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# Understanding Local Enterprise Partnerships

## **An opportunity to engage with Government at a Local Level and secure much needed business support**

*BFPA CEO Chris Buxton reviews the function and role played by the Local Enterprise Partnerships in helping industry at a more local level and the funding opportunities that they present.*

***(Revised and updated December 2020)***

### **Context:-**

The tensions between central Government policy, (driven in the main, by civil servants from Whitehall), and the local impact that such policy has upon what are often rural communities in remote and in some cases, depressed areas of the UK, are well recognised. The much claimed disconnect between the two communities has been the ‘stuff of political elections’ for decades. Indeed, many argue that the result of the recent EU referendum could be attributed to a protest vote from those that felt that Whitehall had ‘lost touch’ with the wider population beyond the confines of London, the South East and other predictably affluent areas. It has also led to the more recent instigation of the current Government’s ‘Levelling-up’ policy designed to address the perceived socio-economic imbalance between different areas (predominantly the North & South), of the country. This debate is not the subject of this paper but the fact remains that there has always been a ground swell of opinion that decentralisation of Government and a network of local authority, in whatever form it takes, is generally well received by most communities.

The level of autonomy enjoyed by such authorities and the form that it takes, depends very much upon the Government of the day and perhaps most importantly, the health of the economy. Inevitably, it is the latter that tends to determine the funds that are made available for more local initiatives. In recent years, dwindling government funds and the ever-increasing burden being placed upon them have led to a plethora of what might be termed ‘creative’ contracting means such as the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), later to evolve into the Private Public Partnership or PPP. Upon closer examination of these models, the more cynical eye would say that they were an inevitable attempt by an under-resourced Government to pass the burden of funding and even the risk associated with the commercial success or failure of a local project onto the shoulders of the increasingly burdened private sector. The Government case for doing so was of-course, one of self-determination and potential profit for the companies with whom they engaged. Sadly, all too often, it led to a price war at tendering stage and the long-term decay of service quality whilst brow-beaten middle management and project leaders struggled valiantly to make an under-priced contract profitable over what could be 25-year agreements.

But aside from the decentralisation arguments and the cut and thrust of Government contracting, it has long been recognised by all parties that some form of network with nodes that have a local focus and responsibility for their own community is a good thing.

### **Birth of the Local Enterprise Partnerships**

The first tangible manifestation of this concept was introduced in 1998 with the creation of the Regional Development Agencies or RDA’s. In the United Kingdom, regional development agencies (RDAs) were nine non-departmental public bodies established for the purpose of development, primarily economic, of England’s Government Office regions. There was one RDA for each of the NUTS (*Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics*), regions of England. (See map below.)



Similar activities were carried out in Wales by the Welsh Government Department of Economy and Transport, in Northern Ireland by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and in Scotland by Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. They were funded from HM Treasury via six different central government departments of the day:

1. Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
2. Department for Communities and Local Government
3. Department for Energy and Climate Change
4. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
5. Department for Culture, Media and Sport
6. UK Trade and Investment

Unfortunately, the performance of these Agencies was very variable. Some; most notably Yorkshire and the Humber, branded 'Yorkshire First', were very successful and well managed. Others were far from successful and led to much controversy around what was perceived to be a waste of public money. Consequently, in June 2010 the UK government announced the abolition of the RDAs (which actually took place on 31 March 2012), with a view to reducing the government deficit.

On 29 June 2010 a letter was sent from the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, also to local authority and business leaders, inviting proposals to replace regional development agencies in their areas by 6 September 2010. On 7 September 2010, details were released of 56 proposals for local enterprise partnerships (LEP's), that had been received. On 6 October 2010, during the Conservative Party Conference, it was revealed that 22 had been given the provisional 'green light' to proceed and others might later be accepted with amendments. 24 bids were announced as successful on 28 October 2010.

Consequently, Government would claim that the RDA's were replaced by a new vehicle known as the Local Enterprise Partnerships or 'LEP's'. In practice, they were not so much a replacement as a new concept as they differed from RDA's in one crucial way – they did not receive any funding from central government and local councils to whom responsibility for their success fell, did not receive an equivalent injection of income from central funds, having been called upon to make savings and support similar initiatives.

