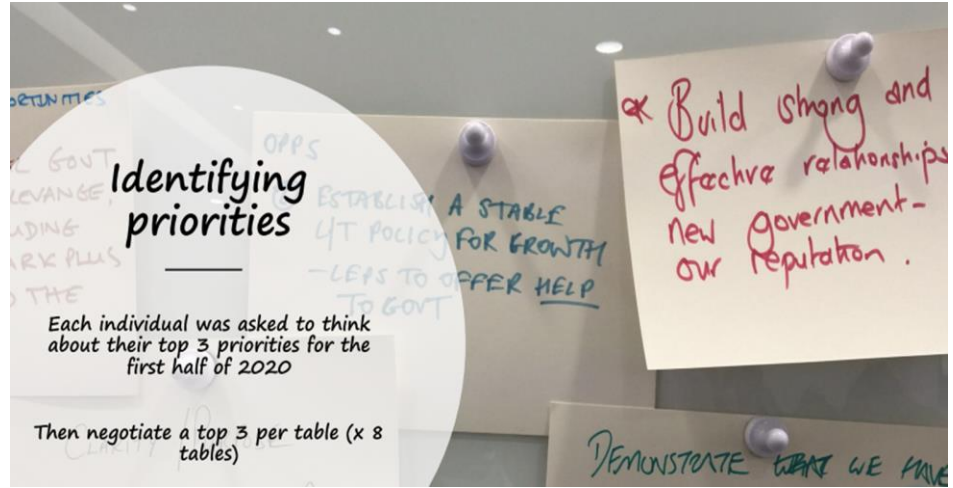
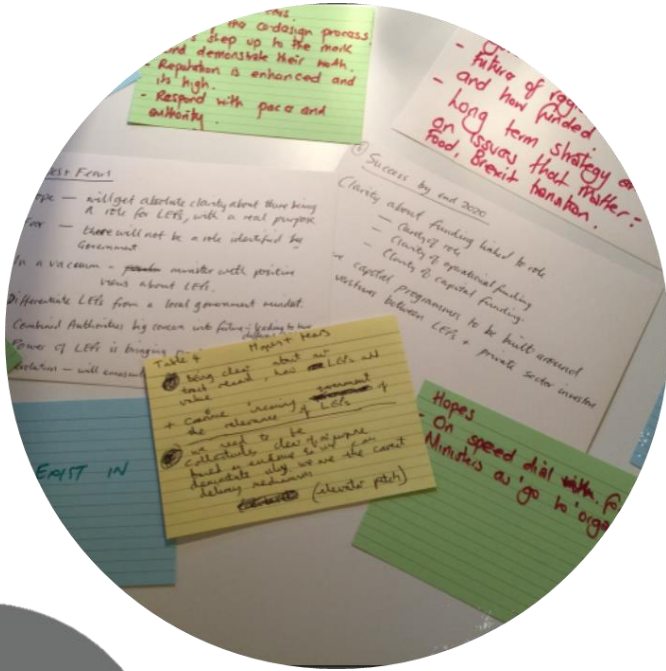


# Cast our minds back 364 days ...



... to when we last met ...

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# *Effective Strategic Engagement*



LEP Network Winter Workshop  
Report and summary  
December 2019

*Sandra Rothwell*



# ... and agreed priorities ...

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## *Strategic Engagement Focus 2020 (Q1-2)*

1. Persuade Central Government of the relevance and credibility of LEPs. Mandate LEP Executive to lead this 'LEP Voice'.
2. Manage the post-Brexit transition on all relevant issues: Inc. skills, export, inward investment.
3. Seek agreement on funding certainty post March 2021. Prioritise simplicity and security with emphasis on long-term investment – and credibility/understanding of SPF. Demonstrate to HMG that LEPs are 'ready to deliver at pace'.
4. LEPs delivery focus is 'clean and inclusive growth'.
5. LEPs offering a complimentary approach to de-carbonisation and mobilisation from the private sector.



# ... with great consensus

## Strategic Engagement priority themes

Across the 24 responses, 5 broad themes emerged:

- Brexit
- Funding
- Reputation
- Policy/Delivery
- Local place-making/inclusive, clean growth



# Our first actions ...



**New Board  
Structure**



**Chief Execs  
Impact**



**Memorandum  
of  
Understanding**



**LEP Visibility &  
Advocacy**



**One Year  
Done**



# We really stepped up the activity

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- 10 meetings with the PM, Chancellor, SoS and other Ministers.
- > 20 Economic Recovery Working Ministerial and Officials Group meetings.
- 15 Business roundtables involving well over 350 local company leaders.
- 3 SoS BEIS Taskforces, several Select Committee and APPG appearances.
- 20 LEP Network Board calls – a fivefold increase in engagement and scrutiny.
- Multiple calls with CBI, FSB, BCC, BAC etc.
- Multiple policy interventions, recommendations and proposals.
- > 30 Media interviews/calls, webinars, papers, press releases (75) and opinion pieces.
- And who knows how many Zoom/Teams calls!

