



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

GLOUCESTERSHIRE:
FUTURE-PROOFED

Introduction from Dr Diane Savory OBE Chair



2019 has been an interesting year. Brexit? No Brexit. Brexit? No Brexit. And a Christmas General Election to end the year.

In Gloucestershire, GFirst LEP, your Local Enterprise Partnership, continues to forge ahead, creating an aspirational Local Industrial Strategy for the county.

The **Local Industrial Strategy** will set the direction for the future of Gloucestershire's economy. It will help to inform local choices, prioritise local action and, where appropriate, help to inform decisions at a national level.

We had a fantastic response to both our call for evidence and to our consultation from a wide range of businesses, public bodies and voluntary, community and not-for profit organisations. I was thrilled to see this level of engagement with the strategy; it builds on a host of meetings, seminars and workshops that we have been involved in across the county since we kicked off this work over a year ago. I am pleased to say this engagement has been overwhelmingly positive and supportive and bodes very well for what we can achieve collectively across our vibrant county, at the turn of a new decade.

I would like to thank you all very much for everything you do to support the LEP and grow the Gloucestershire economy. We want to ensure that GFirst LEP remains at the top of the tree for delivery and we can only do that with your ongoing support.

We need to continue to challenge the thinking, we need to continue to be an innovative county, we need to continue to ensure we are globally significant, and we need to continue to be the great county that Gloucestershire is by working as one Gloucestershire.

Dr Diane Savory OBE
Chair, GFirst LEP

Introduction from David Owen CEO



2019 has seen another strong performance from the GFirst LEP team, well actually it was an 'exceptional' year for delivery according to our national Government partners, putting us in the top 5 (out of 38) LEPs across the country.

Our Growth Deal investments continue to come to fruition and this year saw the launches of;

- the UK Digital Retail & Innovation Centre in the Eastgate Shopping Centre in Gloucester. A brand new facility that will help towns and cities to meet their full potential by driving innovation and facilitating the creation of new solutions that connect consumers and businesses.
- The 'Tech to Plate' agri-tech centre at Hartpury University & Hartpury College – this facility will utilise the latest smart farming techniques to improve livestock and farm productivity, and help to yield higher quality products for consumers.
- The Innovation Lab at Coleford Library – this will bring the digital technology of the future to local businesses, schools and communities.

Our **Growth Hub Network** continues to thrive and 2020 will see the opening of further new sites in the Forest of Dean at the Vantage Point Business Village, in Stroud with SGS College and in Cheltenham, adjacent to the Minster.

Our **Inward Investment team** are helping to fly the flag for Gloucestershire on a worldwide basis, with a presence at the Paris Air Show, AGRITECHNICA in Hanover, a trade mission for us going out to Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Zhengzhou and Shanghai in China and one from New Zealand coming to us. New relationships being built across the world.

In 2019, we welcomed three **new Board members** to the GFirst LEP Board; Lorrin White from Bamboo Technology, Emma Hanby from Campden BRI and Ruth Dooley from Hazlewoods LLP, I am confident they will be fantastic assets to our Board for years to come.

You'll read much more on our **Local Industrial Strategy** within this document, but the one area I am most proud of so far, is the youth survey where we engaged with over 5,000 of the county's young people. We must listen to their thoughts, views and opinions as they will be the business leaders of the future.

David Owen
CEO, GFirst LEP



Towards a Local Industrial Strategy

This year we have progressed through various stages of our work to produce a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) for Gloucestershire – a strategy to drive productivity and prosperity in our county and support an inclusive economy. The emerging plan plays to the strengths, capabilities and skills of Gloucestershire’s employers, and highlights the business sectors we expect to make the greatest contribution to economic growth in the county by 2030.



Listening and learning

Our emerging LIS draws on:

- + significant stakeholder engagement and input;
- + guidance from government;
- + the Gloucestershire Five Foundations of Productivity Evidence Report; and
- + learning from other LEPs.

We have carried out extensive engagement with:

- + county, city, borough, and district councils;
- + regional and sub-regional partners such as the Local Nature Partnership, the Cyber Valley LEPs, Gloucestershire Health & Wellbeing Board, neighbouring LEPs;
- + Gloucestershire’s business community, including GFirst LEP’s network of ten Business Groups; and
- + over 5,000 of the county’s young people.

Our engagement with younger citizens of Gloucestershire has been especially helpful in ensuring that our ambitions include what matters most to future generations.

Our vision and challenges

Gloucestershire – the ‘magnet county’

Magnet: a person, place, or thing that someone or something is attracted to: **Gloucestershire**

Gloucestershire occupies a pivotal location in the UK, with Birmingham to the north, Bristol to the south, Oxford to the east and Cardiff to the west. The M5 motorway dissects the county from north-east to south-west, and just over the border with South Gloucestershire the M4 runs east-to-west.

There are two closely located urban centres in Cheltenham and Gloucester, and a mix of smaller towns and villages across the more rural districts of Stroud, Tewkesbury, Cotswold and the Forest of Dean, all of which contribute to the county’s economy.

A great place to live and work

As a county with a prosperous and resilient economy set within a highly attractive natural environment, Gloucestershire is a great place to live and work.

Each of the county’s six districts of Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury offer something unique and special to their residents, businesses and visitors. And each supports the county’s economy with the skills of its people and innovative firms, including many start-ups.

The tourism sector, driven by the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Royal Forest of Dean, also provides huge economic support to the Gloucestershire economy.

There are opportunities to enhance Gloucestershire’s already strong quality of life and support our ambition to be a ‘magnet county’ **that attracts and retains talent and supports all its residents to live life to the fullest.**



£16.48 billion economic output in 2017



01

An ageing population

Gloucestershire, like most of the UK, has an ageing population, with a declining number of residents available to work, and has the highest share of 50–64-year-olds of all neighbouring LEP areas.

The ageing population means replacement demand in the labour market will be a critical challenge in the future. There are no official figures, but a recent UK Commission for Employment and Skills paper suggests that **for every new job created in the county, nine people will leave the workforce.**

While the proportion of people in the labour market with higher skills has grown, Gloucestershire has not attracted higher level skills to the same extent as some of its neighbours, or nationally.



02

Looking beyond the county

Gloucestershire can take advantage of its geographical location in the UK through strategic partnerships with its neighbours. To the south of the county the M4 corridor is not only a significant asset for east-west movement but also for employment. The M5 spine is a focus for growth in Gloucestershire and beyond. It can exploit the talent and supply chains from Bristol to Birmingham.

At its core lies the burgeoning **Central Gloucestershire City Region**, comprising Cheltenham, Gloucester and parts of Tewkesbury Borough.

Looking wider, Gloucestershire has a key role in the emerging Western Gateway infrastructure and is committed to helping exploit the opportunities that working across the geography from South Wales to Wiltshire could bring.



03

Wanted: more young talent

Gloucestershire is currently a net exporter of 18–24-year-olds and so **young talent is in short supply.**

Young people are choosing not to remain in or relocate to the county; this is for a variety of reasons including a limited supply of affordable housing and job opportunities elsewhere. These issues were explored in the county’s Vision 2050 consultation undertaken during 2018, on which our Local Industrial Strategy builds.



