

**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**  
**GLOUCESTERSHIRE:**  
**FUTURE-PROOFED**





## Introduction from Dr Diane Savory OBE Chair

The last 12 months have seen unprecedented positive change and growth within the great county of Gloucestershire.

GFirst LEP and its affiliated project partners have continued to ensure that projects are delivered on time, within budget and most importantly continue to help drive sustainable economic growth within Gloucestershire. The creation of the LEP Strategic Economic Plan in 2014 cemented our intentions and a variety of worthy and exciting projects received Growth Deal funding. Many of these projects have now come to fruition in 2018 including; the Growth Hub Network roll out across the county, the new GlosCol Campus in Cinderford, Gloucester Transport Hub and Elmbridge Court Roundabout to name but a few.

Looking to the future and the next 12 months into 2019, I am keen for the LEP to build an aspirational Local Industrial Strategy with input from Gloucestershire's business leaders; this will lead to our next round of bids and funding, following Brexit with the creation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

I hope the information on the pages within this annual report showcase just how we are future-proofing the county – project by project. I would like to thank you for your continued support and engagement with the LEP and now more than ever feel that Gloucestershire is a wonderful place to live and work, and ultimately thrive.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Savory". The signature is fluid and cursive.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and engagement with the LEP and now more than ever feel that Gloucestershire is a wonderful place to live and work, and ultimately thrive.

# Introduction from David Owen CEO

This year we have seen a flurry of projects come to fruition right across Gloucestershire as well as the expansion of our Growth Hub service across the county. GFirst LEP continues to be one of the top performing Local Enterprise Partnerships in the country, supported by incredible enthusiasm from business, a dedicated Chair and board of directors, and a great team.

We're on track to unlock delivery of around £500 million of total investment in Gloucestershire that will fundamentally improve our economy and future-proof our infrastructure. And, as we reflect on progress to date, it's important that we continue to be ambitious and aspirational for Gloucestershire.

Our five big economic challenges remain: we need to build more houses, we need a good supply of quality employment land, we need to continue to close the gap between skills supply and economic demand, we need to ensure growth has a benefit in all corners of our county, and we must address our demographic challenge and attract more younger people to enjoy Gloucestershire and what our economy can offer.

To this end, it is incumbent on all of us to offer opportunities to young people in our businesses and to ensure we are brave in making the difficult decisions that will inspire younger people to see Gloucestershire as their home and a destination in which they can develop a great career.

As we move forward to develop a Local Industrial Strategy for Gloucestershire that will guide future growth of the county we must focus on our five big economic challenges and the unique assets that Gloucestershire has. We will continue to work with all our partners: businesses and the public and voluntary sectors, in order to grow Gloucestershire.



“We're on track to unlock delivery of around £500 million of total investment in Gloucestershire that will fundamentally improve our economy and future-proof our infrastructure.”

**gfirst** LEP  
growing gloucestershire

# Re-allocation of Growth Deal funding

Nearly £10 million of Growth Deal funding has been awarded to four major projects across the county by GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership.



## Gloucester Railway Station £3.75 million

**Gloucester Railway Station** will receive £3.75 million to redevelop the underpass that links Great Western Road (where Gloucester Royal Hospital is based) to Gloucester city centre. The project will transform connectivity between the fast developing housing and employment areas and the vibrant city centre. This project will transform the look and feel of the railway station, giving Gloucester a station to be proud of.

*"This funding is a great result for a good cause - the improvement of our train station and area around it is something I've been working on for the last eight years. GRH staff will be delighted when the infamous underpass is sorted and drivers will appreciate a new car park exit onto Metz Way and less traffic. Overall, it will create a better station, transport hub, cycle and pedestrian routes to the city centre and a better link to our hospital."*

**Richard Graham**  
Member of Parliament for Gloucester



## Hartpury College £1 million

**Hartpury College** will receive £1 million towards a 'Tech to Plate' concept. The programme consists of an Agri-Tech Centre aimed at using applied technology in livestock production to maximise productivity and quality through the application of precision farming techniques – 'smart farming techniques'. In effect, using technology to improve productivity whilst also measuring impacts all the way to the consumer's plate. The 'Tech to Plate' concept is very complementary to the Farm491 project that previously received Growth Deal funding.

*"I am delighted that this project will now take off. The future of farm productivity will rely increasingly on the application of technology to improve productivity. This is hopefully just the start of Gloucestershire playing a leading role in Agri-Tech innovation at RAU and application here at Hartpury."*

**Russell Marchant,**  
Principal of Hartpury College



The four projects that have received funding today will make a real tangible difference to the lives of people living and working in Gloucestershire, I am excited to see how they all progress and come to fruition.

**Dr Diane Savory OBE**  
Chair of GFirst LEP



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## Gloucestershire Airport, Staverton

**£1.885 million**

**Gloucestershire Airport, Staverton** will receive £1.885 million to create new access from the B4063. This investment in infrastructure will directly lead to further exciting developments at the airfield for businesses who are keen to capitalise on this great opportunity to be part of the airport. This project will deliver new employment land leading to the creation of 85 new jobs.

*“Gloucestershire Airport is delighted with the announcement as this supports the GFirst LEP Strategic Economic Plan by maximising the airport’s contribution to the local economy through direct and indirect employment, along with growing an important cluster of aviation related and other economic activity in Gloucestershire.”*

**Mark Ryan**  
Managing Director of Gloucestershire Airport



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## Merrywalks Shopping Centre, Stroud

**£3 million**

**Merrywalks Shopping Centre in Stroud** has been awarded £3 million, as part of a substantial investment in Stroud Merrywalks Shopping Centre and car park. This will have a transformational effect on Stroud town centre. The main aim of this regeneration project is to ensure the continued success of Stroud town centre and to encourage residents to shop local.

*“Our company has worked in market towns to deliver successful and sustainable developments for more than 25 years and we are looking forward to having the opportunity to work with GFirst LEP, the local authority and other stakeholders on a major transformation of The Merrywalks Centre in Stroud. This kind of partnership approach is vital to bringing forward real and sustainable change and we are extremely heartened by the positive response we have received.”*

**Mark Dransfield**  
Managing Director of Dransfield Properties



# No finer place to do business

Gloucestershire? Is that where they chase cheese downhill? Proudly so. Not to mention being home to the tallest hedgerow in England, the largest ice cream factory in Europe and enough Cotswold drystone wall to run alongside that great big one in China.