And this is just the Network!



# But there is still much more to do

- We lack deep relationships with Treasury.
- Getting to some Ministers is still a challenge.
- Funding allocations for 2021 and beyond are not finalised
  - Capacity and Growth Hub funding: some certainty but what quantum?
  - Skills Capital, Levelling Up, NIS, UKSPF: vital we influence the detail.





# Our challenge and campaign never stops

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**We've made huge progress  
but we must keep going!**







# How did we do? Let's look at the detail

Mark Livesey, Chief Executive,  
LEP Network



# 1. Brexit – it became COVID

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## Regional Board

- Streamlined approach to crisis
- Responses in real time
- Weekly meetings of board increased agility

## Growth Hub Support

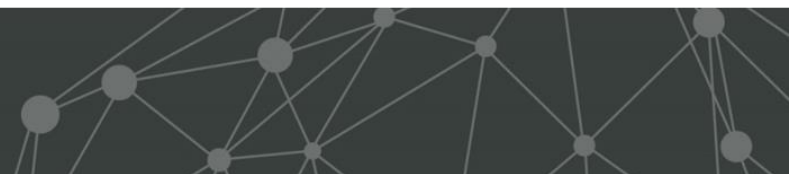
- Frontline response
- Supported over 1.5m businesses
- Fivefold increase in traffic
- First line of support for Brexit transition

## Coordinated COVID response

- Over 100 interventions
- Career & employment portals
- Grant funding
- PPE & medical supplies
- Test & Trace support

## Economic Recovery Planning

- Transformed LIS into recovery planning
- Lobbied case with Ministers
- Anchored ERPs in policy proposals to HMG.



## 2. Funding

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£10m extra core  
funding for Growth  
Hubs

£20m for Peer to  
Peer & Business  
Leadership via  
Growth Hubs

Additional £30m  
secured for ERDF  
funding via Growth  
Hubs

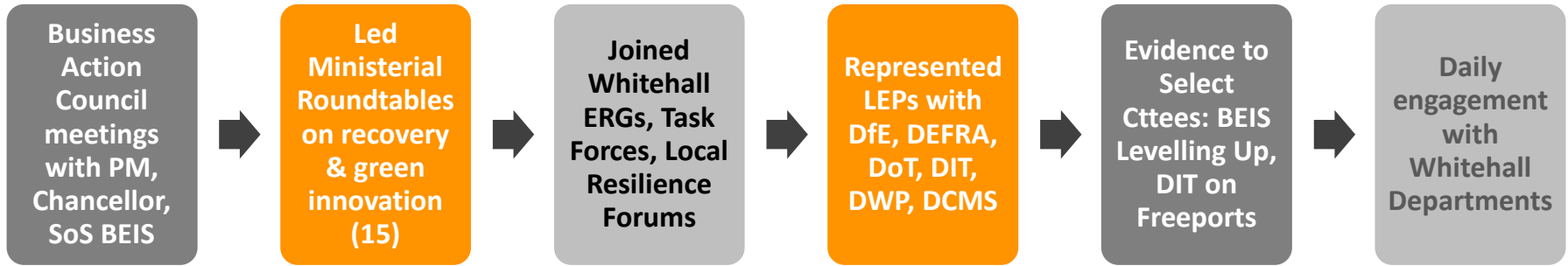
LGF review  
managed and  
£900m secured for  
GBF projects

Capacity funding  
secured within  
constraints of  
SR2020



# 3. Reputation – HMG

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### 3. Reputation – HMG

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- Now **INVITED** to join Ministerial and Government Officials Groups.
- Secured free Cabinet Office Business Leadership programme.
- Created LEP exec and IoD accredited board induction & training.
- Completed first year of Peer to Peer reviews with Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, working towards second year.
- Increased uptake on media platforms including quotes in Ministerial press releases and tweets.



