LLEP / Leicester City Council)
- £6m Midlands Engine & Investments Funds Programme (British Business Bank)
- £3.1m Harborough Grown-On Space (Harborough District Council)



Allocation £28,9m

3,236 BUSINESS SUPPORTED

of which 1,881 businesses supported non-financially

- £11m Additional Investment Secured
- 1,995 Increase in Employment
- 5,235 Public Buildings Built or Renovated (Sq m)

PROJECTS APPROVED



The Business Gateway Growth Hub

£6.3m ERDF investment

Thanks to a grant from the Business Gateway Growth Hub, Melton Mowbray based Round Corner Brewing is set to double its output during 2020 and its ability to adapt the production of its world-class craft beer.

Following support from Ann Cook, Business Gateway Adviser and Rita Ram, Business Gateway Support Officer, Round Corner Brewing successfully secured a £25,000 Business Growth Grant towards a new in-house canning line.

They have also invested in a can wrap-around labeller and date-coding inkjet plus other kit making a total investment of close to £200,000 in the business.

"The support from Ann and Rita has been fantastic. The process was 100% robust. We were challenged on all the right things, but they had an eye on the end results as Covid had contracted timescales. Rather than leaving us to our own devices to apply, they worked with us dynamically, so we put an accurate and compelling case forward."





The Business Gateway Growth Hub provides comprehensive business support, free and impartial advice as well as capital grants of between £2,000 and £25,000 to small and medium-sized enterprises in Leicester and Leicestershire. There are 11 skilled business advisers on hand, many of whom have experience of running their own business.

www.bizgateway.org.uk

<image>

Combie Cryan, CEO



Priority Investment 4:

Supporting the Shift Towards a Low Carbon Economy in All Sectors

Due to the limited capacity of ERDF to address climate change, we have targeted activities to stimulate the take-up of low carbon technologies to both reduce greenhouse gasses (GHG) whilst making them more sustainable by reducing their energy costs, together with kick-starting the delivery of local whole place low carbon plans.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED INCLUDE

- £7m Transport Accelerator Programme (Leicester City Council)
- £2.2m Green Belle (Leicester City Council)
- £0.81m Energy Innovation & Collaboration (Nottingham University)



Allocation £13.8m

Leicester's Low Carbon Transport **Accelerator (Leicester City Council)**

£7m ERDF investment

Leicester's flagship £12m Low Carbon Transport Accelerator project (LLCTA) is designed to delivered significant low carbon activities in the City of Leicester.

The type of activities aimed at reducing our carbon footprint and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions supported through this project are varied and fall under the following themes:

Theme 1: Personalised Travel Planning

The aim of this "theme" was to engage with local businesses, assist them where possible to reduce their energy bills etc. and refer them on to further support through such projects as "Green Belle" as well as door to door public engagement.

Theme 2: Smart (Low Carbon) Routes

This saw the construction of cycleways along London Road, Pocklintons Walk, Horsefair Street & Market Place South within the City of Leicester.

Theme 3: Provision of Solar Panels

Installation of solar panels in key public buildings and spaces.





Leicester City Council is a Unitary Authority serving the people of Leicester. Sitting within the Transport Strategy & Programmes team, the focus of this project is on a sustainable transport plan for the City to help grow the economy, to protect and create jobs, whilst reducing carbon emissions and helping to improve air quality.

www.leicester.gov.uk



London Road Highway **Improvement Scheme**

This scheme forms part of the Connecting Leicester programme to improve public spaces and pedestrian and cycle links between key parts of the city.

Improvements have begun along London Road from Granby Street to Mayfield roundabout to create a safer and more attractive route for cyclists and pedestrians.

The improvements will include

New cycle lanes running along both sides of London Road.