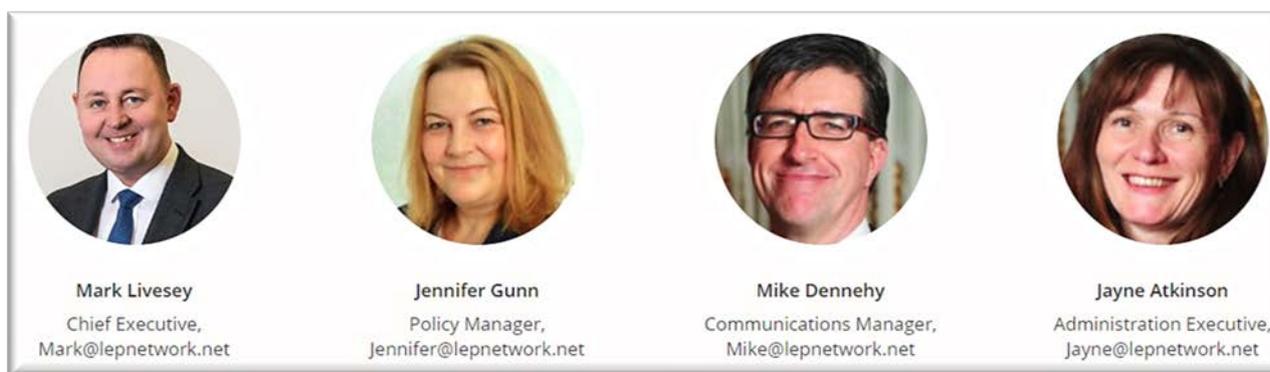
To this extent, the pioneering LEPs were set up on a volunteer basis without any public funding and struggled to make progress. A much-discussed report by Michael Heseltine in October 2012, "No Stone Unturned", was largely accepted by Government, and proposed delegating funds from central government to LEPs, including:

- a share of a £1,400m Local Growth Fund to generate growth, allocated through competitive bidding;
- getting LEPs to draw up plans for local growth as the basis for negotiation on the money in the Fund
- realigning the management of the EU Structural and Investment Funds in England to follow the plans made by LEPs.

Thus, the Local Enterprise Partnerships as they exist today, were born. They are described as; ***"voluntary partnerships between local authorities and businesses set up in 2011 by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area."*** To this extent, they provide opportunities for local funding initiatives by companies looking to develop their businesses whether it be through increased recruitment, filling skills gaps or developing new products and services.

The first LEP's to become established were, Greater Birmingham and Solihull, Greater Manchester, Leeds City Region, North Eastern, Sheffield City Region, and West of England. They were included in the first wave of what were called 'city deals.'

Eight years later, there are now 38 active LEP's in operation. To date, they have delivered a total of over £7.6bn of private sector investment; supported over 196,000 businesses and created over 180,000 local jobs. Key senior personnel at the Central National Network headquarters are:-



(As of September 2020)

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## Engaging with the LEP network (Growth Hubs)

Since its inception in 2012, the LEP network has evolved extremely fast. Service delivery is now achieved through what are termed Growth Hubs (and in a different way, the Enterprise Zones – see below).

