



Press Release

16 June 2011

Enterprise zone recommendations great news for the city region economy

The Leeds City Region has considered a number of excellent sites that the LEP want to see invested in during the next few years and the Board has agreed that Aire Valley Leeds is their preferred location for the Enterprise Zone.

The Aire Valley EZ can deliver a number of things for the city region, including:

- A long term funding stream for the LEP to invest in promoting economic growth
- A significant increase in economic output and new jobs
- Access to job opportunities across a wide geographic area

A detailed economic analysis of each proposal was carried out to assess the benefits capable of being generated from each proposal for the city region as a whole and the Aire Valley was the most productive.

The recommendation has been also guided by the Government's clear requirement that the EZs should be generally based on 'clean sites' with little or no business occupants.

The Aire Valley in Leeds can deliver £550m of additional economic output and over 9,500 new jobs by 2025, which will be accessible to over 630,000 households in the city region.



With regard to the recommendations, Neil McLean, Chair of the Leeds City Region LEP Board said:

“The opportunity presented by the Aire Valley EZ is extremely good news for the whole city region and seen by the LEP as a positive first step towards fulfilling its ambition to grow and become a world-leading, dynamic economy.”

“Bradford City Centre is a clear regeneration priority for the city region and has the LEP’s full support. Next steps include examining which funds and financial mechanisms can best support the delivery of major investments that the Bradford city centre needs.”

“We are also supporting Selby’s Regional Growth Fund bid to round 2, and we have made a commitment to work with Wakefield to broaden the district’s employment base.”

The LEP Board feels that the opportunity presented by this funding stream is important for the City Region but needs to be seen as part of a wider range of funding options being explored by the LEP Board.

The work already conducted on the other EZ proposals has identified a range of important issues that the LEP will need to give consideration to in developing its Plan, to address its longer term priorities and deliver its ambition.”

The Plan will be discussed with businesses and LEPs across the country at a national event organised by the Leeds City Region Partnership on the 9th September 2011.

Ends



Notes to editors:

1. The Leeds City Region (LCR) Partnership brings together a group of 11 local authorities (Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Craven, Harrogate, Kirklees, Leeds, Selby, Wakefield and York, along with North Yorkshire County Council) with businesses and partners to support economic growth and a better quality of life for our communities.
2. The Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership area is the largest city region economy and financial centre in the country outside London. With a £51billion economy representing 5% of the overall UK economy, over 100,000 businesses and a 3 million population, the city region will continue to be at the forefront in both driving the economy of the North and accelerating national economic prosperity.
3. The Leeds City Region's main objectives are: providing sustainable and affordable housing, better connected transport system, skills and training that reflect the needs of city region employers, creating the environment for businesses to innovate and supporting low carbon, sustainable communities.
4. For more information on the Leeds City Region Partnership please visit www.leedscityregion.gov.uk.
5. For information about the Leeds City Region LEP Summit please visit <http://www.leedscityregionsummit2011.com/summit/home.cfm>

Ends

**For press/media enquiries please contact:
Maraki Mikroudaki, Communications Officer
Leeds City Region Partnership
Tel: 0113 2476947**