



**Greater Birmingham  
& Solihull**  
Local Enterprise Partnership



**GREATER BIRMINGHAM & SOLIHULL**  
**STRATEGIC**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**PLAN**

**'THE SEP TO CHANGE BRITAIN'**

**APPENDIX E:**  
**CROSS-LEP COLLABORATION**

### Cross-LEP Collaboration

The economies of the six West Midlands LEPs (Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire, Greater Birmingham and Solihull, the Marches Stoke & Staffordshire and Worcestershire – see map at the end of this appendix) are closely linked. The LEPs recognise that supply chains, transport links and skills needs do not stop at an individual LEP’s boundary and that businesses have similar needs in relation to support and access to finance. As such, the potential for collaboration and achieving better outcomes through joint working is great.

To facilitate this, the six West Midlands LEP Chairs meet on a quarterly basis and there are a series of sub-groups that focus on specific issues. The table below summarises the areas of current and future collaboration.

Cross-LEP Collaboration Already Undertaken	Future Areas of Cross-LEP Activity
<b>Transport</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Cross-LEP Transport meeting of all the Board Transport leads (i.e. Directors) across all 6 West Mids LEP</li> <li>• Production of a clear Cross-LEP transport strategy and priorities document with a common set of asks.</li> <li>• Standing invites for of Directors or officers to attend respective Transport Group meetings between GBS and Black County (BC) and Coventry and Warwickshire (CW) LEPs</li> <li>• Participation of GBS, BC and CW Board Transport leads in the newly formed shadow West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority in an advisory capacity</li> <li>• Joint support for Pinchpoint schemes between GBS and Worcestershire / Stoke and Staffordshire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting work to develop and lobby for improvements to support national and international connectivity particularly HS2 and Airports</li> <li>• Joint governance arrangements between GBS and BC</li> <li>• Joint development of a West Midlands Rail Franchise specification</li> <li>• Joint working on the “Midlands Connect” initiative, focussed on developing the strongest possible case for transport investment in the region that will inform strategic rail and highways programmes.</li> </ul>
<b>Access to Finance</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Midlands Cross-LEP Finance Group meets regularly, encompassing the Board Directors that have an Access to Finance brief (or the Board’s nominated person)</li> <li>• Joint research looking at the need and potential for a cross-LEP financial instrument to support business enterprise and innovation</li> <li>• Greenbridge - £60m WM programme (BCC-led) funded by £20m RGF and £40m private sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a West Midlands JEREMIE - commitment by the 6 WM LEPs to 50m euros investment to draw down 50m euros from the EIB and make an application for the AWM legacy funds</li> </ul>

<b>Cross-LEP Collaboration Already Undertaken</b>	<b>Future Areas of Cross-LEP Activity</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative – £19m fund for BC, CW and GBS and Liverpool LEPs.</li> <li>Recently launched £6m West Midlands Tooling fund</li> <li>Growing Places – joint funding of schemes between Worcs and GBS and Stoke &amp; Staffs and GBS</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Growth Hubs</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular meeting of a WM Business Support Group</li> <li>Working with other LEPs to co-ordinate development of Growth Hubs to ensure that they are aligned and the offer does not duplicate or confuse the customer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business support programmes – potential to commission joint programmes through ESIF monies</li> <li>Growth Hub CRM system – joint procurement is being proposed to ensure vfm is achieved and alignment maximised</li> <li>Advanced Manufacturing Growth Hub – will have a single Hub for AME across GBS, the BC and CW as a minimum</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GBS and BC LEPs are undertaking a joint Housing Needs Assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More joined-up working on spatial planning and the housing agenda</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Inward Investment</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investing in the City Region project – ERDF funded project administered by Business Birmingham to position Birmingham, the Black Country and Solihull as leading inward investment locations and major engines of UK growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further joint work on international inward investment</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with W Mids Vice-Chancellors</li> <li>Ongoing discussion around industry/education engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal to develop a joint programme for the Advanced Manufacturing sector between GBS, BC and CW LEPs</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor Economy</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint working between GBS and BC LEPs through Marketing Birmingham</li> </ul>	

# GBS and surrounding LEPs