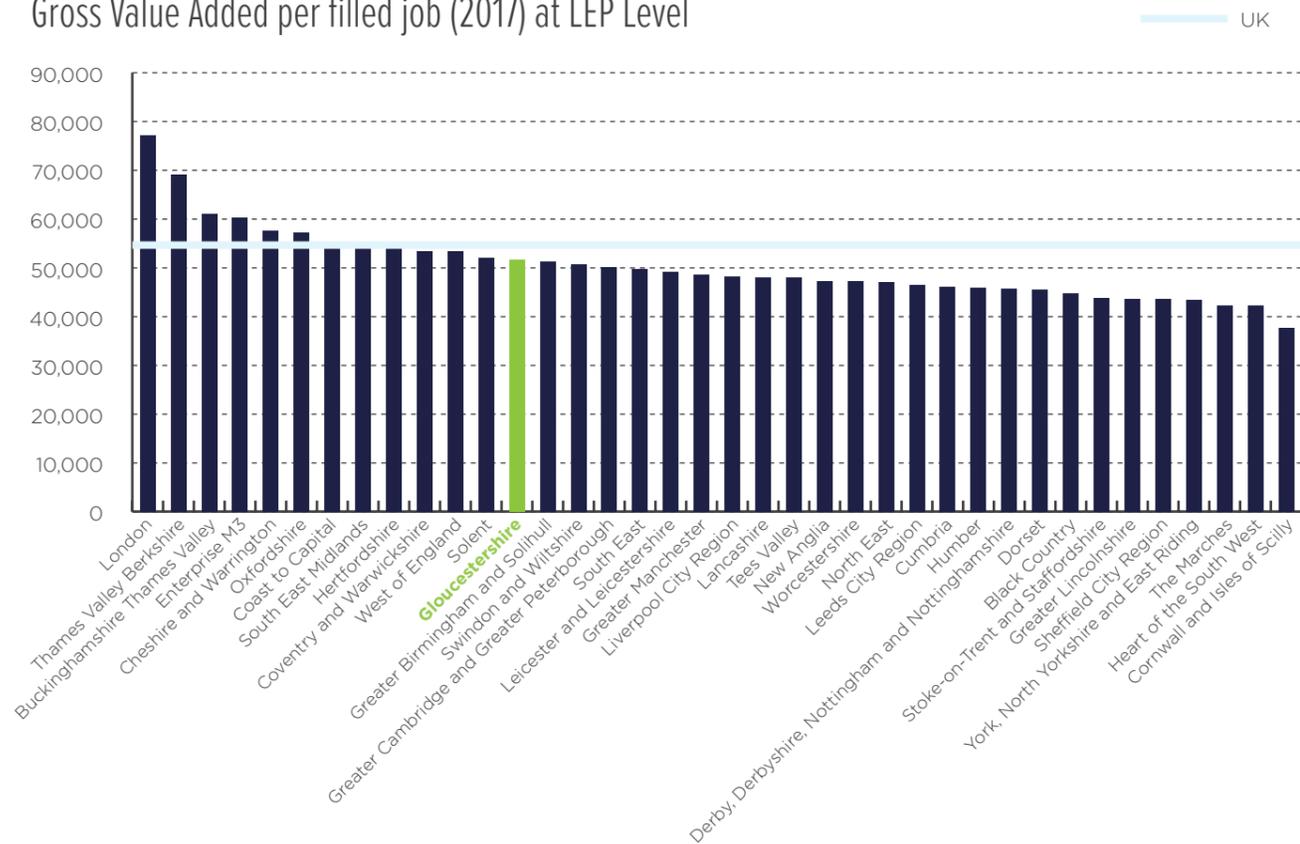


The need to increase productivity

Gloucestershire has a relatively productive economy, ranking 13th out of 38 LEP areas for GVA per filled job. Employee and business growth are positive, while business formation and survival rates have traditionally been high. However recent performance in business formation relative to England shows a weaker trend, with the national average closing much of the gap that had developed historically.

04

Gross Value Added per filled job (2017) at LEP Level



We must remove the constraints and barriers to productivity growth whilst addressing the issues experienced by more deprived parts of the county through creation of a more inclusive economy which encourages social mobility.

To achieve this will need Gloucestershire's key stakeholders to drive action. These stakeholders include businesses, local government, public and not-for-profit sectors, educational institutions, research facilities, and our health community partners.

Our strategy to increase productivity will include engaging with government to:

- + seek support for investment in Gloucestershire; and
- + ensure that local organisations are empowered to drive the change needed to respond swiftly to local opportunities and challenges.

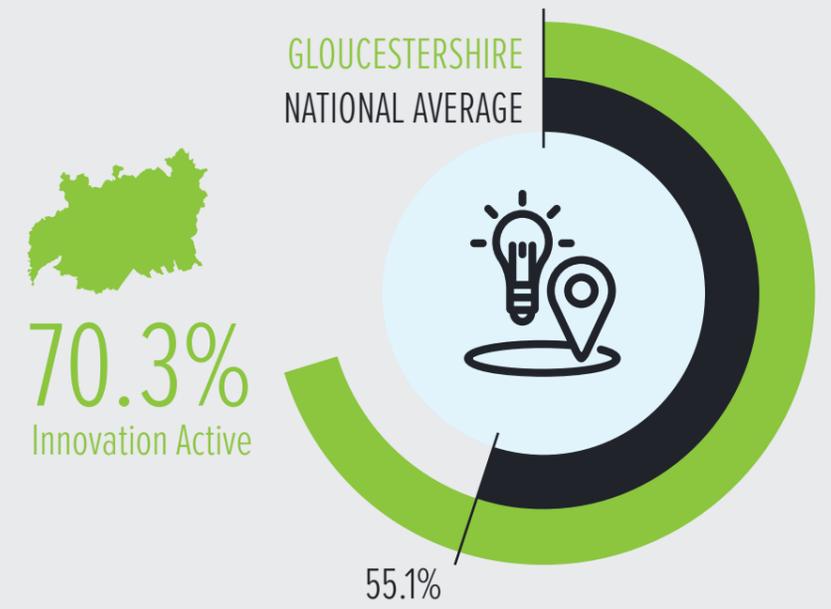


05

An 'innovation active' county

High levels of research and development from businesses in the county make Gloucestershire one of the most innovative places in England. Local research and development expenditure in the county is **3.3% of GVA**, one of only a handful of areas to spend more than the 2.4% Government target. Patent filing numbers are also strong.

Gloucestershire's innovation activity level is strong with 70.3% of businesses in the county being 'innovation active' compared to a 55.1% national average, second of all LEP areas. Similarly, a higher than average number of people work in STEM Research and Development (R&D) roles.



06

Varying performances across the county

Evidence highlights variations in economic performance between Gloucestershire's districts, although it is not the case that rural areas are uniformly underperforming compared to urban parts of the county. This is perhaps because each district is home to high performing businesses, for example there is a strong high-value engineering cluster in Tewkesbury, and there are some key mid-to-large size businesses, such as Renishaw, Ecotricity and Delphi, based in Stroud.

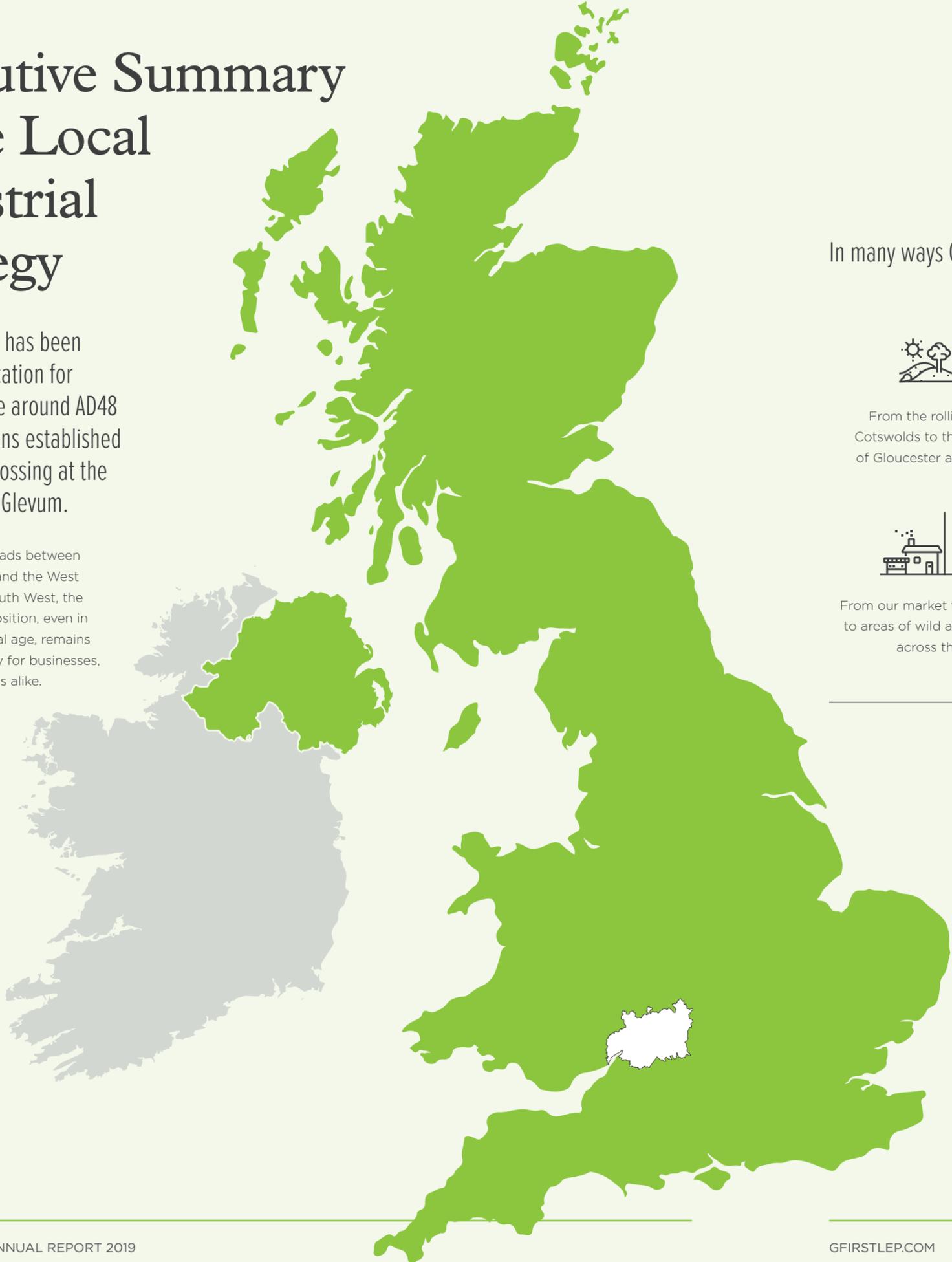
Gloucester, which has under-performed in the recent past, is undergoing major regeneration and infrastructure investment, and is set to deliver greater dynamism and improved growth.