### 3. Reputation – HMG

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*“Fantastic set of regional roundtables with local SMEs across the UK and LEP network over last 2 weeks.”*  
**Business Minister, Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP, July 2020**

*“This has been absolutely phenomenal ... it’s invaluable for me and for the centre, for No10, Treasury, as well as BEIS”.* **Business Minister, Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP, October 2020**



*“LEPs have played a key role in mitigating the immediate business impact of Covid-19, including through your engagement with local businesses, helping to shape the Government’s understanding of their needs and priorities. Your local support measures for employers and businesses have also been greatly appreciated.”* **Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP and Luke Hall MP, Minister for Regional Growth, November 2020.**

*“It is vital we continue to work with networks across the UK like Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure businesses get the support they need to recover.”* **Small Business Minister, Paul Scully MP, July 2020**



### 3. Reputation – HMG

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*“I recognise and welcome the LEP response to the impact of COVID-19 and the local support measures you have put in place to help employers and businesses.”* **Skills Minister, Gillian Keegan MP, November 2020**

*“Thanks for all your contributions to our MHCLG team. I certainly recognise the importance of "sub regional" planning given political geography does not always map to physical or economic geography”.* **Housing Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP, November 2020**



*“ Thank you very much for all your (LEP) support and I will look at your CSR proposals”* **Chancellor of the Exchequer, 13 November 2020**



*“This is an opportunity for local enterprise to dovetail with Government...and mutually support each other”* **Minister for Clean Growth, Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, October 2020.**



### 3. Reputation - HMG

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Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

*“LEPs are playing a crucial role in helping us to promote the support that is available for businesses and employees through your channels, stakeholders and networks”.*

**BEIS Official, March 2020**

*“LEPs are playing an important role in supporting our economic recovery from COVID-19, including through their engagement with businesses across their areas”.*

**MHCLG Official, August 2020**



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

# 3. Reputation – Opinion forming

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Gained traction with trade and specialist outlets – again they ASK for our comment



DODs Parliamentary Monitor seeks our views and tips off on circulation (SR2020)



Social media 100%+ increase in audience following and traffic including Ministers and Officials adding value to published posts



Website overhauled to support our priorities



Uptake in LEP Newsletter opt-in subscriptions



# 3. Reputation - Stakeholders



Industrial Strategy Council



# 3. Reputation - Stakeholders

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## Industrial Strategy Council

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*“Making a success of levelling-up will require a significant investment in capacity and capability at the sub-national level.”* **Andy Haldane, Chair, ISC**

*“...there is a clear need for a commitment to longer-term funding to support LEPs in building policy making capacity.”*

**ISC Report**

*“...local coordination and enthusiasm have been significant positives in the development of Local Industrial Strategies. But now the LEPs and Combined Authorities are looking for evidence of coordination and enthusiasm from central government in response. The combination of the Covid crisis and Brexit uncertainties should not become a reason for delay from Whitehall, which needs to support local leaderships to maintain this positive momentum.”*

**Dame Kate Barker, Member, ISC**



# 3. Reputation – Stakeholders

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*“Our survey found that 90% of manufacturers felt business organisations, LEPs, growth hubs and Trade Associations were best placed to understand the needs of business”.*

**Make UK**

*“Key to delivering this sustained economic growth is harnessing our Industrial Strategy and implementing it effectively at a local level through the development of strong local industrial strategies with industry, Government and local stakeholders working together”.*

**Stephen Phipson, CEO, Make UK**

*“LEPs and Growth Hubs must be ‘levelled up’ to ensure they can deliver consistently on behalf of the businesses they represent.”*

**CBI, Reviving Regions Report**

*“Businesses and stakeholders have been clear that a new, flexible, and whole systems approach is needed to recover and level up the country. This must be driven from Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Growth Hubs..”*

**CBI, Reviving Regions Report**



### 3. Reputation - Stakeholders

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*“We recommend the Government puts additional funding into dedicated Local Project Facilitation Funds, which would be made available to local authorities and local enterprise partnerships.”* **Centre for Policy Studies**




*“LEPs are the only game in town...there’s just no other private-public partnership”.* **Source MJ**



# 3. Reputation – Media Coverage

**mark bretton** @BrettonMark  
Likewise! There is a shared agenda to shape where we can bring the best of the capabilities of the Chambers and the wider LEP Network together. Looking forward to collaborating more in the months ahead  
[@TheLEPNetwork](#) [@HertsLEP](#)

**Adam Marshall** @BCCAdam · 3h  
Great to catch up with Mark Bretton, new Chair of @TheLEPNetwork, this morning. Chambers and Local Enterprise Partnerships across share so many priorities for local growth - and will continue to work closely together at this crucial time for our communities.  
#localgrowth



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.CO.UK

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## LEP Network comes out fighting ahead of White Paper

By Dan Peters | 30 July 2020

The chair of the network that supports local enterprise partnerships (LEP) has come out fighting amid fears the future of the organisations could be at risk.