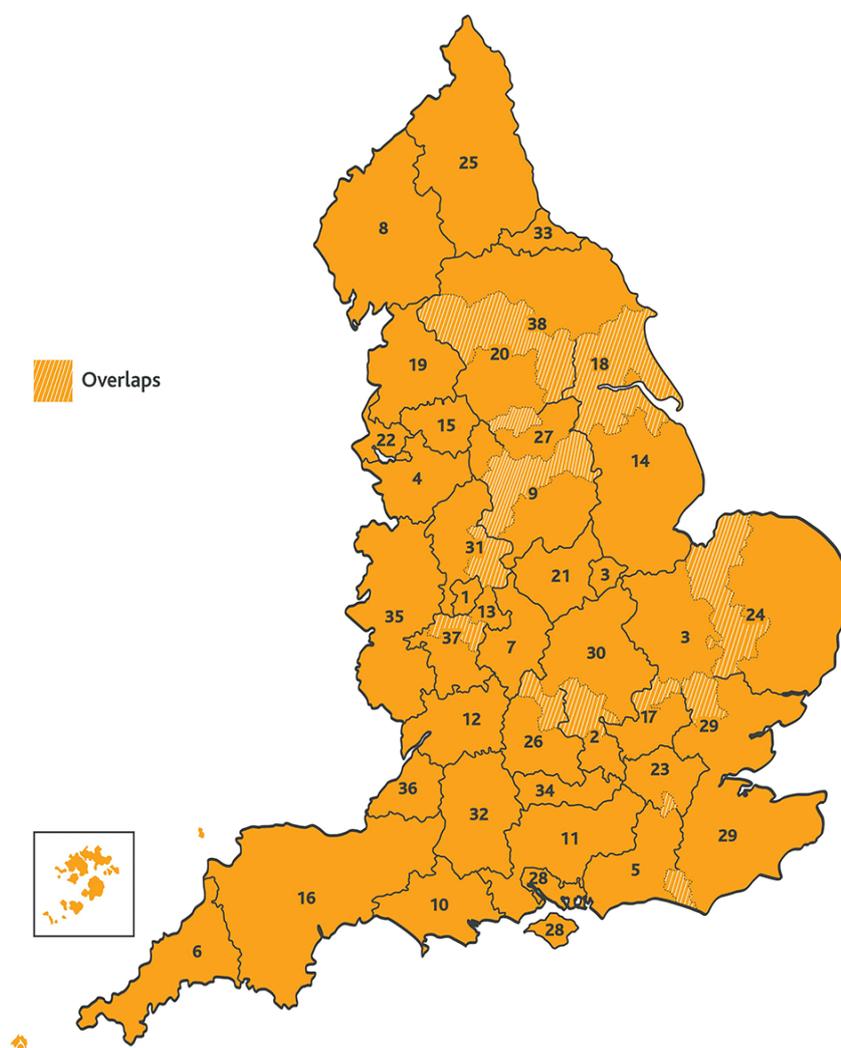
Each LEP has an associated Growth Hub thus there is a Hub-network of 38. Growth hubs are local public/private sector partnerships led by the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). They join up national and local business support so it is easy for businesses to find the help they need. **They are the first port of call for businesses and should also be so for the BFPA Membership.** (Also see the LEP listing at the end of this document.)

Growth Hubs are the central repository of information, advice and support for business within a defined local area. Their aim is to provide a simple and holistic approach to business support. Through a single point of contact a business will connect to the information, advice or support it requires. The type of support each Growth Hub provides will depend on the Local Enterprise Partnership. The LEP will determine how its Growth Hub operates and its areas of focus. Any business, including all BFPA members can access the support via its local Growth Hub and access help and support for;

- *Training*
- *Accessing Finance to Grow*
- *New Business Plans*
- *Business Mentoring and Coaching*
- *Sales and Marketing*
- *Developing New Products and Services*
- *Accessing the vast array of Government support whether National or Local*

The current distribution is mapped out below and reflects the distribution of the LEP's along with their full titles and a live link to their individual websites.

Business readers should go to the LEP website for their region and then seek the listing for the Growth Hub on that website which is usually part of a high-level menu or a drop-down box under support services.



1. [Black Country](#)
2. [Buckinghamshire](#)
3. [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough](#)
4. [Cheshire & Warrington](#)
5. [Coast to Capital](#)
6. [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly](#)
7. [Coventry and Warwickshire](#)
8. [Cumbria](#)
9. [Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire](#)
10. [Dorset](#)
11. [Enterprise M3](#)
12. [GFirst](#)
13. [Greater Birmingham & Solihull](#)
14. [Greater Lincolnshire](#)
15. [Greater Manchester](#)
16. [Heart of the South West](#)
17. [Hertfordshire](#)
18. [Humber](#)
19. [Lancashire](#)
20. [Leeds City Region](#)
21. [Leicester & Leicestershire](#)
22. [Liverpool City Region](#)
23. [London](#)
24. [New Anglia](#)
25. [North East](#)
26. [Oxfordshire](#)
27. [Sheffield City Region](#)
28. [Solent](#)
29. [South East](#)
30. [South East Midlands](#)
31. [Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire](#)
32. [Swindon and Wiltshire](#)
33. [Tees Valley](#)
34. [Thames Valley Berkshire](#)
35. [The Marches](#)
36. [West of England](#)
37. [Worcestershire](#)
38. [York, North Yorkshire and East Riding](#)

(For digital readers, each of the listed LEP's above is a live link to their individual website.)