 A bus-only lane in front of the Railway Stati along with new cycle lanes and improved pa A two-way cycle path along the London Road edge of Victoria Park

ved surfacing on the footways and the road

Connecting eicester

people and places

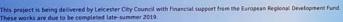
leicester.gov.uk

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Artist impression of

Artist impression of London Road outside the rail







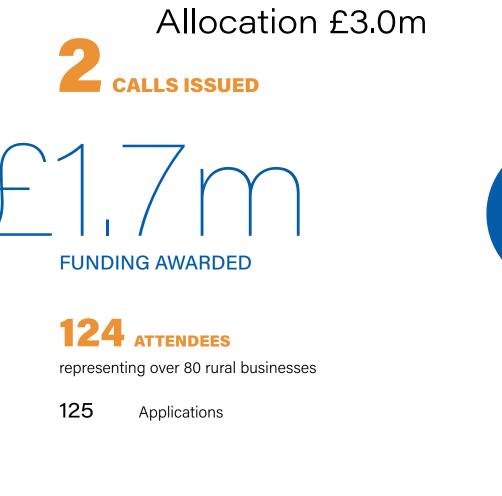


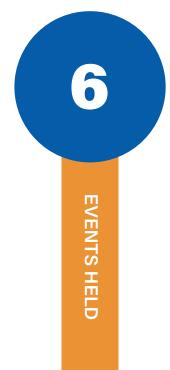
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

This is a "grants-only" programme managed at a national level by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on behalf of DEFRA. The aim of this fund is to strengthen the EU's agriculture, agri-food and forestry sectors. Grants are awarded at an intervention rate of 40% of between £35,000-£175,000 ⁽³⁾.

The three main areas of investment in the form of grants at an intervention rate of 40% of between of £35,000-£170,000 in Leicester and Leicestershire were:

- Business Development
- Tourism Infrastructure
- Food Processing





RURAL BUSINESSES SUPPORTED

EAFRD Funding Workshops

The LLEP working together with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA), Leicestershire County Council and our local Borough and District Councils has held a total of six events across Leicestershire to promote the EAFRD grants scheme attracting a total 124 rural businesses.

In addition, to providing information on the grants scheme, we offered them the opportunity to meet with members of our Business Gateway, the Business Growth Hub to learn more about the many opportunities open to our local businesses.

These events resulted in over 50 funding applications being submitted under Round 1 (2015) and Round 2 (2017).

In December 2019, the RPA launched its final £60m national funding call made up of all local uncommitted funds from across England. Rural businesses in Leicestershire have submitted a total of 72 applications totalling £8m. Final decisions on these applications are expected in 2021.





The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) was formed in May 2011. Local Enterprise Partnerships or LEPs were created by the Government to drive forward regeneration and growth. Following a government review in 2018 it was recommended that all Local Enterprise Partnerships become incorporated. The LLEP became a company limited by guarantee in April 2019 and is led by a board of directors.

www.llep.org.uk





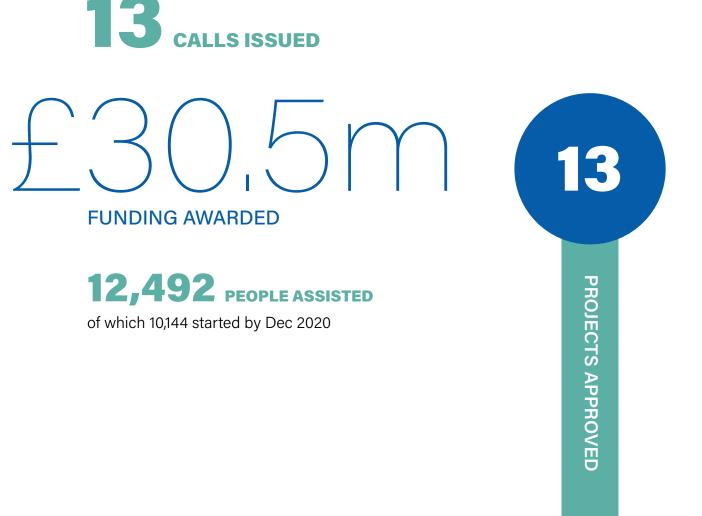
Investment Priority 1:

Inclusive Labour Markets

Much of our ESF Programme is matched with funding from the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Big Lottery Fund. This priority axis aims to improve people's employment skills and increase their participation in the labour market through the following priorities.

