

# Annual Report 2017



**gfirst** LEP  
growing gloucestershire

Building  
on success

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## Chair's Summary

**I'm delighted that we have smashed the £100 million mark in Growth Deal funding for Gloucestershire in 2017, with a further £29.13 million from Government in the Growth Deal 3 allocations. Receiving this amount within such a highly competitive process is a huge achievement, enabling us to deliver the top three priorities within the submission.**

The efforts of GFirst LEP and our project partners have really paid off with Government having a great deal of faith in our vision for Gloucestershire. The additional £29.13 million builds on the £77.5 million already allocated; with which we are already seeing a great impact within the county, successfully leveraging in other public and private investment.

This year GFirst LEP has been hard at work delivering the Gloucestershire Growth Deal, continuing to put life into projects alongside our partners. We've seen Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Centres open across the county, the launch of the new Gloucestershire Renewable Energy, Engineering and Nuclear (GREEN) Skills Centre in Berkeley, and a new road at Gloucestershire Airport start to attract developers looking to invest – just some of the achievements in 2016.

Uncertainty seems to be the word on the street at the moment with the EU referendum and government changes; but Gloucestershire is working hard and pulling together to grow our economy through the strong partnerships we have across the county's business, public and third sectors.

So what's next? We need to think about the bigger picture and longer term plan for Gloucestershire. Our Vision 2050 campaign with Gloucestershire County Council is enabling us to think about the future projects, to make a stronger county for all. We need to be even more ambitious and visionary in our future thinking, and in the coming year work with even more businesses, continuing the transformational change of the county's economy.

**Thank you for your continued support."**

**Dr Diane Savory OBE DL, Chair**



# Chief Executive's Message

**Our aspirations for the county keep on growing. Projects funded by the Gloucestershire Growth Deal are being delivered across the county improving skills and business support, encouraging innovation and upgrading our infrastructure.**

We can be very proud of the fact that Gloucestershire has one of the top performing Local Enterprise Partnerships in the country, underpinned by great support from business, an extremely dedicated LEP Board of Directors, and a very talented team.

As we reflect on six years since the LEP was formed in 2011, we should celebrate the improvements in our economic performance over that time period.

- The Gloucestershire economy is now worth £3 billion more, at just under £15 billion
- Our businesses are more productive than ever, narrowing the gap between UK performance and Gloucestershire performance
- Workforce growth has outstripped population growth
- Business numbers have grown 7% with 3,000 new businesses
- Over the last three years, growth of our economy has been three times the national average

We're not resting on our laurels and there is always more to be done to continue to ensure our economy is as successful as it possibly can be, for both businesses and individuals. We will continue to work with all our partners: businesses and the public and voluntary sectors, in order to grow Gloucestershire.

**David Owen, Chief Executive**



# Current Growth Deal Projects

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In the first round of Growth Deal funding back in 2014, Gloucestershire was the only county out of 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships in England to receive everything it asked for.

Since then, our Growth Deal projects have continued to gain momentum, and are already benefitting the local business community. From skills to innovation, and transport to business support, Gloucestershire's economy is growing. Here are the innovative projects that have been worked on in the last 12 months...

A map of Gloucestershire with a green outline. The text "£106.63 MILLION" is overlaid on the map.

**£106.63  
MILLION**



# Farm 491

## Project Overview:

Farm491 is a modern, cutting-edge enterprise hub located at the Royal Agricultural University. Developed as a co-working environment for innovators to grow their businesses by applying technology to agriculture, the Farm491 hub will be providing high-spec facilities to foster entrepreneurship, ideas and collaboration.

Farm491 will accommodate 55 businesses across all three centres and create over 200 jobs in the first five years.

The hub will be recognised globally as a specialist in agritech advancement, hosting talent, skill and innovation.