Inclusivity and social mobility challenges continue to exist in parts of the county, with pockets of persistent high unemployment and deprivation, and associated issues around health and well-being in both urban and rural locations.

Executive Summary to the Local Industrial Strategy

Gloucestershire has been a significant location for commerce since around AD48 when the Romans established an important crossing at the River Severn at Glevum.

Located at a crossroads between Wales and London, and the West Midlands and the South West, the county's strategic position, even in an increasingly digital age, remains important to this day for businesses, visitors, and residents alike.



In many ways Gloucestershire is a county of contrasts....



From the rolling hills of the Cotswolds to the urban centres of Gloucester and Cheltenham.



From large, nationally important employers such as GCHQ to a vibrant SME community.



From its prosperous and resilient economy to its areas of high unemployment and deprivation.



From our market towns and villages to areas of wild and natural beauty across the county.



From an ageing population to a net exporter of 18-24-year olds.



From its strong reputation for innovation to its need to improve productivity.

Gloucestershire's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) aims to protect and enhance the many positive features that make this county a great place to live and work, to build upon and exploit those strengths, and to address the challenges we face.

This pressing need to attract and retain the young talent that will shape the future of Gloucestershire has influenced our strategic thinking in all areas of the LIS – here are the headlines:



SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES:

Cyber-tech

 This proposition aligns with the government's Grand Challenge for AI & the Data Economy.

Gloucestershire is the **natural home of cyber-tech innovation** in the UK, synonymous with Cheltenham as the home of GCHQ, and internationally recognised as the 'cradle of cyber-tech innovation for the UK'.

We want to:

- + Deliver the UK's first fully cyber-centric business park – **Cyber Central** – a vibrant business park adjacent to GCHQ in Cheltenham.
- + Ensure that everyone in Gloucestershire has access to high quality digital connectivity, **digital skills**, and the confidence to make the most of the digital revolution.
- + Develop **cyber-tech skills capabilities** in the county to satisfy and then propel the sector beyond 2030.

SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES:

Green

 This proposition aligns with the government's Grand Challenges for Clean Growth, Future of Mobility, and AI & the Data Economy.

Gloucestershire has the potential to be **the greenest place to live and work** in England.

We want to:

- + establish Gloucestershire as a **leader in sustainable growth** by developing a baseline to determine how best to protect, maintain and enhance our natural capital assets.
- + put clean growth at the heart of investment decisions and new developments.
- + build on local green capabilities in the private sector.
- + reduce carbon emissions to **net zero by 2050** with aspirations to go further and faster.

The Five Foundations of Productivity

Our **cyber-tech** and **green** strategies will be supported by interventions across all five foundations of productivity within the government's Industrial Strategy.



Photo Credit: Jack Wiseall

Ideas

Building on a strong track record of innovation across established and emerging sectors

 These propositions align with the government's Grand Challenge for AI & the Data Economy.

Innovation

Gloucestershire has a well-deserved strong reputation for highly innovative businesses, including within the cyber-tech, agri-tech, and high-tech engineering sectors – all strategically important to us.

What we need:

- + To expand innovation support through the Growth Hub network by creating an **Innovation Factory** to drive innovation through collaboration, creativity and knowledge exchange.
- + To stimulate and promote a thriving community of innovators at **Cyber Central**, our cyber-tech park in Cheltenham.

Agri-tech

In recent years Gloucestershire has developed a strong specialism in agri-tech, largely through the presence here of two agriculturally focused universities, Royal Agricultural University, and Hartpury University and College, and a world-leading agri-food research organisation, Campden BRI.

What we need:

- + Utilising agri-tech drive innovations, **to create a healthy circular economy in food and farming** that is good for the planet, builds natural capital and will reduce food-related illness.
- By natural capital we mean our stocks of natural assets such as geology, soil, air, water and all living things.*
- + Invest in the creation of an advanced agri-tech hive, a virtual innovation cluster that builds on previous GFirst LEP investment in agri-tech and cyber security.



People

Building the workforce of the future and boosting earning power for everyone by improving skills

This proposition aligns with the government's Grand Challenges for AI & the Data Economy and Ageing Society.

Businesses need access to people with the right skills to support high quality productive jobs.

What we need:

To support our desire to be a 'magnet county' that attracts and retains talent we will:

- + position Gloucestershire as **'the most flexible place to work'** in the UK so that everyone, at any age, and those currently struggling to get a job, can work in a way that enables them to make their best contribution to society.
- + ensure that Gloucestershire's education and training system meets **local businesses' skills needs**.
- + inspire the next generation of people in the cyber-tech, digital and agri-tech sectors.
- + support retraining and upskilling of the workforce.

Business Environment

Local leadership to turbo charge our business community – starting, scaling, succeeding

This proposition aligns with the government's Grand Challenges for AI & the Data Economy and Ageing Society.

Gloucestershire has a vibrant and diverse business base with a strong start-up culture.

To thrive in the digital marketplace, businesses must be able to adapt to the changing environment, attract the right talent, innovate, and access the support they need.

What we need:

- + Private investment in businesses and **access to funding** through institutions such as British Business Bank and research funding through UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).
- + To ensure the **future-proofing of our Growth Hub** offering, both physical and digital, so that business support available in the county remains a national exemplar.
- + develop productivity and scale-up campaigns, delivered through The Growth Hub network.
- + develop inward investment propositions for cyber-tech, agri-tech and renewables.
- + establish a new Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Business park in the county.

Infrastructure

Green growth, modern transport choices and better digital connectivity wherever you live in the county

This proposition aligns with the government's Grand Challenge for Future of Mobility and AI & the Data Economy.

We want Gloucestershire to be a fully connected county through innovative transport solutions and digital connectivity so people and businesses can easily connect; and meet our house building commitment to provide more affordable housing for young people.

What we need:

- + to create real alternatives to travel by car in Gloucestershire, and identify priorities for investment, such as:
 - + **a mass-transit transport solution** that provides a reliable, quick and clean link between Cheltenham and Gloucester;
 - + **better cycle links** to improve health, reduce congestion and protect the environment;
 - + **rail projects** to improve connections within the county and with other major hubs.
- + to become a pilot area for **innovative technology-driven transport solutions** that work in rural areas.
- + delivery of local plans to significantly **increase the supply of housing** in the county.
- + **high quality digital infrastructure** for everyone in Gloucestershire.

Places

Something for everyone in our vibrant, green county

This proposition aligns with the government's Grand Challenge for Future of Mobility and AI & the Data Economy.

Gloucestershire enjoys an abundance of natural beauty and heritage and a healthy tourism sector. The urban hearts of Cheltenham and Gloucester and the beautiful countryside, market towns and villages that surround them provide something for everyone.

We must exploit these advantages to be a 'magnet county' whilst ensuring that all communities, including those experiencing high unemployment and deprivation, have the chance to make a positive contribution to society.

The major regeneration and infrastructure investment taking place in Gloucester, coupled with our ambitious plans for Cheltenham, have highlighted the potential for creation of a **Central Gloucestershire City Region**.

What we need:

- + To achieve **Tourism Zone status** as part of the Industrial Strategy Tourism Sector Deal.
- + To work with health community partners to ensure we deliver **inclusive economic growth** for all.
- + To build on the established M5 corridor 'Growth Zone' and the current Joint Core Strategy plans of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury to promote a thriving **Central Gloucestershire City Region**.
- + To support Gloucester's **2025 City of Culture bid** and ensure a legacy of cultural success for the city.



Delivery of this ambitious Local Industrial Strategy will position Gloucestershire as:

- + the cyber-tech capital of the UK and beyond;
- + digitally connected and skilled;
- + the greenest place to live and work in England;
- + leading innovation in the creation of a healthy circular economy in food and farming;
- + the most flexible place to work in the UK;
- + a 'magnet county' that attracts and retains young talent;
- + inclusive and supportive of all its residents;
- + delivering sustained productivity improvements; and
- + a great place to live and work.