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- Access to employment for jobseekers and inactive people (1.1)
- Sustainable integration of young people (1.2)
- Youth Employment Initiative (1.3)
- Active inclusion (1.4)



Allocation £35.4m

Leicester & Leicestershire's ESF Community Grants Scheme

£0.59m ESF investment

The aim of this grant scheme is to provide small, local Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations up to £20,000 to support hard-to-reach communities or individuals and support them into employment or nearer to the job market.

Launched in 2019, to date 18 local VCSE organisations have been awarded grants totalling approximately £360,000 to support and engage with over 250 people and help bring them nearer to the labour market.

A further round of funding is scheduled to be released in May 2021.



[Fu+ures]

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www.the-futures-group.com



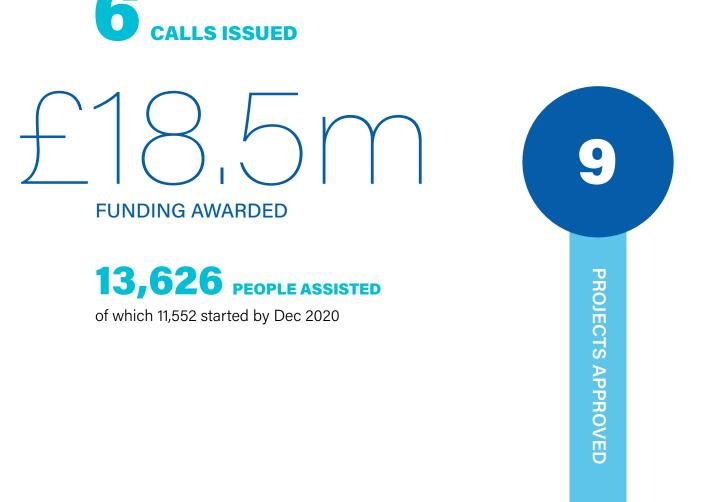


Investment Priority 2:

Skills for Growth

This aims to support skills for growth and consists of the following investment priorities:

- Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning (2.1) This support is focused on improving the skills of individuals both in employment but also those at risk of redundancy
- Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems (2.2) This programme was aimed at improving employer participation and engagement in learning



Allocation £22.0m

Skills Support for the Workforce (SERCO)

£2.43m ESF investment

Skills Support for the Workforce (SSW) helps support small and medium-sized businesses to upskill their employees in Leicester and Leicestershire with training courses and qualifications including Leadership and Management, IT, Engineering, Manufacturing, Construction, Health and Social Care, Customer Service, Business Administration, and many more. The training supports business growth and boosts the local economy with qualifications.

The Offer:

- A training needs analysis to identify the skills needed to support your business ambitions
- Flexible training pick full qualifications or mix and match individual units to suit
- On-the-job vocational training to meet individual and business needs including taught learning, workplace assessment, distance learning and online learning
- Learning pathways for your employees enabling them to progress onto higher level qualifications or apprenticeships
- Recognised accredited qualifications and training courses to enhance the employees' skills





Serco Group PLC was established in 1929, becoming Serco Limited when it was listed on the London Stock Exchange in 1988. Serco specialise in the delivery of public services working in defence, transport, justice, immigration, healthcare and other services across four regions: UK & Europe, North America, Asia Pacific and Middle East.

www.serco-ese.com





Projects List:

Leicester and Leicestershire ERDF projects

ERDF Investment Priority Axis 1

P.A.	Organisation	Project	Start	Finish	Status	£m
1	University of Leicester	Leicester Innovation Hub (1)	Feb 2017	Jan 2020	Closed	£2.6
1	University of Leicester	Leicester Innovation Accelerator	Apr 2020	Mar 2022	Live	£1.3
1	University of Leicester	STAR (Space Technology Applications Research)	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	Live	£2.8
1	Medilink East Midlands Ltd	SoLSTICE (1)	Feb 2016	Mar 2019	Closed	£0.5
1	Medilink East Midlands Ltd	SoLSTICE (2)	Apr 2019	Mar 2021	Live	£0.6
1	University of Leicester	Leicester Life Sciences Accelerator	Nov 2018	Oct 2021	Live	£0.8
1	Loughborough University	PROmoting Sme Product Enhancement & Research (PROSPER)	Oct 2019	Sep 2022	Live	£0.9
1	Loughborough University	Smart Innovation & Networking for Growth (SING)	Aug 2016	Sep 2019	Closed	£1.0
1	Nottingham University	Aerospace Unlocking Potential	Nov 2020	Sep 2023	Live	£0.6
1	Warwick University	Digital Innovation for Manufacturing (DI4M)	Sep 2020	Jun 2023	Live	£0.5
1	Medilink East Midlands Ltd	SoLSTICE (3)	Apr 2021	Jun 2023	Contracted	£0.4
PA. > Priority Axis						£12.0