No doubt that careening after an aged Double Gloucester has been the foundation for some of the county's greatest inventions; the lawnmower, the vacuum cleaner, the jet-engine, the vaccine. Or that it was healthy lashings of Gloucester Old Spot that fuelled Eddie the Eagle's flight, Wilson's south pole sprint with Scott or the imagination of J. K. Rowling and Laurie Lee.

Enterprise and innovation beat boldly in the heart of Gloucestershire.

30,000 businesses trade amongst the hills between Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff; in a county home to England's largest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Even 10 junctions of the M5 haven't been able to trouble that accolade.

## A county on the world stage

Somewhere on earth, every 1.6 seconds, a plane touches down using technology designed by Safran Landing Systems. Every March, £100m is added to the economy during the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Every summer, 700,000 students apply for university through the UCAS system; resplendent in something designed by Superdry. Ecotricity, the world's first green energy company, keeps us warm with good conscience; whilst GCHQ, the government intelligence service, keeps us safe.

Alongside Zurich, Endsleigh and EDF; all of these firms are proud to call Gloucestershire home.

## Future-proofing the business landscape

But to keep its best and attract the rest, Gloucestershire is leaving no stone unturned.

Businesses great and small are already supported by a nationally unique service. The Growth Hub, a pioneering collaboration between GFirst LEP, Gloucestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership, and the University of Gloucestershire, is unlike any other business support system in England. The project has worked with thousands of firms to accelerate their growth, scale up and create new jobs. Now expanding from one Growth Hub location to more than thirty, those businesses will have more access than ever to the expertise, consultancy and opportunity on hand via this unique initiative.

For a county already outpacing the national average of business survivals, firms claiming a GL postcode now occupy an envious position.

The government's commitment to growing Gloucestershire is plain to see too. £22 million is being channelled through Cheltenham to develop the UK's first dedicated cyber business park. On the doorstep of GCHQ and an established financial services sector, cyber security is clearly of the highest local, national and international priority. Creating up to 5,000 jobs across 2 million sq. ft. will only strengthen a town already punching above its weight on the global cyber security stage.

A further £9 million is being sent to the banks of the Severn, where former nuclear power station Berkeley Green is fast-becoming a business and training centre for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. With one of the largest engineering halls in the country and more than 4,000 sq. ft. of space; Berkeley Green will contribute to the 45,000 skilled jobs estimated to be needed for major engineering projects and the low-carbon industry.

And for those who thought Gloucestershire was all farms and tractors, well it's not forgetting its heritage, with £3 million being ploughed into what most would consider a more traditional sector. Already home to the Royal Agricultural University and Hartpury College, Gloucestershire recently welcomed the opening of Farm491; a unique space for innovators to grow businesses that apply technology to growing environments. Amongst almost 500 hectares of research and testing land, the facility aims to help 55 agritech companies to sow 200 jobs over the next 5 years.

All of this made more accessible through £7 million of investment to drive improvements at Cheltenham and Gloucester railway stations, and the busier-by-the-day Gloucestershire Airport.

## A prospect for prosperity

An outpost for multinationals, the vital M5 corridor, high land availability, incumbent growth sectors, continuous government investment and support to foster enterprise; just a few of the reasons why Gloucestershire really does mean business.

Set against the backdrop of world-famous vistas and within commute of the UK's largest cities, the county's economy is set to grow by £493 million by 2021.

Join the Royal Family, FTSE100 firms and some of the fastest growing companies in the South West: call Gloucestershire your new home.

**We'll hold a space in the cheese chase for you.**

*The Growth Hub, a pioneering collaboration between GFirst LEP, Gloucestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership, and the University of Gloucestershire*



# The Growth Hub Network rollout

Across the county The Growth Hubs are the perfect place to meet like-minded professionals in a relaxed atmosphere.

Whether you're a small business or part of a corporate team, The Growth Hub provides support to businesses of all types in the region looking to grow.

Specific events are hosted in line with local business needs and to help local businesses flourish. Each Hub helps customers test their ideas and turn ideas into businesses, or to grow their business by expanding using new technology and marketing methods.



## Cirencester Growth Hub

**HUB** Royal Agricultural University

**✓ NOW OPEN**

Nestled in the capital of the beautiful Cotswolds and placed in between the RAU and the Cirencester College, the Cirencester Growth Hub is the perfect place to work and meet like-minded professionals in a relaxed atmosphere surrounded by green spaces.

Whether you're a small business or part of a corporate team, The Growth Hub is the place for you.

Promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and business growth in the area, the Cirencester Growth Hub provides support to businesses of all types in the region, from pre-start through to existing companies and organisations looking to grow.

## Tewkesbury Growth Hub

**HUB** Tewkesbury Borough Council

**✓ NOW OPEN**

The Tewkesbury Growth Hub forms part of the re-alignment of the reception area and civic suite at Tewkesbury Borough Council's Public Service Centre and a great addition to the Borough's economic development activity.

At Tewkesbury, the Hub provides incubation support to smaller business with ambitions to grow, wonderful spaces to hold business meetings and touchdown areas for hot-desking and general networking activity.

Specific events will be hosted at the Tewkesbury Growth Hub in line with local business needs and to help local businesses flourish.

## Gloucestershire County Council

**L** Libraries

**✓ ALL NOW OPEN**

31 venues that cover the whole county, mini Growth Hubs across the County Council Library Network provide impartial advice and guidance, signposting customers seeking specialist business advice to the most appropriate resource.

These Hubs are providing the customer with all options available so they can make an informed choice based on their needs.

Also, they demonstrate an ambition to maximise use of library spaces, introduce libraries to a new range of customers and provide customers access to high quality resources within local communities, in particular in hard to reach and rural pockets throughout the county of Gloucestershire.



# THE GROWTH HUB



## Forest of Dean Growth Hub

**HUB** Vantage Point Business Village, Mitcheldean

**OPEN SPRING 2019**

The Forest of Dean Growth Hub is based within the commercial buildings of Vantage Point Business Village.

It is a bespoke incubator unit for business start-ups, encouraging the growth of small businesses into larger businesses will be created. Co-working facilities, networking opportunities and the business support infrastructure required to encourage growth will all be on offer.

## Cheltenham Growth Hub

**HUB** Workshop Group

**OPEN SUMMER 2019**

The Cheltenham Growth Hub will be a uniquely designed, prominent and highly effective Growth Hub centre as the principal component of and focal point for a wider business support ecosystem.

It will be housed in a readily accessible town-centre location through the innovative, cost-effective and flexible use of converted shipping containers.

## Stroud Growth Hub

**HUB** Location To be confirmed

**TO BE CONFIRMED**

GFirst LEP maintain the ambition to roll out the Growth Hub Network across the county, having a presence in each district within Gloucestershire.

