



Coventry & Warwickshire

Local Enterprise Partnership



F  **OCUSED**

on Coventry & Warwickshire

WELCOME



Welcome to the first Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) annual report which highlights our significant achievements and looks towards the future.

Since becoming chairman in April 2014, the expanded responsibilities and funding we have received from government are starting to make an impact on the area's transport infrastructure, inward investment and the creation of highly-skilled, attractive jobs.

This progress is vital, as at the heart of what the CWLEP does, is to drive growth, boost the economy and create jobs across the whole of Coventry and Warwickshire.

It is exciting to see the momentum being created by everyone associated with Coventry and Warwickshire, with existing businesses expanding and new businesses coming to this area.

We have world-class companies and universities situated here, internationally renowned tourist attractions, top-class people and a central location, all of which are integral parts in making Coventry and Warwickshire the success it is today.

The foundation of the CWLEP is the private and public sectors working in tandem and this will remain crucial to realising the potential of Coventry and Warwickshire for all businesses, whether they are an SME or a global giant.

There is a great deal to be proud of in what has already been achieved, but that doesn't mean anyone in the area can rest on their laurels.

The benefits from the £300 million plus of funding that we have secured will continue to be seen over the next few years and we remain committed to securing the best possible support and financial backing for our area.

Coventry and Warwickshire is recognised as a global centre of excellence in many fields and our passion and hard work over the coming months and years will reap benefits for everyone living and working in this great area.

We are looking forward to the future with confidence and building further on our strong momentum.

Jonathan Browning
Chairman of the CWLEP

OUR AREA



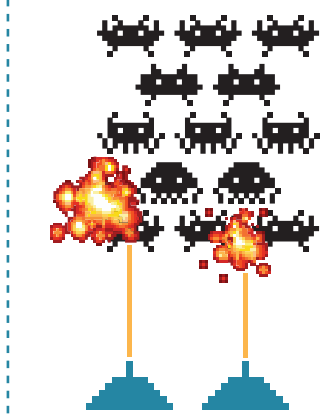
CENTRAL
location – Coventry is
60 MINUTES
by train from London Euston

We are situated within a
TWO-HOUR DRIVE OF
75%
of England's population



10% OF ALL UK
automotive jobs are in
Coventry and Warwickshire

Home to the
UK'S THIRD LARGEST CLUSTER
of gaming companies.



10% of the UK's
staff in the gaming
industry work within
Leamington, Warwick
and Southam

One of the
TOP
PERFORMING
UK AREAS
for foreign direct
investment,
ranked in the
TOP 10
(out of 39)
ECONOMIC AREAS
IN THE COUNTRY

Home to
35,000
businesses

Over 400
Advanced Manufacturing
and Engineering
companies employing
15,000 people
and investing over
£100 million

The area has one of the
HIGHEST RATES
of international patenting in the UK

Tourism accounts for
40,000 JOBS
in Coventry and Warwickshire

Leading the way
in driverless
technology
and low carbon technologies

In excess of
50,000 STUDENTS
at the University of Warwick
and Coventry University

VISION AND STRATEGY

Our vision is:

To be the driving force to make a real difference to the economy and create jobs throughout Coventry and Warwickshire.

Our key sectors include:



Automotive Manufacturing and Engineering

Established the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub to provide a one-stop shop for engineering and manufacturing companies to access support.



Intelligent transport

Coventry is among two UK cities chosen to pilot driverless technology as part of UK Autodrive – a consortium of forward-thinking local authorities, the UK's leading technology and automotive businesses and academic institutions.



Our strategy is:

Working alongside the private and public sectors to focus on our strengths and achieving the best possible funding deals from the government.



Digital gaming

Leamington, Warwick and Southam have been dubbed 'Silicon Spa' since they are home to 10% of the UK's gaming sector workforce and three of the world's largest digital companies.



Major issues

Overcoming skills gaps and shortages to drive growth and create jobs, developing skills to reduce unemployment and working closer with employers, schools, colleges, universities and training providers.

LOOK

How we are allocating our ESIF.