P.A. > Priority Axis

ERDF Investment Priority Axis 2

P.A.	Organisation	Project	Start	Finish	Status	£m
2	East Midlands Chamber	Digital Growth Programme (1)	Feb 2016	Mar 2019	Closed	£2.1
2	East Midlands Chamber	Digital Growth Programme (2)	Apr 2019	Mar 2022	Live	£2.6
2	East Midlands Chamber	Digital Upscaler	Apr 2019	Mar 2022	Live	£0.8
P.A. > Priority Axis						£5.5

P.A. > Priority Axis

ERDF Investment Priority Axis 3

P.A.	Organisation	Project	Start	Finish	Status	£m
3	Leicester City Council	Busness Gateway (Growth Hub)	Nov 2015	Dec 2018	Closed	0.7
3	Loughborough University	Productivity & Capability Enhancement (PACE)	Sep 2016	Oct 2019	Closed	1.0
3	Princes Trust	Better off in Business	Oct 2015	Sep 2018	Closed	0.1
3	Princes Trust	Better off in Business (Phase 2)	Oct 2018	Sep 2021	Live	0.2
3	Princes Trust	Better off in Business (Phase 2 extension)	Oct 2021	Jun 2023	Contracted	0.2
3	Harborough District Council	Harborough Grow-on Space	Jun 2017	Nov 2019	Closed	3.3
3	East Midlands Business Ltd	Internationalising SME's	Aug 2016	Sep 2018	Closed	0.5
3	Department for International Trade (DiT)	Midlands Engine: Export Grants Scheme	Oct 2018	Sep 2021	Live	0.5
3	WMMBF Ltd	Manufacturing Growth Programme (MGP)	Feb 2016	Mar 2019	Closed	0.5
3	BEIS	Midlands Engine Investment Fund	Nov 2015	n/a	Live	6.0
3	NBV Enterprise Ltd	Growing Enterprise	Feb 2016	Mar 2019	Closed	1.0
3	NBV Enterprise Ltd	Growing Enterprise Phase 2	Apr 2019	Mar 2022	Live	1.1
3	NBV Enterprise Ltd	Growing Enterprise Phase 2 extension	Apr 2022	Jun 2023	Contracted	0.4
3	Loughborough University	Supporting PRoductivity INnovation & Growth (SPRING)	Jul 2018	Jun 2021	Live	1.1
3	Leicester City Council	Collaborate	Aug 2016	Sep 2019	Closed	3.1
3	Leicester City Council	Leicestershire Growth Hub	Jan 2019	Dec 2021	Live	3.8
3	Leicester City Council	Leicestershire Growth Hub extension	Jan 2022	Jun 2023	Contracted	2.5
3	Department for International Trade	Internationalising SME's	Oct 2021	Sep 2022	Contracted	0.6
3	Oxford Innovation Services	Manufacturing Growth Programme II	Apr 2019	Mar 2021	Live	0.5
3	Oxford Innovation Services	Manufacturing Growth Programme II extension	Apr 2021	Jun 2023	Contracted	0.3
3	Leicester Arts Centre Limited (Phoenix)	Phoenix: Leicester's Creative Digital Incubator	tbc	tbc	Contracted	0.6