A call will be issued for the development of a Growth Hub Network Centre in the Stroud District and we will consider expressions of interest from interested project promoters.

# Connectivity

GFIRST LEP are investing in a number of projects improving air, rail and road infrastructure, creating better connectivity across Gloucestershire. This will lead to safer roads, quicker journey times and better connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

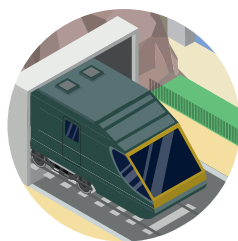


## Gloucestershire Airport South Camp

Growth Deal funding:  
**£550,000**

**Infrastructure improvements to Gloucestershire Airport will bring further investment into the county.**

Funding for Gloucestershire Airport enabled a new road to be built. This development will bring further investment into the county, encourage skilled jobs to the region, and attract expanding and relocating businesses to Gloucestershire. The first new hangar (4000m<sup>2</sup>) was completed in January 2018, and is now fully occupied. The airport is currently home to over 180 aircraft and 30 companies, employing more than 500 people.

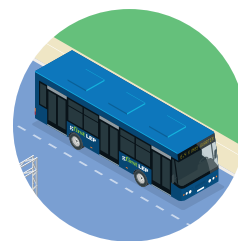


## Cheltenham Railway Station Improvements

Growth Deal funding:  
**£1.497 million**

**A package of improvements for Cheltenham Spa railway station.**

A package of improvements for Cheltenham Spa railway station, that will provide an additional 70 car park spaces on site, improve accessibility by providing step-free access to both platforms via new lifts, create a direct cycle/pedestrian link from the A40/Lansdown Road and additional secure cycle storage adjacent to the Southbound platform and create a re-designed station forecourt to improve passenger safety and traffic flows. The complete package of works will be worth around £5.5 million, with £1.49 million of Local Growth funds awarded by the LEP.



## Gloucester Central Transport Hub

Growth Deal funding:  
**£6.4 million**

**The Gloucester Central Transport Hub will be a state-of-the-art bus station, located in Kings Quarter.**

The Gloucester Central Transport Hub will provide a new state-of-the-art bus station that will integrate various modes of transport, including bus, rail, walking and cycling, in a city centre location. The aim of the scheme is to increase the attractiveness of using alternatives to car travel, promoting a multi-modal interchange, while achieving wider economic benefits through the regeneration of the Kings Quarter area.

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE: FUTURE-PROOFED

A growing county will be powered by planes, trains and automobiles.

So, we're investing over £14 million into air, rail and road improvement projects, creating better connectivity throughout Gloucestershire, and the rest of the world, too.

**All aboard! Next stop, a better Gloucestershire.**





# STEM

Educational centres have been set up across the county to encourage science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) training, enable clear routes into industry, and keep Gloucestershire a competitive place for STEM roles.

These new educational centres align STEM education capability with sector industrial growth and demand by providing facilities and resources to make learning relevant to the workplace. These centres are also helping to create clear progression routes into industry by enabling employers to forge partnerships with colleges. Below are updates from each of the four centres that received £2.1 million in Local Growth Fund funding.

## SGS Berkeley Green

Set uniquely on the site of an old nuclear power plant next to the River Severn, SGS Berkeley Green's STEM Centre has moved successfully into its second year of operation.

With the vision of servicing the needs of learners within the region who have a passion for digital/cyber technology and engineering, SGS Berkeley Green is now educating over 300 students on a daily basis. This breaks down into 275 full-time learners engaged in a variety of Level 2 and 3 courses plus 40 apprentices and university level students.

Of the full-time student cohort half are aged 14-16 and have chosen SGS Berkeley Green University Technical College (UTC) as a credible alternative to the school system. All follow a wide range of GCSE courses and technical qualifications, tightly aligned to the STEM agenda.

Post 16 students chose either a technical route into Engineering or Digital/Cyber technology or A levels, both of which can lead on to University, higher apprenticeships or employment.

**For more information on SGS Berkeley Green, please visit [www.berkeleygreenutc.org.uk](http://www.berkeleygreenutc.org.uk) or [www.sgscol.ac.uk/berkeleygreen](http://www.sgscol.ac.uk/berkeleygreen)**



Gloucestershire STEM Network

## Cirencester College

The fantastic investment in the digital media suite allowed the college to change its existing old analogue style teaching suite and create a flexible, open plan environment resonant to the kinds of creative workplaces students will find themselves in when they move into employment. While it has taken staff a while to adjust to a new teaching situation the facility is heavily used by students working on coursework and employer briefs outside class. The investment has essentially jump-started the development of a local creative hub which promotes employability and facilitates the engagement of employers.

The new STEM building which was partly built with LEP money is extremely well used and has enabled the college to enhance and expand a broad range of STEM subjects from Chemistry to Geology. The investment in high spec PCs has transformed learning in engineering, computing and design communication and has given Cirencester a model for other developments on the campus.

**For more information about Cirencester College please visit [www.cirencester.ac.uk](http://www.cirencester.ac.uk)**

## Hartpury University & Hartpury College

The Agri-Tech to Plate Centre at Hartpury is progressing well and momentum is gathering. An Industry Advisory Group is currently being established with 4 key industry experts currently secured to provide support shaping the project to effectively meet the needs of industry. Monthly Steering Group meetings are rapidly shaping the direction of travel and ensuring fulfilment of the agreed aims and objectives.

The Centre, which will utilise the latest smart farming techniques to improve livestock and farm productivity, and help to yield higher quality products for consumers, will have a Project and Industry Engagement Manager in post in the New Year. They will play a pivotal role in providing farmers, students and industry partners with access to demonstrations and education, showcasing a range of smart farming technologies and how they can be applied to 'on the farm' practices, focusing on performance and therefore the financial benefits of integrating them into their business practice.

**For more information about Hartpury please visit [www.hartpury.ac.uk](http://www.hartpury.ac.uk)**

## Gloucestershire College

Gloucestershire College is seeing an increased number of students applying for STEM related subjects and more employers are recruiting apprentices for the manufacturing and technology sectors, which is good news for the economy of the county.

STEM subjects at Gloucestershire College cover numerous courses across engineering, building services, IT and construction. The College has invested significantly in specialist equipment, which combined with professional teaching resources, train and develop the county's future employees and entrepreneurs in these high profile and growing occupations.

The College has a brand new £16 million facility at Cinderford, opened in September 2018, which is designed to be environmentally friendly and packed with modern facilities. The campus includes purpose-built construction workshops with industry-standard tools and equipment, as well as new art studios and creative workshops.

