



Inward Investment Guide to the UK

A special supplement produced by **THE MJ** for **mipim** 13-16 March 2018, Cannes, France



INSIDE: England's regions – London, the South East, the South West, East of England, the West Midlands, the East Midlands, Yorkshire & Humberside, North West, North East **PLUS:** Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland



Welcome to our guide to the UK

What's inside

3	Measuring vibrancy
4	London
6	South East
10-12	North West
14-16	South West
18	West Midlands
19	East Midlands
20	North East
21	Yorkshire & Humberside
22	Leeds City
24	East of England
25	Scotland
26	Wales & Northern Ireland
27	Government Pavilion programme



Published by Hemming Media, publishers of The MJ and themj.co.uk

32 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SS. 020 7973 6400.

Advertising:
David Lawrence
01625 614000

Editor:
Michael Burton

Additional reporting:
Jamie Hallstone

Design:
Emile Francis
emile156@gmail.com

Our other products include Municipal Year Book, Transport Network Localgov.co.uk, and Local Government News



We are delighted to welcome delegates of MIPIM visiting the many exhibition stands promoting the diverse investment opportunities on offer from the UK. We hope this guide, produced by the publishers of the UK's leading weekly news magazine for local government, The MJ (Municipal Journal), will help delegates appreciate the huge variety of property and regeneration opportunities that the UK provides.

Our guide aims to give investors at MIPIM a basic snapshot of the UK's 12 English regions and the three devolved countries, Scotland, Wales and

Northern Ireland.

We are also delighted for the second year running to be a media partner of the UK Government Pavilion, led by the Department for International Trade (DIT). The Pavilion will also feature contributions from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Department for Transport and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The government will have a prominent pavilion space at the event and is partnering with the British Property Federation to run an activity programme that promotes UK investment opportunities, based around the Government's Industrial Strategy foundations of productivity, innovation, people, infrastructure, business environment and place. Homes England will also be running its own programme of events giving attendees the chance to hear from its team on subjects like strategic housing growth,

modern methods of construction, design and quality.

Alongside this, the DIT will showcase a host of investment opportunities from across the UK. A new multi-million pound collection of projects in Scotland will be launched, with eight schemes in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth and Aberdeen. New projects in Northern Ireland, updated portfolios for the Midlands Engine (covering the West and East Midlands)

and Northern Powerhouse and further schemes across the South and South West of England will all be promoted by the Capital Investment Directorate, the team within the DIT responsible for attracting investment into large scale regeneration and infrastructure projects.

The government pavilion at MIPIM will also support UK businesses with their export efforts, exhibiting to the international audience the country's world-leading expertise in digital technology for the property and construction sector.

The UK is open for business and we hope this guide will help investors get an idea of its enormous investment opportunities.

Michael Burton is editorial director of The MJ Group and edited The MJ Inward Investment Guide to the UK
m.burton@hgluk.com
[@mjmikeburton](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mjmikeburton)



UK regions and counties fly their flags for investors

Established in 1990, MIPIM gathers the most influential international property players from the office, residential, retail, healthcare, sport, logistics and industrial sectors for 4 days of networking, learning and transaction. Leading English regions and the devolved countries of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have a prominent presence this year at MIPIM.



Activity kicks off at the UK Government Pavilion on March 13 with a panel debate between three new Metro-Mayors, shifting its focus towards housing with Homes England on March 14 and casting a spotlight on the key UK regions and the launch of the new multimillion pound Scottish Investment Portfolio on March 15. Head to the Manchester stand for a busy schedule of conferences addressing



infrastructure-driven regeneration, culture and the Northern Powerhouse.

Taking on key issues facing the capital from places of work, study and creativity to the public realm, and the post-Brexit future, London will also present initiatives from boroughs across the city. The West of England will showcase investment opportunities worth at least £10 billion at this year's global property and real

estate show MIPIM. Businesses and public sector partners, led by Invest Bristol and Bath, will be attending the annual event in Cannes, from March 13 - 16.

West of England Mayor, Tim Bowles, said: 'This is a key event for us to showcase our region, and the opportunities it offers, on the world stage. We have ambitious plans for the West of England, and are committed to delivering economic growth for all, building on our long history as an innovative and successful region. We will use MIPIM to promote the region to investors and trade partners.'

'As well as promoting our region and investment opportunities, our Invest Bristol and Bath stand will also provide a platform for businesses from our region to promote themselves. We'll be there competing against cities and regions from across the UK and across the world.'



How can a vibrant economy be measured?

How can economic wellbeing be measured? The MJ Inward Investment Guide includes key tables for each English region from the Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index. Cordelia Canning, senior analyst, explains its methodology

A new way of measuring economic wellbeing is now an imperative given growing economic and social uncertainty post the Brexit referendum. Many alternative measures have been suggested: a quick web search of 'replace GDP' will throw up articles by esteemed economists, politicians and think-tanks all passionately arguing that we need to do better. A vibrant economy is about more than economic growth. Our index tackles this head on. It identifies six broad objectives for society:

- prosperity;
- dynamism and opportunity;
- inclusion and equality;
- health, wellbeing & happiness;
- resilience and sustainability;
- and community trust and belonging.

Prosperity	Dynamism and Opportunity	Inclusion and equality	Health, well being and happiness	Resilience and sustainability	Community, trust and belonging
We have an economy that is producing wealth and creating jobs.	Our economy is entrepreneurial and innovative, with a skills set that can drive future growth.	Everyone benefits from economic growth. The gap between richest and poorest narrows, regional disparities reduce, and there are opportunities for all.	People are healthy and active, leading fulfilling lives which provides individual prospects.	Our economy has a neutral impact on the natural environment and our built environments are resilient places we want to live in.	Vibrant communities have a lively and creative cultural life, and a clear identity that all its people are proud of. People feel safe, engage in community activities and trust the integrity of businesses and institutions.
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total GVA (£m) • GVA per job (£000) • Mean workplace weekly pay (£) • Knowledge-driven employment (%) • Businesses turning over >£1 million (%) • Businesses turning over >£100 million (%) • Foreign owned businesses (%) 	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business formation rate (%) • High level skills (%) • Knowledge workers (%) • Patents granted (per 100,000 pop) • GCSEs A*-C achieved (%) • Higher education employment (%) • R&D employment (%) 	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deprivation (score) • Inequality (score) • Average income (£) • Child poverty (score) • Housing affordability (score) • Employment rate (%) • Benefit claimant rate (%) • Homeless households (per 000 households) • NEETs (%) • Housing benefit claimant rate (% of all households) • Long-term unemployment (%) • Fuel poor households (%) • Unemployed inequality (ethnicity) 	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports participation (adults) (%) • Adults overweight or obese (%) • Life satisfaction (score) • Life worthwhile (score) • Happiness (score) • Anxiety (score) • Diabetes prevalence (%) • Average life expectancy (yrs) • Child obesity (Year 6) (%) • Mean hours worked differential 	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality (score) • Recycling rate (%) • Co2 emissions per capita (Kt Co2) • Energy consumption (GWh) • New residential addresses created in National Flood Zone (%) • Previously developed land usage (addresses per ha) • Dwellings completed (no.) • Households on LA waiting list (%) • Planning applications (no.) 	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community assets (per 1,000 pop) • Cultural amenities (per ha) • Living alone, aged over 50 and over (%) • Valid voter turnout (%) • Violent crimes (per 1,000 pop) • Ethnic diversity (score)

For each of these we have put together a 'basket' of national statistics that together aim to measure these objectives (see diagram to right for further detail on baskets). The selection of indicators was shaped through discussions with the Vibrant Economy Commission, our Grant Thornton partners, and feedback from the general public. We have given each of the six baskets equal weight – on the basis that what makes a place vibrant depends on a balance between all of them. An overall score is derived which measures the current position of each 324 local authorities in England to provide an indication of the vibrancy of individual areas.

Vibrancy is multi-dimensional: places are vibrant in different ways. The most vibrant place will not necessarily be the one that has the highest average score across the six baskets – a place with a lower average score but a balanced equilibrium across all areas may be considered more vibrant.

This is part of the debate we wanted to stimulate in developing the index and have been facilitating across the country and in different sectors through a

series of 'vibrant inquiries'. The Vibrant Economy Index may also prompt debate about whether national statistics (the data that government gathers and measures) cover all the things that really matter. For example, in developing the index we found that there was relatively little data that measures levels of community engagement (whether people are actively involved in their local community). On the basis that 'what gets measured gets done', we may identify a need for some new national statistics. The Vibrant Economy Index recognises that society is complicated. Action to nurture successful societies is the bread and butter of a thousand academic treatises and ignites revolution as well as heated discourse. GDP is easy to quantify – which is why it's so widely used.

It's straightforward for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give a forecast, and for others to hold the Chancellor to account. But vibrant societies aren't simple, and policies to increase growth don't necessarily translate into societies that feel they are making progress.

What does the index provide?

- businesses with an insight into their community in which they operate including skills, educational attainment and earnings
- policy-makers and place-shapers with an overview of the strengths and opportunities, challenges and weaknesses of individual places as well as the dynamic between different areas
- citizens with an accessible insight into how their place is doing, so that they can contribute to shaping local discussions about what is important to them
- inward investors a lens through which to identify new business locations

Findings

Our Vibrant Economy Index ranks an area's average performance across the six baskets and demonstrates:

- Mapped out, vibrancy is dominant in the South of England, with other standout pockets of vibrancy including Cheshire East, Trafford, York, Harrogate, Wiltshire, Bath, Warwick and Rushcliffe.

- While city prosperity and dynamism scores may be high, their health and inclusion scores tend to be significantly lower, impacting their overall vibrancy ranking.
- Areas of prosperity are driven by major cities with areas of dynamism tending to form 'corridors' along key transport routes such as the M4, M11 and M69.
- Areas with higher inclusion and health scores tend to form bands outside cities pointing to the importance of individual choice for those that can afford to live outside cities, but benefit from the prosperity within. This also shows that the relationship between places – particularly in terms of travel to work patterns – is an important element in considering the overall vibrancy of particular places.
- Traditional indicators of prosperity – GVA, average earning and employment – do not correlate in any significant way with the other baskets.
- The highest level of correlation between the baskets is found between 'Inclusion and equality' and 'health, wellbeing and happiness'.
- Correlated separately, educational attainment at all levels correlates strongly with the Vibrant Economy Index, with a relatively strong correlation with four of the six baskets, reiterating the fundamental importance of education and skills in shaping a place.
- Few very places scored consistently well across all baskets, even the top ranked area Cambridge scored poorly on our health and wellbeing basket.

All the data behind the index can be found at our dedicated webpage: www.grantthornton.co.uk/insights/vibrant-economy-index/ where you will also find supporting information on the methodology and insight pieces. The page also includes an interactive tool that allows you to see how your area performs on the overall index and baskets.

London's expanding skyline



Economic powerhouse of the UK

Despite continuing uncertainty about Brexit, London remains the economic powerhouse of the UK

London's economy is roughly the same size as that of Sweden or Iran. With an estimated 8,615,246 residents in 2015, London is the most populous region, urban zone and metropolitan area in the United Kingdom. London has always been a commercial city and today enjoys the status of having one of the largest city economies in the world. The city thrives in trade and commerce and has a vibrant culture seeped in commerce. It has a GDP of over £565 billion, which is about 17 percent of the UK's total GDP. The Port of London handles 48 million tonnes of cargo every year.

London has the greatest number of foreign banks in any city, is a major centre for Forex trade and trades more US dollars than New York, and more Euros than all other cities in Europe combined. The service sector employs 3.2m people in London, which is about 85% of all jobs available in London's service industries. Out of this, the financial sector alone employs about 1.25 million people, or about one in every three jobs available. The manufacturing and construction industry, in

contrast, employ half a million residents of Greater London, which is about 11% of the employable population of Greater London.

London is today the centre of operations for almost two out of every three Fortune 500 companies and the European hub for one out of every three large global conglomerates. The London Stock Exchange is the largest in the world, and accounts for about 32 percent of all global transactions.

