Worcestershire
Local Enterprise Partnership

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

@WorcsLEP
#WorldClassWorcs

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OUR REMIT

The Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP), one of 39 in England, is responsible for creating and delivering economic growth and jobs in the County. This is achieved through a partnership approach with business, local government, the third sector and higher and further education working together with a common, shared purpose.

The WLEP is responsible for developing and delivering Worcestershire's 10-year Strategic Economic Plan which was agreed by all partner organisations and submitted to Government in March 2014. The WLEP is, therefore, working to: create 25,000 jobs, increase Gross Value Added (GVA) by £2.9bn and contribute towards the delivery of 21,500 new homes by 2025.

A total of £54.2m of Growth Deal funding is available between 2015 and 2021 for agreed economic projects to ensure that Worcestershire is a world class place to work, invest and do business. This includes a range of schemes, for example, to improve: skills, rail connectivity, access to key employment sites and Superfast Broadband.

The WLEP is also responsible for a €68m EU programme which contributes to delivery of all parts of the Strategic Economic Plan and provides specific grant funding to support businesses and training with a focus on moving individuals into work.

The WLEP continues to work across the National LEP Network to explore shared best practice and innovations which underpin local-to-national business growth. Worcestershire has established alliances across LEP regions, as well as the Midlands LEPs, to consolidate wider opportunities around the Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect for a connected road, rail and air infrastructure network.

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership

OUR VISION:

"To build an internationally recognised, highly competitive, innovative business location with better productivity and sustainable economic growth."

UPDATES

Be kept updated by signing up for the WLEP monthly e-newsletter at **www.wlep.co.uk**

Follow **@WorcsLEP** and join the conversation **#WorldClassWorcs**

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills
RT. HON SAJID JAVID MP

"Over the past five years this government's long-term plan has turned the British economy around. Growth is up, inflation is down, and we've gone from a record-breaking recession to record levels of employment. Few places have benefitted as much as Worcestershire, which has consistently boasted one of the fastest-growing economies in the country.

The Local Enterprise Partnership has played a vital role in making this happen. It's not another layer of bureaucracy or a way for London Civil Servants to tell Worcestershire's business leaders what they should be doing. It's a genuine local partnership, bringing together Worcestershire people in a way that benefits the whole county, making sure the £54.2 million Worcestershire Growth Deal and the county's €68m EU Programme make a real and lasting difference.

On a wider scale, Worcestershire is an integral part of the Midlands Engine, which will be the powerhouse of this region bringing together the East and the West Midlands. It is something that I am passionate about and here we are seeing results that, if work was further joined up across LEPs in the Midlands, will put Worcestershire and neighbouring areas in a stronger position to bring greater economic success.

Worcestershire is full of potential and it is my pleasure to introduce this Annual Report, as well as the Worcestershire LEP's 2015 Annual Conference."

Rt. Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills

Chair
MARK STANSFELD

"Having started as Chair of the WLEP in March 2015, I have spent time meeting with businesses, small, medium and large, and our partner organisations to understand their aspirations for Worcestershire.

It is clear that we are all passionate to see the County succeed and further establish itself as a modern, forward thinking and economically successful place to live and work.

We have a strong foundation to help us achieve this goal. The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) provides clarity on our 10-year vision for Worcestershire and defines the targets that we must achieve, with progress against this plan being detailed in this 2015 Annual Report.

With an EU Programme of €68m and over £50m of funding already secured from Central Government, it is critical that we work to deliver the key targets of: increasing productivity by £2.9bn GVA, creating an extra 25,000 jobs and enabling 21,500 new homes all by 2025.

We will achieve this by delivering two key objectives:

- We must deliver the programmes already submitted to Government which we know will create jobs, leverage private and public sector funding and further develop skills, significantly improve road and rail networks and the County's digital connectivity, as well as further develop Worcestershire's flooding resilience.
- We must also look beyond our current Strategic Economic Plan and build a pipeline of programmes to secure additional funding. This will ensure Worcestershire keeps moving forward and establishes itself as an even higher performing County.