Each of the Growth Hubs and their associated LEP has a strategic plan for their region all of which can be found along with a great deal of helpful information regarding how to approach them, on the LEP Network website. ([www.lepnetwork.net](http://www.lepnetwork.net)) The Growth Hub represents the doorway for companies seeking to engage with their LEP. All contact details for each Growth Hub are also available on the LEP Network website. There is also a list of key personnel and the necessary contact details of those that are in a position to help with funding enquiries.

### Enterprise Zones:-

Any company exploring the LEP network should also be aware of the Governments portfolio of Economic Zones. Also established in 2012, Enterprise Zones are claimed to be at the heart of the Government's long-term economic plan, helping businesses to grow.

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'EZ's' are designated areas across England that provide tax breaks and Government support. To this extent they are very attractive places to do business especially for both new and expanding firms. There are currently 48 Enterprise Zones established across England with a focus upon a wide range of business sectors. The current list of EZ's along with links to their dedicated websites can be found at:-

<https://www.lepnetwork.net/about-leps/enterprise-zones/>

whilst a very helpful interactive location map can be found at:

<https://enterprisezones.communities.gov.uk/ez-map/>

### **EZ Benefits for Businesses**

Businesses that locate on an Enterprise Zone can access a number of benefits:

- Up to 100% business rate discount worth up to £275,000 per business over a 5-year period

OR:

- 100% enhanced capital allowances (tax relief) to businesses making large investments in plant and machinery on 8 Zones in Assisted Areas

AND:

- Simplified local authority planning, for example, through Local Development Orders that grant automatic planning permission for certain development (such as new industrial buildings or changing how existing buildings are used) within specified areas.

For new Zones starting in April 2016 or April 2017, businesses need to have located onto the Zone before March 2021 or March 2022 in order to qualify for a Government backed business rates discount.

Businesses locating onto one of the original 2012 Enterprise Zones may still be able to benefit from a local business rates discount. Existing businesses can continue to benefit from a Government backed rates discount for up to five years after they first located on the Zone.

On EZ sites where enhanced capital allowances are available (assisted areas), businesses now have up to eight years from the launch of the EZ to make their investment. Businesses thinking about locating to an Enterprise Zone can also find more information about investment opportunities at the [Invest in GREAT Britain and Northern Ireland website](#).

### **Latest Developments:-**

#### **LEPs Five Point Plan proposes a 'ground-up' recovery**

A new Five Point Recovery Plan from LEPs that focuses on skills, green investment, and targeted stimulus was published in July / August 2020 and aims for a 'ground-up' approach to help get local economies back on the route to recovery after the COVID-19 Pandemic.



The plan is based on five central pillars of local recovery focusing on:

1. How LEP recovery plans can be utilized as the basis for local recovery.
2. Doubling down on capital projects and financial stimulus that can reap significant benefits.
3. Exploiting skills gaps with an ambitious agenda that puts people at the heart of recovery.
4. Accelerating green growth initiatives that enable regions to build back greener.
5. A multi-year settlement for LEPs that will secure and deliver a successful local recovery.

As business led partnerships with 330 business leaders on their boards, LEPs are key to enabling a growth led local recovery. The five Point Plan details specific actions that can help drive up local growth and achieve the greatest return. These include:

**Local Recovery:** Utilising the unrivalled understanding and insight LEPs have of their local economies from an evidence base built up over years and real time economic and market intelligence as the basis for a ground-up recovery.

**Stimulus:** Local recovery demands some form of early fiscal stimulus that can help boost jobs and build economies. Enterprise Zones fit that bill well - providing an initial springboard to exploit innovation and technology. They are big drivers in promoting the formation of innovative clusters, R&D and other sectors that help stimulate regional recovery, going on to become economic engines of the local economy. Investment in more catalysts and catapults can also help drive an early recovery, and investment in the capital equipment in these facilities helps remove barriers to entry for small firms, giving them faster growth and a more successful trajectory.