Close links have also been built with companies in and around the region to develop new courses in electronics, mechatronics and mechanical engineering and this will help to provide the county with the higher level technical skills required for the future. To this end, the College is also delighted to have been shortlisted for a £14 million bid to become part of a regional Institute of Technology - a joint collaboration with other educational and employer partners. This initiative is aimed at digitising our future local workforce across the board, with a particular focus on STEM subjects, and will provide state of the art higher level STEM teaching and learning facilities for the region. The results of this Government backed scheme are due to be announced in Spring 2019.

Gloucestershire College has been recognised recently with an Association of Colleges (AoC) Beacon Award for the Delivery and Promotion of Successful Apprenticeships and the Gloucestershire Apprentice Training Provider of the Year award.

**For more information about Gloucestershire College please visit [www.gloscol.ac.uk](http://www.gloscol.ac.uk)**



# Infrastructure

To boost productivity, businesses need to be able to move around the county as quickly, safely and efficiently as possible, and continued investment into major infrastructure routes facilitates this.



## Elmbridge Court Roundabout

Growth Deal funding: **£9.07 million**

- Changes to this key junction will improve the flow of traffic and cut congestion.
- Improvements to the roundabout have increased capacity, cut congestion and improved journeys at peak times. These included a new straight-on 'hamburger lane', a widening of the approach lanes and the latest traffic signal technology.



## A419 Corridor Improvements, Stonehouse

Growth Deal funding: **£4.36 million**

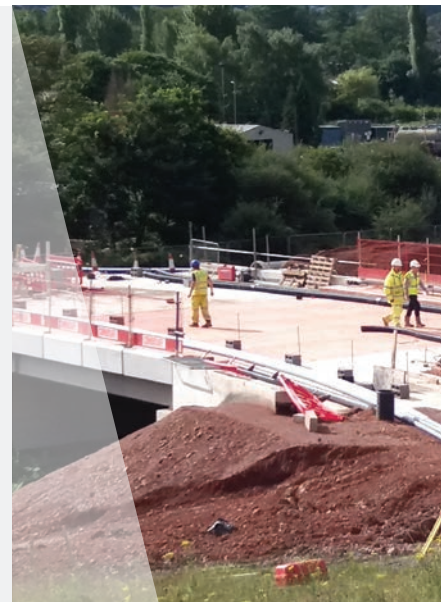
- The Stonehouse A419 improvement project consists of improvements at a number of roundabouts, signalised junctions and other locations along the A419 between Stroud and the M5 Junction 13 which have been identified as pinch points within the existing road network.
- These improvements are required to both reduce peak hour congestion and delays on the corridor and to mitigate anticipated traffic growth in the future resulting from additional development west of Stonehouse. The scheme has been modelled based upon anticipated levels of future traffic growth.



## Cinderford Northern Quarter Spine Road

Growth Deal funding: **£3.8 million**

- This ambitious infrastructure improvement will help regenerate the area and encourage further investment in Cinderford.
- The new bridge structure over the engine brook and the Spine Road is now complete, with landscaping finished in November 2017.
- Construction of the Cinderford Northern Quarter Spine Road is a vital part of the drive to regenerate the area, as it will open up the site to deliver new jobs, businesses and investment to the town. The scheme will unlock more than £100 million in investment for Cinderford and the Forest of Dean, as well as access to the Gloucestershire College Cinderford Campus.



## A38 Berkeley Bridge

Growth Deal funding: **£1.99 million**

- Due to deterioration, the Berkeley Bridge (north bound section) needed to be maintained and replaced. With funding from GFirst LEP, the bridge was replaced to ensure a reduction in congestion.
- After unavoidable delays, due to access to the rail network, the new bridge section has been installed and the project has now been completed.
- The project replaced the whole bridge and helps to maintain a flow of traffic in both directions, reducing congestion in the long-term. The development will also support future additional housing and employment planned for the Berkeley area, including major redevelopment at Sharpness Docks.



# GFirst LEP is leading the development of a Local Industrial Strategy



In the Industrial Strategy White Paper, the government sets out expectations that each area in England will produce a LIS and states that it will work in partnership with places to develop them. They will be developed locally and agreed with the government.

These strategies will help identify priorities to improve skills, increase innovation and enhance infrastructure and business growth. This will guide the use of local funding streams and any spending from national schemes.

What will this mean for Gloucestershire? The government's Industrial Strategy White Paper identified five foundations to drive productivity. They are:

-  **Place**
-  **Ideas and Innovation**
-  **People**
-  **Business Environment**
-  **Infrastructure**

A LEP Board strategy day and early discussions with stakeholders have identified several emerging themes. These are a starting point with the intention that they will adapt as our evidence gathering progresses, and through ongoing stakeholder engagement.



“ We welcome the continued support from the government, which will provide clarity on the role of LEPs going forward. It reinforces the benefits of a strong business voice in leading strategic economic policy and investments.

GFirst LEP has completed a Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) refresh and will produce an ambitious Local Industrial Strategy. The LEP is playing a central role in developing this to boost productivity within the region. ”

**David Owen**  
CEO of GFirst LEP

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE: FUTURE-PROOFED



We know tomorrow's Gloucestershire will be built by sharp minds and skilled hands.

That's why we're working with South Gloucestershire & Stroud College and investing £5 million into the GREEN Skills Project, turning a former nuclear site at Berkeley into an advanced educational facility that will train thousands of people for careers in engineering, construction and cyber security.

**Now that's powerful thinking.**







# The UK's first dedicated Cyber Park to be based in Cheltenham

Gloucestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership, GFirst LEP working in partnership with Cheltenham Borough Council are planning to create the UK's first dedicated cyber park in Cheltenham. GFirst LEP have allocated £22million of Local Growth Deal funding to the project.

Growth Deal funding:  
**£22 million**

The cyber park set on 45 hectares, will deliver in excess of 7,000 jobs and will be an iconic focal point for cyber security nationally and internationally as the UK builds one of the world's leading digital economies. The businesses, academic institutions and government organisations there will play a key role in ensuring that the UK's digital economy is secure and the UK remains one of the safest places to be and do business online.

The cyber park will be a world class campus that integrates high-tech work places with academic facilities, high quality housing and leisure. The new neighbourhood will be developed to complement Gloucestershire's existing assets, cultural and natural, as well as attracting and retaining the best talent.

It will be custom designed to create the optimum environment for cyber businesses and their partners to collaborate, innovate and thrive.

The campus will be environmentally responsible, with embedded sustainable features that minimise impact on the environment.

Key partners both locally and nationally are actively engaged and aligned to the ambition of delivering a business park of national significance.

