

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee: Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF)

Expression of Interest/Application Template

Gloucestershire Economic Growth: Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF):

This fund is for the benefit of the whole of Gloucestershire, and utilising funds from the current Gloucestershire Local Authority Business Rates Pool. It facilitates collective work on the economic development agenda and reflects the commitment of the Pool participants to drive economic investment which also links to the planning and infrastructure process. Eligibility criteria for the fund has been established and agreed by all participants, against which bids for funding are assessed.

Access to the Fund is for the principle stakeholders only – the Local Authorities and Local Economic Partnership, and any project or funding request will need to have a clearly identified sponsoring lead organisation/contact. Expression of Interest submissions should be completed and submitted for consideration by the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee Senior Officer Support Group, at a relevant meeting. They will assess its potential against the criteria and whether a good strategic fit. This mirrors the same approach adopted for the consideration of new projects for the Gloucestershire Capital Investment Pipeline (CIP).

Project Name:	
GFirst LEP – Gloucestershire’s Local Enterprise Partnership (request for match funding for National Government’s core funding April 2021 to March 2023 – 2 years)	
Investment theme: <i>Tick the primary theme that best fits your project. If applicable, also tick a sub theme. If ‘other’ state and explain.</i>	
Primary investment theme: Business Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Place Shaping <input type="checkbox"/> Skills and Employment Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sub investment theme: Digital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regeneration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
Promoter Details:	
Promoter Organisation	GFirst LEP, Gloucestershire’s Local Enterprise Partnership
Promoter Address	Oxstalls Campus, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 9HW
Primary Contact (name & job title)	Dev Chakraborty – Deputy Chief Executive
Email Address	dev.chakraborty@gfirstlep.com

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Contact Telephone Number

01242 715480

Project Summary (Max 250 words) *(Describe your project idea clearly and succinctly, including what the investment would buy, and why it would lead to economic growth for Gloucestershire. Include the potential timeframe, and any significant drivers or constraints related to the scheduling of the investment.*

Local Enterprise Partnerships were **set up in 2011** by the Department of Business, Innovation & Skills.

There are **38** Local Enterprise Partnerships across England. They are business led partnerships between local authorities and local private sector businesses. They play a central role in determining **local economic priorities** and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and job creation, improve infrastructure and raise workforce skills within the local area. LEP boards are led by a business Chair and board members are local leaders of industry (including SMEs), educational institutions and the public sector.

Mark Hawthorne is a LEP Board member representing Gloucestershire County Council.

Steve Jordan (Cheltenham Borough Council) is a LEP Board member representing the six local authorities.

Doina Cornell (Stroud District Council) is the LEP Board Observer.

As part of our Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), we have brought £101,690,000 into the county through the **Gloucestershire Growth Deal**, and EU 41,000,000 in European funding through our **EU Structural & Investment Funds Strategy**.

This funding has paid for projects including; The Growth Hub Network, The Gloucester Transport Hub, Farm 491 in Cirencester, the refurbishment of the Merrywalks Shopping Centre in Stroud, Elmbridge Court Roundabout and the GREEN Skills Centre in Berkeley to name just a few.

More recently in July 2020 we successfully bid for a further £11.3million from the **Getting Building Fund**. This investment will fund five further infrastructure projects across the county; 'The Minster Innovation Exchange' with Cheltenham Borough Council, 'Cyber Incubations Units' with Gloucestershire College, 'The Digital Innovation Farm' with Hartpury University & Hartpury College, 'A Construction Education Centre' with KW Bell Group Ltd in Cinderford and 'The Gloucestershire Applied Digital Skills Centre' with Cirencester College.

Thanks to this investment, GFirst LEP is funding cutting edge projects, fuelling innovation and facilitating change, laying solid foundations for Gloucestershire's next steps to economic growth.

Summary of benefits/outcomes that will be delivered (Max 250 words) *(Expanding on your summary, provide information on the tangible benefits or outcomes that would be delivered, leading*

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to the growth of the Gloucestershire economy. These could address challenges or capitalise on opportunities, including those associated with improving productivity. List the expected benefits, estimated quantities and indicate the timescales).