## A five point plan for economic revolution

By Mark Bretton | 14 August 2020

Among all the historic milestones we've witnessed recently, was a figure released in August showing that UK coal use is at its lowest level for 250 years. That puts us at 1769 levels, just before the Industrial Revolution ignited. Such profound changes are shaping the way we will live and work in the future.

210 184 620

**Nadhim Zahawi** @nadhimzahawi · 7h  
Very pleased to meet with Mark Bretton, Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership Network and @HertsLEP, to discuss the great work LEPs and Growth Hubs do. Looking forward to working together to make sure we promote growth and support businesses across the country!



CBI | WHAT WE DO and why we do it | OUR CAMPAIGNS make a difference | BECOME A MEMBER Protect and grow your business | THE BUSINESS VIEW CBI reacts and informs

THE CBI > GROWTH HUBS SUPPORTING BUSINESS THROUGH COVID-19

## Growth Hubs supporting business through COVID-19

Growth Hubs work across the country to connect businesses to the best help to meet their needs; find your local Growth Hub from our list and access vital support

26 Mar 2020, 1 min read

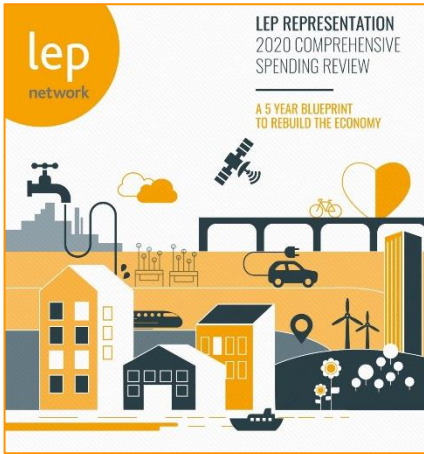
England's 38 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Hubs are available to provide practical support and guidance to local employers and businesses across the country facing the challenges caused by the economic impact of coronavirus.

Growth Hubs work across the country with local and national, public and private sector partners to direct local





# 4. Policy/Delivery



## 5. Clean Growth

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- LEP 'Shovel Ready' projects dominated by green innovation.
- Green innovation proposals in '5 Point Plan'.
- Detailed green policy pillar in CSR proposals.
- PM's Ten Point Plan mirrored LEP green innovation proposals.
- Green innovation and clean growth at centre of LEP energy strategies. LIS, and economic recovery planning.



# In summary

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- The LEP Network is now much more effective.
- We are starting to punch our collective weight
- Collaboration has really increased as has speed to consensus.
- We have made great strides in very difficult times.
- Our stakeholders now see the “LEP factor”.
- However, this is only the end of the beginning.



# Short term focus – 2021

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- CEO Activity
  - Capacity and Growth Hub funding
  - Influencing & positioning on Levelling-Up Fund
  - Influencing & positioning on UKSPF
  - Role in National Infrastructure Strategy
  - Proactive planning on board equality & diversity
  - Planning for LEP modelling scenarios of the future
- Initial proposals to come to LEP Network Board before Xmas.



# Medium term focus – beyond 2021

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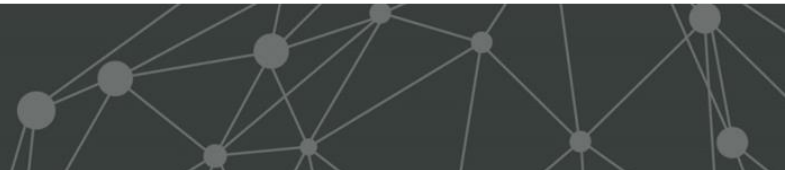
- Lining up for Local Recovery and Devolution White Paper.
- Continue to strengthen stakeholder engagement.
- Forging consistency and focus of message – this is working.
- Continue to be agile and flexible as Brexit and Covid play out.





**And finally...**

**Mark Bretton, Chair, LEP Network**



# Let's have confidence

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- Overall our plan has survived the turmoil and adapted well.
- We should be pleased with progress, but not complacent.
- We have shown we have a capable, talented, committed team.
- We are the bridge between business and government; our make up is our key differentiator and catalyst for impact.
- The 'LEP factor' continues to amaze, but there is more to do.