▲ The cyber park is one of our most ambitious and exciting projects for the county. It will be located in the shadows of GCHQ, the Government Communications Headquarters and will be of both national and international importance. Our ambition is for it to be the optimum location for people in the cyber industries to work and live. ▲

**Dr Diane Savory OBE**  
Chair, GFirst LEP



# GLOUCESTERSHIRE: FUTURE-PROOFED



Whether it's Silicon Valley or Golden Valley,  
it's all the same to us.

That's why we're investing £22 million to create  
the UK's first dedicated Cyber Business Park,  
putting Gloucestershire at the heart of Britain's  
digital economy.

**Now that's the 2020 vision we all want to see.**



# Improving Gloucestershire's connectivity for all

It's no secret that GFirst LEP have supported a variety of high profile transport projects in Gloucestershire including Elmbridge Court Roundabout, the A40 Over Roundabout and the South West Bypass to name but a few.

However, the infrastructure and transport projects must also empower and enable walkers and cyclists. The table shows how much Local Growth Fund funding has been allocated within each project.

Scheme Name	Total LGF funding planned	Of which, on cycling infrastructure	Of which, on walking infrastructure	Notes
A38 (N) Berkeley Bridge Replacement	£1.99m	£200k (est)	£100k (est)	The new bridge structure includes a shared cycle and pedestrian way across the bridge which did not exist previously. The route is well used by cyclists but less so by walkers, hence the split on funding.
Cinderford Northern Quarter Spine Road (phase 1)	£3.8m	£200k (est)	£100k (est)	The internal road network associated with both phases of the development will be designed as 'quiet routes' to create a cycle friendly environment. Secure cycle parking, suitable lighting and good quality surfaces have been taken into account in the design. Signed and unsigned on-road cycle routes will provide connections with existing communities and existing forest trails.
Gloucester City Transport Hub	£6.4m		£1.5m (est)	Local road layout changes, new crossings based on pedestrian desire lines into city centre, crossing facilities and links to rail station and major public realm improvement all provide significant benefits for pedestrians and bus users.
A419 Stonehouse Improvements	£4.36m	£300k (est)		This project runs parallel to national cycle route 45 with some on road sections. The project will provide enhancements as follows: Downton Road/A419 – a demand activated cyclist crossing facility which activates an 'all red' phase for motorised traffic; also on Downton Road, an advance stop line for cyclists has been provided; at Oldends Lane, a toucan crossing will be provided replacing the existing dropped kerb crossing of A419.
Cheltenham Spa Railway Station Improvements	£1.49m	£450k	£400k	Provision of a new 2.5m wide, approx. 300m long shared cycle pedestrian access ramp from the A40/Lansdown Road (adjacent to high frequency bus service) to the rail station and linking directly with the Honeybourne Line cycle way. Provision of 300 cycle locking spaces at station forecourt, public bike pump and repair facility. This is not specific to the local growth funds but included as part of a combined scheme.
Abbeymead Avenue/ Metz Way Improvements	£500k	£100k (est)	£100k (est)	Shared cycleway improvements to reduce obstructions to pedestrians and cyclists along the Metz Way/Abbeymead Avenue corridor. Upgrading of 3 crossings to Toucan, providing links to existing facilities and widening the existing shared use footway/cycleway to reduce conflict between users. The improvements will promote sustainable travel for commuting and leisure users along this key route into Gloucester City Centre. Developed in consultation with Sustrans and Living Streets.

# Board members

The GFirst LEP Board members and senior officials keep us focused on our goals and ensure that we fund the right projects. The LEP Board and staff are committed to adhere to the Nolan Principles.



## Dr Diane Savory OBE DL Chair

Diane is the Chair of GFirst LEP and represents Gloucestershire as part of the Future High Streets Forum with the High Streets Minister. In 2013, Diane was awarded an OBE in recognition of her work with GFirst LEP and her contribution to business, and was appointed as a Deputy Lord-Lieutenant in 2015.

With a passion for fashion, Diane studied retail and exhibition design at Cassio College, Watford. After joining Cult Clothing, the predecessor of SuperGroup Plc, she rapidly progressed through the organisation to become its Chief Operating Officer, transforming the company from a small, local enterprise to the now-distinctive global fashion retailer that is Superdry. Furthermore, she has mentored businesses to help them succeed in today's challenging environment and is a board member for a number of organisations.



## David Owen Chief Executive

David is Chief Executive of GFirst LEP, one of the most successful Local Enterprise Partnerships in the UK. He is also currently a Non-Executive Director of the responsible finance provider South West Investment Group (SWIG), and training and business development company, Gloucestershire Enterprise Ltd.

David is a member of the International Advisory Committee of the International Economic Development Council. He is also the previous President of the Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce and former Chairman of the South West UK Business Advisory Group. He has a BA (Hons) in business studies and an MA in leading change. Follow David on Twitter: @CEOGFirst.



## Adam Starkey Vice Chair

Adam Starkey is a British innovator and founder and CEO of Green Gourmet, an award-winning food company based in Gloucestershire. Driven by his passion for healthy eating, wellbeing and making things happen, he has forged a unique business model that has, in turn, transformed the fortunes of a number of other UK businesses.

As a pioneering thinker, he coaches and mentors people and businesses looking to transform themselves and realise their dreams. A futurist at heart, Adam believes that success comes from personal motivation and engaging head-on with technical change.

# Board members



## Jenny Raymond Board Member

Jenny is a partner with Harrison Clark Rickerbys' dispute resolution department in Cheltenham. She specialises in a wide range of commercial disputes including financial services, banking and insurance disputes, as well as disputes relating to the misuse of confidential information and breaches of post termination restrictions. She trained and qualified in London and has a broad range of experience, representing a range of clients from multinational companies to local individuals.

She has lived in Gloucestershire for 4 years, having grown up in a local community in Pembrokeshire. Jenny feels entirely at home in the county, and loves the sense of community as well as the huge opportunities that the county has to offer.



## Ian Mean Board Member - Small Business Champion

Ian Mean is Director for Business West in Gloucestershire. He is also a media and marketing consultant following retirement as editor of the Western Daily Press and was previously editor in chief of Gloucestershire Media. He is chairman of the NHS Hospitals Trust organ donation committee. His specific role will include being the Small Business Champion for the LEP.

Ian is well placed and well versed in the business needs of Gloucestershire, and having him as the Small Business Champion will ensure that all business voices are heard.



## Jim Grant Board Member

Jim is the Principal of Cirencester Sixth Form College.