Key priorities for 2021/23

- 1) **Recovery Planning** - GFirst LEP has collaborated closely with its local authority partners to produce a suite of documents, research and interventions to aid the county's recovery plan. We will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to help the county to bounce back from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2) Working closely with the private sector and all of our local authority partners, we have drafted a **Local Industrial Strategy** for the county. This strategy seeks to drive productivity and prosperity in our county and support an inclusive economy. This strategy will run alongside our investment portfolio to attract further funding into the county.
- 3) GFirst LEP is a key partner for the **Western Gateway** initiative, one of three LEPs involved and which ultimately has a key aim of raising the profile of the wider region and attracting additional Government funding.
- 4) GFirst LEP co-ordinates and drives the **inward investment** activity for the county and has secured £500k EU funding for this project running to December 2022.
- 5) GFirst LEP has invested £22 million into **Cyber Central** to fund the initial road infrastructure to open up access to the cyber park. There are a few remaining **Local Growth Deal** funded projects that will be completed in the next 18/24 months. These include: Gloucester Railway Station, Cheltenham Spa Railway Station and the A40 Innsworth Gateway.

In addition, there are also 5 innovative, infrastructure projects funded from the **Getting Building Fund** with a target completion date of December 2021.

The GFirst LEP exec team will ensure these projects are successfully completed and achieve all their agreed outputs.

Strategic Fit (Max 150 words) (Give the local, regional or national context for your project. Explain how it clearly aligns to the Strategic Economic Plan v2
<https://www.qfirstlep.com/downloads/2018/sep-2-update2018v3.pdf>

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and complements the local District strategies and delivery plans

GFirst LEP wrote the Strategic Economic Plan. Along with the draft Local Industrial Strategy, it is one of the two key strategies that drive everything we do.

Evidence of need or demand (Max 150 words) *(give details of the evidence you can reference that supports your case that there is a need or demand for this project)*

N/A

Summary of the project costs and any sources of funding: *(Estimated total capital cost of the project, and (if available) list the main elements of the budget. Provide details of any potential or secured source(s) of funding and the likely shortfall.)*

No capital costs requested.

Summary of the Revenue Investment(s) required *(Explain how the project would be deliverable and sustainable by explaining the sources of revenue funding to support the likely cost needed to deliver the project following the capital investment)*

The match-funding request for our core funding is £250,000 per year for 2 years.

Central Government provides core funding to all Local Enterprise Partnerships to the value of £250,000.

This £250,000 match funding has been provided since 2013/14 either via Gloucestershire County Council directly or more recently through the GEGJC SEDF.

Project Status *(select from one of the following, and provide brief explanation)*

Concept Stage *(very early stages, requires considerable development before it could be considered for funding)*

Outline Stage *(early stages, some detail clear but longer-term aspiration which will need further development)*

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Developed Stage (<i>clear project plan, deliverable, but seeking funds</i>)	The LEP has been in existence since 2011 and is frequently acknowledged to be in the top 5 or 10 LEPs in the country.
Mobilising Stage (<i>project moving close to delivery, which still has some challenges to overcome</i>)	
Project Status: key milestones (<i>where applicable, provide brief notes on the current situation</i>)	
Promoter identified	N/A
Full Business case available	N/A
Planning Status	N/A
Land Assembly (potential requirement for CPO)	N/A
Confirmed Funding Sources	We are awaiting confirmation from National Government on the core funding from April 1 st 2021.
Design Detail Stage	N/A
Earliest Potential Start Date	1 st April, 2021

Key challenges/risks associated with Project (*give brief indication of the main challenges or risks associated with the successful delivery of this project*)

Challenge / Risk	Potential Impact / mitigation

Declaration by Applicant

I certify to the best of my knowledge the information submitted on this form is true and correct.

Signed (on behalf of Promoter)

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Date: - 6th October, 2020

Name and title: Dev Chakraborty, Deputy Chief Executive, GFirst LEP

Sent to: (Name of organisation / person) Mike Dawson, Tewkesbury Borough Council
Date submitted: 6th October, 2020