Successful delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan is dependent on all bodies, public, private and third sectors working together. I would like to thank all those involved for their collaboration and hard work so far and to Peter Pawsey, my predecessor who contributed to the achievements outlined in this report. Future success will also be achieved with Worcestershire playing a significant role in the Midlands Engine helping to ensure that businesses succeed and grow with this exciting initiative.

We are not complacent, we know there is much more to do, but by working together and remaining ambitious, I have no doubt that Worcestershire will be an even better County to work and live in the future. I would encourage all businesses to take every opportunity to be more involved in the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership and I look forward to meeting with more of you in the months ahead."

Mark Stansfeld
Chair of Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership

Executive Director
GARY WOODMAN

"There were some significant challenges included in our 2015/2016 Business Plan to ensure we deliver against our 10-Year Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).

I am pleased to report on significant progress in all four areas:

- **Planning, Infrastructure and Development**
- **Employment and Skills**
- **Business Growth**
- **Profiling and Promotion**

We are now focusing on delivery and making the Local Growth Deal and EU funding work to benefit our businesses and local people.

This report provides an update on our performance against targets as well as commentary on many other achievements and we continue to encourage companies to publicise their own successes.

When reflecting over the last year, much progress has been made with Worcestershire identified as the third fastest growing economy between 2008-2013. The most recent statistics released by the Office of National Statistics also showed that Worcestershire's productivity grew by 2.7% between 2012-13, the fastest rate out of all 39 LEP areas.

We have reported a four-fold increase in apprentices since 2011 with 10,000 people now participating in an apprenticeship programme.

There has also been significant business investment in Worcestershire and earlier this year (February 2015) we reported that more than £600m of private sector investment has been secured since 2012 contributing to a £1.2bn increase in GVA - a measure of the value of goods and services our County produces. This is well ahead of planned progress towards the target of £2.9bn increase by 2025.

My thanks to all who have contributed to the achievements outlined within this report. We have equally ambitious and challenging targets going forward and I am sure Worcestershire will have many more successes to report in the future."

Gary Woodman
Executive Director,
Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

DURING 2015/16 WE SAID WE WOULD…

- COMMENCE development of the Worcester Technology Park (now known as Worcester Six).
- EXPAND Malvern Hills Science Park helping to encourage businesses from the technology, cyber security and IT sectors to join this significant cyber cluster.
- INVEST in the dualling of the Southern Link Road (A4440) providing a crucial link to support the supply of significant housing and employment land in the County.
- COMMENCE work on the Hoobrook Link Road which is essential to the on-going development of the South Kidderminster Enterprise Park.
- INVEST in flood alleviation projects particularly in key hotspots which cause traffic congestion in the County.
- SECURE funds for the rollout of the County's Superfast Broadband programme to achieve at least 95% coverage.
- PLAN for the development of the Worcestershire Parkway and Kidderminster Railway Station projects so that investment in the schemes can commence in 2016/2017.
- COMMISSION a feasibility study to explore the geothermal heat potential in Worcestershire to provide sustainable and affordable heat supply.

EXPANSION OF MALVERN HILLS SCIENCE PARK

WORK ON HOOBROOK LINK ROAD UNDERWAY

PERSHORE LANE IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRESS AT WORCESTER SIX

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

WE HAVE ACHIEVED...

5000 NEW JOBS ON THE WAY

Construction work on the A4538 (Pershore Lane) started in June 2015 to create a new access to the **Worcester Six** site that, when complete, will provide up to **5000** new jobs.

CONNECTING

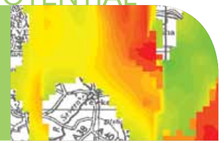
The construction of Hoobrook Link Road, connecting the Stourport Road and Kidderminster Road as well as providing access to the South Kidderminster Enterprise Park, commenced in May 2015.

FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Work on flood alleviation projects commenced with investment on the A44 near Craycombe to reduce the impact of flooding on the access to Evesham.

GEOTHERMAL POTENTIAL

In September 2015, Mouchel was appointed to undertake mapping and masterplanning of heat use across Worcestershire including a pre-feasibility study of geothermal potential in Offenham.