ERDF Investment Priority Axis 4

P.A.	Organisation	Project	Start	Finish	Status	£m
4	Leicester City Council	Green BELLE	Nov 2016	Dec 2018	Closed	£0.8
4	Leicester City Council	Green BELLE (phase 2)	Jan 2019	Dec 2021	Live	£0.9
4	Leicester City Council	Green BELLE (phase 2 extension)	Jan 2022	Jun 2023	Contracted	£0.5
4	Leicester City Council	Leicester Transport Accelerator	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	Live	£7.0
4	Leicester City Council	Energy Innovation & Collaboration	Jan 2021	TBC	Contracted	£0.8
P.A. > Priority Axis						£10.0

P.A. > Priority Axis

Projects List:

Leicester and Leicestershire ESF projects

ESF Investment Priority 1.1 to 1.4

I.P.	Organisation	Project	Start	Finish	Status	Co-Fin.	£m
1.1	Derby Business College	Ex-Offenders into Employment	Jun 2016	May 2018	Closed	ESFA	**
1.1	Business 2 Business	Employment Gateway	Jun 2016	May 2018	Closed	ESFA	**
1.1	Twin International Ltd	Fresh Start	Jan 2019	Jun 2023	Live	ESFA	**
1.2	Derby Business College	Sector-Based Support	Jun 2016	May 2018	Closed	ESFA	**
1.2	Prospects	NEET Support	Jun 2016	May 2018	Closed	ESFA	**
1.2	SERCO	Skills for the Workforce	Jan 2019	Jun 2023	Live	ESFA	**
1.2	FedCap (formerly Working Links)	Entry to Employment Support	Jan 2017	Dec 2021	Live	DWP	**
1.3	Leicester City Council	Employ Me	Jun 2016	May 2019	Closed	n/a	£0.3
1.3	TwentyTwenty	Journey to Work	Jun 2016	Dec 2018	Closed	n/a	£0.2
1.4	Voluntary Action Leicestershire	Getting Ready for Employment & Training (GREAT)	Jan 2017	Jun 2022	Live	BBO	£3.3
1.4	Voluntary Action Leicestershire	Youth Employability Service (YES)	Jan 2017	Jun 2022	Live	BBO	£3.7
1.4	Reaching People	Moneywise	Jan 2017	Jun 2022	Live	BBO	£3.3
1.4	Vista	Work Live Leicestershire (WiLL)	Oct 2017	TBC	Live	BBO	£2.3
1.4	Business2Business	Brighter Futures	Jun 2018	TBC	Live	BBO	£8.8
1.4	Futures	Community Grants Programme	Jan 2019	Jun 2023	Live	ESFA	**
I.P. > Investment Priority / Co-Fin. > Co-Financed / ** > Commercial in confidence						£30.5	

I.P. > Investment Priority / Co-Fin. > Co-Financed / ** > Commercial in confidence

ESF Investment Priority 2.1 to 2.2

I.P.	Organisation	Project	Start	Finish	Status	Co-Fin.	£m
2.1	Calderdale College	Leadership & Management Skills	Aug 2016	Jul 2018	Closed	ESFA	**
2.1	ESG Skills	Skills Metro	Aug 2016	Jul 2019	Closed	ESFA	**
2.1	North Warickshire & Hinckley College	Business & Enterprise Skills	Apr 2017	Mar 2019	Closed	ESFA	**
2.1	Futures	Futures for Business	Jun 2020	TBC	Live	n/a	£0.2
2.1	Serco	Skills Support for the Workforce	Jan 2019	Jun 2023	Live	ESFA	**
2.1	Leicester City Council	Employment Hub (Phase 1)	Oct 2017	Sep 2020	Live	n/a	£1.9
2.1	Leicester City Council	Employment Hub (Phase 2)	Oct 2020	Sep 2023	Live	n/a	£2.0
2.2	Leicester City Council	Graduate City	Oct 2020	Sep 2023	Live	n/a	£0.8
P > Investment Priority / Co. Ein > Co. Einanged / # > Commercial in confidence						£18.5	

I.P. > Investment Priority / Co-Fin. > Co-Financed / ** > Commercial in confidence



To receive news and information about the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Limited (LLEP) programmes and activities visit: www.llep.org.uk/subscribe

If you require further information on anything within this publication, please email the LLEP at the email address below.

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