With 36 years in education as a teacher, tutor and manager in London and Gloucestershire, Jim has taught (well over 16,000 lessons!) and managed in schools, FE and a sixth form college for 11-18 year olds and adults. He has also had 30 years' experience as an A Level and GCSE examiner, moderator, principal and chief examiner.

Jim is also a text book author.



### **Neill Ricketts Board Member**

Neill is Chief Executive Officer of Versarien, a high technology company in Cinderford that specialises in the application of a patented manufacturing process for developing and supplying advanced engineering solutions to leading multinational firms.

With over 20 years of senior level experience in manufacturing and engineering companies, Neill has demonstrated success in introducing and commercialising new technology. As an active GL Ambassador and a member of the Advanced Engineering Sector Group, Neill is passionate about sharing his expertise to enthuse and inspire others.



### **Rob Loveday Board Member**

Rob is the UK Aerospace Growth Strategy Director at GE Aviation, and is responsible for ensuring that we work together with our national and local communities to drive growth and economic benefit into our businesses and the UK economy. The benefits are tremendous, like shared investment in new technologies and skills training secured in Gloucestershire under the government's Aerospace Growth Partnership initiative.

In his role on the board of GFirst LEP, and the board of the West of England Aerospace Forum, Rob shares his vast experience and knowledge with the local aerospace and general business communities.



### **Cllr Mark Hawthorne Board Member**

Mark is the Leader of Gloucestershire County Council. Upon taking over as leader, Mark became the driving force behind the council's Meeting the Challenge project – a fundamental redesign of how the council operates, with a view to saving £114 million over four years. Two years on, the programme is on target with £65 million already saved.

Looking to the future, Mark's focus is continuing the economic stimulus programme and supporting Gloucestershire's businesses, while keeping council tax as low as possible. A key task for the year ahead is to deliver a new highways contract that will improve how Gloucestershire's roads are maintained, along with transforming social care and increasing the ability for communities to decide on and deliver more of the services that are important to them.



# Board members



## Deborah Potts Board Member

With over 25 years, professional experience of supporting Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) organisations to grow, Deborah has an all-encompassing knowledge of the sector that is rooted in a genuine passion for its power to change lives. Deborah is currently CEO of both Active Gloucestershire and The Music Works. Her skills lie in maximising social impact through strategic development and income generation. As previous CEO of Women in Sport and interim Director of Operations for the English Federation of Disability Sport, she also has a strong track record in championing equality of opportunity for marginalised groups.



## Russell Marchant Board Member

Russell Marchant, BSc (Hons), MBA, Cert.Ed. Principal and CEO of Hartpury College since September 2012. Previously Principal and CEO of Barony College, Dumfriesshire since August 2001. An agriculturalist with a keen interest in all rural businesses. Experienced in co-operative marketing at both operational and board level. A keen member of the LEP Agri-Food & Rural Business Sector Group and newly appointed to the LEP Employment & Skills Board. Excited about the potential that is all around us in Gloucestershire. Passionate about all things land based and all sports, Hartpury is the right place for Russell!



## Cllr Steve Jordan Board Member

Steve is the Leader of Cheltenham Borough Council and represents Leadership Gloucestershire on the GFirst LEP board, which brings together public sector organisations that allocate and spend significant resources in Gloucestershire.

Steve was elected as Leader of Cheltenham Borough Council in 2008 and has a portfolio that includes responsibility for both economic development and strategic land use. Away from the council, Steve spent over 20 years in the IT industry, most recently as a programmer, systems analyst and project manager with Swiss Reinsurance.



## Michael D Warner Board Member

Michael is Chairman of the Warner Group, a family business he joined after studying mechanical engineering and business management. The Warner Group has 300 employees in the food, retail and motor industries, giving Michael beneficial experience in dealing with small- and medium-sized business within a range of sectors. As an active GL Ambassador, Michael believes that SMEs are a great driver for future growth in Gloucestershire.

Michael has lived and worked in Gloucestershire almost all his life and is a previous Director of Gloucester Rugby. He has chaired the Three Counties Agricultural Society Board for the last 10 years and is also Chair of the RHS Malvern Spring Show.

# GFirst LEP Staff



**Dev Chakraborty**  
Deputy Chief Executive



**Patrick Forde**  
Financial Controller



**Lynn Stacey**  
PA and Office Manager



**Pete Carr**  
Lead Commissioner  
Employment and Skills



**Sarah Danson**  
Growth Hub Manager



**Mally Findlater**  
Head of Strategy



**Neil Hopwood**  
Projects Manager



**Mike Curran**  
Strategic Business Manager



**Elizabeth Weaver**  
Business Group Manager



**Karen Campbell**  
Business Group Executive



**Jessica Gray**  
Marketing Manager



**Barry Boden-Jones**  
Growth Hub  
Network Manager



**Rob Jenkins**  
Senior Enterprise  
Co-ordinator - Education



**Duncan Willoughby**  
Enterprise Co-ordinator –  
Education



**Kate Hull**  
ERDF Project Manager



**Rachel Brain**  
ERDF Project Manager



**Rob Shott**  
Finance Assistant



**James Barlow**  
Project Support  
Administrator



# GFirst Education Team

2018 has been an exciting year for the GFirst Education Team. With an opportunity to really think about the position GFirst LEP holds in the education landscape within Gloucestershire and building on the reputation and foundations that they inherited, the new team have gone from strength to strength.

A deeper understanding of the skills and education networks within the county and closer working with the wider LEP team has led to an increase in connections, opportunities and partnership working.

The relationship with the Careers and Enterprise Company which is focused on working with schools to help them develop strong careers strategies has continued to evolve into a really effective partnership. At the core of this initiative are the 'Enterprise Advisers' – experienced business professionals that have been recruited by GFirst to work on a one to one basis with schools, supported by the tools and resources developed by the Careers and Enterprise Company.

In the past six months the number of schools that are a part of our 'Enterprise Adviser Network' has increased from 17 to 35 and the number of Enterprise Advisers on board has risen from 15 to 25 – both of these groups continue to grow but there is always room for further growth and development.

In addition to the core careers strategy work, we also work with the Careers and Enterprise Company on a mentoring programme which links business professionals with underperforming students who benefit from the experience and guidance that the volunteers bring.

As well as the Careers and Enterprise partnership the team continues to run a delivery programme directly into schools. More and more we are developing and evolving these delivery sessions so that they also support the wider work we focus on around industry, skills and employment.

From the practice interview events that we run to the programmes we are developing with partners such as the Civil Service and St James's Place, everything is focused on the strengthening of links between education and industry.