SCIENCE PARK DEVELOPMENT

The development of Phase 4 of the Malvern Hills Science Park will be completed during 2015/16 and funds have now been identified by the WLEP to construct Phase 5 in 2016/17, thereby creating an additional 16,000 sq ft of new accommodation for technology rich businesses.

HOUSING & EMPLOYMENT LAND

Work on Phase 3 of the redevelopment of the Southern Link Road (A4440) is starting at the Norton junction, providing a crucial link to support the supply of significant housing and employment land in the county.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Formal contract negotiations concluded to extend the Superfast Broadband Programme. The first phase of the programme, which will provide 90% coverage across the County, will be complete in Summer 2016. By Autumn 2017, 95% of premises in the County will be able to access Superfast Broadband.

RAIL DEVELOPMENT

Planning permission was granted for the development of Worcestershire Parkway Station in August 2015 with design work progressing on the redevelopment of Kidderminster Railway Station. Both schemes are expected to start on site in 2016/17.

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

IN ADDITION...

FOOD ENTERPRISE ZONE

The Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership has invested up to £1m in a new road at Vale Park in Evesham to provide access to over 30 acres of development land as part of the only Food Enterprise Zone in the West Midlands. This work has been carried out by Wychavon District Council and, once fully developed, it is expected that the Food Enterprise Zone will be home to over 1,200 new jobs.

RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

In partnership with Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council, the Worcestershire LEP has jointly funded the redevelopment of Cathedral Square in Worcester providing improved access to the City alongside a new retail development.

SUSTAINABILITY

Worcestershire Local Nature Partnership has been working with its wider network of environmental expertise on concepts and principles to integrate sustainability into building, site, and infrastructure designs and their implementation. Looking ahead, initial projects, practical tools and advice provide a platform which helps existing and new businesses with their specific growth plans.

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

DURING 2015/16 WE SAID WE WOULD…

- OBTAIN funding to expand the Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) which will start to tackle the lack of training facilities for engineering apprenticeships in the County.
- FURTHER PROMOTE the employment and skills portal for young people, Worcestershire Skills Central.
- Have 10,000 people actively involved in an apprenticeship in the county during 2015, more than four times the number in 2011.

WORCESTERSHIRE APPRENTICESHIP AWARD WINNERS

WORCESTERSHIRE SKILLS SHOW

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS
WE HAVE ACHIEVED…

FUNDING

Funding has been agreed for the Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) with site options currently being examined.

750 WORK PLACEMENTS

Worcestershire Skills Central went live in March 2014: **www.worcestershireskillscentral.co.uk** 135 businesses have registered and are supporting the Connecting Schools and Business programme. Over 750 work placements have been generated with 1,219 pupils currently actively using the portal from 31 Worcestershire schools.

10,000 APPRENTICESHIPS

Over 10,000 people are now engaged in apprenticeships with this target being reached early in 2013/14. The number of people participating in Higher Apprenticeships has also increased, with plans to invest in local training providers to respond to the challenge of 3 million nationally. Examples being the Rotec Training Centre in Evesham and the Midland Group Training Services in Redditch.

SUPPORTING 16-24 YEAR OLDS

WORCESTERSHIRE APPRENTICESHIPS

A dedicated Worcestershire Apprenticeship website **www.worcsapprenticeships.org.uk** was launched as one point of contact for apprenticeships and vacancies in Worcestershire. The site supports 16-24 year olds with accessing Intermediate, Advanced and Higher Level Apprenticeships, providing specific industry sector qualifications.

AWARDS

The first Worcestershire Apprenticeship Awards were held in November 2014 and six apprentices, five employers and one school picked up awards at the inaugural event at the West Midland Safari Park with an audience of over 360 people. Due to this success, the awards were held in 2015 with host, broadcaster Steph McGovern.

Pictured right:
Executive Director, Gary Woodman and BBC One's 'The Apprentice', Nick Hewer at 2014's Awards

JOB MATCHING SERVICE

The Apprenticeship Clearing House was launched in September 2015 providing a job matching service for young people.