Partner:  Royal Agricultural University Cirencester

Creating over  
**200  
JOBS**



**Angela Simkins**  
Centre Director at Farm491

“Our aspiration is that Farm491 will create a vibrant community of innovators with the potential to influence and benefit the wider agricultural and food production industries. The space is inclusive, open to all and will become home to innovators of all sizes. In order to remain efficient, competitive and for us to sustainably feed a growing global population, agriculture has to embrace technology – and Farm491 aims to facilitate that.”



**Mike Warner**  
Chairman of the Warner Group  
GFirst LEP Board Member

“This project enables the sharing of cutting edge knowledge in agriculture production and applied research. The UK is one of the leading Agriculture nations of the world, that’s why this sector is so important to the economy of Gloucestershire. The Agritech Incubation and Science centre will provide business innovation units to enable those developing Agricultural technology to share knowledge and skills within the inspiring farm environment.”

## Future targets:

- agritech advancement
- hosting talent
- skills and innovation



# Gloucester Transport Hub



## Project Overview:

Gloucester Central Transport Hub will provide a new state-of-the-art bus station which 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 whilst achieving wider economic benefits through the regeneration of the Kings Quarter area.



## Future targets:

The development will support the city as a rapidly expanding destination for:

- retail
- tourism
- investment
- employment

The Gloucester Central Transport Hub will importantly provide the catalyst for the wider regeneration of the Kings Quarter area of Gloucester, creating an increase of **300 jobs** within GFirst LEP's key priority sectors and importantly providing a **significant increase in GVA**.

Creating 300 jobs

Partner:

Gloucester  
City Council  
Transforming Your City



**Paul James**  
Leader of Gloucester City Council

"Our new bus station and transport hub will provide a much-improved gateway to the city centre and a better environment for passengers. As the first phase of the Kings Quarter development, it will help to create confidence and momentum for the later phases of this project to transform this part of the city centre."

The new state of the art, 21st century facility will have real-time travel information and a range of features designed to make travelling by bus into Gloucester as a visitor, shopper or worker a much more pleasant experience."



**David Owen**  
GFirst LEP Chief Executive

"The Transport Hub is a major breakthrough to the regeneration of the King's Quarter area of Gloucester and improvement to public transport. GFirst LEP is committed to working with partners to deliver a public transport service that is socially inclusive – giving everyone in the communities we serve access to social and economic opportunities through improved transportation links."





# Gloucestershire Airport

## Project Overview:

The installation of a new access road has enabled the development of new aircraft hangars by the private sector.



New road

New Hangars

Partner:



106 jobs



**Mark Ryan**

**Managing Director of Gloucestershire Airport**

"We are really excited about the opportunities this development will bring to the airport and businesses. This project, supported by GFirst LEP, will enable a suite of high quality aircraft hangars to be developed by private investors and help boost the regional economy and our reputation as the best General Aviation Airfield in the country."



**Steve Jordan**

**Leader of Cheltenham Borough Council  
GFirst LEP Board Member**

"The £550,000 of Growth Deal funding for Gloucestershire Airport has allowed the construction of an access road, has opened up a new site for hangar developments. The first hangar has been built with a number of others to follow. This provides the triple advantage of creating a much needed opportunity for companies to expand their businesses in these new premises, creating jobs and making the Airport more financially viable at the same time."



## Future targets:

- deliver £6.3 million annual GVA
- support 106 direct, indirect and supply chain jobs locally





# Gloucestershire Renewable Energy Engineering & Nuclear Skills Centre



## Project Overview:

The Gloucestershire Renewable Energy, Engineering and Nuclear (GREEN) skills project is a £5 million project funded through GFirst LEP Growth Deal.

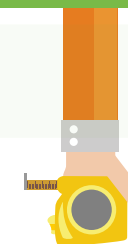
The capital investment has led to the conversion of the Engineering Hall at the former nuclear laboratories at Berkeley, in Gloucestershire.

GREEN is intended to be a catalyst for the redevelopment of the site into the Gloucestershire Science and Technology Park, a 111 acre brownfield site which will house education, research and businesses operating in the construction, engineering, low carbon and nuclear sectors.



The GREEN skills project will become a specialist training centre for the provision of some of the **45,000 skilled jobs** estimated to be needed for the supply chain for major engineering projects and the low-carbon industry, ensuring workforce demands are met and labour is compliant with very the highest industry standards.

Partner:



**Sara-Jane Watkins**  
College Principal at South Gloucestershire & Stroud College

"The GREEN Skills project reached a significant milestone in October 2016 with the completion of the refurbished Engineering Building at Berkeley, Gloucestershire. In addition, we are seeing several Gloucestershire based businesses relocate to the Berkeley site, with one company establishing its innovation centre on site before embarking on a £3 billion investment in the UK. There are some pipeline capital projects which could attract a further £20 million in capital locally and a further 300+ jobs."



**Neill Ricketts**  
Chief Executive of Versarien  
GFirst LEP Board Member

"The biggest challenge the county faces is one of matching skills to opportunities. The county is already desperately short of engineers and technicians and with the real world experience that the GREEN skills centre will offer, students will know exactly what it is like to work in the engineering industry. This project will really bring education alive."

**45,000**  
skilled jobs



## Future targets:

- Leverage £29 million capital spend
- Will create 125 new jobs on site



The centre launched in December 2016, with students starting at the campus in September 2017





# STEM Centres

Partners:



The centres will align Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) education capability with sector industrial growth and demand by providing facilities and resources to make learning relevant to the workplace. They will also help to create clear progression routes into industry by enabling employers to forge partnerships with colleges.



## Cirencester College

Funding: £596,000

Match funded by College with £3.15 million

The STEM centre with 1582sqm was jointly funded by GFirst LEP and the Education Funding Agency. This will enable the college to meet the needs of local employers who want to recruit people with STEM qualifications and also the rising demand from young people to study these subjects. The centre includes state-of-the-art teaching labs to support the expanded bio-medical-health provision and high spec computers to support 3D modelling and data handling.



## Gloucestershire College

(Cheltenham, Gloucester & Forest of Dean)

Funding: £800,000

Match funded by College with £1.3 million

The project created two new construction centres, one in Cheltenham and the other in the Forest of Dean. In addition the Engineering facilities and self-directed study areas at the Gloucester campus were enhanced to improve facilities and attract more students into the STEM subjects.



## Hartpury College

Funding: £700,000

Match funded by College with £472,000

The project is a £700,000 investment for the upgrade of animal/veterinary science labs and the creation of 200 new workspaces in order to support and enhance on-going provision of STEM designated courses at Hartpury. The project also facilitated the consolidation of student services into a single location on site.

### Cirencester College

The STEM centre with 1582sqm was jointly funded by GFirst LEP and the EFA

### Hartpury College

999m2 new lab space

### Gloucestershire College

new build 3184m2 of new learning space

## Future targets:

- Coherent STEM strategy for county
- Completion of over 3,500 qualifications by learners in the county in the next six years



Adam Starkey

CEO of Green Gourmet  
GFirst LEP Board Member

"The new STEM facilities at our local colleges will give skills development in Gloucestershire a real boost. Our apprentices have bought a fresh energy into the company, and we are seeing real long-term benefits to both young people and current staff."

"I believe these new facilities will be a great benefit to both young people and businesses, with apprentices gaining more hands on experience with their chosen career, this will result in more efficient staff and less training needed by the employer."





# Projects and Partnerships

## THE GROWTH HUB

The Growth Hub in Gloucester is the front door to business support in Gloucestershire.


It is the focal point for ambitious businesses who are seeking the relevant information, guidance, support, expertise, finance, knowledge and experience they need to grow. The Hub can help businesses scale up, boost performance and find new ways of working.

**Partner:**  **UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
at Cheltenham and Gloucester

Since 1st October 2014:

  
**6788**  
unique visitors welcomed

  
**8051**  
support interventions delivered

  
**804**  
high growth businesses supported

  
**200**  
local businesses in the provider network

**Stephen Marston**  
Vice Chancellor of the University of Gloucestershire  
GFirst LEP Board Member



“The Growth Hub has gone from strength to strength this year. Thanks to the great work of the Growth Hub team, we have exceeded all of our targets in terms of working with businesses to help them grow and succeed.

This year we have also made great progress with our plans to build on everything the Growth Hub has achieved so far, with a bigger Growth Hub in our new Business School offering a broader range of business services from 2018.”



From April 2016, GFirst LEP became responsible for the Gloucestershire Local Transport Board programme of projects, worth a combined total of £9.8 million.



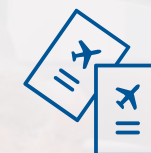
Skillsfest - Gloucestershire's largest recruitment event welcomed almost 1,000 students and jobseekers from 20 secondary schools.



GFirst LEP secured £13,000 from the Transport Delivery Excellence Fund, to run two Risk Management Process workshops to share best practice and improve the speed and quality of delivery of transport schemes.



The Gloucestershire Infrastructure Investment Fund awarded two loans - £3.5 million to The Stroud Metal Company and £3 million for the Gloucester Transport Hub.



Endorsed by GFirst LEP, 120 students completed the Passport to Employability - helping them to understand more about the workplace and the career options available.



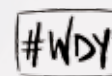
GFirst LEP contributed to the latest Economic Impact Report for Tourism, helping our Destination Management Organisations understand the impact of visitor expenditure on the local economy.



GFirst LEP partnered on wider South West inward investment brochures for the Aerospace and Finance sectors.



GFirst LEP showcased the South West's £50 billion nuclear opportunity in Westminster as part of the Nuclear South West partnership.



The #WDYT campaign is accelerating the evolution of Gloucestershire's high streets and creating a blueprint for the rest of the UK to follow. #WDYT helps towns, shopping centres and retailers connect with their shoppers through digital channels, and so far has 120 participating retailers, 45 million #WDYT impressions on social media and 35k competition entries from consumers.



GFutures has recruited 18 advisers to work with schools across the county to develop careers' strategies.












**Matthew Burgess**  
Principal of Gloucestershire College  
GFirst LEP Board Member

“The work GFirst LEP does with partners is really important especially with local schools, in creating lasting connections between businesses and schools in Gloucestershire. The result of strong business involvement in the curriculum gives students the advantage of greater business knowledge and relevant experience, helping them to make their future career choices.”

# European Funding

Our European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF) Committee, chaired by LEP Board member Adam Starkey, has overseen more than €41 million contracted or committed in European funding, as laid out in our ESIF Strategy, in the following areas:

-  **Innovation £1.9M**
-  **Broadband £363K**
-  **Business support £9M**
-  **Environment £3.8M**
-  **Employment £3.6M**
-  **Rural tourism £2M**
-  **Low Carbon £4.3M**
-  **Skills £11.7M**
-  **Social Inclusion £3.2M**

## Committee Members

- Adam Starkey – Chair**  
Green Gourmet
- Ashley Green**  
Gloucester City Homes
- Simon King**  
Royal Agricultural University
- Matt Lennard**  
Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
- Tim Littler**  
Harrison Clark Rickerbys LLP
- Steve Lydon**  
Stroud District Council
- Roger Mortlock**  
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
- Richard O’Doherty**  
University of Gloucestershire
- Shaun Parsons**  
Gloucestershire County Council
- Bob Watters**  
Forest Local Action Group
- Andy Bates**  
Gloucestershire College

**£3.2**  
million

## Social Inclusion

£3.2 million to support Gloucestershire’s hardest to reach, most vulnerable, unemployed and financially-excluded people.



**Mark Gale**  
Chief Executive  
for Gloucestershire  
Gateway Trust

The Going the Extra Mile project will have a huge impact on Gloucestershire communities, and particularly residents who face multiple barriers to getting into employment or training. The project is a great example of how communities, businesses and public bodies can work together for the benefit of people whose potential and skills are often unrecognised or unfulfilled.

**£3.4**  
million

## Skills & Low Carbon

Serco’s Employment, Skills & Enterprise business will deliver two new Skills Support for the Workforce (SSW) contracts worth £3.4 million, providing training, to help upskill the workforce of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Gloucestershire.



**Gareth Moss**  
Director for Employment,  
Skills and Enterprise for  
SERCO

“Serco will deliver the SSW contracts in STEM skills and Low Carbon skills, providing training, to help upskill the workforce of SMEs in Gloucestershire. Under the 18-month programme, we will work in partnership with the LEP to support growth by providing basic skills training including literacy and numeracy, English for Speakers of Other Languages, employment skills and vocationally specific qualifications, targeting areas of improvement relating to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), or Low Carbon.”



# Coming soon - Further Projects

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The following projects are set to happen over the coming months. These will be key in leveraging more investment to grow the economy of Gloucestershire.

## Blackfriars and Quayside



Partners:



**Neil Corbett**

**Head of Property Services at  
Gloucestershire County Council**

“Developments supported by the LEP by de-risking of the sites will make a significant contribution to the ongoing improvements to the city centre and employment opportunities. These developments will support direct employment with the construction industry during the build phase and generate a number of permanent full time posts in maintenance and servicing thereafter.”

### Project Overview:

The Blackfriars and Quayside project is creating the opportunity for a sustainable and viable development of the key 2.53 hectare city centre site by eliminating the known and unknown risks which have previously prevented its regeneration. The funding will, by removing these risks, encourage innovative and beneficial regeneration of the area by developers and investors.

The consideration and elimination of risks by the Gloucestershire Growth Deal support will encourage developers to invest in the location, where the Local Development Order envisages regeneration will be primarily based on housing development and student accommodation.



**Dr Claire Mould**

**CEO, OPENhouse  
GFirst LEP Board Member**



“The Blackfriars and Quayside project will provide investment opportunities for developers, a number of employment opportunities and new residential units. I believe these combined public and private benefits will enhance the sustainability and viability of this development for the county.”

Funding allocated by  
Gloucestershire Growth Deal:

**£4.13 million**

# Cyber Security Centre



## Project Overview:

The project creates a new Cyber Security facility at Cheltenham and Berkeley Green. The new facilities will be used to deliver STEM skills development from Level 3 to Level 8 as well as support business development and training in Gloucestershire. The project will complement existing businesses as well as support new start-ups. It will be connected into existing activity in the region and be part of making Gloucestershire a regional force in cyber security training, employment and expertise.



**Kamal Bechkoum**

**Head of the Business and Computing School at University of Gloucestershire**

"Education and training for a fast-changing workforce is key to the success of the cyber industry. With the Berkeley Cyber Centre boasting an advanced secure conferencing and training suite, we intend to have 4,000 trainees using the facility over the next five years. Training has already started to be delivered at the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham, in conjunction with the National Cyber Skills Centre and we are closely working with IRM to offer CESG certified training and with GCHQ to have our undergraduate courses accredited.

The allocation of funding towards the Cyber Security project is great news for businesses in Gloucestershire to exploit their intellectual capital."



**Rob Loveday**

**UK Aerospace Growth Strategy Director at GE Aviation  
GFirst LEP Board Member**

"The Cyber Security Centre will bring cyber challenges and problem solving alive for students, ensuring that training is accurate and interesting. This advanced training within the county is great for local students who are interested in pursuing a career in STEM subjects, right on their doorstep, and businesses will have a pool of the most talented employees within the county to help grow this sector."

**Partner:**



# THE GROWTH HUB

# Network & Expansion

## Project Overview:

Phase 2 of Growth Hub is supported by £10 million of capital investment secured by GFirst LEP from the Growth Deal fund. £5 million will be spent on the expansion of the Growth Hub at Oxstalls which will include co-location of the University of Gloucestershire Business School, and the further £5 million will be used to roll out a network of Growth Hub sites across the county supported by a comprehensive digital infrastructure.

**Partner:**



The project is forecast to work with over 11,000 businesses and support the creation over 8,000 jobs. The first of the new network centres will open in 2017 and the roll out will continue through to 2020.

**11,000**  
businesses

**8,000**  
jobs



**Sarah Danson**

**Growth Hub Project Manager**

"We are really excited to see the Network starting to take shape. We have seen a great response from interested partners to help us strengthen and grow the Growth Hub."

"Giving businesses greater opportunities to access the best type of tailored support for their needs with widespread physical locations, supported by a comprehensive online Growth Hub, will ensure that Gloucestershire's businesses have access to the best solutions available in the county."



**Roman Cooper**

**Director of AllCooper  
GFirst LEP Board Member**

"The Growth Hub Network is a massive opportunity for the businesses in our county. Gloucestershire is a special place and has a wide and diverse business community. The Network will allow businesses to access fantastic help, support and guidance to make their businesses grow, all from a location near where they are based. Many hundreds of businesses have benefitted from our core Hub in Gloucester, and now we are poised and ready to expand this success."

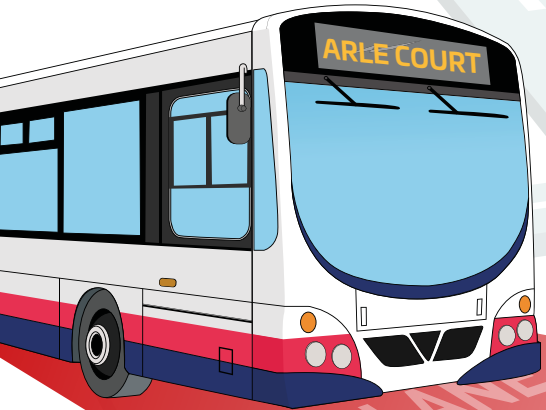


# Transport projects



## Metz Way to Abbeymead Avenue

The **£500k** scheme funded by GFirst LEP and Gloucestershire County Council is designed to improve travel along the corridor for all users, reducing congestion and improving access for cyclists and pedestrians.



## A40 Elmbridge Court Roundabout

The **£9 million** funding for improvements, including the Arle Court Bus Lane, will increase capacity, cut congestion and improve journeys at peak times. The scheme includes a new straight-on 'hamburger lane', a widening of the approach lanes and the latest traffic signal technology.



## Cinderford Northern Quarter

Construction of the Cinderford Northern Quarter Spine Road with **£3.8 million** of GFirst LEP funding, is a vital part of the drive to regenerate the Cinderford Northern Quarter, 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.



## A40 Over Roundabout

The **£2.2 million** project will cut congestion at peak times through the A40/A417 Over roundabout, reducing journey times, improving reliability and improving connectivity and capacity of the strategic road network between the Forest of Dean and Gloucester.



## A38 Berkeley Bridges

The **£1.99 million** of Growth Deal funding, alongside £450,000 of investment from Gloucestershire County Council, will replace the whole bridge helping to maintain a flow of traffic in both directions and reduce 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.



**Cllr Mark Hawthorne**  
**Leader of Gloucestershire County Council**

"One of the top priorities for the county council remains creating jobs in Gloucestershire, boosting economic growth in our county and making it an attractive place to work live and grow."

"Transport is key to achieving this and the schemes at Elmbridge Court roundabout and Cinderford Northern Quarter are great examples of our plans to make the whole of Gloucestershire a desirable place. I welcome the support our transport improvement schemes have been given by GFirst LEP."



## Over £100 million secured through Growth Deal funding

Further investment is set to be poured into the county, as we've secured £29.13 million in the third round of Growth Deal funding, taking the total to £106.63 million.

In a competitive process between all 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships in England, we submitted a strong bid to Government in the summer, outlining its priority list for the county, and was rewarded with the top three priority projects being funded - Infrastructure for a new Cyber Business Park in Cheltenham, improvements to traffic flow and release of land for housing at Longford, and investment for a brand new Further Education campus in the Forest of Dean.

What are the projects that have been funded?

### £22m Cheltenham Cyber Park

#### Outputs and Outcomes Gained

This project will enable accelerated release of much needed employment land, which will house the GCHQ Cyber Innovation Centre as well as delivering:

£50m private leverage

7,500 jobs

500 homes

396 apprenticeships

45 hectares of employment land

### £4.68m Longford Housing

#### Outputs and Outcomes Gained

This project will deliver:

£3.3m private leverage

630 jobs

1300 homes

8.3 hectares of employment land

**Dr Diane Savory OBE:** "We are thrilled to receive £29.13 million from Government in the recent Growth Deal 3 allocations. Receiving this amount within such a highly competitive process is a brilliant result, now enabling us to deliver the top three priorities within the submission, and meaning GFirst LEP have smashed the £100 million Growth Deal total allocation, at £106.63 million.

### £2.86m Gloucestershire College Forest of Dean Campus

#### Outputs and Outcomes Gained

This project will deliver:

£21.2m public leverage

150 jobs

55 homes on the vacated college Five Acres site

430 apprenticeships

6000m² of skills capital floorspace

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

**Matthew Burgess**  
Principal of Gloucestershire College

**Roman Cooper**  
Chief Executive Officer of Allcooper

**Mark Hawthorne**  
Leader of Gloucestershire County Council

**gfirst LEP**  
growing gloucestershire

**GC**  
gloucestershire college

**allcooper**

**Gloucestershire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

**Steve Jordan**  
Leader of Cheltenham Borough Council

**Rob Loveday**  
UK Aerospace Growth Partnership Director of GE Aviation

**Stephen Marston**  
Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gloucestershire

**Claire Mould**  
Chief Executive Officer of OPENhouse

**CHELTENHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**GE Aviation**

**UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**OPENhouse**

**Neill Ricketts**  
Chief Executive Officer of Versarien

**Adam Starkey**  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Green Gourmet Ltd

**Mike Warner**  
Chairman of the Warners Group

**David Owen**  
Chief Executive of GFirst LEP

**Versarien**  
PLC

**green gourmet**  
Creating the taste of tomorrow

**WARNERS**  
MOTOR GROUP

**gfirst LEP**  
growing gloucestershire



# Business Groups

The GFirst LEP Business Groups bring business leaders together to help aid growth, skills, jobs and businesses in the county. Over the past 12 months, group members have worked for over 2,000 hours on projects to boost the growth of the Gloucestershire economy. Below are the aims the groups have been working towards over the last 12 months.



Bringing business leaders together



## ADVANCED ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING

Address the major issues related to the current and future skills shortages in the sector, by ensuring that any misconceptions are confronted and highlighted effectively to maximise growth potential.



## BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP GROUP

Representing more than 50 institutes across the county, the group aims to provide a conduit between the LEP and members of their institutes on mutual needs and solutions that enhance economic growth.



## BANKING AND FINANCE

Work collaboratively with other Banks and Financial institutions to see what practical actions they can take to support the work of the LEP and local businesses, whilst providing support and advice to businesses through finance clinics.



## CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Support the Growth Zone theme of the Strategic Economic Plan to identify and facilitate planning of employment land in the M5 corridor of the county.



## BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Work collectively as an Enterprise Review and Investment Committee, providing feedback on enhancing the quality of pipeline project proposals received by the LEP for consideration for future funding opportunities.



## CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Work collaboratively with organisations and businesses in the creative and cultural sector to propose practical activities needed to grow the creative economy in Gloucestershire.



## ENERGY

To ensure that energy and low carbon matters are given prominence in LEP strategic planning and project development; to put in place initiatives to support and grow a low carbon economy, whilst improving energy use.



## TECHNOLOGY

Ensure that the technology sector is supported by LEP projects and initiatives to realise the growth potential for the sector.



## LAND BASED

Identify and communicate the needs of the land based sector, whilst supporting growth potential, resilience and competitiveness of land-based business and its long term sustainability.



## TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

To improve the flow of goods, products, services and people within the county with the aim of increasing the GVA and private sector jobs.



## RETAIL

The retail sector group aim to positively contribute in a timely fashion to the success of retail businesses within Gloucestershire





## GL AMBASSADORS

STANDING UP FOR BUSINESS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

GFirst LEP Ambassadors are business people just like you, who support the LEP to create a stronger Gloucestershire. Ambassadors can volunteer any amount of time – large or small – to activities that will help to grow the economy of Gloucestershire.

### In the past 12 months, Ambassadors have pledged to:



Help to create powerful, lasting connections between local businesses and the schools and colleges



Take on a person that is out of work.



Be on a GFirst LEP Business Group.

Support GFirst LEP projects with statistics, feedback and ideas.



Become involved with a visit from a Government Minister.

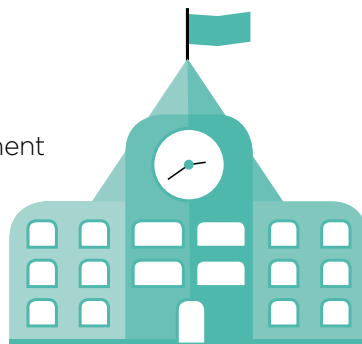


Spread the word about Gloucestershire beyond the county.

### How Ambassadors have helped:

#### Ruth Kinsella, Account Director at Amey and Enterprise Adviser for Millbrook Academy:

“Being an Enterprise Adviser gives me the opportunity to influence the skills development of young people, help them to understand business expectations and to use our own Apprentices, Management Graduates and younger employees to encourage and motivate in the school environment.”



#### Jane Henry, Head of Sixth Form at Millbrook Academy:

“Having the Enterprise Adviser relationship has enabled us to start developing effective plans to link education and careers provision to the needs of business and the economy; ensuring we are educating young people fit for the 21st century economy.”

# Vision 2050


## Future opportunities for Gloucestershire...

“Since 2014, when the first round of Growth Deal funding was allocated, the GFirst LEP team has been working closely with local partners to implement projects. In 2016, we sent our submission for Growth Deal 3 to Government, which contains a strong and ambitious programme of eleven aspirational projects that fit closely with, and build directly on, our Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).

We want to take ideas from those operating now and in the coming years within Gloucestershire as employers, employees and residents for Vision 2050, to create a long term plan for where Gloucestershire wants to be in 30 years’ time. Tell us what you think and **help us form a bigger and better plan** for the coming years at [vision2050@gfirstlep.com](mailto:vision2050@gfirstlep.com).

By working together we have achieved great things for our county. We are ambitious for the future and will need your ongoing support and innovative ideas to continue to succeed, both locally and on a national scale.”

**Dr Diane Savory OBE DL, Chair, GFirst LEP**  
**& David Owen, Chief Executive, GFirst LEP**

 For the latest news from GFirst LEP, don't forget to follow us on Twitter **@GFirstLEP**







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GFirst Gloucestershire's Local  
Enterprise Partnership 

**GFirst LEP, Gloucestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership, is one of 38 LEPs in England.** Established by the Government in 2011, our remit is to drive local economic growth, create wealth, jobs and new business opportunities in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sectors.

**All facts & figures are correct at the time of publication**