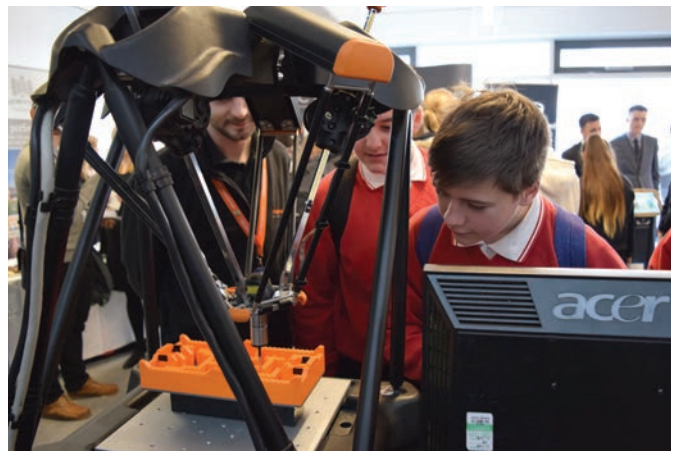
The focus is on young people in secondary and further education and the team work with all types of school and college and with a wide range of students of all abilities. During the last academic year the team worked with a total of around 3,300 young people across the county. This year the current projection is that they will work with over 3,700 but we expect this number to increase as the year progresses.

The ambition is that this team will continue to grow and to strengthen its links with business and education partners. To try to meet all of the demands and in order to be able to continue to be the credible 'go to' resource that we have become we are looking to more than double the size of the team in the coming months.

Two absolutely key factors to the continued success and development of the team will be:

- The ongoing recruitment of high quality volunteers to help run our events and we would welcome enquiries regarding any of the opportunities to work with the team – from becoming an Enterprise Adviser partnered with a school or college in the county to becoming a business mentor or volunteering to support one of our direct delivery sessions.
- Continued support from industry, at every level. Many of the conversations that we have with our business colleagues from across the county revolve around skills gaps and employability. We are in a unique position to help shape and influence the future of education and skills in Gloucestershire but to make it really meaningful it will be essential to have ‘buy in’ from employers. This might be by becoming a cornerstone employer that works closely with GFirst LEP and with schools or by supporting employees to sign up to become a volunteer or even by sponsoring specific elements, financially. GFirst LEP is a non-profit making organisation and any income that the Education Team generates is ring-fenced and ploughed back in to the development of further resources and tools for businesses, schools and students. It goes without saying that the more funding we raise, the more change we can effect. And the more change we can effect at an individual student level the more impact we can have, county wide.

**For more information please contact**  
**[rob.jenkins@gfirstlep.com](mailto:rob.jenkins@gfirstlep.com)**





# Business Groups

GFirst LEP's Business Groups are made up of industry leaders who keep us on track and help to make sure we spend funding in the areas that need them most. They bring business leaders together to attract, grow and retain key skills and employment into the county.

Each business group focuses on a key part of our economy – from engineering to retail and everything in-between – they all have specific aims and objectives. Our groups are proud to include a diverse and enthusiastic mix of members from the private, public and voluntary sectors who collectively bring an innovative and dynamic outlook in supporting the economic development of the county.

We have over 100 companies involved in our business groups – each and every member brings something unique to the party. Their invaluable skills and experience offer ideas and opinions that have a valuable input into challenges facing businesses, both now and into the future.

Regardless of shape or size – small start-ups to large corporations – in the last 12 months our **Banking and Finance Group**, together with our Growth Hub Business Guide colleagues have helped more than 25 Gloucestershire businesses take that next step in achieving their growth goals.

Our **Construction and Infrastructure Group** have identified the need to break down some barriers. Four key pilot projects are now in place to address, target and resolve problems identified with the delays to planning approval and development. Working with planners, consultants, local and national authorities, the project aims to tackle planning issues head-on in order to accelerate economic growth in the county.

An Energy Strategy for the county is being developed with the help of our **Energy Business Group**.

**If you are interested in joining one of our Business Groups or would like more information, please email [elizabeth.weaver@gfirstlep.com](mailto:elizabeth.weaver@gfirstlep.com)**