CWLEP has been allocated around £118.7 million until 2020 to invest in our key areas.

The CWLEP organised a Jobs & Careers Fair which was extremely well attended



The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) will enable a framework geared up to:

- 1 Building on our area's excellence in R&D, technology and innovation
- 2 Improving access to ICT and superfast broadband
- 3 Supporting SMEs to be more competitive
- 4 Encouraging all sectors to use low carbon
- 5 Making funding available to reduce risk of flooding and putting management plans in place
- 6 Pro-actively encouraging energy efficiency
- 7 Promoting employment to create an active labour market
- 8 Reducing poverty and improving housing, health care, education and training
- 9 Investing in education, skills and encouraging lifelong learning



City Deal's GOALS FOR GROWTH

Some of the projects supported by the City Deal are already up and running in Coventry and Warwickshire.

City Deals were introduced by the government to allow cities and areas the opportunity to play a greater role in helping to grow their local economies by providing added powers and responsibilities.

Our City Deal was officially signed by the Minister for Universities, Science and Cities Greg Clark MP and we hope it will help to create more than 15,000 new jobs by 2025.

Our proposition was centred around the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector – “Re-engineering Engineering”

– with a major emphasis on encouraging growth by making it easier for companies to realise expansion plans through simplifying routes to advice, finance and skills.

To achieve this we officially opened the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub at Cheylesmore House, Cheylesmore, Coventry, in September 2014, under the leadership of managing director Craig Humphrey.

We have appointed experienced account managers to give businesses – in all sectors – the opportunity to have help for free with:

- **Access to finance**
- **Business Innovation**
- **Business Support**
- **International Trade Advisers**
- **Skills4Growth**
- **Inward Investment**
- **Planning**

We are working with the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, UKTI, Local Authorities across the sub-region, Coventry University, the University of Warwick and the Manufacturing Advisory Service (now part of the Business Growth Service) to help businesses access services and support from other organisations in the region.

Funding was secured from the government's Regional Growth Fund through Lancaster University, who are leading the creation of 25 new growth hubs across the UK.

The City Deal is also trialling two initiatives to help improve the skills of young people and allow them to take opportunities created in advanced manufacturing and engineering.

This includes a new Shared Apprentice Scheme which will see apprentices gaining work-based training in a number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).



Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub managing director Craig Humphrey

BRANCHING OUT

A Warwickshire company that designs and makes roof trusses is taking on at least 12 new staff after moving to a new home and investing nearly £500,000 in its growth plans.

Nuneaton Roof Trusses was established 14 years ago by Scott McEwan and he has built the company up to a £3 million turnover business which employs around 20 staff.

Jack McMinn and Richard Britton have since joined as directors to help take it to the next level and they enlisted the support of the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub to assist with its expansion.

Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub account manager Colin Hanson-New helped secure grants worth £85,000 to help with the purchase of a new £292,000 machine.

And the firm has also moved from Camp Hill to a unit three times the size in Weddington Terrace after being put in touch with Warwickshire County Council's Gus Bhandal, the inward investment specialist at the Growth Hub.

The new jobs will be in design, manufacturing and administration and the changes will allow the company to push towards £6 million turnover in the coming year, with long-term plans to reach £10 million to £12 million turnover.

Jack said: “The support we have had has been invaluable. We would have pushed ahead with the plans to grow but it would have taken us much longer. The support through the Growth Hub means we can accelerate that and it's good for us and for the local economy.”

The new machine will be the only one of its type in the UK and was due to arrive from Belgium by April 2015 but the company had already secured around £1 million worth of orders against it from national house builders.

Jack added: “When we receive the designs from national house builders, we can programme the new machine to cut the

trusses to meet that design. They replicate their properties around the country so once we have the template, we can move into volume production for those companies – which is good for them, and us.

“Not only that, it takes around a minute to set-up each job where the current system is a 20-minute set-up – that is a lot of time saved and, again, means we can produce more.

“Further down the line, we want to install a biomass burner to heat and power the property. This in turn reduces our waste to landfill, as well as underlining our commitment to our long-term plan.”



Left to right: Gus Bhandal, Richard Britton, Jack McMinn, Scott McEwan and Colin Hanson-New

GROWTH DEALS

Two of the most significant CWLEP announcements over the last year were the Growth Deals funding from the government.

In September 2014, Minister for Universities, Science and Cities Greg Clark MP travelled to Shire Hall in Warwick to sign the Growth Deal to confirm £74.1m of funding, of which £17.2m is for 2015/16.



Coventry - Nuneaton Rail Link & Coventry Station
£4.9m 2015/16
£20m total



Coventry City Centre Access
£5m total



Stratford-on-Avon Start-up Hub
£450k 2015/16



City College Coventry Skills Hub
£80k 2015/16



Innovation Grow On Space
£4.7m 2015/16
£7m total



Warwickshire College Apprenticeship Centre
£1.3m 2015/16



Growth Deal one
£17.2m 2015/16 – £74.1m to 2020/21

Project Pipeline 2016 -

In January 2015, Oliver Letwin MP, Minister for Government Policy and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, came to Nuneaton to announce an expansion to the Growth Deal with an extra £15.3 million to be invested in the area between 2016 and 2021.

Sub Regional Projects



Dynamic Routing and Intelligent Mobility



Unlocking Development Sites



Business Investment Fund



Bermuda Park - A444 Coton Arches



Skills Capital Programme



Coventry Station Access Improvements



WMG: New and Innovative Steel Products



Growth Deal two
Based on: c.£15m allocation

The benefits OF RECEIVING RGF GRANTS

Applications for funding from the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) are approved by the CWLEP and here we highlight a handful of businesses and schemes which have benefited from the government initiative which helps companies in England to grow.

An engineering company in Exhall is set for further expansion and has taken on 35 new staff after buying new machinery thanks to an RGF grant.

The Premier Group in Brindley Road, Bayton Road Industrial Estate, has installed a BSA Machine Tools CNC machining centre as well as two MTE CNC machining centres – high speed steel cutters for small and large press tools.

The company has also acquired a further Prima Rapido Evo Laser cutter and welder – one of the fastest in Europe – to bring its investment in Prima Laser technology to three high speed lasers within the last three years.

The Premier Group has ordered a 2,000 tonne Fagor Hydraulic press from Spain which will be used in metal forming operations.

This takes the total investment the company has made in its facility to in excess of £5 million in the last 12 months after receiving £633,000 from round four of the RGF which supports projects and programmes committed to leveraging private investment and delivering sustainable jobs.

The funding has created 35 jobs to increase the Premier Group's workforce to 203 over its 12 units on the Bayton Road Industrial Estate and two units in Walsgrave, Coventry.

Premier Group chairman Denis Meagher said the new machinery would help the business to grow its turnover which is predicted to rise to in excess of £25 million next year.

"The new machines are much quicker than those we already have – the laser machine alone is seven times quicker," he said.

"We ordered the Fagor Hydraulic press in December 2014 and it will arrive in December 2015. The biggest hydraulic press we have at the moment is 680 tonnes but we have no capacity to press anything bigger than that so this will open up new markets and send out a strong message to our key customers of our dedication and commitment to investment in the latest technology.

"We are working in a competitive European market and the more machinery we have, the quicker we can complete contracts which will make us a more attractive supplier to the likes of Jaguar Land Rover and Ford."

"For the 23 years I have been involved with the Premier Group we have taken on a minimum of five apprentices every year, this year we are recruiting eight apprentices."

"We need to teach them the skills that we require and close the skills gap because we have an ageing workforce."

Denis Meagher
Premier Group chairman



From the left: Denis Meagher (Premier Group), Cllr June Tandy (Warwickshire County Council and CWLEP), Matt Keeling (Leigh Christou accountants), Cllr Jeff Clarke (Warwickshire County Council) and Rob Bent (Coventry City Council)

Transport network to benefit from GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Three major projects in Coventry and Warwickshire are benefiting from over £21 million of funding.

All three schemes have received grants from the RGF to assist with infrastructure and major projects which are seen as key drivers of economic development across the region.

The Friargate scheme around Coventry Station has received £12.7 million, Junction 12 of the M40 has been allocated £3 million and a further £6 million has been granted for road transport improvements north of Jaguar Land Rover's world headquarters. Jaguar Land Rover is doubling the size of its Coventry operations after securing a further 62 acres at its Whitley site for research and advanced engineering.

Friargate will see the creation of a 3.2 million sq ft mixed use scheme featuring 25 new buildings and creating a new gateway to the city centre.

The RGF money has gone towards a new bridge deck to connect the Friargate development to Coventry city centre by removing the raised roundabout by Junction 6 of Coventry's ring road and building a walkway across the ring road to create a public boulevard linking to Greyfriars Green.

The boulevard will run from the front of Coventry Station, over the new bridge deck to

the park and into the city's central shopping area to make an attractive pedestrian access to the heart of the city. The work is already underway on the bridge deck.

Junction 12 of the M40 has been unable to efficiently handle the increased traffic generated by the success of Jaguar Land Rover and Aston Martin at Gaydon.

Work on the first phase of improvements began in December 2014 with the aim of the whole project improving safety on the M40 and surrounding roads as well as further improving economic growth in the area.

This first £10.1 million phase comprises construction of a new dual carriageway to replace the B4100 and B4451 link from the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon to the M40 at Junction 12. New signalised junctions will be constructed to provide safe junctions with the existing roads and the new Heritage Motor Centre/Jaguar Land Rover access.

The scheme, is funded equally between Warwickshire County Council, Department for Transport Pinch Point Fund and the RGF via the CWLEP.

The new bridge deck taking shape as part of the Friargate development in Coventry



It is the first phase of a number of improvements in the area which, when complete, will reduce congestion, improve safety and unlock a number of proposed major new development sites at Gaydon and the immediate area.

Funding for the third scheme is for road improvements north of Jaguar Land Rover which will provide access to open up a significant employment site.

RGF writes new chapter in Coventry COMPANY'S HISTORY

A global company specialising in baby and make-up wipes which started life in the dining room of a Coventry home has expanded further.

EcoTech (Europe) Ltd, which manufactures cleaning cloths, wet wipes and associated items to sell throughout the UK, Europe and the Middle East, was launched by Paul Brownhill and his wife, Hazel, from their home in Tile Hill in 1997.

The business in Falkland Close, Charter Avenue Industrial Estate, has bought a €120,000 Kansan Flo-pak filling line machine with the help of a £31,000 grant from the RGF.

The state-of-the-art machine, which produces 100 packs of baby wipes and feminine hygiene wipes per minute, is part of a €500,000 investment which includes film plates for the machine and re-fitting the 30,000sq ft premises and adding a plastic-coated ceiling and walls and special lighting to comply with industry regulations.

Four new members of staff have been added to increase the workforce to 28 – a warehouse assistant, a productive operative, a driver and an office administrator.

Paul Brownhill, managing director at EcoTech, said the company currently supplied products to Emirates Airline, the Royal Palaces and the five-star luxury hotel group, the Jumeirah Group.

“The Regional Growth Fund grant was a massive help in our budget towards buying the machine from Turkey,” said Paul, who previously worked for Johnson & Johnson.

“Our business plan is to target the retail sector and it means we can now produce baby wipes and feminine hygiene wipes to sell to a professional distributor to target companies such as Boots, Superdrug, Lakeland and Amazon as well as through our own website.

“We deal with these companies already and the Middle East is our second biggest market where they love British-made products.

“Around 12,000 packs of wipes will be produced by the new machine in one eight-hour shift and two of our staff have been to Turkey to receive training in operating the machine so they will now be able to train others.

“Confidence is coming back in the economy and 80 per cent of our business is now in hygiene and the other 20 per cent in industrial cloths and hand wipes.”



Paul Brownhill, managing director at EcoTech, with the new machine

MILESTONES FOR CWLEP

Our major achievements in 2014/15 include:



BEST FOOT FORWARD for the Growth Hub

Business engagement is key to the CWLEP and this is emphasised by the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub.

Growth Hubs have been set up across England to provide a one-stop-shop for support and advice for businesses and we formed the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub as part of our City Deal bid to the government.

In the first five months since it opened in September 2014, the organisation had helped businesses in the area access £1.6 million of capital grants which has led to £10 million in private investment and created over 700 new jobs with 2,500 new jobs in the pipeline.

Around 1,200 businesses in a myriad of sectors have been helped with two-thirds having never received business support before.

Pictured at the top of the page:

Back, from left: Nicole Barraclough (Coventry University Enterprises), Lisa Preston (Solesee), Phil Peak (Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub). Front: David Smyth (Solesee)

A Stratford woman's pioneering product, which helps people with high-risk foot conditions to check the soles of their feet, has attracted interest from all over the world.

The product, called Solesee, is a portable mirror system that allows people with diabetes and other medical conditions to easily check their feet for cuts or wounds. If not treated properly they could become infected, and this could eventually lead to amputation.

Lisa Preston, who jointly owns ShoeMed in Stratford, launched Solesee at the annual College of Podiatry Conference and Exhibition in Bournemouth.

Solesee received a £10,000 match funded grant from Business Innovation, which is run by Coventry University Enterprises, after receiving guidance from the Growth Hub. The grant was used to finalise the design of the product, packaging and marketing materials ahead of the Bournemouth exhibition and to put towards working capital of the newly-formed company.

Lisa has teamed up with Stratford-based marketing and product development expert David Smyth to develop, market and sell Solesee.

Lisa said she had not been aware funding was available for SMEs until meeting Phil Peak from the Growth Hub.

"The Business Innovation grant has helped to finalise the development of the Solesee product and really kick-start the business towards its marketing objectives," she said.

"Phil offered assistance with applying for the grant which really helped with the design of the product plus the associated packaging and marketing literature used to promote the product.

"When you are running a business like ShoeMed, which has branches in Stratford and Cheltenham, you don't have time to research potential funding opportunities. So the help of the Growth Hub has been extremely helpful since I didn't realise grants such as this were available to SMEs like ours."



A message from the CWLEP board and Shadow Economic Prosperity Board

"We are committed to delivering growth and creating jobs in Coventry and Warwickshire and the future looks full of promise for all sectors.

"The massive investments by Jaguar Land Rover and the London Taxi Company announced in March 2015 are testimony to the skills and expertise of their workforces as well as the other advantages of our area.

"We are very much involved in a £10 million project to introduce driverless cars after the government awarded the scheme to UK Autodrive – which again underlines our reputation for innovation and expertise in the automotive sector.

"The aim of the project is to establish the UK as a global hub for the development of autonomous vehicles and to integrate driverless vehicles into existing urban environments by trialling them in two major UK cities – Coventry and Milton Keynes.

"To further reduce the skills gap, we are continuing to work with schools, colleges,

LOOKING to the future

further education colleges, our universities and training providers to equip students with the skills that businesses tell us they need from today's workforce.

"We want to extend the reach of the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub to help even more businesses access the support they need whether they are engineering, manufacturing or rural-based enterprises.

"It is also important that we maximise the interest in our cultural assets to encourage leisure and business visitors to stay in the area longer.

"We will continue to put forward our business case for government funding to build on the initiatives which are already underway having secured over £300 million from various nationwide schemes.

"As well as delivering the objectives of our current funding programmes, our seven Business Groups are designed to allow growth and increase economic prosperity.

"Devolution remains a hot topic for debate but it is important that any discussions on devolved powers from the government do not distract from delivering on-going projects.

"Currently, there are too many open questions and not enough specifics on the alternatives but it is key that until all the information is known that businesses and local government wait to make the right decision for Coventry and Warwickshire.

"It is vital that any future combined authority continues to collaborate with the private and public sector to produce positive economic results for Coventry and Warwickshire."

A prototype of the driverless pod built by the Coventry-based RDM Group.





To find out more about the CWLEP
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