WORCESTERSHIRE SKILLS SHOW

The Worcestershire Skills Show was hosted in March 2015 at the Sixways Stadium, home of the Worcester Warriors, attracting 1,300 pupils who visited the show and 53 businesses that exhibited.

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

IN ADDITION...

INCREASING SKILLS

A feasibility study for a University Technical College (UTC) in the County has been developed aimed at providing a greater focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths across all education training providers in the County to increase skills for these sectors.

SKILLS FOR THE WORKFORCE

The Skills for the Workforce project has been delivered which supported nearly 1,000 companies and approximately 2,500 participants. Leadership and Management Training has been provided to support over 200 companies and 430 individuals to gain qualifications.

FUSION

Fusion is a consortium of voluntary community sector and housing organisations. Fusion is helping the most disadvantaged people in Worcestershire to access lifelong learning, development, work-based and entrepreneurial experience through a tailored package approach. Ultimately, Fusion is providing essential stepping stones between people moving into work and the skills needs of businesses.

CAREERS AND ENTERPRISE

Worcestershire has been allocated £100,000 in the first wave of the Careers and Enterprise Company's national programme for enterprise education in schools and colleges. Enterprise Co-ordinators will be recruited to enhance and support schemes that promote innovation, for example, the Young Enterprise Scheme as well as careers advice and preparing young people for the world of work.

CAREERS ONLINE PORTAL

The Career Progression online portal has been launched, Worcestershire Careers Central: **www.worcestershirecareerscentral.co.uk** The first of its kind in the UK, it provides all the information a young person will need to map out their career pathway and highlights the qualifications, work experience and the skills required, providing innovative online career support for students, parents and careers advisors.

GROWING UNIVERSITY

The University of Worcester is one of the fastest growing universities in Britain - applications have risen three times faster than the national average in the last five years.

BUSINESS GROWTH

DURING 2015/16 WE SAID WE WOULD...

PROVIDE funding to further develop **Worcestershire.Business.Central.** as a 'one stop shop' service, including an innovation incubation service to help get new ideas off the ground and into business.

WE HAVE achieved...

GROWTH HUB

WORCESTERSHIRE. BUSINESS.CENTRAL.

Joint investment has been made by the Worcestershire LEP and Worcestershire County Council which has resulted in a refocused Growth Hub, **Worcestershire. Business.Central.**, with greater emphasis on business engagement in priority growth sectors: Advanced Manufacturing, Agri-Tech and Cyber, Defence and IT.

EXPANSION PROGRAMME

Overall the Worcestershire Expansion Programme has seen £2,269,693 of grant funding invested, levering £13,747,345 from the private sector. The programme has supported 22 businesses across Worcestershire, safeguarded 99 existing jobs and created 225 new positions.

INNOVATION

Recognising the importance of innovation on business growth, in partnership with the County Council, the WLEP commissioned QinetiQ to undertake a review of the culture of innovation in Worcestershire which included the introduction of a number of successful monthly networking events entitled Worcestershire Innovation Wednesdays.

GROWTH FUND

Building on the success of the Expansion Programme, a new capital grant programme of £2m, the Worcestershire Growth Fund, was launched in November 2015 to target and support businesses across the County that have the potential to grow and 'scale up'.

REDUNDANT BUILDING GRANT

The Redundant Building Grant scheme provided funding of over £926,000 for 20 Worcestershire projects to transform redundant and underutilised buildings that created and safeguarded over 160 FTE positions.

BUSINESS GROWTH

IN ADDITION...

SUCCESS IN:

- **WORCESTERSHIRE IS LEADING** on a UK Regulatory Exemplar Project, Better Business for All, in the local Agri-Food industry. Pilot testing work is underway with local horticulture growers, producers, distributors and retailers alongside applied independent research, to establish a streamlined system without burdening businesses with red tape or duplication.
- **AN EARLY SUCCESS** of the Exemplar project is the Asian Seminar programme, devised by the partnership between Worcestershire Regulatory Services and Worcester Islamic Association. 150 people and 60 businesses have benefitted and more events are planned.
- **WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES** will also align regulatory support through **Worcestershire.Business.Central.** to ensure business processes are self-compliant and streamlined.

Congratulations to our award winning tourist attractions

- **THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY** won the Heritage Site of the Year Award in the BBC Countryfile Awards 2014/15.
- **WEST MIDLAND SAFARI PARK** launched the UK's largest animatronic dinosaur attraction and with the **SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY** won Best Animal Attraction Award at the Group Travel Award.

  WEST MIDLAND SAFARI PARK has transformation plans that total £80m.
- **BROCKENCOTE HALL HOTEL** won Small Hotel of the Year at the VisitEngland Awards.
- **UPTON BLUES FESTIVAL** won Blues Festival of the Year 2015.
- **ANGELA TIDMARSH** came second in the VisitEngland national campaign to find a Tourism Superstar.
- **SPETCHLEY PARK GARDENS** were awarded £1million in a Heritage Lottery Grant.

Five Worcestershire companies are recognised suppliers in cyber security services to Government:

- BORWELL LTD
- DEEP-SECURE LTD
- ENCRIPTION LTD
- QINETIQ LTD
- TITANIA LTD

3.2% GROWTH

GVA in Worcestershire has grown by 3.2% in the last five years, the third highest rate of any LEP.

BUSINESS GROWTH

IN ADDITION...

Congratulations to our award winning companies who gained accolades in the last year.

- **GTECH** which is based in Wychavon, received the **Queen's Award for Enterprise**.
- **DRIVER HIRE HEREFORD AND WORCESTER** won **'Franchisee of the Year'** in 2015's Startups Awards that celebrates the UK's most innovative, exciting and inspirational new businesses launched in the last four years.
- **MAGIC WHITEBOARD** whose head office is based in Worcester, won **Exporter of the Year** for the West Midlands as the regional winner of the GREAT Faces of British Business Competition.
- **HOMEXPERTS** won **Gold - Franchise "Estate Agency of the Year 2014"** and the Bronze - Franchise **"Lettings Agency of the Year 2014"** awards in The Sunday Times Estate Agency of the Year Awards 2014 having previously received a Silver award.
- **JOHNSON CARS** in Worcester appeared in the top 100 of the **Sunday Times Grant Thornton Top Track 250**
- **ISO QUALITY SERVICES** were named Small Employer of the Year in the regional finals of the **National Apprenticeship Awards.**

Some companies, such as Titania in Worcester, have scooped several awards this year, and most recently, a double-winner in the **2015 National Computing Security Awards**, as they followed up their success in the **Network Security Solution of the Year** category by becoming the **Security Company of the Year.**

In addition, Worcestershire businesses claimed five out of the eight regional awards in the West Midlands Chamber Business Awards in 2015, an astonishing achievement which testifies to the strengths that businesses in the county possess:

- **GTECH**, based in Worcester - winner of the High Growth Business of the Year Award.
- **3SDL**, based in Great Malvern - winner of the Small Business of the Year Award.
- **ROCK POWER CONNECTIONS LTD**, based in Worcester - winner of the People Development Award.
- **LG HARRIS & COMPANY LTD**, based in Bromsgrove - winner of the Export Business of the Year Award.
- **HOMEXPERTS**, based in Worcester - winner of the Best Use of Technology to Improve Business Performance Award.

The National Chamber Business Award winners are announced during November 2015.

The Worcestershire LEP continues to encourage local businesses to enter awards and publicise their successes.

2.7% GROWTH

Worcestershire's productivity grew by 2.7% between 2012-13, the fastest rate out of all 39 LEP areas.

THE WORLD CLASS WORCESTERSHIRE STAND AT MIPIM UK, NOVEMBER 2015

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

800 YEARS SINCE THE SEALING OF THE MAGNA CARTA PUT WORCESTERSHIRE ON THE NATIONAL MAGNA CARTA TRAIL

NATIONAL PROFILING AND PROMOTION

Worcestershire as a world class place to work, invest and do business

DURING 2015/16 WE SAID WE WOULD...

- **CREATE** 1,500 Foreign Direct Investment jobs by 2018.
- **INCREASE** the economic impact of tourism expenditure.

WE HAVE ACHIEVED…

PROMOTING THE COUNTY

Materials have been developed to promote the County to attract inward investment under the banner of 'World Class Worcestershire'. These materials have been used to great effect to showcase the County both nationally and internationally and a new investment website has increased our digital offering: **www.investinworcestershire.com.**

ATTENDING EXHIBITIONS

Attended MIPIM UK for the past two years, the UK's largest exhibition and conference for property professionals.

DEDICATED INVESTMENT EVENTS

As well as attendance at other key events, further dedicated investment events included the World Class Worcestershire event for investors and developers in November 2014 at the Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch, London and the oversubscribed investment event that was held with TheBusinessdesk.com at the Hotel Du Vin in Birmingham.

SPECIALIST SESSIONS

Over 100 investors, developers and employers, with an interest in the County, were invited to Worcestershire in April 2015. The event, hosted at Worcestershire County Cricket Club, offered dedicated sessions depending on their area of interest.

The keynote speaker, Lord Mervyn King, the former Governor of the Bank of England, spoke passionately about the advantage Worcestershire has due to its uniqueness of providing an urban and rural mix.

NATIONAL PROFILING AND PROMOTION

IN ADDITION…

World Class Worcestershire abroad

The Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership continues to take the message overseas that the County is a world class place to do business.

ACTIVITY IN THE LAST YEAR HAS INCLUDED:

- Participation in the Worcestershire Ambassadors' trade delegation to China and Indonesia.

- A return delegation from Hezhou, China, in June 2015 culminated in the signing of an agreement between Worcester City Council and the city of Hezhou. This will cultivate greater co-operation in mutually beneficial areas such as trade, tourism, science and technology, as well as provide educational opportunities for schools and individuals in both cities.

BUSINESS OVERSEAS

- WLEP Board members have taken the message abroad when doing business in Italy.
- The WLEP has worked alongside UKTI to support delegations, such as the Ukrainian visit in April 2015.
- The partnership has worked with UKTI Export for export insight visits, for example, to Riga, Latvia.

RIGA, LATVIA

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

The latest figures released by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) showed that in Foreign Direct Investment alone, Worcestershire secured 1062 new jobs in 2014/15.

In terms of the WLEP area's performance, when dividing that figure by the number of residents, ie the number of jobs created per head, Worcestershire is 3rd out of the 39 LEP areas in England for its performance in attracting new jobs through foreign investment.

Companies that have provided Foreign Direct Investment during 2014/15 included:

- **AMTEK INTERNATIONAL** in Kiddeminster
- **KOITO EUROPE LTD** in Droitwich
- **ALAMO MANUFACTURING SERVICES** in Evesham
- **ROCKLINE EUROPE** in Redditch
- **VAX LTD** in Droitwich
- **SEAFRESH** in Redditch
- **MAGNA INTERIORS** in Droitwich
- **MOTOVARIO** in Droitwich
- **AVL UK** in Hartlebury
- **NTM** in Kidderminster.

NATIONAL PROFILING AND PROMOTION

IN ADDITION...

Worcestershire as a world class place to live and visit

The Worcestershire LEP understands the significant part that tourism has to play in the economy and for the profile of the area as well as the significance of pride of place for local people.

#60 days of sport

Worcestershire has seen some excellent sporting events in the last year and in particular during a 60 day period. The **#60DaysofSport** campaign included excellent fixtures at all of the County's sporting venues including Worcestershire County Cricket Club, Worcester Racecourse and and Sixways Stadium for Worcester Warriors' premiership matches, as well as some extraordinary events that have put Worcestershire on the map nationally and internationally.

THESE INCLUDED:

- **THE EUROPEAN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS** took place in August and September 2015 and were hosted at the University of Worcester Arena where 19 teams from across Europe battled it out in the qualifiers for the Paralympics in Rio in 2016.
- **THE WORCESTER 10K RUN, AND RUN, BIKE, RUN** was held in September 2015 with current 10,000m European Champion, Jo Pavey taking part.
- **THE AVIVA TOUR RIDE** the official sportive of the Tour of Britain in October 2015 saw four times World Champion and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Hugh Porter MBE participating. The Tour Ride started at Worcester University Arena, journeying across the County, with the finish line at Worcester Racecourse and this built on the success of hosting Stage 4 of the Tour of Britain in 2014 which brought almost an additional £1m to the local economy.

Heritage is hugely important to our visitor economy and this year saw significant milestones:

- Marking the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the **MAGNA CARTA** and as the final resting place of King John, Worcester Cathedral staged a major exhibition from March 2015 to December 2016 as well as other activities taking place in the County regarding the Battle of Evesham.
- **WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB** celebrated 150 years commemorated by a blue plaque in Worcester City centre and a TV advert promoting the ground.
- The **'RED WHEEL'** was presented to the Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb by The Transport Trust, to recognise its contribution to transport and, more specifically, to motor sport as it is the oldest motor sport venue still operating on its original course.
- **THE SWAN THEATRE** in Worcester celebrated their golden 50th Anniversary with a range of activities.

A new Visit Worcestershire website has been launched to help visitors to plan their stay and promote Worcestershire tourist attractions and destinations.

END OF YEAR REPORT

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is a formal standing sub-committee of the Worcestershire LEP Board which was established in February 2013. The Committee consists of public and private sector Board members, as well as WLEP's Executive Director and is chaired by WLEP Board Member and Business and International Tax Partner for Bishop Fleming LLP, Chris Walklett.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for ensuring good governance, providing oversight of financial monitoring, audit and risk management as well as supporting the Board in assessing performance. With Worcestershire County Council being the accountable body for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Committee works with the finance department of the County Council to review actual expenditure against plans as well as financial planning for the year ahead.

Policies and procedures are also made publically available: declarations of interests from each Board member, Board agendas and minutes and the complaints process as well as other documentation are all available on the LEP's website: **www.wlep.co.uk.**

FINAL YEAR END 31ST MARCH 2015

Income and Expenditure Account

	Actual
Income	**£**
Core Funding	250,000
Growth Plan Preparation	250,000
Local Government Contribution	167,800
Sponsorship & other income	73,410
Capacity Funding	28,600
Total Income	769,810
Expenditure	
Staffing (inc travel and subsistance)	325,076
Growth Plan Project Activity	124,003
External Consultancy Support/Research	74,974
Exhibitions and Events	73,715
Services and Supplies	53,652
Transport	53,334
Marketing / Promotions	52,023
Training	2,575
Total Expenditure	**759,352**
Excess of Income over Expenditure	**10,458**
Reserves brought forward	**351,470**
Reserves carried forward	**361,928**

BOARD MEMBERS

The Worcestershire LEP Board is responsible for good governance and decision-making. The Board is tasked with establishing and driving the county's strategic ambition, objectives and priorities and ensuring the delivery of projects funded under the Worcestershire Growth Deal.

Board members are drawn from both the private and public sectors and are leaders, advocates and ambassadors for Worcestershire's economic prosperity.

Business Representatives:

Mark Stansfeld | Chair (appointed March 2015)

Chairman of giffgaff and Chief Operating Officer of Dixons Carphone (CWS)

Mark Martin | Chair of Business Board (appointed May 2015)

Business Development Director of One Creative Environments Limited

Dr Simon Murphy

Non-Executive Chair Sandwell Local Improvement Finance Trust

Carl Arntzen

Managing Director Worcester Bosch Thermotechnology Ltd

Nick Baldwin
Vice Chair

Chair of Office for Nuclear Regulation and Member of the Health and Safety Committee

Chris Walklett

Business and International Tax Partner Bishop Fleming LLP

BOARD MEMBERS

Higher and Further Education Representatives:

Prof. David Green

Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Worcester

Stuart Laverick

Principal and Chief Executive, Heart of Worcestershire College

Local Authority Representatives:

Cllr. Simon Geraghty
Vice Chair

Deputy Leader, Worcestershire County Council and Leader of Worcester City Council

Cllr. Margaret Sherrey

Leader, Bromsgrove District Council

Cllr. Linda Robinson

Leader, Wychavon District Council

Resigning Members:

Peter Pawsey
Executive Chair of WLEP (March 2015)

Francis Christie
Chair of the WLEP Business Board (April 2015)

Cllr. David Hughes
WLEP Board Member (May 2015)

BUSINESS BOARD MEMBERS

The Business Board provides a sounding board for advice and feedback to the Board to ensure that the voices of local businesses are heard, as well as being a conduit to facilitate wider engagement with leaders in the business, public and third sector communities.

LEFT TO RIGHT:
CHAIR OF THE WLEP BUSINESS BOARD, MARK MARTIN, WITH CHAIR OF WORCESTERSHIRE LEP, MARK STANSFELD AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE BUSINESS BOARD, STEVE BORWELL-FOX.

Paul Alekna
e-Response Recruitment

Mike Ashton
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce

Michelle Chamberlain
Thursfields Solicitors Ltd

Jacqui Bayliss
Harris Lamb

Steve Borwell-Fox (Vice Chair)
Borwell Ltd

Bob Brown
Institute of Directors

Mike Brown
Bromsgrove District Housing Trust

Penelope Brudenell-Pryke
Greenginering Ltd

Ian Priest
Independent Banking

Mike Cook
BT Wholesale and BT West Midlands

Neil France
Altaras International

Paul Hutchens
Eco2Solar Ltd

Roy Irish
Financial Partnership and Support Ltd

Mark Martin (Chair)
One Creative Environments

Affy Qadeer
Westgrove

Richard Quallington
Community First

Aidan Stevens
St Andrew's Town Hotel

Rowena Innocent
Malvern Instruments

Ray Hickinbottom
Federation of Small Businesses

Resigning Members:

Zad Padda
Vicarage Nurseries
(September 2015).

WLEP AREA EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS SUB COMMITTEE

The new Worcestershire LEP Area European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) Sub Committee was established in January 2015. The Sub Committee is responsible for delivering the WLEP's ESIF Strategy and steers the EU funding allocated to Worcestershire.

The Sub Committee comprises of representatives from voluntary, business and public sectors and provides local insights and expertise on all potential schemes and projects being considered.

Chris Hallam
Chair of ESIF Sub Committee

REPRESENTING	MEMBER
Chair	**Chris Hallam**
Vice Chair	**Nicola Kelly,** *Department for Communities and Local Government and Managing Authority*
Business Partners	**John Dowson** **Richard Nicol** **Helena Baxter** **Ian Stirzaker**
Worcestershire LEP	**Dr. Simon Murphy**
Voluntary and Community Sector	**Richard Quallington**
Equalities and Non Discrimination	**Juliana Crowe**
Environment	**David Throup**
Rural	**Caroline Bedell**
Trade Union	**Stephen Brown**
Higher Education	**Dr. Chris O'Malley**
Education, Skills and Employment	**Andy Dobson**
Local Authority	**Cllr John Fisher** **Cllr Simon Geraghty** **Cllr Linda Robinson**
Managing Authorities	**Roger Allonby,** *Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs* **David Crook,** *Department for Business, Innovation and Skills West Midlands* **Pete Long,** *Department for Work and Pensions* **Greg Westwood,** *Big Lottery Fund* **Sarah Morris,** *Skills Funding Agency*

Funding is advertised nationally by Government and the WLEP is keen for robust projects to come forward and take advantage of additional funding on offer. The WLEP is focusing on securing solid business growth projects and brokering ideas, partners and opportunities at every opportunity to ensure sound projects evolve.

UPDATES

Be kept updated on the Worcestershire EU programme by visiting **www.wlep.co.uk** and register for the WLEP's e-newsletter.

Updates also available via Twitter **@WorcsLEP.**

Information is also available from
Worcestershire.Business.Central.
www.business-central.co.uk
info@business-central.co.uk
01905 677 888.

Information on the national programme is available on **www.gov.uk.**

Worcestershire
Local Enterprise Partnership

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#WorldClassWorcs
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