## Business Groups:



Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing



Banking and Finance



Business and Professional Services



Construction and Infrastructure



Business Membership Group



Agri Food and Rural



Creative



Energy



Cyber Security



Retail and the High Street



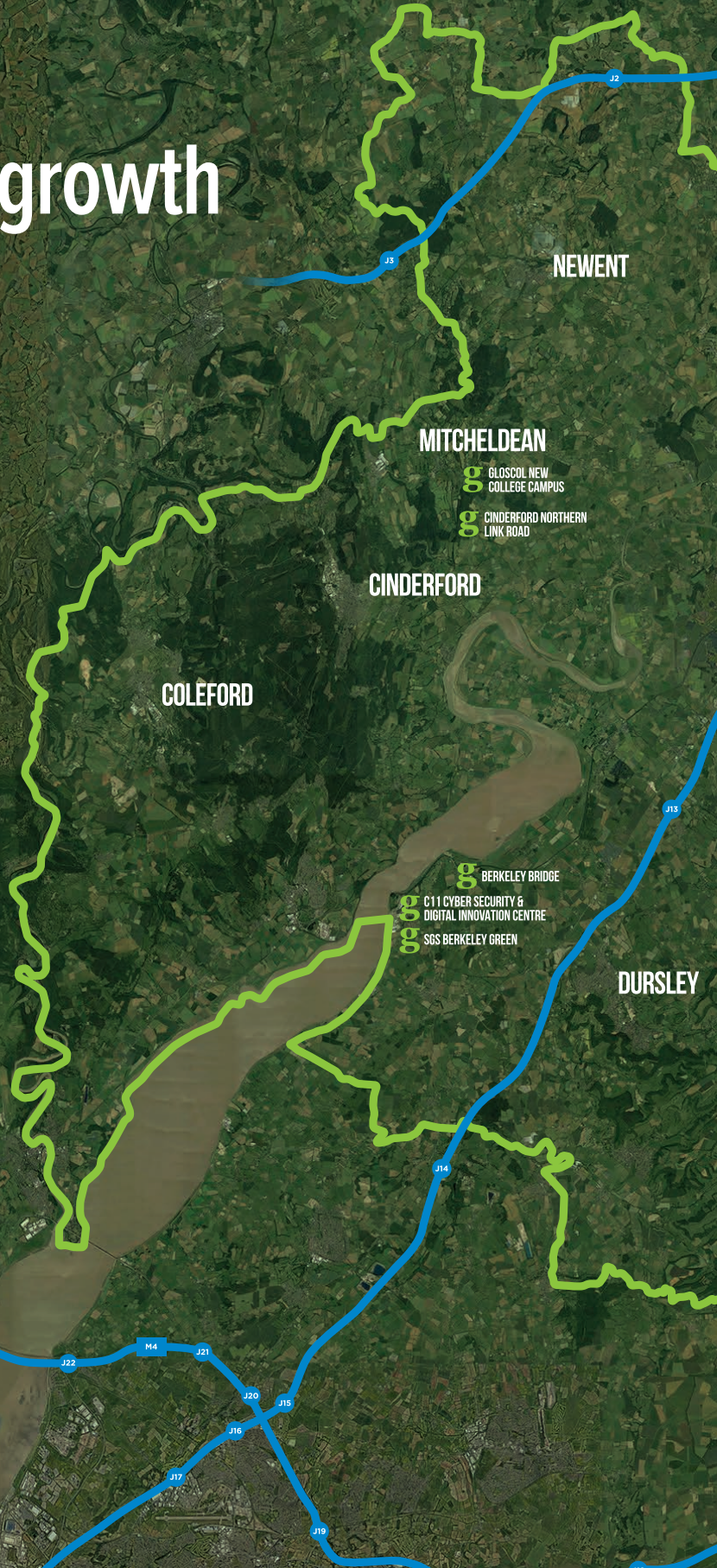
Visitor Economy and Tourism



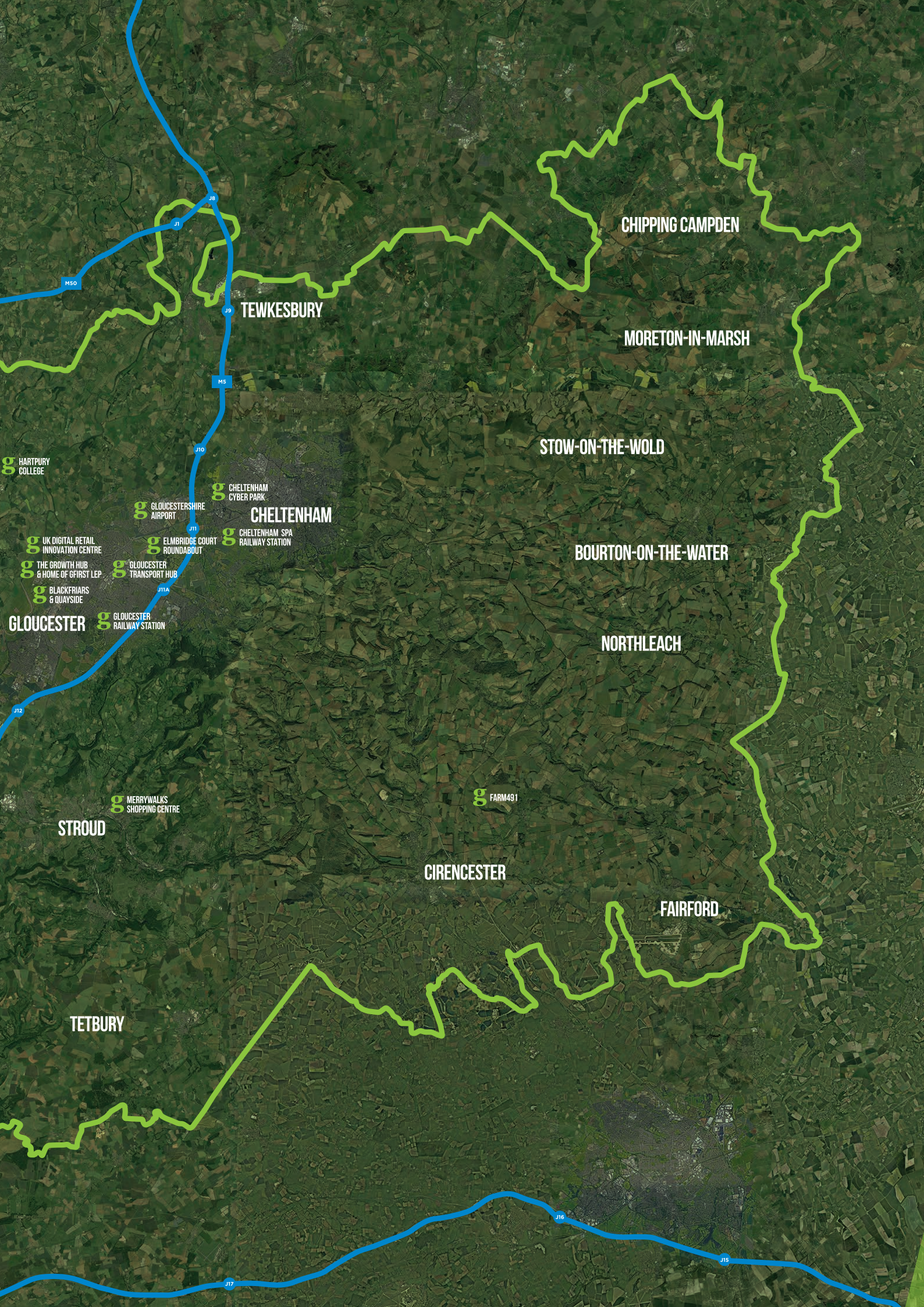


# Driving economic growth in Gloucestershire

Our vision is simple – we want Gloucestershire to be the best place in England for business.







CHIPPING CAMPDEN

TEWKESBURY

MORETON-IN-MARSH

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD

CHELtenham

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER

- g HARTPURY COLLEGE
- g GLOUCESTERSHIRE AIRPORT
- g UK DIGITAL RETAIL INNOVATION CENTRE
- g THE GROWTH HUB & HOME OF GFIRST LEP
- g BLACKFRIARS & QUAYSIDE
- g GLOUCESTER RAILWAY STATION

- g CHELTENHAM CYBER PARK
- g CHELTENHAM SPA RAILWAY STATION
- g ELMBRIDGE COURT ROUNDABOUT
- g GLOUCESTER TRANSPORT HUB

NORTHLEACH

g MERRYWALKS SHOPPING CENTRE

g FARM491

STROUD

CIRENCESTER

FAIRFORD

TETBURY

J16

J15

J17

M50

J1

J8

J9

M5

J10

J11

J1A

J12





**GFirst LEP,**  
The Growth Hub,  
Oxstalls Campus,  
Oxstalls Lane,  
Gloucester  
GL2 9HW

T: 01242 715480  
E: [info@gfirstlep.com](mailto:info@gfirstlep.com)  
[www.gfirstlep.com](http://www.gfirstlep.com)



Partners:

