

Local Enterprise Partnerships update - September 2011

This briefing note gives an update on recent Local Enterprise Partnership activity, with a particular focus on progress in the South West.

Current LEP Coverage

All England now has LEP coverage, except small areas west of London and in the East Midlands. Some LEPs have overlapping geographies. The whole of the South West now has LEP coverage, with no overlaps of geography.

A map of LEP coverage and a digest of statistics are available on the BIS website at: www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/leps/statistics

Details on LEPs can be found at:

www.swo.org.uk/local-economic-development/local-enterprise-partnerships

Information on economic development in general can be found at:

www.swo.org.uk/local-economic-development

Enterprise Zones

11 Enterprise Zones were originally designated by the Coalition Government, centred on city regions and areas of particular need.

On 17 August 2011 the Government named 13 new zones, bringing the total to 24.

There are only 2 Enterprise Zones in the South West:

- Bristol, Temple Meads
- Newquay Aerohub

SWO have produced a detailed briefing on Enterprise Zones which can be accessed at www.swo.org.uk/resources/briefing-notes and contains:

- A comparison of key aspects of the Coalition and Thatcher-era Enterprise Zones
- A summary of evaluation work done on the Thatcher-era zones
- A summary of the debate over the role and value of Enterprise Zones

LEP start-up fund

BIS has allocated £5m during 2011-12 as a one-off fund to help LEPs establish themselves and secure their future. 32 LEPs made bids into this fund which was oversubscribed by £523,762.

Although BIS have not published the specific amounts awarded to each LEP, some LEPs do provide that information.

LEP Start-Up Fund allocations to South West LEPs

LEP	Percentage of bid awarded	Amount (if known)
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	100%	£76,000
Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset	95%	£177,500
Heart of the South West	100%	£170,000
West of England	100%	n/k

More detail on the LEP start-up fund can be found at:

www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/leps/lep-start-up-fund

Regional Growth Fund Update

Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is a £1.4bn fund to support projects and programmes that attract private sector investment to create sustainable growth and jobs, especially in areas with a large proportion of public sector jobs.

Full details on RGF can be read at:

www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/regional-growth-fund

RGF Round 1

The results for RGF Round 1 were announced on 12 April 2011. In the South West, 4 bids were successful (subject to due diligence):

- EADS UK Ltd: £not published
- Messier-Dowty Ltd: £not published
- South Devon College energy centre: £1.2m
- West Daily Press and the University of Plymouth: £1m

It is expected that this funding will create 787 direct and 535 indirect jobs.

A high level summary of RGF bids and awards can be read at:

www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/regional-growth-fund/summary

A full list of successful bidders at: www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/regional-growth-fund/regional-growth-fund-round-1-analysis

Update on RGF Round 2

The deadline for RGF Round 2 bids was 1 July 2011. 492 bids were received with a combined total value of £3.3bn for a pot of approximately £980m.

A summary of bids by regions is available at: www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/regional-growth-fund/summary-of-rgf-2nd-round-bids

Details on individual bids have not been released, although more information will be provided for those bids which are successful.

BIS Guidance for LEPs

LEP Toolkit

BIS have produced a LEP toolkit which can be read online at:

www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/leps/lep-toolbox

It is designed to:

- Help LEPs identify and achieve their objectives
- Provide information on economic development activity being pursued by government departments
- Set out ways that LEPs and government can work together

LEP Good Practice Guide

Solutions for Business have written a LEP Good Practice Guide for BIS⁽¹⁾. It contains useful materials and a summary of good practice. It is available at:

www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/enterprise/docs/s/11-777-solutions-for-business-local-enterprise-partnership-guide.pdf

LEP Capacity Fund

BIS have made £4m available over 4 years to help LEPs understand the issues facing their areas and develop actions plans to successfully deal with them.

The first round allocated £1m. The only successful big made in the South West was by the West of England LEP who received £25,000. A second round will take place in autumn 2011 with additional rounds in 2012 and 2013.

A detailed explanation of bidding requirements and wider guidance can be accessed at:

www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/leps/capacity-fund

BIS Local

BIS Local is a network of six teams set up to support and lead economic development at local levels and support the delivery of BIS policy. A Central South and West team will cover the South West and parts of the South East region. Contact details for each BIS Local team can be found on the BIS website at:

www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/bis-local-offices

LEP Contacts in the South West

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

- [Website](#) and [contact \(Melinda Richardson\)](#)

Swindon and Wiltshire

- [Website](#) and [contact \(Steve Richards\)](#)

Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset

- [Website](#) and [contact \(Adrian Trevett\)](#)

Gloucestershire ("GFirst")

- [Website](#) and [contact \(David Owen\)](#)

Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay ("Heart of the South West")

- [Website](#) and [contact \(Jeremy Filmer-Bennett\)](#)

West of England

- [Website](#) and [contact \(Peter Jackson\)](#)

A full list of LEPs, their key contacts, websites and status of Board and Chair can be accessed at: www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/leps/lep-contact-details

(1) Made available under Open Government Licence: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence

British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and the LEP Network

We met with Adam Marshall, the BCC Director of Policy and External Affairs in late May. We discussed the new LEP Network they are setting up at the request of the Government, and explore what its intelligence needs might be.

Key messages from Adam included:

- There seems to be a general feeling that LEPs will in time have an increased need for intelligence capacity, especially where new partnerships have formed.
- The LEP Network will meet twice yearly with government ministers to discuss concerns and issues.
- The BCC are very clear that LEPs should not be used as a delivery mechanism for government programmes: they should be a voice for local business and economic development.
- BCC still needs to collate the needs of each LEP. BCC will probably want to know who to direct LEPs to re: intelligence, policy, and other forms of support.
- Communities of practice tend to cater for practitioners and consultants. This makes it difficult for business members of LEPs to access sources of information and support because of the differing specialist language used. The organisations that can produce information and documents that cater to a broad variety of readers will have an advantage.

The first LEP network newsletter was published in September www.keb.org.uk/keb-files/LEP_Network_Newsletter_September_2011.pdf and the website is soon to launch www.lepnetwork.org.uk They are already on Twitter [@TheLEPNetwork](https://twitter.com/TheLEPNetwork)

Research into LEPs

SQW

SQW Consultancy has carried out several reviews and studies of LEPs and associated policies. These can be downloaded from www.sqw.co.uk/publications or individually (*may not open on all computers*) at:

- [SQW Viewpoint - Enterprise Zones](#) (July 2011)
- [Regional Growth Fund: Round 2 - To bid or not to bid?](#) (May 2010)
- [Local Enterprise Partnerships and the 2011 Budget - A briefing for Local Government Improvement & Development](#) (March 2011)
- [Review of outline proposals for Local Enterprise Partnerships](#) (September 2010)
- [SQW review of Local Enterprise Partnerships](#) (September 2010)

Local Futures

Local Futures have done an overview of LEP geographies using their own data mapping product. This is an outside-in view rather than the LEPs themselves using evidence to develop their priorities. The report can be accessed at: www.hertfordshirelep.com/docs/view/research-studies/Local_Futures_-_LEP_Report_June_2011.pdf

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP

Coventry University are undertaking in-depth research on the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's development process, initial impact, and performance management tool. Details on the aims and objectives of the research can be found at: wwwm.coventry.ac.uk/researchnet/ExternalResearchInformation/AppliedResearchFellowScheme/Pages/KevinBroughton.aspx