300
Submissions

200
Organisations

Call for evidence

We received nearly 300 submissions from private, public, and not-for-profit sector organisations highlighting research, describing current and emerging strategies and answering our questions about how to increase productivity in the county. This has helped to form a rich evidence base to support the development of our strategy.

Consultation

Over 200 organisations gave us their views about our draft Local Industrial Strategy and we have shared the report on our website. The vast majority were positive and supportive of our plans and we will take into account the key themes of feedback as we take the strategy to the next stage with government.

To stay up to date on progress with our Local Industrial Strategy, see gfirstlep.com/industrial-strategy



250
LOCAL
BUSINESS
VOLUNTEERS

6,000
STUDENTS

30+
SCHOOLS

Did you know that GFirst LEP helps young people from across the county to prepare for the workplace and learn valuable business skills?

Through our Education and Skills Team, we've delivered thousands of practice interviews and workshops that bridge the gap between education and employment. From our Dragons' Den-style programmes to workplace visits and business breakfasts, we're offering students valuable insights into the world of work.

We're proud to give tomorrow's employees the building blocks they need to future-proof Gloucestershire.

Projects



The Growth Hub

The Growth Hub is here to help Gloucestershire businesses grow.

In our purpose-built Growth Hubs across the county, local firms can get the advice, support and guidance they need to overcome their challenges and scale up. From providing a sounding board for ideas, to lending an experienced eye to company strategies, The Growth Hub has a team of impartial experts who want to help you reach your goals as quickly and efficiently as possible.

And it doesn't cost a penny. Meeting with our experts and attending our workshops is completely free, at every Growth Hub.

We opened in Gloucester in 2014, partnered with GFirst LEP and the University of Gloucestershire, using £2.7m of initial investment. Since then, GFirst LEP have secured another £4.4m to partner with Tewkesbury Borough Council, the Royal Agricultural University and Gloucestershire County Council; opening Growth Hubs in Tewkesbury, Cirencester and in every county council library. Another £5m was invested in a new state-of-the-art facility for the Gloucester Growth Hub, in the University of Gloucestershire's purpose-built School of Business and Technology.



By the end of next year, the Growth Hub network will be complete, with more centres opening in:

Vantage Point Business Village - Forest of Dean - Opening Spring 2020

South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, Stroud Campus - Opening Spring 2020

Workshop Cheltenham, adjacent to the Minster - Opening Summer 2020

"We are excited about the impact that The Growth Hub development will have on driving business growth in Gloucestershire. For organisations that are passionate about supporting businesses, which really understand their business communities and can demonstrate how they can use this investment to drive economic growth in Gloucestershire, this is an ideal time to get involved."

Sarah Danson, Director of Strategic Growth, GFirst LEP

Merrywalks

Growth Deal Funding: £3 million + £1 million GIFF Funding

Dransfield Properties Limited, a specialist retail and commercial developer with a focus on market towns, has purchased the Merrywalks Shopping Centre and the adjacent King Street development. This complex stands on 1.37 ha in the centre of Stroud and comprises a total area of 218,418ft² (20,292m²) occupied by predominantly value retailers with some leisure and office use.

The Merrywalks project will revitalise the central retail core of Stroud producing a vibrant heart for this historic market town. The project will provide new jobs, increased visitor numbers and higher gross value added for the economy. In addition, the increased value of the centre will generate extra business rates which can be used for further development of the town.

Phase 1 which included the re-configuration of the car park is now complete including re-branding the shopping centre to Five Valleys.

Phase 2 focussed on the King Street elevation and the main pedestrian access to Five Valleys. This area is the key link to the wider town centre. This phase of work is now completed including a glazed canopy above the new entrance feature.

New retail units have been created in this area as well as new first floor apartments.

Phase 3 has now commenced with Speller Metcalfe the appointed contractor. This is the most complex part to be completed Spring 2020 - this involves structural work including wrapping the car park and re-modelling the mall area.

UK: DRIC

Growth Deal funding: £400,000

UK DRIC launched formally on 30th May 2019.

The UK Digital Retail Innovation Centre (UK DRIC) will help towns and cities to meet their full potential by driving innovation and facilitating the creation of new solutions that connect consumers and businesses.

This project is not-for-profit, which will serve high streets nationally. The UK Digital Retail Innovation Centre is located in the heart of Gloucester in the Eastgate Shopping Centre and managed by Marketing Gloucester. It aims to connect businesses, consumers and digital entrepreneurs to provide a 'one-stop shop' for developing and testing anything with a high street digital application.



Cheltenham Cyber Park

Growth Deal Funding: £22m

In February 2017, Government announced a Growth Deal 3 allocation of £22m for the "Cheltenham Cyber Business Park infrastructure and site preparation."

The purpose of the bid is to enable the opening up of a strategic employment land allocation by bringing forward highway infrastructure improvements, enabling capacity on the network to accelerate an early phased release of the employment site. The strategic allocation includes 45 ha of much needed employment land, focussed on cyber industries with a target of generating new high skilled/high GVA generating jobs, together with facilitating the delivery of the GCHQ Cyber Innovation Centre.

Together with around 1,100 new homes, the strategic allocation will bring forward a sustainable mixed-use urban extension to Cheltenham.



The emerging transport improvement includes:

Phase 1

- + Arle Court Roundabout remodelling and capacity improvements
- + B4063 bus priority to Arle Court
- + Hatherley Lane widening to Arle Court
- + A40 Park and Ride Access/Egress westbound from Arle Court Roundabout

Phase 2

- + Badgeworth Road Bridge Extension
- + M5 J11 - Arle Court carriageway extension Northern Verge
- + Capacity improvements to the J11 Southbound Slip - design and scope to be confirmed following agreement with Highways England

Phase 3

- + Arle Court Telstar Way east bound carriageway capacity improvements
- + Telstar Way to Benhall Roundabout eastbound carriageway capacity improvements
- + Telstar Way widening

Phase 4

- + Cycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements from Arle Court to Rail Station
- + Benhall Roundabout remodelling including eastbound widening



Gloucester Railway Station

Growth Deal Funding: **£3.75m**

The aim of the project is to provide an improved railway station and underpass that will act as a catalyst for investment and growth, enabling and connecting new homes and in turn underpinning and creating new jobs through enhancing commercial values and creating a connected city.

This investment will deliver place improvements to facilitate growth, improving connectivity between 9,000 existing jobs helping to underpin and facilitate an £80M investment proposition at Kings Quarter, and further job creation.

This it will do through:

- + A new entrance to the city bringing with it railway enabled regeneration.
- + Creating a context of “confidence” for private sector investment in the city.
- + Subway improvements to create connectivity, from residential, employment and retail areas to leisure and tourism facilities – with the emphasis on sustainable jobs and a connected city.
- + Station access/egress improvements and building enveloping to deliver a gateway.
- + Creating a new public space outside of the railway station which will lift property values.



Cheltenham Railway Station

Growth Deal Funding: **£1.497m**

The project contains a package of improvements for Cheltenham Spa railway station. This includes:

- + An additional 70 car park spaces on site
- + Improved accessibility by providing step free access to both platforms via new lifts
- + Creation of a direct cycle/pedestrian link from the A40/Lansdown Road
- + Provision of additional secure cycle storage adjacent to the Southbound platform
- + Creation of a re-designed station forecourt to improve passenger safety and traffic flows

It is hoped that this will lead to a phase 2 at some point in the future which would deliver improved station facilities, retail outlets and enhanced public realm.



Hartpury Agri-Tech to Plate

Growth Deal Funding: **£1 million**

The Hartpury Agri-Tech Centre will utilise the latest smart farming techniques to improve livestock and farm productivity, and help to yield higher quality products for consumers. Whilst commercial software and hardware products are available in the marketplace, accessibility for and exposure to farmers can be limited. The Centre will provide 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.

The Centre will consist of three facilities, a seminar and diagnostic suite/hub to support ‘on farm’ demonstrations and knowledge exchange; this will be complemented by a state of the art all weather livestock handling facility used in a commercial farm setting to effectively demonstrate how data can be collected and used to enhance productivity. A bio-security building will link the hub and handling facility.

- + The main hub/seminar suite is in a current building zone and situation in an appropriate part of the farm that allows easy access to the dairy unit yet is situated in a ‘clean zone’
- + The Livestock handling building is adjacent to the dairy so therefore is best placed from a usability perspective and enables user’s access to the farm and therefore demonstrations in a ‘live’ farm environment.
- + The Biosecurity building provides the barrier between the ‘clean’ and ‘dirty’ zones and demonstrates best industry practice. The three components are interconnected and the linkage is for functional purposes.

The project aims to :

- + Enhance significant engagement from farmers, students and other partners.
- + Increase productivity and GVA for the county, region and wider regions through employer engagement and exposure for students - the next generation of farming entrepreneurs.
- + Raise the profile of Agriculture as an innovative and technologically advanced sector and therefore attracting new entrants / retaining existing staff within the county.
- + Increase the number of producers purchasing new technology within the county.
- + Create jobs
- + Build on additional student recruitment – local, national and global and therefore retaining talent within the county.





A419 Corridor Improvements

Growth Deal Funding: **£4.36m**

The scheme comprises of a package of junction improvements and carriageway widening along the A419, with the key locations and proposed improvements.

Construction started in March 2019 at the Chipmans Platt Roundabout and works at the other sites will follow sequentially west to east along the corridor until Spring 2020.

Improvements include:

- + Widening of the A419 eastbound and westbound entries and exits from one lane to two lanes
- + Improvements to National Cycle Route through the installation of off carriageway shared use cycle way from Spring Hill Road to Grove Lane
- + Widening of Oldends Lane approach to roundabout from one lane to two lanes
- + Installation of new pedestrian / cycle toucan crossing of the A419
- + Upgrade of traffic signals
- + Widening of the westbound carriageway from one to two lane between Horsetrough roundabout and Downton Road signals
- + Creation of a segregated left turn lane from A419 northbound entry (Ebley bypass) to the A419 westbound exit (Bristol Road)



Blackfriars and Quayside

Growth Deal funding: **£4.13 million**

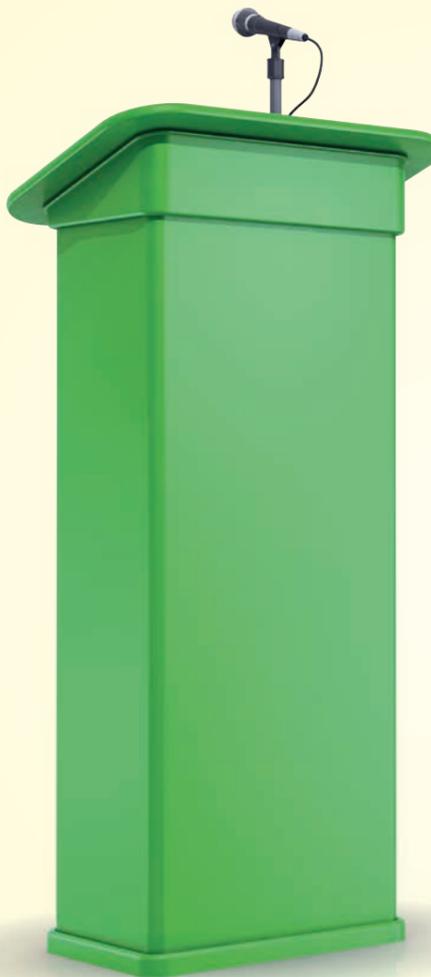
The Blackfriars and Quayside project creates the opportunity for a sustainable and viable development of this key 2.53-hectare city centre site by eliminating the known and unknown risks that have previously prevented its regeneration. Developments supported by the LEP by de-risking the sites has made a significant contribution to the ongoing improvements to the city centre and employment opportunities.

The complex project has included elements such as:

- + Site investigations and surveys to support a Local Development Order (LDO) application
- + Demolition of Quayprint, Ship Inn, County garage and Quayside House in phases to clear the site for development
- + Intrusive archaeological trenching to fully dispose of expected planning requirement ahead of development
- + Refurbishment of Shire Hall with a significant annual energy cost saving due to PV provision and higher insulation standards

The work undertaken as a consequence of the funding has enabled further development including:

- + The development and completion of 295 bedroom University of Gloucestershire student accommodation facilities
- + Quayside Master planning which includes in the next phase provision for:
 - + Plans to construct a brand new GP Health Centre, Pharmacy and Occupational Health Facility
 - + Brand new commercial office space development in the heart of the city
 - + Further job creation
- + Enhanced private sector investment in the ongoing city developments



1000's
OF EMPLOYEES

120
COMPANIES

10
SECTOR GROUPS

ONE VOICE

Did you know that GFirst LEP is guided by 10 sector-based business groups?

Each group focuses on a key part of Gloucestershire's economy, providing a platform for local company leaders to help us shape the future of the county.

Our groups are always looking for innovative, dynamic and enthusiastic people who can help us make a positive difference to Gloucestershire's economy.

Join us and add your voice to ours.

EU-Funded Projects



Through our EU Structural & Investment Funds Strategy, we've raised approximately €41 million to enhance Gloucestershire's economy and environment from the three European funding streams; the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

We're stimulating local enterprise, helping rural projects, and getting people into work across the county. With a strategic focus on innovation, business support, low carbon technologies, skills, the environment, and rural tourism.

Our ESIF committee, chaired by LEP board member Adam Starkey, works

to ensure funding gets allocated to the areas that need it most. Each commitment attracts match funding, so the overall budget is likely to exceed €80 million. The funding is available for projects delivered between 2017 and 2023, and is underwritten by the UK treasury so will not be affected by Brexit.

GFirst hosts the ERDF Technical Assistance Team, who provide support and assistance to those looking to apply for ERDF funding and coordinate the Gloucestershire ERDF Practitioners Network to share knowledge and best practice.

Here are some of their many projects:



Wild Towns

European Regional Development Fund: **£766,034**

Partners: Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (lead partner), Severn Trent Water, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West, Severn Rivers Trust.

Wild Towns is creating, connecting and enhancing green spaces for wildlife in seven towns across Gloucestershire. This project, delivered over three years, focuses on improving biodiversity in market towns. The project is delivering improved ecological networks, enhanced green infrastructure, and natural solutions to water management, through: the creation of biodiverse grasslands; management of woodlands; removal of barriers to fish from rivers; creating refuges for key species; constructed wetlands and the creation of pond networks. In the Stroud District interventions are taking place along the Nailsworth to Stonehouse corridor. In the Forest of Dean, the project focuses around Cinderford and in the Cotswolds, projects are taking place in Cirencester, Fairford, Tetbury and Moreton-in-Marsh.

gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk/erdf

The Growth Hub

European Regional Development Fund: **£3.4m**

Partner: University of Gloucestershire

The ERDF funding supports our capital investment in the Gloucestershire Growth Hub Network which is maximising business growth within Gloucestershire and directly addressing the key challenges and growth barriers that businesses face. This funding supports the staffing infrastructure including business navigators and guides; enables development of the Growth Hubs' virtual offer, and delivers a programme of events and seminars aimed at maximising business growth in the county.

Widely recognised as the front door to business support for Gloucestershire, the Growth Hub is increasing its reach through an extensive county-wide network expansion programme which will allow all businesses, with a commitment to grow, access to its services, both online and at new network locations.

For further information see: thegrowthhub.biz

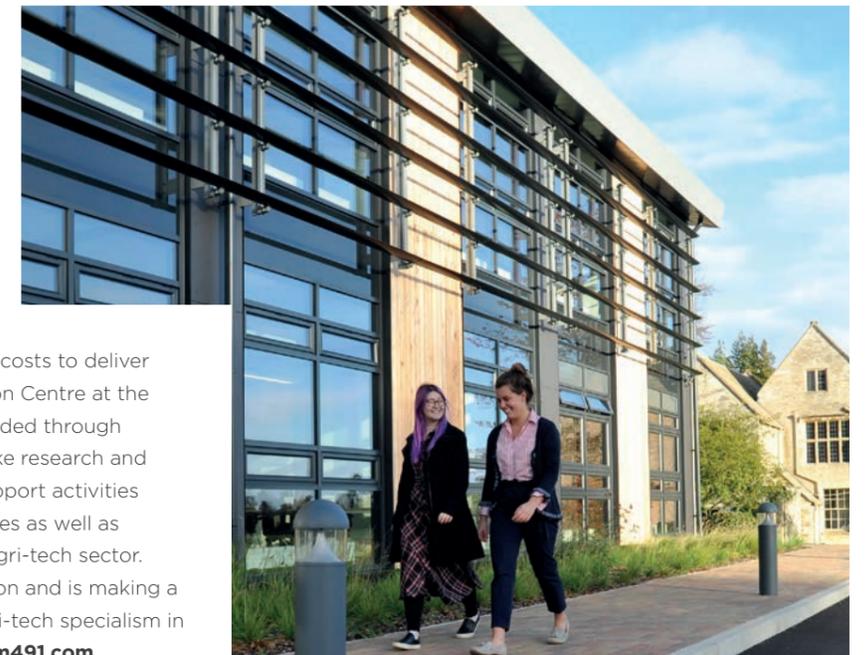


Inspiring Agri-technology Innovation

European Regional Development Fund: **£550k**

Partner: Royal Agricultural University

This project supports the staff and activity costs to deliver the Farm 491 project, in the splendid Alliston Centre at the Royal Agriculture University, which was funded through our capital programme. It delivers a bespoke research and innovation programme of outreach and support activities for existing and start-up agri-tech businesses as well as businesses intending to diversify into the agri-tech sector. The project has received national recognition and is making a significant contribution to the growing Agri-tech specialism in the county. For further information see farm491.com



Target 2020

European Regional Development Fund: £1.3m

Partner: Severn Wye Energy Agency

This project helps businesses increase profits by reducing energy costs. Support offered includes the provision of up to five days energy consultancy, including historical energy consumption analysis, site surveys, bespoke diagnostic and advisory reports presented to management with action plans made up of no cost, low cost and capital cost measures. The service is well on track to support 185 SMEs in Gloucestershire, and is making a significant contribution to the county's focus on carbon reduction. Grants are available from £500 to £50,000 towards the cost of energy efficiency measures.

For more information, visit www.Target2020.co.uk



Start and Grow Enterprise

European Regional Development Fund: £525,906

Partner: University of Gloucestershire

The Start and Grow Enterprise project stimulates successful enterprise in Gloucestershire, building on the county's entrepreneurial strengths.

Eligible businesses can access a range of support. Exclusive Start-up Weekends provide inspiration, develop entrepreneurial skills, and give the opportunity to market test new ideas. Intensive Grow your Business two-day courses and a series of masterclasses through the Five Steps to Enterprise programme, support new enterprises (trading up to 3 years) to develop their skills, knowledge, and confidence, and to identify the best way to unlock their growth potential. All participants can also access Online Resources, Networking Events, Co-working space, and potential Mentorship and Incubation space.

To find out more please visit startandgrowenterprise.uk



Gloucestershire Manufacturing Advisory Programme

European Regional Development Fund £853,767

Partner: The South West Manufacturing Advisory Service

A six year project to support established manufacturing SMEs to understand and develop their capability and capacity to improve and grow. The programme is delivered by SWMAS as the leading manufacturing business support provider in the South West. The programme offers a dedicated team of experienced Manufacturing Specialists with a broad range of expertise and resources. Support available includes; business strategy, operational efficiency, new product development, supply chain engagement, and funding for consultancy and capital investment. For more information, visit swmas.co.uk



Rural Tourism Projects in Gloucestershire

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD): £2.8m

Partners: Gloucestershire Rural Businesses

Rural tourism businesses across the county are benefitting from this capital boost to help them grow the rural economy. The projects deliver a wide range of exciting and imaginative investments including accommodation, conference facilities and tourism attractions.



Going the Extra Mile (GEM)

European Social Fund: £1.6m

This programme is a unique and unprecedented partnership of community based organisations, managed by Gloucestershire Gateway Trust on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council.

The GEM Project engages with and supports individuals within Gloucestershire who are currently dealing with circumstances that are potentially causing barriers to work, and move these people closer towards education, training, volunteering or work, including self-employment. For more information see:

glosgem.org



Business Groups

The GFirst LEP Business Groups are the ‘engine-room’ – its members input into the decisions and projects that will create jobs, and help to ensure that we allocate funding on the areas that need it most.

Working with private, public and third sector representatives, and over 100 companies involved in our 10 business groups, we strive for a rounded and realistic representation of businesses and organisations in the county, with the decision-makers around the table who can shape the future economy of Gloucestershire.

Each business group focuses on a key sector of our economy, from Cyber-tech to Retail, Energy to Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing and everything in between.



As a predominantly rural county, the agricultural and rural sectors will undergo a period of substantial change in the next 5-10 years, with the magnitude and speed of change likely to be more profound and faster than any change for at least two generations. GFirst LEP’s Agri, Food and Rural business group therefore commissioned a report in 2019 to identify the ‘Scale and Impact of the Farming, Food & Rural Economy in Gloucestershire’ and it’s estimated impact on the rest of the county. Gloucestershire’s agriculture industry alone generates an output of £333million each year (2017): 54% from livestock and 35% from crops. To download a copy of the report, visit: gfirstlep.com/about-us/our-vision/agri-food-and-rural-economy-report-for-gloucestershire

The Agri-tech strand in the draft Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) has helped to shape the direction of the Food Strategy which is being developed by the Agri, Food and Rural business group. The strategy will look at a ‘whole system’ food chain approach with the aim of creating value and reducing costs whilst identifying productivity gains.



Our Banking and Finance business group have built on the success of their Access2Finance events, which offer signposting to alternative funding for businesses and individuals including those who may have been refused a loan elsewhere. The events offer a short, sharp ‘get-to-know what else is available’ networking event, so lenders of all shapes and sizes can refer clients to the most appropriate form of funding. It’s now seen as a high-value networking event with its 2 minute pitching slots and network model having been replicated by other businesses.

The retail environment remains challenging as the way we shop is changing. Thriving high streets are underpinned by strong leadership at a local level. The £675million Future High Streets Fund launched towards the end of 2018 will support local areas to invest in infrastructure, increase access to high streets and support redevelopment and densification around high streets. Following several focus sessions with our Retail & High Street business group, and a meeting with the Government’s Cities and Local



Growth Unit, all six local authorities submitted a bid to regenerate high streets most in need, fully supported by GFirst LEP and other private and public sector organisations.

Cinderford was chosen as one of the successful high street areas to progress to the second stage of funding, along with over 85 other areas throughout the UK. Cinderford High Street is considered one of the poorest towns in the county, with the 6th highest crime rate in Gloucestershire, and a lack of social spaces and youth activities. The town’s vision is to re-purpose buildings that are currently not utilised, and to refurbish older spaces to create an inclusive shopping, living and working space. The Retail and High Street Business group continue to support Cinderford, with final business cases to be submitted in Spring 2020.



Gloucestershire, like everywhere else in the country, needs to contribute to achieving the UK’s legally binding carbon emissions reduction target while sustaining reliable energy supplies and ensuring energy costs remain (or, for some, become) affordable. Currently 85% of energy used in Gloucestershire is fossil fuelled, and only 11% of renewable energy used in Gloucestershire was generated ‘in county’.



All LEPs were commissioned by BEIS in 2018 to create a Sustainable Energy Strategy for their area. Gloucestershire’s Sustainable Energy Strategy sets out how the county can play its part in achieving these changes, enabling its businesses and citizens to capture the economic and social benefits of doing so.

GFirst LEP’s Energy business group took the lead in developing the strategy for Gloucestershire, and continues to be the driving force behind delivering its ambitions. By outlining what needs to be done now, in order to achieve a low carbon future, it sets out six strategic ambitions, which represent the county ‘playing its part’ in national efforts while reflecting local conditions, constraints and opportunities. To download a copy of the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy and its underpinning evidence, visit: gfirstlep.com/about-us/our-vision-gloucestershire-energy-strategy/



GFirst LEP’s Cyber-tech business group completed a critical analysis on the requirements to develop the UK’s first dedicated cyber business park, ‘Cyber Central’ and to help support Cheltenham to be the ‘cyber cradle of the UK’ – to include a skills strategy, community and environment creation and business engagement and attraction. The group is made up of experts in their field who can collaboratively deliver the vision of a highly connected, centrally located, vibrant and diverse community for cyber technology. Working with wider stakeholders, the group are also ensuring that the Cyber Central area offers high quality housing, green infrastructure and a positive social impact on existing communities.



The GFirst LEP Business Membership group aims to be fully representative of the Gloucestershire smaller business community, as businesses and organisations of all shapes and sizes are represented through its members. The Federation of Small Businesses is the biggest business representation group in the county, with over 3,000 business-owners as members. In addition to this, representation from small community-based groups means that start-ups as small as 1 to 5 employees have representation around the table as well. This way we can increase the numbers of businesses engaged with the LEP and extend their reach to the wider business community.

We are always looking for motivated individuals to join our business groups, if you would like to be considered to become a member, please contact Karen Campbell karen.campbell@gfirstlep.com

Education and Skills Team

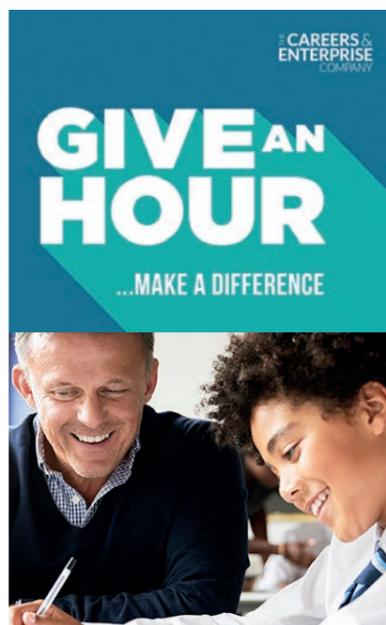
The GFirst LEP Education and Skills team works with the Careers and Enterprise Company to inspire and prepare young people for the fast-changing world of work through their Enterprise Adviser Network and GFirst programmes.



Working with schools across Gloucestershire, linking them with employers to increase employer engagement for young people in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks, in order to meet the future skills needs of the county.

The role of the Enterprise Adviser (EA) is voluntary and supports schools and colleges to develop and implement an effective careers strategy that puts opportunities with employers at the heart of a young person's education.

The adviser draws upon their business experience to help the school focus on the strategies that are most effective by working closely with Headteachers and Senior Leadership Teams supported by a GFirst Enterprise Coordinator.



The team are also supporting the Careers and Enterprise Company's 'Give an Hour' campaign, which launched in September 2019. This enables individuals to share their own careers journey and experience with young people through activities such as classroom talks, assemblies and workshops.

Many volunteers have pledged to support this initiative and use their unique industry knowledge to make a difference to the options a young person considers for their future career.



As well as the Careers and Enterprise Company initiatives, the Education and Skills team also run their own successful and innovative programme of events in schools and colleges across Gloucestershire.

The GFirst programmes are planned for year groups 7 through to 13 providing young people with the opportunity to learn, grow and start thinking about their future. Last academic year, the team supported over 200 business volunteers and worked with over 3,000 students who took part in our programmes:

- + **Mentoring** - co-ordinating a mentoring programme throughout Gloucestershire, which increases the awareness of opportunities available to young people within the county. The mentors work with students in school on a 1:2:1 basis, up to 12 months and receive a full DBS check. This programme has been a great success with schools and students around Gloucestershire. Mentees have stated that the programme "encourages me in a professional way to achieve the best I can" and another commenting "the mentoring sessions are invaluable".
- + **The Young Entrepreneurs Competition** is an employer sponsored 'Dragon's Den' activity enabling students to think creatively to develop a new product or service whilst utilising their communication and teamwork skills. The students are supported by business volunteers who work alongside them to create a marketing campaign and a pitch, which is presented to a panel of friendly judges. 10 schools took part in the competition during 2018-19 and almost 1000 students were engaged throughout the process. The team are now looking to support 12 schools in the competition this academic year.
- + **The St. James's Place Innovation Day** enables year 12 students across Gloucestershire to develop an enterprising business idea in an inter-school competition sponsored by St. James's Place Wealth Management. Last year, the team inspired 155 students aged between 17 and 18 to take part with the winning students being awarded a summer internship at St. James's Place.
- + **Practice interview sessions** help prepare students for their next steps by giving them the opportunity to be interviewed by a successful businessperson. Prior to the interview, students complete an application form and receive guidance on how to make a positive impression with a prospective employer. The students really value the opportunity to connect with an employer who is able to (in their words) "guide and support" them throughout the process and prepare them for their next steps.
- + **Business Breakfast** events provide students with the opportunity to speak with an industry expert on a personal and approachable level about what it is like to work in their field, how they got to where they are today and the responsibilities their job entails. Last academic year, the team connected 230 young people with industry professionals during business breakfasts enabling them to network with local businesses.

None of this could be achieved without the support of the Gloucestershire business community. The team are always looking for companies and individuals who would like to support them, whether to help develop industry partnerships or to volunteer in one of the programmes.

The Enterprise Adviser role in particular is an opportunity to make a real difference to the prospects and outcomes of young people in Gloucestershire whilst also helping to shape future skills development in the county.

To find out how you can get involved, please contact the team - education@gfirstlep.com

 @GFirstEducation

 education@gfirstlep.com

Cyber Central

Led by Cheltenham in partnership with Tewkesbury Borough council and GCC



Cyber Central aims to be the first of its kind in the UK – a unique location dedicated to the development of cyber technology research, skills, business and capability.

The campus would be designed to 'Garden Community' standards and to maximise collaboration between the cyberfocused institutions based on site. It will be underpinned by specialist management and support and will operate on the principle of 'engineered interaction'.

Our ambition is for Cyber Central to be one of the best places in the world to design, create, grow and operate an innovative and successful cyber security or technology business of any size. It would build on the established strength and scale of the Cyber industry that already exists in Cheltenham and the wider region. Cyber Central isn't just another large business park.

Our aim is for it to be a genuinely integrated community where people can live, work and play and enjoy an excellent quality of life, with sustainability at its core.

Cyber Central will aim to be a world-class campus that integrates high-tech work places with academic facilities, high-quality housing and leisure. The new neighbourhood will seek to complement Gloucestershire's existing built, cultural and natural assets, as well as attracting and retaining the best talent. We want Cyber Central to be the optimum location for people in the Cyber industries to work and live. Cyber Central will aim to be an exemplar of social and environmental sustainability.



The development aspires to be a catalyst for positive change in the region by driving economic growth, increasing opportunities for skills and training in the high-tech industries and by creating employment in the local supply chain network. The campus will be environmentally responsible - with embedded sustainable features that minimise impact on the environment. Our ambition is for Cyber Central to be the most healthy and responsible high-tech campus in the world - a pioneering place where everyone thrives.

Gloucestershire is already home to the UK's most vibrant Cyber Security community. It is the home of GCHQ, perhaps the world's leading Cyber Intelligence agency. It is also home to a dynamic and growing network of several hundred Cyber Technology Businesses, ranging from highly innovative start-ups to established international players such as BAE Systems, L3 TRL, Raytheon and many others.



A key part of the Cyber business eco-system locally is CyNam. An independent Cheltenham-centric platform that enables networking, innovation and collaboration for the cyber security industry, its vision is:-

"To support the development of Cheltenham's cyber security industry, and its wider ecosystem to become the cyber security hub for the UK".



There are a number of exciting developments already taking place in Gloucestershire to grow new talent for the future. The University of Gloucestershire (UoG) has a strong offer in Cyber Security and Cyber Forensics at Undergraduate and Post Graduate level locally in Cheltenham and also operates C11, the Berkeley Cyber Security Training, Conference and Research facility.

The UoG is also part of a developing consortium with Bristol University, Bath University and Cardiff University, referred to as Cyber Wales and West, with the stated aim of developing an Industrial Cyber Super-Cluster focused on major infrastructure security and resilience.



Gloucestershire College launched in July 2019 their Cyber Academy, based at the nearby Cheltenham campus, in partnership with UWE, which will offer qualifications from L3 to L5 in a range of Cyber technologies with progression routes to Degree Apprenticeships delivered with UWE.

Gloucestershire also contains some of the UK's best secondary schools in both the state and independent sector and uniquely the Berkeley Green UTC, which specialises in advanced engineering and digital technology. We also have three National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) School Hubs – secondary schools piloting cyber courses as part of the curriculum.



Invest in Gloucestershire initiative was set up by GFirst LEP in early 2019 with the strategic aim of helping international businesses relocate or grow in the county. This project is delivered in partnership with the seven local authority partners to act as the ambassador to promote Gloucestershire as one of the best investment locations in the UK.



Inward Investment

Invest in Gloucestershire: 2019 in review

The ambition of this new project is to be the first point of contact for any existing or new international companies that may be considering to establish or expand their business in Gloucestershire. The ultimate vision of the project is to create high value jobs and grow the county's economy as a whole.

Following a hectic few months, a core team of 5 members of staff are in place, working collaboratively with representatives from all seven councils. A strategic plan was developed, followed by the launch of a dedicated Invest in Gloucestershire website. This is further supported by the development of an active social media presence on Twitter and LinkedIn to promote Gloucestershire's business opportunities globally.

The brand-new website www.investingloucestershire.com allows us to capture inward investment opportunities and to showcase our relocation support services.

Examples of our services include:

- + Free and confidential advice by one of our dedicated business advisors
- + Building the investment business case with access to demographics, skills and economic data
- + Finding the right property
- + Access to recruitment, apprenticeship and training support.

- + Familiarisation visits with introductions to sector specific contacts
- + Introductions to professional, legal and accountancy services
- + Soft landing packages for new investors to Gloucestershire
- + Ongoing after-care business support

The focus of this project is aligned with the four economic priority sectors outlined in the Strategic Economic Plan and Local Industrial Strategy of Gloucestershire. The four key sectors are:



Agri-Tech



Cyber-Tech



Advanced Manufacturing



Renewables

The marketing strategy of the project is focused on these four sectors, while supporting any investors that may have an interest in the county. The inward investment team is currently in the process of developing sector specific propositions. The first proposition has

been produced with physical copies printed for the New Zealand delegation in September of 2019, with the other propositions underdevelopment.

Delivering the project in partnership with local authority partners allows this project to access the best talents with experience from both the public and private sector. The team benefits from a multidisciplinary skills from planning, business development and marketing specialists to inward investment experience at overseas British Consulate, Central Government and a leading inward investment agency. The Inward Investment team is also multilingual with native speakers in Cantonese, Mandarin and Spanish.

Further to attending domestic and international events to promoting Gloucestershire and attracting new investors, this project is also focused on ensuring existing investors in the county are looked after and supported. In collaboration with local authority partners, a comprehensive account management program is currently underway, ensuring international investors are given the best support to invest, innovate and grow.

 @investinglos

 investinglos



In 2019, Invest in Gloucestershire has attended and hosted the following key events:

01

19 March:

Advanced Manufacturing DSK

A number of overseas officers based in British Embassies and Consulates around the world visited Gloucestershire with Renishaw and Bosch Rexroth hosting the visit.

02

21 May:

Gloucestershire Business Show

Businesses from Gloucestershire showcased themselves at Cheltenham Town Hall.

03

4-5 June:

Advanced Manufacturing Conference

We were present to talk to new investors from the advanced manufacturing sector.

04

17-23 June:

Paris Air Show

We promoted Gloucestershire's aerospace sector jointly with our partners from the South West Region.

05

17 July:

Agri-Tech Cornwall Business Forum

Together with Farm491, Invest in Gloucestershire attended the inaugural Agri-Tech Cornwall Business Forum to promote Gloucestershire's Agri-Tech offer.

06

24 July:

DIT Agri-Tech Team Visit

The Agri-Tech Team from Department for International Trade visited Gloucestershire for a day to learn about its Agri-Tech offer. The visit was hosted at Hartpury University and Hartpury College, Gloucester Growth Hub and Farm491 at the Royal Agricultural University.

07

30 August:

Forest of Dean Listening to Business Visit - Assurant

Together with the Council, we visited Assurant, a global US insurance firm based at the Forest of Dean. We are supporting Assurant on its expansion and access of skills and talent in the local area.

08

12 September:

Agri-Tech New Zealand Delegation Visit

Invest in Gloucestershire hosted a delegation of 10 Agri-Tech companies and educative institutions from New Zealand. We arranged 'speed dating' with some of our leading local agri-tech companies. The visit was delivered jointly with our Agri-Tech partners, including Campden BRI, Hartpury University and Hartpury College, Royal Agricultural University and the University of Gloucestershire.

09

23-27 September:

China Visit

David Owen, Chief Executive of GFirst LEP, and Chris Lau, Head of Inward Investment, visited four cities in China to promote Gloucestershire and meet with key investors.

In Shenzhen the team met with BYD to explore green transport alternatives for Gloucestershire.

At the UK Zhengzhou City Regeneration Forum, David Owen presented Gloucestershire's inward investment opportunities alongside Manchester and leading British companies such as Arup, Atkins and Mott Macdonald.

A meeting was held with Renishaw in Shanghai, to help the company with China market access.

In Guangzhou we had the opportunity to understand first-hand trade and investment opportunities from the Greater Bay Area.

10

1 October:

Retail DSK

Diane Savory, Chair of GFirst LEP, Nigel Jobson, Chair of Retail and the high street business group, together with Chris Lau, presented exciting developments in the Gloucestershire's retail sector to a group of overseas officers based in British Embassies and Consulates. This included Gloucester Quays, Market Towns as well as UK:DRIC.

11

14-15 October:

MIPIM UK

Invest in Gloucestershire promoted Gloucestershire's capital investment offer to institutional investors at the largest property conference in the UK.

12

15-18 October:

World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit and Future Food-Tech

A Gloucestershire team including Farm491, Hartpury University and Hartpury College, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council visited two of the most important Agri-Tech events in the UK. At World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit the inward investment team had the opportunity to meet with some of the agribusiness leaders and to present Gloucestershire's comprehensive Agri-Tech proposition. Future Food-Tech, on the other hand, gave us the opportunity to learn more about current and future advances in the agrifood sector.

13

21-23 October:

World China Entrepreneur Convention (WCEC)

With over 3,000 Chinese delegates attending the convention, WCEC is the largest Chinese entrepreneurs event and for the first time it is held outside of China. This is assisting Invest in Gloucestershire in developing its China strategy as well as meeting a number of interesting China businesses.

14

29 October:

Agri-Tech Cornwall Business Forum

This was the second in the series of Business Forums organised by Agri-Tech Cornwall. The main focus of the event was around data collection and data management in the Agri-Tech sector. It provided good networking opportunities with innovative companies.

15

30-31 October:

Advanced Engineering

We attended the UK's largest annual advanced manufacturing trade show and had the chance to see the latest advances in aerospace, composites, automotive and medical devices. It was also a great opportunity to meet with local, national and international companies in the advanced manufacturing sector.

16

10-15 November:

AGRITECHNICA

AGRITECHNICA is the leading trade fair for everything related to agricultural technologies. Top Agri-Tech companies from all around the world gather in Hannover, Germany for 5 days and this was an excellent opportunity to generate new connections in the sector and to strengthen existing links. For the first time, Gloucestershire will delivered a joint event with the Department for International Trade at the UK pavilion to host a reception to promote Gloucestershire's Agri-Tech offer to a large audience of international delegates.

And many more to come in 2020! Follow us and support our work in promoting Gloucestershire as the place to Invest, Innovate and Grow.

 @investinglos

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15 Advanced Engineering



9 China Visit
UK Zhengzhou Business Forum



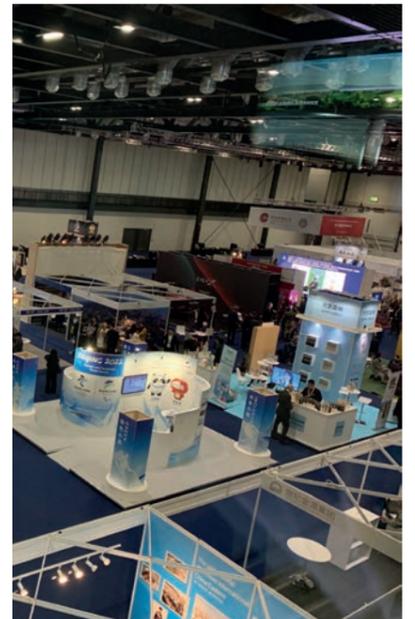
12 World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit



11 MIPIM UK



13 World China Entrepreneur Convention (WCEC)



12 Future Food-Tech



04 Paris Air Show



Board Members



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.



Jim Grant

Jim is the Principal of Cirencester 6th Form College.

With 36 years in education as a teacher, tutor and manager in London and Gloucestershire, Jim has taught (well over 16000 lessons!) and managed in schools, FE and a 6th 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.



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 (SWG), 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.



Emma Hanby

Emma Hanby is Associate Director - Consulting Technology at Campden BRI whose head office is in Chipping Campden; they are a food and drink consultancy that provides the food and drink industry worldwide with the practical scientific, technical and advisory services needed to ensure product safety and quality, process efficiency and product and process innovation.

Emma has worked for Campden BRI for over 15 years in the area of process development. This has included time in research, product innovation and now heading up the service management team. In addition to the technical experience, Emma is a qualified leadership coach, focusing on the development of future talent at Campden BRI.



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.



Cllr Mark Hawthorne

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.



Ruth Dooley Risk Champion

Ruth Dooley is a partner at Hazlewoods LLP. She is a chartered accountant and tax adviser for a wide range of companies and private clients and is a previous winner of South West Accountant of the Year. She has been instructed in over 100 cases and has experience in family, professional negligence and commercial cases.

During her thirty years in Gloucestershire, she has contributed to the Prince's Trust, Fredericks Gloucestershire, BBC Radio Gloucestershire, the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire and she is a Visiting Fellow at the University of Gloucestershire.



Cllr Steve Jordan

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.



Rob Loveday

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.



Jenny Raymond

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.



Russell Marchant

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!



Neill Ricketts

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.



Ian Mean 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.



Michael D Warner

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.



Deborah Potts

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.



Lorrin White Diversity and Equality Champion

Lorrin White is the Managing Director of Bamboo Technology Group, a connectivity and technology provider in Cheltenham. Working to develop the importance of operational resilience in UK SMEs the business specialises in the provision of core connectivity, IT infrastructure and associated solutions. Lorrin is passionate about business and her ideal environment is one that engenders consistent progress and development.



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