**Skills:** LEPs are having major successes with Local Digital Skills Partnerships, and LEP Skills Advisory Panels are bringing together key partners across economic areas to develop evidence-based policy. We now need to see more rapid progress on the National Retraining Scheme and innovative use of the Apprenticeship Levy and the Adult Skills Fund as tools to aid the recovery interventions. We also need to see additional intervention in pre-apprenticeship /traineeship programmes, and specific action on skills related to low-carbon industries and modern methods of construction.

**Green Innovation:** LEPs are already driving local action to achieve net zero emissions and capitalising on clean growth opportunities but this will require collaboration across many sectors and boundaries. LEPs are achieving innovative projects working with the private sector in developing responses to future energy challenges including working on large scale plans with companies like Drax, Equinor and others, as well as creating new battery technology centres and working towards future Gigafactory's.

**Fund the Task:** LEPs are apolitical brokers tasked with delivering local economic growth. But as LEPs' responsibilities have grown rapidly since their inception, along with the size of the funds they control,

and the additional responsibilities with Growth Hubs, the introduction of Skills Advisory Panels, Digital Skills Partnerships, and Careers Hubs etc., funding has not kept pace with these responsibilities. With LEP settlements remaining largely unchanged for a decade effectively resulting in a 30% drop, they rely on 'just in time' funding for the year ahead. LEPs need that responsibility recognized with a multi-year settlement equal to the task and the vital role they play in supporting business and local economic recovery.

A copy of the Five Point Recovery Plan is [available here](#).

A whole host of latest news from the LEP's around the country can be found at:-

[www.lepnetwork.net/news-and-events/?type=newsArticle](http://www.lepnetwork.net/news-and-events/?type=newsArticle)

although each LEP website may also have regionally-focused news for those with a particular interest in their own locality.

**At the end of this document is a summary of the current situation relating to all of the current LEP's. Where possible we have included contact details and any extra notes that might be useful for BFPA members exploring opportunities with their own Local Enterprise Partnerships. Members will note that fifteen of the LEPS have outsourced their engagement responsibilities to SERCO who operate under a collective contract. To this extent, they use a standard application process through the Education and Skills Funding Agency and an initiative called Skills Support for the Workforce. Members will need to register through the links provided against their region. (See below.) Finally, one LEP, (Cumbria), has a standard application form. In order that members may establish a better understanding of the kind of information that they may be required to provide, a sample of this form is included as an Appendix to this document.**

**(Members requiring a digital copy of the LEP contact list with 'live' web links should contact Chris Buxton on 07787 400747 or [chrisbuxton@bfpa.co.uk](mailto:chrisbuxton@bfpa.co.uk))**