The London Plan is the statutory spatial development strategy for the Greater London area that is written by the Mayor of London and published by the Greater London Authority. It aims to position London as the best city in the world and focuses on specific strategies and plans towards this end. The plan identifies growth sectors such as e-commerce, tourism and environmental industries and lays down sustainable and inclusive plans for the overall development of the economy.

The plan sees IT infrastructure as vital and proposes measures to support innovation, to promote creative and environmental industries. The London plan also

Top performing areas in London			
Rank	District	Vibrant Economy score	National Rank (out of 324)
1	Richmond upon Thames	108.00	3
2	Barnet	105.26	14
3	Camden	105.17	15
4	Tower Hamlets	104.66	22
5	Southwark	104.48	24
6	Hillingdon	104.35	26
7	Hounslow	104.28	30
8	Kensington and Chelsea	104.11	35
9	Islington	104.06	38
10	Wandsworth	103.25	54

Source: Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index
©Grant Thornton

recognises tourism as a growth sector and aims to enhance London's image as an attractive tourism destination. The plan also pays attention to developing key infrastructure projects and supporting bids for other major international events.

Property is also one of the key industries that make up the dynamic economy of the city falling into two main categories, residential and offices. With many long-term tenants in the majority of office buildings around the

capital, the market for ownership of office blocks is relatively stable, with many investors looking for long-term growth in the sector as London continues to thrive as a centre for commerce and international corporations irrespective of Brexit.

Residential property prices in the capital recovered more quickly after the fiscal crash than just about anywhere else in the UK. Not only did the house price index recover more rapidly in London in the years leading up to 2014, but they

also began to rise more markedly than elsewhere, driven at the top end by residential buyers. However this also led to large rises in house prices lower down the scale which have made it difficult for first-time buyers to get into the market.

In the past few months prices have stabilised, and in the centre, even declined as Brexit takes the froth off the property market. Long-term however as the capital's economy continues to be buoyant demand for housing will remain high.



INVEST IN ENFIELD

WELL CONNECTED

Unrivalled opportunities for technology, retail, food and drink, manufacturing and green industries within easy reach of the M25, A406, A10, London Stansted Airport and central London.

LARGE AND SKILLED WORKFORCE

Join over 12,300 businesses including Coca Cola, Kelvin Hughes, Warburtons, Ardmore Construction, Ikea, John Lewis, Tesco and Biffa employing nearly 132,000 people.

DEDICATED SUPPORT TEAM

Enfield offers support to businesses considering locating in Enfield with help finding available sites and premises, advice on recruitment, introductions to local stakeholders and guidance on sourcing local suppliers.



For more information please email invest@enfield.gov.uk or visit www.investinenfield.co.uk



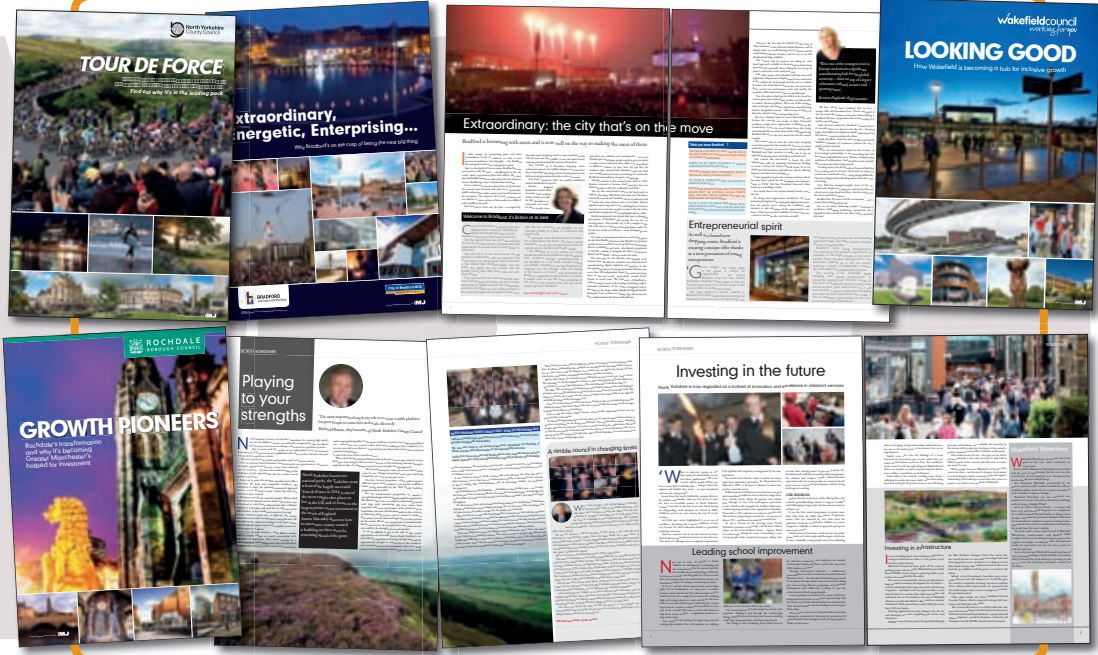
THE MJ

Supplement Programme 2018



With constraints on council marketing budgets making it difficult for economic development teams to attend events and promote their authorities to potential inward investors The MJ supplements are a cost effective alternative of getting the message across in an informative and eye-catching way. In addition councils can use supplement runs to send to interested investors and other partners as well as upload PDFs onto their website.

Michael Burton
Editorial Director
The MJ



For more information on how your authority could be part of our 2018 supplement programme please call Dave Lawrence on 01625 614000 or email d.lawrence@spacehouse.co.uk

Seven Sisters National Park, view of the cliffs, lighthouse and the beach, East Sussex

Economic hub outside the capital

After the capital, South East England is the most prosperous part of the UK, with good rail and road links to London

South East England is among the most populous of the nine official regions of England. It consists of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and West Sussex.

It is the third largest region of England, with an area of 19,096 km² (7,373 sq mi), and is also the most populous with a total population of over eight and a half million (2011). The region contains seven cities: Brighton and Hove, Canterbury, Chichester, Oxford, Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester, though other major settlements include Reading and Milton Keynes. Its proximity to London and connections to several national motorways have led to south east England becoming an economic hub, with the largest economy in the country outside the capital. It is the location of Gatwick Airport, the UK's second-busiest airport, and its coastline along the English Channel provides numerous ferry crossings to mainland Europe.

The region is known for its countryside, which includes the North Downs and the Chiltern Hills as well as two national parks: the New Forest and the South Downs. The River Thames flows through the region and its basin is known as the Thames Valley. It is also the location for a number of internationally known places of interest, such as HMS Victory in Portsmouth, Cliveden in Buckinghamshire, Thorpe

Park and RHS Wisley in Surrey, Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, Windsor Castle in Berkshire, Leeds Castle, the White Cliffs of Dover and Canterbury Cathedral in Kent, Brighton Pier and Hammerwood Park in East Sussex, and Wakehurst Place in West Sussex. The region has many universities; the University of Oxford is ranked among the best in the world.

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is the business-led, public/private body established to drive economic growth across East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock.

The LEP is one of 39 partnerships set up by the government to replace regional development agencies as the key body determining strategic economic priorities while making investments and delivering activities to drive growth and create

local jobs. As well as being the biggest LEP outside of London, SE LEP is also one of the most local. The LEP operates a fully devolved model with increased reach into local communities through local delivery partnerships in East Sussex, Kent and Medway, Essex and Thames Gateway South Essex.

Stretching along the coast from Harwich to Peacehaven, the market towns, small cities, coastal communities, and villages of the South East LEP area offer an exceptionally diverse choice of places to live and work. With nine ports, high speed rail links, and national and regional airport capacity, it is the most significant economic gateway and strategic route between mainland Europe, London, the rest of the country with access to global destinations. It is also home to eight major universities with internationally

renowned research and teaching strengths.

The South East LEP will inject almost half a billion pounds worth of Government investment into the area through its Growth Deal. The Deal has seen some £84.1 million invested in the SE LEP area in 2015-16, supporting the delivery of up to 35,000 jobs and 18,000 new homes and over £100 million in private investment over the period to 2021.

London companies rely on SE LEP businesses to supply a wide range of goods and services, particularly for logistics, the digital and creative industries, manufacturing and for a wide range of back office business functions. South East LEP area is London's premier expansion location and the prospects for sectors linked to the London economy are strong.



The South East LEP

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is the business-led, public/private body established to drive economic growth across East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock.

The LEP is one of 39 partnerships set up by the Government to be the key body determining strategic economic priorities while making investments and delivering activities to drive growth and create local jobs.

As well as being the biggest LEP outside of London, SE LEP is also one of the most local.

It operates a fully devolved model with increased reach into local communities through local delivery partnerships in East Sussex, Kent and Medway, Essex and Thames Gateway South Essex.

Stretching along the coast from Harwich to Peacehaven, the market towns, small cities, coastal communities, and villages of the South East LEP area offer an exceptionally diverse choice of places to live and work.

With nine ports, high-speed rail links, and national and regional airport capacity, it is the most significant economic gateway and strategic route between mainland Europe, London and the rest of the country, with access to global destinations. The area is also home to eight major universities.

The South East LEP will inject almost half a billion pounds worth of government investment into the area through its Growth Deal. It sees at least £84.1m invested in the SE LEP area in 2015-16, supporting the delivery of up to 35,000 jobs and 18,000 new homes and over £100m in private investment over the period to 2021.

Top performing areas in the South East

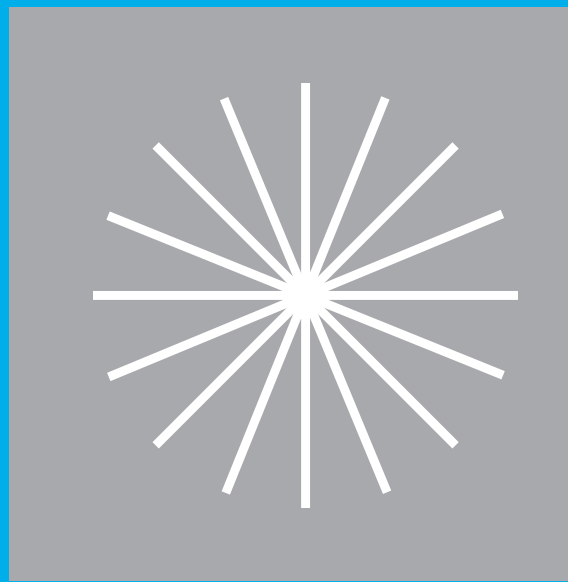
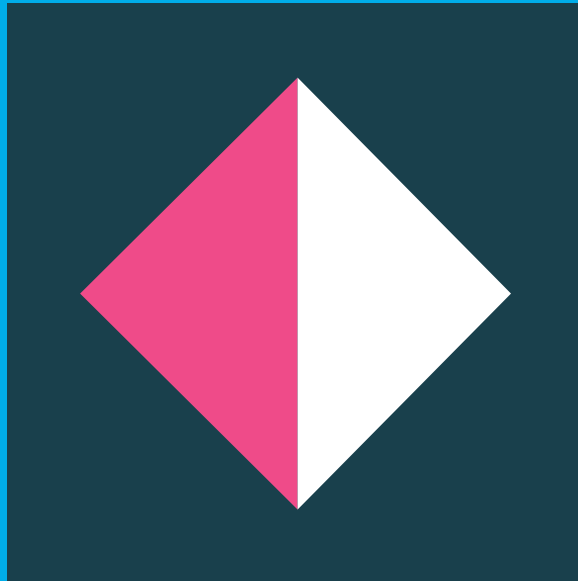
Rank	District	Vibrant Economy score	National Rank (out of 324)
1	Oxford	108.54	2
2	Guildford	107.87	5
3	Wokingham	107.44	6
4	Windsor and Maidenhead	107.27	7
5	Vale of White Horse	107.17	8
6	Winchester	106.78	9
7	Reigate and Banstead	105.82	10
8	Chiltern	105.54	12
9	Runnymede	105.34	13
10	West Berkshire	105.15	16

Source: Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index

©Grant Thornton

Crawley

A PLACE TO INVEST



Make your investment count



Camberley set to inspire

The regeneration of Camberley Town Centre is happening now bringing a revitalised place to one of the most prosperous parts of the South East of England.

Camberley's excellent transport links and accessibility from major road networks means that the town offers predictable journey times (only 10 minutes from the M3 junctions 3 and 4), and the capacity to attract visitors from an extensive catchment area along the M3. In addition, London Heathrow Airport is only a 30min drive away.

Camberley is home to a wealth of major businesses including Eli Lilly, Siemens, Bank of America, BAE Systems and Novartis as well as one of the UK's leading hospitals, Frimley Park.

Once in the town no car park is more than a few minutes' walk away from the exceptional selection of leisure, dining and retail brands that call Camberley home.

Investment

Under the stewardship of Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) Camberley is undergoing a systematic programme of improvement and rejuvenation totalling £340million. The Atrium, a high specification town centre development driven by SHBC comprising of a Vue Cinema, bowling alley, retail, car park, restaurants and residential accommodation was completed in 2008. In 2016 SHBC acquired the main shopping centre in Camberley and within the first year embarked on a major multi-million pound refurbishment, which will complete in October 2018.

Camberley will continue to be defined by a high quality of design with an attractive aspirational street scene grounded in heritage and a range of natural and civic spaces for use by the public. The retail offer of the town will be augmented by excellent cultural and leisure facilities, high

quality office premises, additional residential opportunities and improvements to highways and public realm areas.

The key investment areas:

London Road, Capital opportunity for investment.

Camberley Town Centre has a development site ideally situated in the heart of Camberley town centre, fronting the London Road (A30) and opposite the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The area has the potential to create a mixed-use development of new shops, multi-story car park and urban living solutions.

Surrey Heath Borough Council are seeking to appoint an experienced developer to deliver a mixed-use scheme simultaneously, which has the scope for providing residential and retail units for appropriate town centre use subject to planning permission.

This is a priority project for the Council

who are actively seeking to promote economic growth by supporting the regeneration of this key town centre site with the creative use of its property assets.

- Deliverable mixed-use scheme
- Committed landowner
- Excellent amenities, including car parking
- Commuter town location
- Partnership opportunity



Karen Whelan, CEO, Surrey Heath Borough Council said; "Camberley has always been a fantastic place and SHBC is making a significant investment in the town centre to ensure it remains a great location to live, work, shop and socialise".



High Street

SHBC has secured £3.5 million in funding from Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to improve the High Street and Public spaces in Camberley Town Centre. SHBC will add funds of £900k so the total budget for the project is £4.4 million.

In addition to substantial structural improvement to The High Street, which will include widening the pavements and improving road and pavement surfaces; the project will also incorporate installation of public art and improved public seating and walkways in Knoll Walk and Princess Way.

The scheme is an integral part of the strategy to develop Camberley as a major commercial centre. It is estimated that the improvements could lead to an increase in the number of people coming into the town centre by 20% over a 10 year period. Other potential economic benefits expected



to be generated by the scheme include more than 100 jobs, with a total GVA of over £14m.

The Square Shopping Centre

SHBC has invested £110 million in purchasing The Square shopping centre in 2016 as part of its key priority of regenerating Camberley Town Centre. As part of this investment the shopping centre is undergoing a phased £8 million refurbishment to provide a bright contemporary environment for retailers to thrive.

The Square is a 480,000 sq ft covered shopping centre and is home to more than 150 national and independent retailers. Brands include Smiggle, O2, TopShop,

Patisserie Valerie, River Island and Monsoon, anchored by House of Fraser, Boots and Primark, all benefitting from an average weekly footfall of more than 170,000.

The extensive refurbishment includes new flooring, lighting and facades.

Ashwood House

Ashwood House occupies a key site on Pembroke Broadway in Camberley Town Centre, and was acquired by SHBC in 2015 to facilitate its future development.

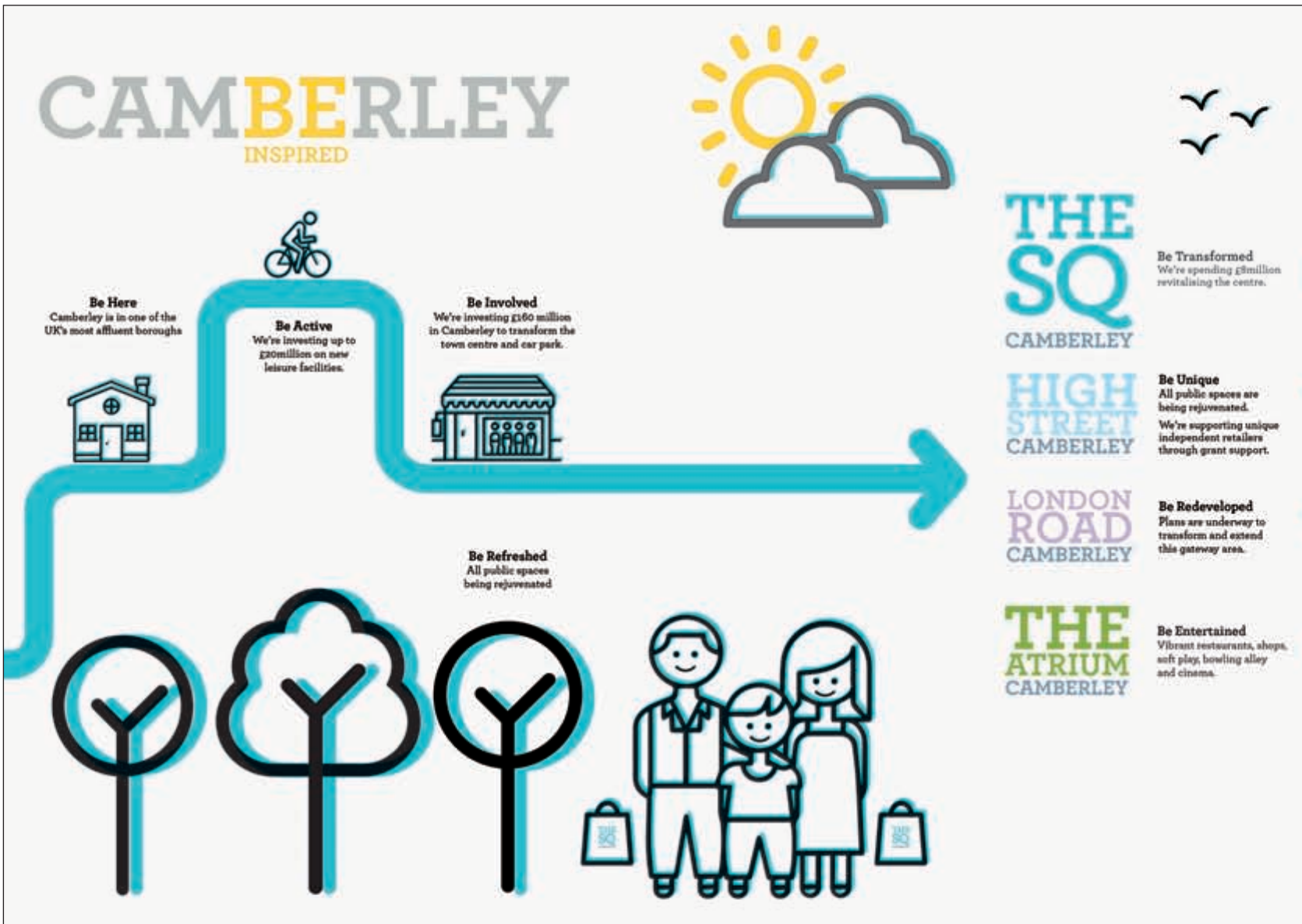
The upper floors of the building will be transformed into high quality residential accommodation, comprising of 116 flats. Works are starting on this redevelopment in Q2 2018.



Camberley Investment Contact information

Jenny Rickard, Executive Head of Regulatory, SHBC
Tel: 01276 707510 Email: jenny.rickard@surreyheath.gov.uk

Louise Livingston, Executive Head of Transformation, SHBC
Tel: 01276 707403 Email: Louise.Livingston@surreyheath.gov.uk





The Northern Powerhouse revs up

Home to two of Britain’s most famous cities – Manchester and Liverpool – the North West is a region that cannot be ignored

The North West is a powerhouse in the greatest sense of the word, with world-class cities, businesses and transport links.

The region consists of five counties – Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside. It is dominated by two of the largest cities in Britain – Liverpool and Manchester – but it is also home to other cities like Chester, Lancaster, Oldham and Rochdale.

Official statistics show the North West had a gross value added of £157 billion in 2015, which represented 9.5% of the UK total.

The figures also revealed the region saw the highest annual growth in 2015 of 3.6%, compared with the total UK figure of 2.9%. The gross value added per head rose by 3% from £21,223 in 2014 to £21,867 in 2015.

It is also the third most densely populated region in the UK, after London and the South East with a population of 7.1 million.

The North West is home two combined authorities – the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Greater Manchester remains at the forefront of the Northern Powerhouse devolution agenda, with enhanced powers and responsibilities around health,

social care and transport. It has also been given additional funding from central government to deliver new projects.

In May, the former Labour MP Andy Burnham was elected as the first directly-elected mayor of Greater Manchester and Steve Rotherham was elected as the first mayor for the Liverpool city

region. Mr Burnham enjoys a high profile both locally and nationally and back in September announced plans to make Manchester one of the greenest cities in Europe.

‘By building a low-carbon economy in Greater Manchester, we will put ourselves in a strong position to attract more jobs and investment,’ said Mr Burnham.

Top performing areas in the North West			
Rank	District	Vibrant Economy score	National Rank (out of 324)
1	Cheshire East	103.63	46
2	Trafford	103.26	53
3	Cheshire West and Chester	101.77	93
4	Warrington	101.46	103
5	South Lakeland	100.48	136
6	Lancaster	100.48	137
7	Chorley	100.37	145
8	Manchester	99.58	182
9	Fylde	99.57	183
10	Stockport	99.55	184

Source: Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index
©Grant Thornton

‘Greater Manchester absolutely has the knowledge, radical thinking and resources to deliver on this; we’ve a wealth of academic research and practical know-how to tackle this issue head on, if we put our minds to it.’

The region also boasts several major universities, including Liverpool John Moores, the University of Manchester and Lancaster University.

Manchester also has good transport links, with regular trains to London and the surrounding area. Manchester Airport was recently crowned best UK airport, at the Travel Trade Gazette Awards.

The award comes after the busiest summer on record for Manchester Airport that saw more than 3 million passengers jet off on holiday in August alone.

This year has also seen the airport add new flights to San Francisco and Muscat, making Manchester Airport the only British airport outside of London to offer these destinations.

‘2017 has been an incredible year for the airport with record passenger numbers, the beginning of work on our £1bn transformation project and expansion by lots of our airlines,’ said head of marketing, Patrick Alexander.

While the latest figures from Liverpool’s John Lennon show more than half a million (517,000) passengers chose to fly through in August compared to the same period last year – an increase of 3% and the Airport’s highest monthly figure since August 2011.

Over 70,000 more passengers have used the Airport so far this year, with the busy August helping to boost total passenger numbers for the year to date to almost 3.4 million. As the Northern Powerhouse continues to gather pace, the North West is a region cleared for take off.

Local Enterprise Partnerships in the North West

The North West region is home to several different local enterprise partnerships (LEPs), who are working with local authorities and private sector organisations to develop the region’s economy.

The Greater Manchester LEP sits at the heart of the city region’s governance arrangements and alongside the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, it jointly owns the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS), which

sets out a series of priorities to secure sustainable economic growth.

The Cheshire and Warrington LEP aims to make its region the best place to do business in the UK and its plans include increasing annual GVA by at least £10bn to some £30bn by 2030 and creating more than over 20,000 jobs with a key focus on manufacturing and exports.

And the Liverpool City Region LEP works

closely with more than 500 members, political leaders and businesses to pull the right levers to boost economic growth. Among its many

achievements is an Investment Hub for the region to provide potential investors with a fully co-ordinated investment service, which

has been set up by the LEP with help from the local authorities.

Lancashire’s LEP meanwhile has a £1bn growth plan.





CONSTELLATION

CREATING THE PLACE WHERE EVERYTHING CONNECTS



A constellation of connected places

The Government's once-in-a-lifetime investment in HS2 brings unrivalled development potential to Cheshire, Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire. The Local Authorities and the 2 LEPS in this area have developed a ground breaking partnership to capture this opportunity.

This is a unique and distinctive area, with competitive connectivity, a world leading education and research base, exceptional landscapes and a good quality of life. The area sits between the economically fertile ground between Birmingham and Manchester, two of the UK's leading cities.

The Constellation Partnership aims to deliver more than 100,000 new homes and 120,000 jobs by 2040 and is set to drive huge opportunities for those looking to invest in the UK. The area is particularly attractive providing significant rental and capital growth potential through a combination of greenfield developments, urban and city centre schemes.

The area is already on the route for much of the country's existing north-south road and rail systems. It is served by the

M6 motorway, the A500, and the West Coast Railway Mainline - connectivity is set to be turbo-charged by the arrival of HS2.

Investors can also take advantage of good east-west connectivity, via Stoke-on-Trent and Crewe, as well as global connections through major international airports in Manchester and Birmingham.

When HS2 arrives, investment in the Constellation is likely to surge.

The area is also served by leading universities, benefits from a highly-skilled population, and it will enjoy direct connections to London (55 minutes), Manchester (20 minutes) and Birmingham (20 minutes).

A diverse manufacturing supply chain, substantial land availability, and excellent natural environments only heighten the attraction.

Building on this unrivalled connectivity, the Constellation Partnership aims to create a distinctive network of connected and successful places through:

- A world class rail hub at Crewe - as Constellation's primary transport hub, new development will be driven from

the Constellation's urban heart.

- A transformed urban centre for Stoke-on-Trent - as the capital of Constellation, the city's impressive transformation as the commercial retail, and leisure heart of the area will be accelerated by regular HS2 services.
- A Constellation of thriving and distinctive towns - our main urban areas

will be supported by a constellation of distinctive and successful market towns, with continued investment in town centres.

There has never been a better time to invest in a region set for a golden future.

For more information visit, www.constellationpartnership.co.uk.





Liverpool waterfront at night.

An economy driven by the combined authorities

Since May 2017 Manchester and Liverpool city regions have had directly-elected mayors to provide greater governance

Since May 2017 Manchester and Liverpool's combined authorities both have directly-elected mayors. Greater Manchester is one of the country's most successful city regions, home to more than 2.7 million people and with an economy bigger than that of Wales or Northern Ireland. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is made up of the ten Greater Manchester councils and mayor, who work with other local services, businesses, communities and partners to improve the city-region.

The ten councils (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) have worked together voluntarily for many years on issues that affect everyone in the region, like transport, regeneration, and attracting investment.

The GMCA gives local people more control over issues that affect their area. It means the region speaks with one voice and can make a strong case for resources and investment. The GMCA is run jointly by the leaders of the ten councils and the GMCA mayor Andy Burnham. A variety of

boards, panels and committees look specifically at areas like transport, health and social care, planning and housing.

The GMCA says it 'is removing the barriers that stifle economic growth, and making Greater Manchester an attractive place for investors. We're exploiting the region's business and academic expertise and becoming more outward-looking and international.

We are making public services more efficient, and helping people become more self-reliant so there will be less demand for those services. New skills and better education, training and employment opportunities will help people enjoy the benefits of the region's economic growth.'

There are around 105,000 companies in the area but the GMCA is working alongside the Manchester Growth Company (MGC) to bring trade, investment and growth to Greater Manchester. The Business Growth Hub, part of MGC, was set up in 2011 and since then has helped thousands of businesses across Greater Manchester to reach their full potential. The Liverpool City Region is governed by the

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) and its constituent councils. The LRCRA was established on 1 April 2014 and the membership includes the new Liverpool City Region metro mayor Steve Rotherham, elected in May 2017, five local authority leaders of Halton, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral councils, the elected mayor of Liverpool City Council and the chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership. Warrington and West Lancashire councils are associate members of the combined authority. The authority works with

the Liverpool City Region LEP to promote and deliver economic growth. The LEP also ensures that the views of businesses are represented in strategic decision making.

Merseytravel is the executive body that provides professional, strategic and operational transport advice to the LCRCA to enable it to make informed decisions. It is also the delivery arm, making transport happen. It delivers transport projects that support the economic growth of the Liverpool City Region. The focus is on improving

connectivity within the region and beyond, improving the customer experience from ticket buying to journey planning and maintaining the integrated transport network, including the Mersey Ferries and Mersey Tunnels, to ensure it is fit for the future, accessible and safe.

Since its formation in April 2014 the LCRCA has helped secure £150m of investment in 14 transport improvement schemes and £9m of Growth Deal funding invested in the International Festival for Business 2016 and Littlewoods Studios.

	Vibrant Economy Index	Prosperity Index	Dynamism and opportunity Index	Inclusion and Equality Index	Health, Wellbeing and Happiness Index	Resilience and sustainability Index	Community, Trust and Belonging Index
Cheshire East	A	A	A	B	A	A	D
Trafford	A	A	C	C	A	B	A
Cheshire West and Chester	B	B	B	C	C	A	D
Warrington	B	A	C	B	D	B	C
South Lakeland	C	E	D	B	A	C	B
Lancaster	C	E	A	D	C	A	D
Chorley	C	D	A	B	B	C	D
Manchester	C	A	A	E	E	B	D
Fylde	C	E	D	B	B	C	D
Stockport	C	C	E	D	C	C	B

An 'A' indicates performance in the top 20% nationally, while an 'E' indicates performance in the bottom 20% of local authorities.

The voice of local government for 125 years (1893-2018)

THE MJ 125 YEARS

Serving local government since 1893

For 125 years, The MJ has provided the latest news, views and analysis on the issues that matter to you. The MJ is the leading local government publication in the UK and a crucial source of information for the sector as a whole.

Since 1893, The MJ has covered the local government sector through its immense changes, reforms and challenges. One constant however is the excellence of The MJ.

A subscription to The MJ (print and online) costs just 38p per day, to subscribe simply:

📄 visit: themj.co.uk | 📞 call: +44 (0)20 7973 6694 | ✉ email: customer@hgluk.com

Please contact us for multi-year and bulk subscriptions

Want FREE daily news on local government?
Sign up for The MJ E-newsletter at themj.co.uk

www.themj.co.uk

Porthminster Beach
St Ives Cornwall



Sun, sea and success

Often regarded as the tourism and leisure centre of England, the South West, which stretches from Bristol down to Cornwall, is also an economically successful region with an attractive lifestyle

Top performing areas in the South West

Rank	District	Vibrant Economy score	National Rank (out of 324)
1	Wiltshire	104.72	20
2	Bath and North East Somerset	104.63	23
3	South Gloucestershire	104.22	32
4	Bristol, City of	103.09	56
5	Cheltenham	102.94	59
6	Swindon	102.86	61
7	Exeter	102.84	62
8	Cotswold	102.79	63
9	West Dorset	102.00	85
10	Stroud	101.51	100

Source: Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index

©Grant Thornton

South West England is a beautiful coastal region that has some unique attractions, stunning places to visit and family days such as visits to Stonehenge, two National Parks and historic cities. The attraction of South West England for many is the beaches of Cornwall, Dorset and Devon.

South West England is one of nine official regions of England. It is the largest in area, covering 9,200 square miles and the counties of Gloucestershire, Bristol, Wiltshire, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, as well as the Isles of Scilly. Five million people live in South West England.

The region includes the West Country and much of the ancient kingdom of Wessex. The largest city is Bristol. Other major

urban centres include Plymouth, Swindon, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Exeter, Bath, Torbay, and the South East Dorset conurbation (which includes Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch). There are eight

cities: Salisbury, Bath, Wells, Bristol, Gloucester, Exeter, Plymouth and Truro. It includes two entire national parks, Dartmoor and Exmoor (a small part of the New Forest is also within the region);

Local Enterprise Partnerships in the South West

West of England (WoE): Bath and North East Somerset; Bristol; North Somerset; South Gloucestershire, *Cornwall & Isles of Scilly (C&IoS):* Cornwall, Isles of Scilly; *Heart of South West (HotSW):* Devon, Somerset, Plymouth, Torbay (inclusive of

Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks and 13 district councils); *Dorset:* Bournemouth, Poole, Dorset (inclusive of six district councils); *Gloucestershire: (GFirst):* Gloucester-shire (inclusive of six district councils); *Swindon & Wiltshire:* Swindon; Wiltshire

and four World Heritage Sites, including Stonehenge and the Jurassic Coast. The region has by far the longest coastline in England and many seaside fishing towns.

About 43% of the inhabitants aged 25-64 had a tertiary education diploma in 2014, which is similar to the UK average. Compared to other UK regions (including those that are also connected to the English Channel), South West England performs relatively low in terms of international trade, with export accounting for 12.3% of its GVA in 2011 while the UK total is 22% as a proportion of GVA.

The South West of England is an attractive investment destination for innovative, businesses across different sectors. South West England is not only best place to work and live but also the hotspot for talent and innovation. Businesses situated in South West England are high on productivity. South West England spends 10% more than national average on R&D thus making it a hub for innovation and technological advances.

The South West region has the largest concentration of aerospace industries. Around 700 companies are engaged in the design and manufacturing of parts and systems.

The region is also known as the EU centre for semiconductor design. It also has a strong marine industry engaged in boat building and repair services generating a

turnover of £1.3 billion. The region is home to the some of the fastest-growing airports in the UK, Bristol, Exeter and Bournemouth.

The most economically productive areas within the region are Bristol, the M4 corridor and south east Dorset, which are the areas with the best links to London. Bristol alone accounts for a quarter of the region's economy, with the surrounding areas of Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire accounting for another quarter. Since the early 20th century, aeronautics have taken over as the basis of Bristol's economy, with companies including Airbus UK, Rolls-Royce (military division) and BAE Systems. More recently defence, telecommunications, information technology and electronics have been important industries in Bristol, Swindon and elsewhere. The region's gross value added (GVA) breaks down as 69.9% service industry, 28.1% production industry and 2.0% agriculture. This is a slightly higher proportion in production, and lower proportion in services, than the UK average.

South West Councils is an association of council leaders from the South West of England and created in April 2010 following the abolition of the South West Regional Assembly. It brings together the 41 local authorities in the region to lobby government and provide a voice. The region also has six local enterprise partnerships.

Brimming with Energy

The eyes of the world are on Sedgemoor in Somerset as a host authority for the first of a new generation of nuclear power stations in the UK. Already the fastest growing district in the region, Sedgemoor is keen to build on this momentum by taking full advantage of the opportunities presented by the construction of Hinkley Point C power plant and ensuring there is a legacy long after Europe's largest building site is occupied by the finished station.

An important step in that direction has been the Council's successful bid for Enterprise Zone status for one of the most strategically important land parcels in the country, a 256-hectare brown field site just north of the main town, Bridgwater, with 90 hectares allocated

for commercial energy related uses. The delivery of this Energy Park will go a long way to meeting the town's aspiration of becoming a low-carbon, commercial hub for the region, accommodating foreign direct investment as well as UK growth.

Sedgemoor sits at the heart of Somerset, itself central to the region, with the Severn Estuary on its western side. While predominantly rural, its position midway between two of the County's major cities – Exeter and Bristol – has meant it has enjoyed substantial growth over the last decade. This has been the result of excellent communications and superb natural environment combined with a tradition for manufacturing and innovation and a determination to promote growth by seeking and

supporting investment.

With growth and infrastructure as Corporate Priorities for the District Council, it has been possible to embark on transforming the economy to one of higher value and to support high performing planning and development teams in their positive approach to business. Alongside Energy, the District is strong in the logistics and distribution, food and drink, high-tech and tourism sectors.

Commercial sites and sectors aimed at high end users require a skilled workforce and investment has been welcomed at Bridgwater & Taunton College for its National College for Nuclear and Centres for Energy Skills, Construction and Advanced Engineering. EDF Energy has located its National Leadership

Training in Cannington and funded an Inspire programme in schools.

In addition to a skilled workforce, great quality of life and good transport links, the District has an impressive stock of development land at vantage points close to the M5 motorway, which runs through it. Work has commenced recently at Bridgwater Gateway - a mixed-use commercial development of more than 40-hectares overlooking Junction 24 offering industrial and office space as well as retail and a hotel.

On the other side of the junction is more land at Huntworth earmarked for development. To the north of the town, at Junction 22, the well-established Isleport Business Park is being extended in a second phase that will almost double the employment space available.



Join us at the home of Enterprise, low carbon Energy and MORE www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/business

Clovelly fishing village on the north east coast of Devon in the UK

A key tourist destination

Tourism is one of the thriving parts of the South West economy especially in its rural and coastal areas

Within the South West are renowned tourist areas making the region one of the UK's premier holiday destinations especially in Dorset, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall.

The South East incorporates some of the most breathtaking and diverse scenery, which stretches from the rolling Mendip Hills in the East to the rugged Cornish peninsula in the South. In between are areas of remote moorland covered during the spring and summer with flowering heather. The climate is milder than the rest of the UK, due to its southerly location, and also because this narrow triangle of land is surrounded by the warm gulf stream.

Devon boasts five areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and two National Parks. Everywhere the scenery is picturesque and at its most dramatic along the northern coastline; a real favourite

with walkers. Tourism is a major contributor to the county's economy. The many coves and inlets around the coast are a favourite with sun seekers but they also hide a dark secret, as many were once used as hideouts for smugglers.

The mix of stunning countryside and wild coastlines make this county a honey pot for visitors. However, farming is still a mainstay, particularly dairy farming, which produces the deliciously rich Devonshire cream served with its famous cream teas.

Cornwall is located at the south-west tip of England and bordered in the east by the River Tamar. The county has the longest stretch of coastline in England, containing over 300 golden beaches, and thanks to its isolated position on the south west coast, much of it has remained untouched for centuries. Cornwall boasts some of England's finest and most dramatic scenery, with historic

market towns, small hamlets and quaint fishing villages dotting the landscape. The Cornish landscape around the coastal areas is mainly undulating hills, some being very steep, with the central area covered by moorland. The coastline is rich and varied, with small rocky coves, wide sandy beaches and high rugged cliffs, especially along the

north Atlantic coast. The south coast is gentler and less steep, interspersed with inlets and river estuaries that wind inland from the sea. The Lizard peninsula is the most southerly point in mainland England, with Land's End its most westerly.

Dorset is the third most popular county in England for overnight

stays, with over 2 million visitors last year alone. Dorset has no cities or motorways and only a few large towns. The area is therefore mostly rural, with small market towns and villages dotting the landscape. In fact, over a third of the county has been officially designated as an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

	Vibrant Economy Index	Prosperity Index	Dynamism and opportunity Index	Inclusion and Equality Index	Health, Wellbeing and Happiness Index	Resilience and sustainability Index	Community, Trust and Belonging Index
Wiltshire	A	B	A	B	B	A	B
Bath and North East Somerset	A	B	A	C	A	A	A
South Gloucestershire	A	A	A	B	A	A	D
Bristol, City of	A	A	A	E	D	A	A
Cheltenham	A	B	A	B	B	C	A
Swindon	A	A	A	C	D	A	C
Exeter	A	A	B	C	B	B	A
Cotswold	A	C	B	B	A	B	A
West Dorset	B	E	D	B	A	B	A
Stroud	B	C	B	A	C	C	B

An 'A' indicates performance in the top 20% nationally, while an 'E' indicates performance in the bottom 20% of local authorities.

A new combined authority mayor within the region

The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) is made up of three of the local authorities in the region, Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Working with its partners including the West of England Local Enterprise

Partnership, North Somerset Council and other local service providers, its aim is to deliver economic growth for the region and address some of the challenges, such as productivity and skills, housing and transport.

WECA is headed by Tim Bowles,

the Conservative West of England Mayor, who was elected by the public on 4 May 2017.

The West of England Mayor will be given powers over spending, previously held by central government, on the region's

transport, housing, adult education and skills. West of England overview and scrutiny and audit committees will be established to scrutinise and hold to account the new combined authority and West of England mayor.

BRISTOL+BATH



As the West of England's first Regional Mayor, I lead a vibrant and successful part of the UK, with an economy worth over £32bn. Our region is often cited as the best place to live in the UK, most recently by the Sunday Times in 2017.

Home to the world-famous cities of Bristol and Bath, we are extremely well-connected at the cross roads of major motorways and railway lines, with an international airport and port.

We have a very powerful story to tell. Our region has led the way in industry for centuries, thanks to our global connections and pioneering innovators such as Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Today, we are home to the UK's most productive and fastest growing tech cluster; the UK's largest aerospace cluster and an innovative energy sector. We also host a strong financial and professional services sector.

Our long track record of innovation and success is the reason Oracle is developing the next generation of cloud-based software services here. It's why Airbus is designing the wings of the future in the West of England and EDF the next generation of nuclear reactor.

Our four world-class universities spin out tech businesses at an incredible rate. Institutions like SETsquared (the world's top-rated university incubator), Bristol Robotics Lab, Pervasive Media Studio and Bristol VR lab nurture some of the most innovative start-ups in the country. Our start-ups have raised over £580m in venture capital in the past year alone.

These are the businesses that are shaping the future, creating the artificial intelligence that is making driverless cars possible, transforming the way we live our lives. In the past year, we have seen major investment from Dyson, NatWest and Amazon. This has created 1,000s of jobs between them, along with significant demand for employment space and places for their staff to live. Over 80 people are moving here from London and the South East every week, attracted by our high-quality business environment and great quality of life.

Our challenge is meeting the demands of our success. We need to make sure we have the right space for businesses to start and grow; people with the right skills for those businesses, as well as affordable, high quality homes. We will do this through a joined-up plan to build at least 105,500 new homes in the next 20 years, as well as new workspaces and £10bn of major transport infrastructure to keep our region moving.

This statutory plan will provide a solid framework to allow the region to work with global investors who can share in the region's growth and help us to meet the demands of success.

We are at MIPIM from March 13th - 16th and we want to talk to investors who can become partners in the success. If you want to find out more join us on our stand. R9.B, Riviera 9, Seaview Village.

Tim Bowles
Mayor, West of England





Birmingham city skyline

Full speed ahead for the Midlands Engine

A new mayor for the combined authority and huge regeneration projects shows the Midlands Engine is at full throttle

The West Midlands covers the western half of the area traditionally known as the Midlands. It contains the second most populous British city, Birmingham, and the larger West Midlands conurbation, which includes the city of Wolverhampton and large towns of Dudley, Solihull, Walsall and West Bromwich. The city of Coventry is also located within the West Midlands county, but is separated from the conurbation to the West by several miles of green belt.

The West Midlands last year saw its first regional mayor elected when Andy Street, former managing director of John Lewis, was elected as mayor of the new West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) which includes the 12 local authorities and three of the four Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The region is increasingly marketing itself with the East Midlands as the 'Midlands Engine' and at MIPIM Cannes this year, the two regions share a pavilion.

The WMCA has a number of key priorities. These are economic growth, skills, transport and housing as well as reforming public services and reducing the

region's welfare bill. To ensure these priorities are dealt with the WMCA recently established three commissions; the Land Commission, Mental Health Commission and Productivity & Skills Commission. These three independent commissions are helping to shape WMCA policy.

The aim of the Land Commission was to identify measures that could help provide more developable land for housing and employment so that the levels of growth in the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) could be met.

The SEP anticipates some 500,000 new jobs will be created by the year 2030. To accommodate this growth it has been estimated that land for some 50,000 new houses will need to be identified.

In the view of the Commission, there are six 'game changers' for the land market of the West Midlands. These are collective, transformative actions which the Commission believes will be needed if the major step change needed to deliver the SEP targets is to be achieved. The Commission advocates further ambitious steps aimed at transforming brownfield land, a radically expanded programme of

regeneration and remediation of brownfield sites.

The productivity and skills Commission has been set the task

to reduce unemployment and underemployment and ultimately tackle a widening skills gap.

The WMCA has also

Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership was committed to support the construction of a new Midland

Top performing areas in the West Midlands: Dynamism and opportunity

Rank	District	Dynamism score	National Rank (out of 324)
1	Coventry	103.34	63
2	Warwick	102.34	79
3	Stratford-on-Avon	100.77	104
4	Birmingham	100.73	105
5	Newcastle-under-Lyme	100.58	108
6	Worcester	100.51	111
7	Rugby	100.44	114
8	East Staffordshire	99.87	128
9	Malvern Hills	99.57	134
10	Lichfield	99.40	139

Source: Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index

©Grant Thornton

of understanding the true extent of the productivity challenge in the West Midlands, identifying the component causes and making recommendations to address the issues identified.

Investment in the Commission will enable the region to strategically target areas where there is potential to boost productivity and re-ignite underperforming industry, helping

commissioned research into mental health and its impact on the public sector. It is believed this commission is the first of its type in the country.

Birmingham is known as Britain's second city and has undergone a renaissance in recent years with the regeneration of the Bullring and New Street station. Recently a £27.5 million funding package by the WMCA and the

Metro stop at the proposed HS2 station at Birmingham Curzon.

The work marks an important next stage in the delivery of Birmingham City Council's Curzon Masterplan (2015) and Curzon Investment Plan (2016). The documents set out how the growth and regeneration opportunities around the new HS2 city centre station can be unlocked.

The beautiful view of Nottingham city centre

Great connections and an expanding economy

The East Midlands has parks, seaside, historic cities and direct transport links to the capital as well as being part of the Midlands Engine

The East Midlands consists of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland. It is also part of the so-called Midlands Engine with the West Midlands.

The region has an area of 15,627 km² (6,034 sq mi), and is home to some 4.5 million people. There are four principal urban centres, Derby, Leicester, Northampton and Nottingham and a number of next-tier centres including Boston, Chesterfield, Corby, Grantham, Hinckley, Kettering, Lincoln, Loughborough, Mansfield and Wellingborough. The region's relative proximity to London and its connectivity on the national motorway and trunk road networks help the East Midlands thrive as an economic hub. The region's principal airport is East Midlands Airport.

There are seven local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) in the East Midlands, some of which overlap with each other or extend into other counties.

The Derby and Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) LEP covers Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire counties, including the cities of Derby and Nottingham. D2N2 is one of the largest LEPs in England covering

an area with a population of over two million people and economic output of over £36 billion. The LEP says its 'vision is a more prosperous, better connected, and increasingly resilient and competitive economy. Our purpose is to support and encourage economic growth in D2N2. Our ambition is to be one of the most respected LEPs, known for our professionalism and effectiveness.'

The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) covers the Lincolnshire county and North Lincolnshire district. It says its aim is to improve infrastructure and the conditions for doing business. The organisation works across a diverse range of industries, from ports, logistics and farming to tourism and engineering.

The Leicester and Leicestershire LEP (LLEP) covers Leicestershire county including Leicester city. The LEP says: 'The LLEP provides local government, the business community and other partners the opportunity to come together to lead economic development and regeneration activities and to drive forward economic growth.'

It adds: 'The LLEP aims to make Leicester and Leicestershire a destination of choice by promoting the area as a place to do business, work and live. The LLEP will

provide strategic leadership to deliver sustainable economic growth through investment in enterprise and innovation, employment and skills and infrastructure including transport and housing.'

The Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP) covers the Northamptonshire county. The LEP says: 'NEP is a LEP with a clear objective: to increase the prosperity of Northamptonshire's businesses by supporting the creation of better quality private sector jobs. It is intended that an extra 20,000 jobs, 30,000 new houses and an overall

growth in the local economy of 30% be achieved by 2021.'

The South East Midlands LEP (SEMLEP) covers Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and boroughs and districts of Northampton, Kettering, Corby, South Northamptonshire and Daventry.

Its aim is to promote the South East Midlands as a prime growth location for business, investors and visitors. The Greater Cambridge/ Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership includes Rutland.

The Sheffield City Region (SCR) LEP covers the Sheffield economic region including

the districts of Bassetlaw in Nottinghamshire and Chesterfield, Bolsover, Derbyshire Dales and North East Derbyshire in Derbyshire. The LEP says: 'The SCR brings together business leaders and local politicians to make decisions that drive economic growth and create new jobs. Our vision for the future growth and development of the city region is that Sheffield City Region will be the best place to collaborate, to invest, to innovate and grow a business, and live, work, play and study. It will be supported by an unrivalled skills base and quality of life.'

Top performing areas in the East Midlands: Dynamism and Opportunity

Rank	District	Dynamism score	National Rank (out of 324)
1	Rushcliffe	111.41	11
2	Charnwood	108.46	20
3	High Peak	104.58	45
4	Hinckley and Bosworth	102.75	69
5	South Northamptonshire	101.49	90
6	Leicester	100.98	99
7	North West Leicestershire	100.87	101
8	Nottingham	99.84	130
9	Derby	99.49	136
10	Amber Valley	99.43	138

Source: Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index

©Grant Thornton



As a region that combines rugged scenery and new technology, the North East really represents the best of both worlds.

Top performing areas in the North East			
Rank	District	Vibrant Economy score	National Rank (out of 324)
1	Newcastle upon Tyne	100.64	123
2	County Durham	98.96	207
3	Northumberland	98.76	214
4	North Tyneside	98.69	216
5	Stockton-on-Tees	98.29	228
6	Gateshead	97.92	240
7	Darlington	97.64	251
8	Sunderland	96.85	273
9	Middlesbrough	94.74	306
10	South Tyneside	94.63	308

Source: Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index
©Grant Thornton

With a diverse mix of industries, ranging from car manufacturing to software development, the North East has something for everyone.

The largest city in the region is Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which has a population of just under 280,000. The city is famous for its night life, football team and is also home to the Great North Run.

Sunderland is the second largest city in the region with a population of 177,000.

The region is also home to the North East Combined Authority, which serves County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

In addition, it is home to five universities – Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland and Teeside, which all offer world-class teaching and research facilities.

The North East also has excellent travel links with both

London and Edinburgh. Earlier this year, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership produced a strategic economic plan, which highlighted the region's many strengths.

According to the plan, the region is home to a software and technology industry worth around £2 billion. The headquarters of the software giant Sage, shared service centres for Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Accenture and BT are all located in the North East. The region has 29,000 IT and digital employees and 15,250 people working in the creative industries.

More than 50 companies working with offshore and subsea technology are based in the North East, with a combined turnover of £1.5 billion and employ more than 15,000 people.

The North East's automotive cluster now employs more than 30,000 people, which is higher than any other UK region.

Among the 510,000 vehicles

and 325,000 engines produced there in 2015, the North East accounted for more than a quarter (26%) of all electric vehicle (EV) production across Europe.

The total gross value added for the region was £50 billion in 2015, which represents 3% of the UK total.

The latest figures published by the Office for National Statistics show the region's unemployment rate has fallen from 7.6% to 6.1% over the last year, which according to the North East LEP's senior economist, Victoria Sutherland, is the 'largest decline of all regions'.

'Our Quarterly Economic Survey for Q2 2017 has shown that our members are positive about future workforce growth, and recruiting for permanent, full time roles,' said the North East Chamber of Commerce's policy adviser, Paul Carbert.

'Almost half of the Chamber members responding to our 2017 Workforce Survey said that they have faced skills or

labour shortages over the past 12 months. This indicates a need to align training and upskilling programmes, with business aspirations to open up opportunities for jobseekers. We will be calling for the government to make this a priority in the upcoming Autumn Budget.'

The North East LEP is also working with the North East Combined Authority, and other organisations such as the Digital Catapult Centre and the University of Surrey's 5G Innovation Centre to make the region a national test bed for 5G technology.

'Our aim is to ensure that the

region can seize the economic opportunities presented by 5G by being involved in the early stage testing needed to develop national 5G capability,' said the LEP's head of strategy and policy, Richard Baker.

'By 2030, it is estimated that the 5G enabled communications industry will be worth £198bn a year to national GDP and we want the North East to be at the forefront of this revolution, creating opportunities for local businesses and attracting new investment technology, as well as to ensure that our residents can benefit from new and improved services.'



The North East LEP is responsible for the delivery of the North East Strategic Economic Plan, which

aims to create 100,000 extra jobs for the region by 2024, bringing the total number of people employed in the North East to 1m.

Covering the local authority areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland, the LEP also manages the £330m North East Growth Deal and £55m North East Investment Fund.

The LEP area's Enterprise Zone includes the Ultra Low Carbon Vehicle sites adjacent to the A19 in Sunderland and the River Tyne North bank, including, Swan Hunter in North Tyneside, Neptune Yard in Newcastle and the Port of Tyne North Estate.

'It has been an unsettling time for many North East businesses following local devolution decisions and I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Government that the North East LEP remains committed to continuing to deliver for all our stakeholders,' said LEP chair, Andrew Hodgson.

'We are keen to ensure that business leadership and engagement remain at the heart of strategic economic growth.'



Sheffield Winter Garden

From hi-tech to centre of culture

A diverse range of cathedral and industrial cities as well as beautiful countryside and coast marks this prosperous region

Yorkshire and the Humber comprises most of Yorkshire (South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, the East Riding of Yorkshire including Hull, the shire county of North Yorkshire and the City of York), North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire.

There are seven cities in Yorkshire and the Humber: Bradford, Kingston upon Hull, Leeds, Ripon, Sheffield, Wakefield and York. Large towns in the area include Barnsley, Doncaster, Grimsby, Halifax, Huddersfield and Scunthorpe. Leeds is the largest settlement and the largest part of an urban area with a population of 1.5 million. Leeds is now one of the largest financial centres in the United Kingdom. Sheffield is the second-largest settlement and is a large manufacturing centre. Bradford is the third-largest city and was traditionally a textile manufacturing city. The decline of this industry as jobs moved offshore has resulted in a more diverse economy, as Bradford has developed new directions. Kingston upon Hull is the main port in the region and historically a notable fishing harbour. This year it was the UK's Capital of Culture.

In Leeds City Region 109,000 companies have already made their base, from innovative technology start-ups to global law firms looking for cost-effective European headquarters. The region offers access to eight world-class universities with a long tradition of innovation and has good connections to the rest of the UK,

Europe and the world via road, rail, air and high-speed internet.

It currently has investment opportunities in financial and professional services, manufacturing, health and innovation and the digital and information economy.

Recent research commissioned by Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and conducted by MDS Global, collated international trade data at a city region level for the first time. The recent findings reveal that the city region's international trade in 2015 was worth an estimated £9.75 billion, 67% of the total value of Yorkshire & Humber goods exported.

Andrew Wright, chairman of the LEP's Business, Innovation and Growth Panel, said: 'It's really useful this research has been done; whilst it shows we trade most with North West Europe it also demonstrates the demand and opportunity beyond EU markets. In fact, we have 638 major exporting businesses to non-EU markets. Non-EU trade accounts for 21 per cent of our total exports.'

In Sheffield its city region is at the heart of the UK and offers new investors a high-quality cost effective location of choice that is super-connected nationally and internationally.

Sheffield City Region has six airports within a 90-minute drive. Manchester airport offers flights to many major American cities, the Far East, the Middle East and all over Europe. Doncaster Sheffield Airport offers full cargo and

passenger services and is open 24-7 365 days a year.

The region is at the heart of the UK's road network of the M1,

M18, M180 and A1, with low traffic congestion and 60% of UK's manufacturing industry within a 2.5-hour HGV drive. Three

quarters of the UK can be reached within a 4.5-hour HGV drive plus with ease of access to Europe through the Humber Ports.

Top performing areas in Yorkshire and the Humber

Rank	District	Vibrant Economy score	National Rank (out of 324)
1	York	103.49	48
2	Harrogate	102.71	67
3	Leeds	102.55	72
4	Sheffield	100.68	119
5	Bradford	100.53	130
6	Craven	100.30	150
7	Kirklees	100.04	162
8	Hambleton	99.88	168
9	Calderdale	99.84	171
10	East Riding of Yorkshire	99.66	177

Source: Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index

©Grant Thornton

Local Enterprise Partnerships

York; North Yorkshire & East Riding; Leeds City Region; Greater Lincolnshire & Humber



The Yorkshire Dales featuring stone-built villages, stunning landscapes & vibrant communities

Leeds City Centre at night

Leeds City Region is 'accelerating levels of international interest'

The last 18 months have been evolutionary for the Leeds City Region, seeing and realising growth as both international trade and investment opportunities increase

The UK's largest city region outside of London and the South East has recorded its most successful year to date in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). It played a leading role in the success of the Yorkshire and Humber region in both EY's 2017 Attractiveness Survey – the only region in the Northern Powerhouse to see an increase in its levels of inward investment. The Department for International Trade's (DIT's) annual report, showed the City Region's levels of investment increase by over a fifth (22%), securing 100 successful FDI projects, creating and safeguarding over 3,000 jobs.

Commenting on the inward investment success, Kersten England, chief executive of Bradford and Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) and lead chief executive for business, innovation and growth said: 'I'm delighted with the results of last year's FDI reports which show how our city region is continuing



Roger Marsh and Lei Zhang

to increase its share of foreign investment. These figures show that the concerted effort to promote our region as a key location for business growth within our key sectors of financial and professional services, digital, healthcare and life sciences, and advanced manufacturing, is working.;

She added: 'These reports recognise our region's successful approach to attracting investment, and highlight its crucial role in the wider Yorkshire and Humber success story. According to EY's 2017 Attractiveness Survey, 70% of the Yorkshire and Humber region's investment successes took place within Leeds City Region.'

Alongside the investment success

stories the region is also furthering its approach to international trade having launched a programme with Chinese e-commerce platform Kaola.com. The programme provides businesses new to exporting with an easy way to enter the growing Far East market, the world's second largest economy, thanks to the firm's direct procurement and export model.

Ms England said: 'Our proactive approach to inward investment has been further vindicated by the recent announcements from the iconic fashion brand Burberry and international healthcare company Covance that they are both making new investments to and grow their presence here.' Leeds City Region

and Kaola.com have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in March this year, to develop a long-term collaborative partnership focused on trade opportunities; and launched ExportExchange.

Roger Marsh, chair of the LEP, which led the development of this strategic relationship with Kaola, commented: 'I'm pleased and excited to have signed an MOU with Kaola.com, further enhancing our relationship for our mutual benefit. This relationship supports both the UK government's clear challenge of increasing the value and volume of exporters by 2020, and also the LEP's strategic economic plan for the city region to be an environment where trading internationally is commonplace and exports provide a significant contribution to our economy.'

'It was fantastic to see the positive response to the initial trial with Kaola.com, and following meeting with the CEO, Lei Zhang, earlier this year the business clearly acknowledges that Leeds City

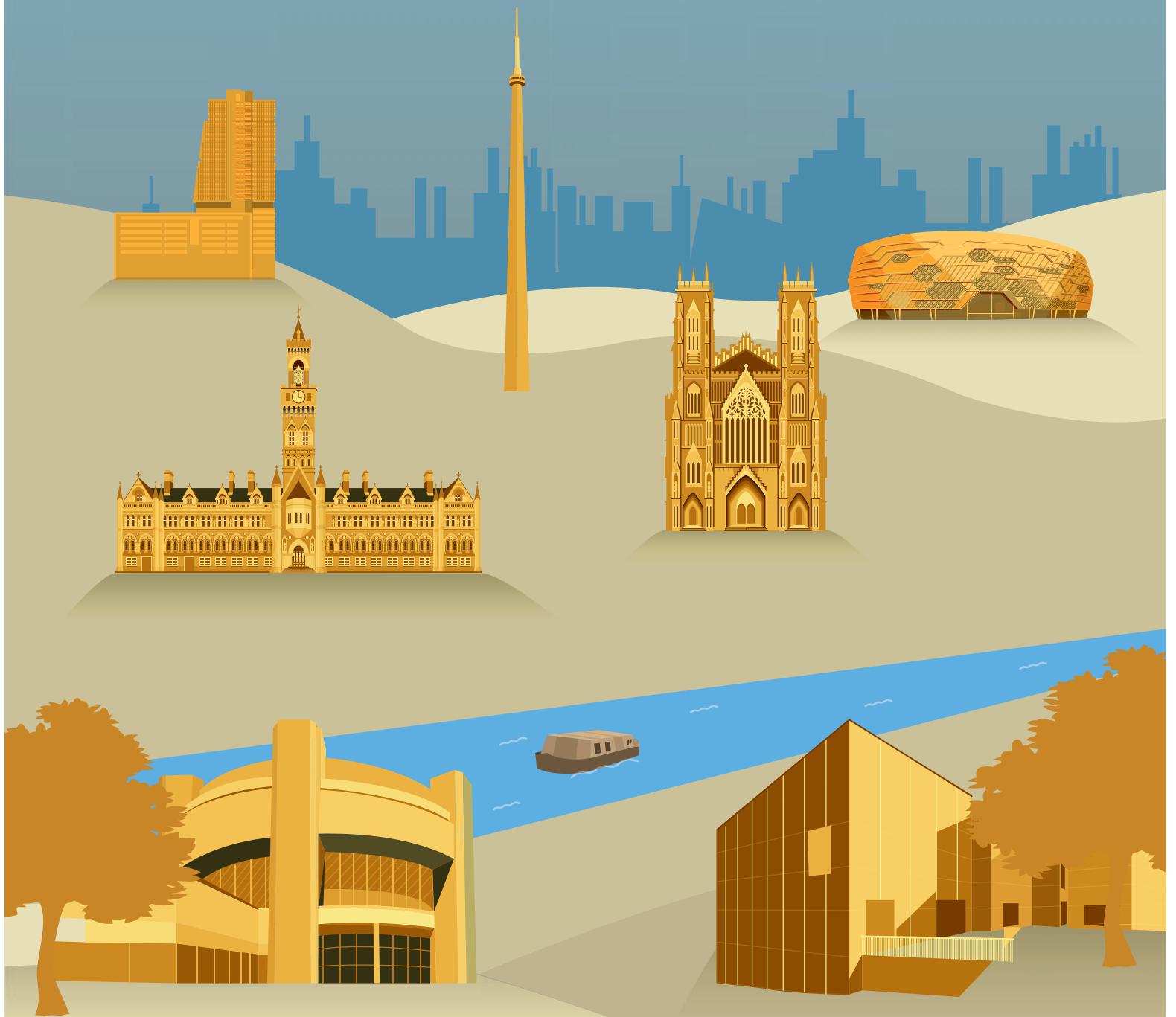
Region is home to manufacturers and producers of some of the best quality products in the world. I hope that through our Kaola agreement and the city region's new peer-to-peer export network ExportExchange we can inspire even more businesses to take the opportunity to understand the enormous growth opportunities provided by having a global market.'

Outside of the fields of trade and inward investment, the region has also been recognised by the Centre For Cities as home to the fastest growing private sector jobs growth outside of London and also as leading the UK's transition towards knowledge economy. In the next 12 months through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the LEP, the region is looking to build upon these successes, and highlight the opportunities provided by HS2 via its new High Speed Growth Strategy in order to deliver economic growth which benefits the people who live and work in the region.

LEEDS CITY REGION

Be Part of Our Success

Visit us at MIPIM 2018
on Stand R7.A18



LEEDS CITY REGION
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

investleedscityregion.com
#LCRatMIPIM

Working in
partnership
with the

**West
Yorkshire**
Combined
Authority

University of Cambridge sunset



From dreaming spires to commuter belt

From the spires of Cambridge and Norwich to the commuter belt of London, the East of England has a huge variety on offer for investors

A beautiful coastline, unspoilt countryside and historic cities and ancient heritage are a feature of the East of England region. It ranges from Cambridge, the Fens and Norfolk to St Albans and Hertfordshire outside London.

The region includes the ceremonial counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Essex has the highest population in the region. Its population at the 2011 census was 5,847,000. Bedford, Luton, Basildon, Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea, Norwich, Ipswich, Colchester, Chelmsford and Cambridge are the region's most populous towns. The southern part of the region lies in the London commuter belt. The region generated nearly 9% of the UK's economic output in 2014 with a GVA of £139bn.

The region has two local enterprise partnerships. New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership works with businesses and local authority partners to help grow jobs, drive innovation and increase productivity in Norfolk and Suffolk.

The two counties play a key role in the UK's economy

and beyond, feeding the world through expertise in life sciences, food and health research, powering the world with its all-energy coastline, and connecting the world via a leading edge ICT and digital sector, all contributing to a £34 billion economy in the East.

The LEP says: 'Our region is already a fantastic place to live, work, learn and do business, but we can make it even better. To continue our success on a national and global stage we need to create an environment where innovation can thrive, bringing in further investment and more high value jobs.'

'That's why we are transforming the economy by securing funds from government to help businesses grow, through the delivery of ambitious programmes to ensure that businesses have the funding, support, skills, and infrastructure needed to flourish and ensuring that the voice of our business community is heard, loud and clear.'

The Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership is focused on helping to drive forward sustainable economic growth in its area with local business, education

Top performing areas in the East of England			
Rank	District	Vibrant Economy score	National Rank (out of 324)
1	Cambridge	109.48	1
2	South Cambridgeshire	107.89	4
3	St Albans	105.55	11
4	Welwyn Hatfield	104.24	31
5	Central Bedfordshire	103.84	42
6	East Hertfordshire	103.83	43
7	North Hertfordshire	103.43	49
8	Chelmsford	103.28	52
9	Hertsmere	103.12	55
10	Brentwood	103.02	57

Source: Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index
©Grant Thornton

providers, the third sector and the public sector working together to achieve this. The area currently has a population of 1.3 million people, which is estimated to grow to 1.5 million by 2031.

It hosts a number of globally significant business clusters, world class research capacity linked to its universities, a number of thriving market towns, and is the UK's leader in agriculture, food and drink. The area boasts 700,000 jobs, 60,000 enterprises and generates £30 billion per annum.

The whole region is home to six universities of

which Cambridge is the most internationally renowned. Other universities are East Anglia, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Anglia Ruskin. The region also has excellent communications with the rest of the world through London Stansted and London Luton Airports.

In May 2017 voters in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough elected a mayor for the new Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the first time. The authority is made up of representatives from eight organisations, Cambridge

City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, Peterborough City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Greater Cambridge, Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (GCGP LEP). The Combined Authority is held to account by several committees made up of representatives from partner local authorities. The authority is led by Mayor James Palmer, who was elected on 5 May 2017.

Clyde arc bridge at night

Scotland's story of success

Despite the ongoing uncertainties around Brexit, Scotland's economy continues to thrive with record employment levels and inward investment numbers

With the highest employment rate out of any UK nation, it is no wonder the Scottish Government sees its labour market as 'resilient and robust'.

The latest figures by the Office for National Statistics show Scotland's employment rate rose by 1.8 percentage points between May and July last year to 75.8%, meaning there are 49,000 more people in work than the previous quarter. This is above the UK rate of 75.3%.

Over the same period, Scotland's unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to a joint record low of 3.8%. The inactivity rate fell by 1.6 percentage points, meaning there are 54,000 fewer inactive people aged 16-64 years than in February to April.

'There are now 109,000 more people in employment compared to the pre-recession peak and Scotland now has the highest employment rate in the UK,' said Scotland's employability minister, Jamie Hepburn.

'Our unemployment rate

remains a success story, showing that the labour market remains resilient and robust.

'With the most recent gross domestic product (GDP) figures showing the Scottish economy grew nearly four times that of the UK in the first quarter of this year, today's labour market figures are further proof that the fundamentals of Scotland's economy remain strong, despite the challenges posed by Brexit,' he added.

Scotland shares a border with England to the South and is otherwise surrounded by water with more than 790 islands. The country's rugged coastline and strong seas have also become home to a burgeoning offshore wind and tidal energy sector, which is at the forefront of international development.

The nation also boasts seven cities: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Stirling and Perth.

Edinburgh is the country's capital and home to the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood. It is also famous the world over for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo,



the Festival Fringe and, of course, its Hogmanay celebrations, which is one of the greatest New Year's Eve celebrations in the world.

The second largest city in Scotland is Glasgow, which claims to have one of the fastest-growing city economies in the UK, with a diverse business and industry base.

A key strand of the economic strategy developed by Glasgow City Council and the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce is to achieve a significant increase in worker productivity over the next six years by developing innovation, worker skills, boosting competition and

attracting investment.

The latest set of official statistics, which were published in August, show Scotland's onshore GDP grew by 0.7% in real terms during the first three months of 2017.

Over the latest 12-month period, the value of Scotland's onshore GDP is estimated to stand at £150 billion in total, or £27,854 per person.

And including the geographical share of the UK's offshore and overseas economic activity, the country's GDP is estimated to be £159.4 billion, or £29,593 per person.

And the latest version of the EY Scotland Attractiveness Survey showed the country continues to attract record numbers of inward investment.

According to the report, which was published in May, Scotland secured 122 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects in 2016, compared to 119 in the previous year.

The 2016 data also places Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh within the UK top 10 cities for attracting FDI.

'Scotland has firmly secured its position as an attractive destination for FDI in the UK with a further increase of projects from the record-breaking surge of inward investment in 2015,' said EY senior partner, Scotland, Mark Harvey.

'This positive FDI performance was achieved amid widespread uncertainty, not least the EU referendum vote,' added Mr Harvey. 'The results show there were no signs of an immediate collapse in investment and demonstrate Scotland's ability to attract and secure cross-border investments.'

Usk Valley, Brecon Beacons, Wales, UK

The Welsh dragon gets ready to roar!

Famed for stunning scenery and the growth of new and innovative technologies, like tidal energy, Wales is much more than just the land of song and rugby

As the Welsh Government's recently-published Prosperity for All national strategy demonstrates, Wales is determined to be a country where businesses can thrive. According to the strategy document, the Welsh Government aims to promote manufacturing as a 'key sector

for growth' in the next five years, as well as reduce burdens on business and 'stimulate innovation and growth'. 'We will build infrastructure to keep Wales moving and connect people with jobs, housing and leisure,' the document states. 'Building on record levels of inward investment, we will constantly seek new markets and

investors from around the world, and promote Wales as an active international partner.' Wales is the third biggest member of the United Kingdom. The country is smaller in area than Scotland, but larger than any region in England, with the notable exception of South Wales. In addition, it covers 9% of the total area of the

UK at 20,700km. In the 12 months to the end of March 2017, there were 104.6 million day visits to Wales, with an associated spend of more than £4 billion.

And the latest official statistics show more than 1 million international visits were made to Wales in 2016, which was up 11% on the previous year and was worth almost £450 million to the economy.

The country of Wales is officially bilingual with all government documents and signs produced in both English and Welsh, although the vast majority of the country speaks English.

Wales has its own devolved administration, which is based in Cardiff and the country is divided into 22 council areas, which are responsible for all local government services, including education, social work, environment and highways services.

In recent years, there has been a large amount of economic growth both in Cardiff and Swansea. In March, UK and Welsh Government Ministers visited Swansea Bay to sign a 'city deal worth £1.3 billion, which will transform the economic landscape of the area. The

agreement aims to boost the local economy by £1.8 billion, and generate almost 10,000 new jobs over the next 15 years. Eleven major projects will now get underway, delivering world-class facilities in the fields of energy, smart manufacturing, innovation and life science.

Between 1999 and 2014, gross value added grew in real terms by 34.2% in Wales, compared to an increase of 30.2% in the rest of the UK.

The increase in Wales was the third highest of UK countries and regions, behind London and Scotland.

The latest official figures show the average household wealth in Wales stands at £214,000, while gross value added per head is £18,002.

Primary income is £16,364 per head and disposable income is £16,341 per head, and full-time weekly earnings stands at £492.

The employment rate in Wales stood at 72.4% between May and July. This compares to the UK rate for the same time period, which was 75.3%.

But the unemployment rate was 4.3% of the economically active population between May and July, which was exactly the same as the rest of the UK.

Northern Ireland has a strong economy, beautiful countryside and a young workforce. Its road network has minimal levels of congestion and brings most of Europe within 24-48 hours.

The Northern Ireland labour market continues to perform well in the current economic climate despite Brexit concerns. The unemployment rate currently stands at 5.3% above the average for the UK regions, but below the Republic of Ireland and EU averages. In recent years, Northern Ireland has become increasingly successful in attracting foreign direct investment. Key investors include multi-national companies such as Allen & Overy, Seagate Technology, Fujitsu, Bombardier Aerospace, Microsoft, Citi, Liberty Mutual, the Allstate Corporation and Baker & McKenzie LLP.

Three airports deal with almost seven million passengers a year. Belfast International Airport runs daily scheduled flights to destinations such as London, Paris and Amsterdam.

Northern Ireland operates in the same time zone, regulatory environment and with a similar culture to the rest of the UK. It is ideally positioned geographically for global firms operating a follow-the-sun model. London is only an hour away by air, with Dublin only two hours by rail and road. There are daily direct flights to a variety of European business locations such as Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam.

Bridge over the Lagan, Belfast



A prime investment location

Major multinational companies have already chosen Northern Ireland as their favoured area to do business

It provides a competitive near-shore proposition to Europe and it is the only part of the UK that shares a land border with a Euro participant (Republic of Ireland). As a result, the business community and the banking and financial services sector in Northern Ireland regularly conduct business in Euro.

The region boasts four ports, Belfast Harbour, Foyle Port, Warrenpoint Harbour and Larne Harbour. Belfast Harbour is the second busiest port on the island of Ireland and along with the ports at Larne and Warrenpoint provides over 160 ferry and freight sailings per week to Great Britain and Europe.

Northern Ireland's

communications infrastructure is renowned as state-of-the-art. It enjoys international connectivity at a very competitive cost.

According to Invest NI the region also has a track record of staying at the forefront of communications technology. It became the first region in Europe to achieve 100 per cent broadband coverage and one of the first to operate and experience high speed, next generation services with a 100-gigabyte per second transatlantic and terrestrial telecommunications link between Northern Ireland, North America and Europe.

Northern Ireland's internationally renowned

universities have been key drivers in the development of the region's technology and knowledge industries. Queen's University and Ulster University have globally recognised research centres across a range of disciplines.

Northern Ireland's operating costs are highly competitive and among the lowest in the UK and Europe. A wide variety of business facilities are available at highly competitive costs with prime office rents among the lowest in the world; as little as £16.00 per sq ft in the Greater Belfast area, compared to £34.00 per sq ft in Dublin and £70.00 per sq ft in New York, USA.

The UK's support infrastructure

ensures excellent service support to business. A resilient, digital network provides high-speed voice and data connections throughout the world. Northern Ireland was the first region in Europe to have 100% access to broadband. Northern Ireland ranks as the best in the U.K. for superfast broadband availability.

Northern Ireland boasts world-class clusters in a variety of sectors. In recent years the technology, and financial and professional services sectors, have experienced the fastest growth. The region is also home to world-class companies within the aerospace, advanced engineering and manufacturing as well as life and health sciences sectors.

WHAT'S ON AT THE UK GOVERNMENT PAVILION, MIPIM MARCH 13-16 2018

TUESDAY 13 MARCH

08:45 - 09:00: Official opening of the UK government pavilion
09:00 - 09:50: Metro Mayors - In association with London First:

- **Chair: Jasmine Whitbread**, Chief Executive, London First
- **Andy Street**, Mayor, West Midlands Combined Authority,
- **Steve Rotherham**, Metro Mayor, Liverpool City Region
- **James Palmer**, Mayor, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- **Tim Bowles**, Mayor, West of England

10:00 - 10:50:

- Investible Infrastructure:
- **Chair: Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe**, Chair, West Yorkshire Combined Authority
 - **Andy Street**, Mayor, WMCA
 - **Paul Clark**, Chief Investment Officer, The Crown Estate
 - **Chair: Liz Peace**, ODPC
 - **Frank Rogers**, Acting Chief Executive Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
 - **Paul Clark**, Head of Development, GL Hearn

11:00 - 11:50:

- Construction, Productivity and Automation:
- **Chair: Guy Grainger**, Chief Executive EMEA, JLL
 - **Stephen Kinsella**, Executive Director - Land, Homes England
 - **Sherin Aminossehe**, Head of Offices, Lend Lease

12:00 - 12:50:

- Supply Chain:
- **Chair: Craig Hughes**, Global Real Estate Leader, PwC
 - **Alan Holland**, Director for Greater London, Segro
 - **Amy Gilham**, Director, Turley
 - **Ian Ball**, Executive Director, Harworth
 - **Sir Nigel Knowles**, Chairman, Sheffield City Region LLP

14:00 - 14:50:

- Scotland, N. Ireland, Wales: A spotlight on the devolved regions - what trends and opportunities call in each place?
- **Chair: Gavin Winbanks**, Director, Capital Investment, DIT
 - **Speakers to be confirmed**

15:00 - 15:50:

- Industrial Strategy:
- **Chair: Melanie Leech**, Chief Executive, British Property Federation
 - **Jon Bull-Diamond**, Senior Director, GVA
 - **Deborah Cadman**, Chief Executive, WMCA
 - **Philip Cox**, Chief Executive, Cheshire and Warrington LEP

16:00 - 16:50:

- Culture, Art, Heritage and Sport: Culture,
- **Chair: David Partridge**, Managing Partner, Argent
 - **Joanne Roney**, Chief Executive, Manchester City Council
 - **Ian Morrison**, Director of Planning, Historic England
 - **Peter Moore**, Chief Executive, Liverpool FC
 - **Stella Manzie**, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council
 - **Sir Malcolm McKibben**, former head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service

17:00 - 17:50:

- Physical + Digital = Phygital! - In association with Revo:
- **Chair: Ed Cooke**, Chief Executive, Revo
 - **Sophie Ross**, Head of Multi Channel Retailing, Hammerson
 - **Mark Williams**, Partner, Hark Group
 - **Mary Wallace**, Senior Managing Consultant, IBM

WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH

10:00 - 10:50: Homes England: How can Homes England disrupt the property industry?

- **Chair: Nick Walkley**, CEO, Homes England
- **Pat Ritchie**, Chief Executive, Newcastle City Council
- **Melanie Leech**, Chief Executive, British Property Federation
- **Sophie White**, Head of Infrastructure, Homes England
- **Kate Davies**, Chief Executive, Notting Hill Housing
- **Joanne Roney**, Chief Executive, Manchester City Council

11:00 - 12:00:

- The role of UK collaboration in driving national growth - With London's City and Westminster Property Associations and Sheffield Property Association:
- **Chair: James Cooksey**, Westminster Property Association and Head of Central London for The Crown Estate (moderator)
 - **Sir Richard Leese**, Leader of Manchester City Council
 - **Martin McKervey**, Partner at international law firm CMS, Board member of the Sheffield City Region LEP and Transport for the North and member of the Sheffield Property Association
 - **John McGill**, Director of London Stansted Cambridge Consortium
 - **Catherine McGuinness**, Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee at City of London Corporation

14:00 - 14:50:

- Global Cities:
- **Mats Hederos**, CEO, AMF Fastigheter
 - **Robert Noel**, Chief Executive, Landsec
 - **John Connolly**, Head of UK Development, FEC

15:00 - 15:50:

- Strategic Housing Growth: How can we deliver high-quality, well-planned housing in our city regions to help transform the economy?
- **Chair: Sir Edward Lister**, Chairman Homes England & Senior Advisor Capital Investment, DIT
 - **Deborah Cadman**, Chief Executive, WMCA
 - **Michael Auger**, Managing Director, Muse
 - **Tom Walker**, Deputy CEO, Homes England
 - **Frank Rogers**, Acting Chief Executive, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
 - **Eamonn Boylan**, Chief Executive, GMCA

16:00 - 16:50:

- Design and Quality:
- **Chair: David Marks**, Managing Partner, Brockton Capital
 - **Ben Derbyshire**, Chair, HTA Design and President, Royal Institute of British Architects
 - **Louise Wyman**, Head of Strategy, Homes England
 - **Steve Sanham**, Managing Partner, Hub
 - **Lucy Homer**, Executive General Manager Design + Technical, Lendlease Europe
 - **Annalie Riches**, Director, Mikhail Riches

17:00-17:50:

- Housing - the Modern Way:
- **Chair: Amanda Clark**, Head of Strategic Consulting, CBRE
 - **Pete Andrew**, Chairman, Burrington Estates
 - **Gordon More**, Chief Investment Officer, Homes England
 - **Andrew Saunderson**, Director Transactions & Special Projects, Grainger
 - **Melanie Leech**, Chief Executive, British Property Federation
 - **Jennie Daly**, Group Operations Director, Taylor Wimpey
 - **Paul Brundage**, Executive Vice President and Senior Managing Director, Oxford Properties Group

18:00 - 19:00: Homes England Reception

THURSDAY 16 MARCH

09:00 - 09:50: Collaboration not Competition: the integrated UK offer for Financial and Professional Services

- **Catherine McGuinness**, CPR, City of London Corporation (chair)
- **Andrew Kerr**, Chief Executive, Edinburgh City Council
- **Suzanne Wylie**, Chief Executive, Belfast City Council
- **Tim News**, Chief Executive, Manchester Inward Development Agency (MIDAS)
- **Gavin Winbanks**, Director, Capital Investment, DIT

10:00 - 10:50:

- CaMKOx Corridor: The session provides an opportunity for the Government's proposals around the CaMKOx Corridor to be showcased.
- **Chair: Rachel Fisher**, Deputy Director Regeneration & Infrastructure, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
 - **Sadie Morgan**, NIC Commissioner
 - **James Palmer**, Mayor of Cambridge and Peterborough

11:00 - 11:50:

- Northern Powerhouse:
- **Chair: Louise Wyman**, Head of Strategy, Homes England
 - **Steven Wild**, CEO, Media City
 - **Sir Michael Lyons**, Chairman, English Cities Fund
 - **Lynda Shillaw**, Chief Executive for Property, MAG
 - **Chris Oglesby**, Chief Executive, Bruntwood
 - **Cllr Judith Blake**, Leader, Leeds City Council
 - **Sir Nigel Knowles**, Chairman, Sheffield City Region LEP

12:00 - 12:50:

- Funding for Growth: How to fund the infrastructure/support structures to accelerate growth to happen in our regions?
- **Chair: Sir Edward Lister**, Chairman Homes England & Senior Advisor Capital Investment, DIT
 - **Gareth Bradford**, Director of Housing & Regeneration, WMCA
 - **Sir Richard Leese**, Leader, Manchester City Council
 - **Marvin Rees**, Mayor, Bristol
 - **Karen Campbell**, Commercial Director, HS2
 - **Pete Gladwell**, Head of Public Sector Partnerships, L&G
 - **Kate Kenally**, Chief Executive, Cornwall Council

14:00 - 14:50:

- Launch of the Scottish Portfolio
- **Speakers to be confirmed**

15:00 - 15:50:

- What's in the ProPtech Pipeline?
- **Chair: Eddie Holmes**, Chair, UKPA
 - **James Dearsley**, Director, The Digital Marketing Bureau
 - **Savannah de Savary**, CEO, Built-ID
 - **Dan Hughes**, Founder, Alpha Property Insight

16:00 - 16:30:

- Government Property Unit
- **Liz Peace**, Adviser on Property, Politics and the Built Environment; Chair of Government Property Agency
 - **Angela Harrowing**, Deputy Director for Asset Efficiency and One Public Estate
 - **Simon Madden**, Deputy Director for Public Bodies Relocation

16:40 - 17:30:

- The Knowledge Economy:
- **Chair: to be announced**
 - **Chris Grigg**, Chief Executive, British Land
 - **Lynda Shillaw**, Chief Executive for Property, MAG
 - **Deborah Cadman**, Chief Executive, WMCA
 - **Gavin Winbanks**, Director, Capital Investment, DIT
 - **Paul Brundage**, Executive Vice President and Senior Managing Director, Oxford Properties Group

*Details correct as at March 1 2018 when this supplement went to press so check for updates

MYB

MUNICIPAL YEAR BOOK



Municipal Year Book is the easiest way to find UK local government contacts and data – our online database is accurate and continuously updated

YOUR ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION GIVES YOU ACCESS TO:

- All **417** UK Local Authorities
- **40,000+** Principal Officers
- **6,000+** Councillors

Subscribe now at
www.municipalyearbook.co.uk

T: 020 7973 6694 | E: customer@hqluk.com