REGION	LEP OR SERCO?	LINK	CONTACT	EMAIL	TEL	HOW ARE APPLICATIONS MADE?	NOTES
Buckinghamshire	LEP	<a href="https://bbf.uk.com/business-support">https://bbf.uk.com/business-support</a>	Heather Dean	<a href="mailto:BusinessSupport@bbf.uk.com">BusinessSupport@bbf.uk.com</a>	01494 927130	By phone or email	Currently oversubscribed for grants, so only offering help to reduce energy consumption - email: <a href="mailto:info@lowcarbonworkspaces.co.uk">info@lowcarbonworkspaces.co.uk</a> or call 01494 927131
Cheshire & Warrington	LEP	<a href="https://candwgrowthhub.co.uk/skills/">https://candwgrowthhub.co.uk/skills/</a>	Kerry Hall	<a href="mailto:kerry.hall@candwgrowthhub.co.uk">kerry.hall@candwgrowthhub.co.uk</a>	03300 245007	Leave answerphone message or email and someone will contact you	
Coast to Captial	LEP	<a href="https://www.c2cbusiness.org.uk/">https://www.c2cbusiness.org.uk/</a>	Business Support Team	<a href="https://www.c2cbusiness.org.uk/contact-us">https://www.c2cbusiness.org.uk/contact-us</a>	01293 305965	Fill in the webform and somebody will call/email back to assist	
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	LEP	<a href="https://www.ciosgrowthhub.com/">https://www.ciosgrowthhub.com/</a>	Kirsty Miles-Musgrave	<a href="mailto:kirsty@ciosgrowthhub.com">kirsty@ciosgrowthhub.com</a>	01209 708660	Call, email, or request a callback on the website	
Cumbria	LEP	<a href="https://cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk/">https://cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk/</a>		<a href="mailto:info@cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk">info@cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk</a>	0844 257 8450	Email <a href="mailto:info@cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk">info@cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk</a> and submit the enquiry form	Enquiry form attached *
Enterprise M3	LEP	<a href="https://www.enterprisem3growthhub.co.uk/">https://www.enterprisem3growthhub.co.uk/</a>		<a href="mailto:admin@enterprisem3growthhub.co.uk">admin@enterprisem3growthhub.co.uk</a>	01483 478098	Fill in the online enquiry form <a href="https://customerexperience.weareumi.net/em3crm/eoi.aspx">https://customerexperience.weareumi.net/em3crm/eoi.aspx</a>	
Gfirst	LEP	<a href="https://www.thegrowthhub.biz/">https://www.thegrowthhub.biz/</a>		<a href="mailto:Talktous@thegrowthhub.biz">Talktous@thegrowthhub.biz</a>		<a href="https://www.thegrowthhub.biz/apply-for-support?referrer=view.frontpage.page_1">https://www.thegrowthhub.biz/apply-for-support?referrer=view.frontpage.page_1</a>	New SME Grant has maxed out. You can register interest for the next round at: <a href="http://www.thegrowthhub.biz/grants">www.thegrowthhub.biz/grants</a>
Greater Lincolnshire	LEP	<a href="https://www.businesslincolnshire.com/">https://www.businesslincolnshire.com/</a>	Halina Davies	<a href="mailto:Halina.Davies@lincolnshire.gov.uk">Halina.Davies@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>	01522 550540	Details online, applications vary with different grants: <a href="https://www.businesslincolnshire.com/exploration/funding/search/">https://www.businesslincolnshire.com/exploration/funding/search/</a>	
Greater Manchester	LEP	<a href="https://www.businessgrowthhub.com/">https://www.businessgrowthhub.com/</a>		<a href="mailto:BGH@growthco.uk">BGH@growthco.uk</a>	0161 359 3050	Contact by email, phone, website or live chat and they will assess your needs and help accordingly	Don't currently have any large capital grants. Single Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Fund Programmes with government are fully committed.
Humber	LEP	<a href="https://www.humbergrowthhub.org/">https://www.humbergrowthhub.org/</a>	North Lincolnshire - Abdi Farah North East Lincolnshire - Julie Fisher	<a href="mailto:growth.hub@humberlep.org">growth.hub@humberlep.org</a>		Financial help and advice: Hull - <a href="mailto:business.support@hullcc.gov.uk">business.support@hullcc.gov.uk</a> East Riding - <a href="mailto:business.support@eastriding.gov.uk">business.support@eastriding.gov.uk</a> North Lincolnshire - <a href="mailto:Abdi.Farah@northlincs.gov.uk">Abdi.Farah@northlincs.gov.uk</a> North East Lincolnshire - <a href="mailto:julie.fisher@e-factor.co.uk">julie.fisher@e-factor.co.uk</a> Training assistance: <a href="mailto:JobsFuse@educationdevelopmenttrust.com">JobsFuse@educationdevelopmenttrust.com</a> phone 0808 1963596	
Lancashire	LEP	<a href="https://www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk/">https://www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk/</a>	Tim Smith	<a href="mailto:info@boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk">info@boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk</a>	0800 488 0057	Fill in the webform <a href="https://www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk/contact-us/">https://www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk/contact-us/</a>	
Leeds City Region	LEP	<a href="https://www.the-lep.com/for-business/">https://www.the-lep.com/for-business/</a>	Daniel Pearson	<a href="mailto:businesssupport@the-lep.com">businesssupport@the-lep.com</a>	0113 348 1818	Email or call to discuss individual needs. During covid times, best to email as the phone lines are very busy.	
Liverpool City Region	LEP	<a href="https://localgrowthhub.com/">https://localgrowthhub.com/</a>				Funding applications: <a href="https://localgrowthhub.com/funding/">https://localgrowthhub.com/funding/</a> Training applications: <a href="https://localgrowthhub.com/support-programmes/">https://localgrowthhub.com/support-programmes/</a>	

London	LEP	<a href="https://www.businesshub.london/">https://www.businesshub.london/</a>					
New Anglia	LEP	<a href="https://www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk/">https://www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk/</a>	<a href="https://www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk/about/meet-the-team/#:~:text=We%20spoke%20to%20our%20Business,up%20to%20outside%20of%20work.">https://www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk/about/meet-the-team/#:~:text=We%20spoke%20to%20our%20Business,up%20to%20outside%20of%20work.</a> Business advisers for Norfolk & Suffolk, Skills advisers for Norfolk and Suffolk + their email addresses are listed here	<a href="mailto:growthhub@newanglia.co.uk">growthhub@newanglia.co.uk</a>	0300 333 6536		
North East	LEP	<a href="https://www.northeastgrowthhub.co.uk/">https://www.northeastgrowthhub.co.uk/</a>		<a href="mailto:info@northeastgrowthhub.co.uk">info@northeastgrowthhub.co.uk</a>	01915 615468	The North East Growth Hub lists nearly 400 different schemes, covering everything from grants, and equity finance through to training, apprenticeships, and executive development and mentoring. Each of these schemes has a different provider, with different application processes and criteria. In the first instance, BFPA members in the North East of England should use the search facility to identify schemes which may be suitable for their particular needs, and then follow the links through to the providers' pages. We also have a service called Growth Hub Connect, where we can provide 1:1 support to help businesses through this process.	
Oxfordshire	LEP	<a href="https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/business/growth-hub">https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/business/growth-hub</a>	Karolina Kogutowicz - <a href="mailto:Karolina.Kogutowicz@Oxfordshire.gov.uk">Karolina.Kogutowicz@Oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:business@oxfordshirelep.com">business@oxfordshirelep.com</a>	01865 897181	Check eligibility: <a href="https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/business/funding-grants">https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/business/funding-grants</a> <a href="http://www.oxlepbusiness.co.uk/oxlep-growth-hub">www.oxlepbusiness.co.uk/oxlep-growth-hub</a> Contact via tel or email	
Sheffield City Region	LEP	<a href="https://www.scrgrowthhub.co.uk/">https://www.scrgrowthhub.co.uk/</a>		<a href="mailto:growthhub@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk">growthhub@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk</a>	03330 00 00 39	Contact via email or phone. If they know which training, they can submit an online application at: <a href="https://scmployerenquiry.securetracker.co.uk/">https://scmployerenquiry.securetracker.co.uk/</a>	
Solent	LEP	<a href="https://www.solentgrowthhub.co.uk/">https://www.solentgrowthhub.co.uk/</a>	James Ford	<a href="https://www.solentgrowthhub.co.uk/home/about-us/contact-us/">https://www.solentgrowthhub.co.uk/home/about-us/contact-us/</a>			
South East: Kent & Medway	LEP	<a href="https://southeastbusiness.org.uk/kent-medway/">https://southeastbusiness.org.uk/kent-medway/</a>			01233 225447		
South East: Essex, Southend & Thurrock	LEP	<a href="https://southeastbusiness.org.uk/essex-southend-thurrock/">https://southeastbusiness.org.uk/essex-southend-thurrock/</a>		<a href="mailto:BESTGrowthHub@southend.gov.uk">BESTGrowthHub@southend.gov.uk</a>	01702 417765	Book a callback online, by phone, or by email	
South East: East Sussex	LEP	<a href="https://southeastbusiness.org.uk/east-sussex/">https://southeastbusiness.org.uk/east-sussex/</a>	Steve Piper	<a href="mailto:info@businesseastssussex.org.uk">info@businesseastssussex.org.uk</a>	01273 335878	By email or online	
Tees Valley	LEP	<a href="https://www.teesvalleybusiness.com/">https://www.teesvalleybusiness.com/</a>		<a href="mailto:teesvalleybusiness@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk">teesvalleybusiness@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk</a>	01642 939386		

Thames Valley Berkshire	LEP	<a href="https://www.berkshirebusinesshub.co.uk/">https://www.berkshirebusinesshub.co.uk/</a>	Graeme Beever	<a href="mailto:info@berkshirebusinesshub.co.uk">info@berkshirebusinesshub.co.uk</a>	01344 388 005	<p>Grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A good overview of all the currently available grant funding can be found here - <a href="https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support">https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support</a></li> <li>• To help fund energy saving measures at business premises, the Low Carbon Workspaces is newly available for Berkshire.</li> <li>• Innovate UK funding competitions : <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/innovate-uk">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/innovate-uk</a>. Search for funding opportunities.</li> <li>• Non-financial programmes of advice and support are available from organisations such as Enterprise Europe Network and (for manufacturers only) the Manufacturing Growth Programme.</li> <li>• Pockets of grant funding specific to your sector may also be available and it can be worth checking with your local council.</li> </ul> <p>Government-backed lending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start-up Loans – up to £25,000 per partner or director. Unsecured. 6% interest.</li> </ul>	
The Marches	LEP	<a href="https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/">https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/</a>		<p>Herefordshire: <a href="mailto:business@herefordshire.gov.uk">business@herefordshire.gov.uk</a>  Shropshire: <a href="mailto:marchesgrowthhub@shropshire.gov.uk">marchesgrowthhub@shropshire.gov.uk</a>  Telford: <a href="mailto:enterprisetelford@telford.gov.uk">enterprisetelford@telford.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Herefordshire: 01432 261758  Shropshire: 01743 250526  Telford: 01952 567589</p>	<p><a href="https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/about-us/hereford/">https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/about-us/hereford/</a>  <a href="https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/about-us/shropshire/">https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/about-us/shropshire/</a>  <a href="https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/about-us/telford/">https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/about-us/telford/</a></p>	
York and North Yorkshire	LEP	<a href="https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/">https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/</a>	Erin Wheeler	<a href="mailto:Erin.Wheeler@businessinspiredgrowth.com">Erin.Wheeler@businessinspiredgrowth.com</a>	078114 11615	Contact Erin Wheeler. Each business is assessed on an individual basis.	
Black Country	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/black-country#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/black-country#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/greater-cambridge-and-greater-peterborough#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/greater-cambridge-and-greater-peterborough#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
Coventry & Warwickshire	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/coventry-and-warwickshire#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/coventry-and-warwickshire#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/derby-and-derbyshire#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/derby-and-derbyshire#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
Dorset	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/dorset#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/dorset#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
Greater Birmingham & Solihull	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/greater-birmingham-solihull#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/greater-birmingham-solihull#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
Heart of the South West	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/heart-of-the-south-west#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/heart-of-the-south-west#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
Hertfordshire	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/hertfordshire#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/hertfordshire#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	

Leicester & Leicestershire	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/leicester-leicestershire#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/leicester-leicestershire#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
Northamptonshire	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/northamptonshire#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/northamptonshire#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
South East Midlands	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/south-east-midlands#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/south-east-midlands#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
Stoke-On-Trent & Staffordshire	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/stoke-on-trent-staffordshire#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/stoke-on-trent-staffordshire#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
Swindon & Wiltshire	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/swindon-wiltshire#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/swindon-wiltshire#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
West of England	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/west-of-england#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/west-of-england#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	
Worcestershire	SERCO	<a href="https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/worcestershire#enquiry-form">https://www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/regions/worcestershire#enquiry-form</a>	N/A			Online enquiry form	

**APPENDIX – Sample Cumbria LEP Application Form**

**(Original available from Cumbria Growth Hub on 0844 257 8450 or  
email [info@cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk](mailto:info@cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk))**



## Support Enquiry Form

<b>Contact Name</b>		<b>Contacts Job Title</b>	
<b>Business Name</b>		<b>Date Business Started Trading</b>	
<b>Address &amp; Post code</b>			
<b>Phone</b>			
<b>Email</b>			
<b>Business Activities</b>			
<b>This section is important so we can check your eligibility for each project</b>			
<b>What percentage of your Business activity is directly with other businesses?</b>		<b>What percentage of your Business activity is directly with the Consumer?</b>	
		<b>Do you manufacture?</b>	

<b>Potential Start-up</b> (Tick if applicable)		<b>Trading Less Than 3 Years</b> (Tick if applicable)		<b>Trading Over 3 Years</b> (Tick if applicable)	
<b>Number of Employees (If applicable)</b>					
<b>What support are you looking for?</b>					
<b>Where did you hear about us?</b>					
<b>Date</b>					
<b>Anything else to add-</b>					