



Knowledge Exchange Framework Local Growth and Regeneration Narrative Template

For submission to KEF@re.ukri.org by Friday 16 October 2020*

Max words: 2,000 (plus 120 word lay summary).

*The original deadline of 29 May 2020 was extended in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Submissions must use the KEF narrative templates, but either this template or the version with the old submission date will be accepted.

Local growth and regeneration narrative statement

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Total word count (<i>including summary of approach</i>)	2118

Please note a word limit of 2,000 words applies across the three 'aspects' of this statement. The summary of approach (below) has a separate word limit of 120 words. Diagrams and images may be included, providing they can be extracted for online display and the total statement (excluding cover page) does not exceed ten pages.

Summary of approach

Summary

Please provide a short (max 120 words) summary of your approach to local growth and regeneration. This should be in the style of a 'lay summary' and provide a succinct and accessible overview of your approach.

Leeds Beckett University's (LBU) approach to local growth and regeneration is built on the foundations of working in partnership and taking the lead on informed, innovative action which meets the needs of place.

We strategically invest to:

- Maximise our local impact working in our extensive stakeholder networks to identify need and co-create action;
- Support the economic life of place through targeted and sustained activity where we can have greatest local impact;
- Support the educational growth of place by producing high quality graduates, teachers and need based skills development programmes (e.g. Degree Apprenticeships); and
- Support the culture and wellbeing of a place through the application and dissemination of our academic and professional expertise working in partnership with stakeholders and communities.

Word count: 119

Aspect 1: Strategy

Strategic approach

Information on your strategic approach to local growth and regeneration as a means to understand your intended achievements. This should include an outline of the geographic areas that you have recognised to be strategically relevant to your institution at a local, regional, national or international level. How did you identify the strategic importance of these area(s) and how have you identified the local growth and regeneration 'needs' of the area(s)?

Refer to the supporting guidance document for examples of evidence you may wish to include to corroborate your narrative (pages 10 -11).

Our KE Strategy, recognises the importance of place and sets out our vision of the role our university plays. We invest HEIF funding to support our activities which deliver local growth and regeneration in the places we engage.

The geographic areas most strategically relevant to LBU are the City of Leeds and Leeds City Region (LCR). As an active member of "Core Cities", we recognise that our KE can and should be applied wherever it has national impact in a localised context. This is particularly relevant when applying our key academic strengths (e.g. public health).

We systematically gather stakeholder views, map our role, and create a framework to inform strategy and evidence impact. We use this data to build partnerships and target programmes, truly improving local growth and regeneration.

We set out our strategic approach in four themed areas suggested by the NCCPE alternative framework for reporting Local Growth and Regeneration:

Strategic Investment to Maximise our Local Impact

As a significant employer and provider of high-level skills, we are pivotal in our regional economy. Our ongoing investment in our people and students underpins our contribution to the region. Further investment in new Arts and Sports buildings (GBP 125 million) has created new homes for these activities and better places for them for future contribution.

Membership in The Leeds Anchor's Network shapes policy generation and as chair, our Vice Chancellor champions its strategic importance and actions. Our anchor role is embedded in our strategic planning and is reflected in key documents including the university's strategic plan, estates plan, procurement plan and research and enterprise plan. (<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/>).

Through Yorkshire Universities, we participated in the co-creation of LCR Local Industrial Strategy, manifesting in the funding of the West Yorkshire Innovation Network through our local Devolution deal. We strategically engage to implement this strategy, thereby supporting LCR economic growth.

Supporting the Economic Life of a Place

LBU has formal relationships (MOUs) with many of our City Region's Local Authorities (LAs) and the Local Economic Partnership (LEP). This led to strategic investment (through HEIF and other funding) in our University Business Centres in Leeds, Halifax and Wakefield and the development of local place-based interventions supporting growth in local SMEs led by our Business School. We have senior level representation on the Leeds Business Improvement District, Leeds City Region LEP, Leeds and West Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, Leeds Innovation District, Leeds Anchors network, and Leeds Academic Health Partnership.

Supporting the Educational growth of a Place

Over 70% of our students come from the Leeds City region and over 50% of students remain following graduation. This, along with our strategic investment in the School of Education to provide the teachers of the future, makes us a significant contributor to skills in the region. We have also focused on growing our Degree Apprenticeship programme to support local businesses and third sector employers. Working with City Region sub-groups (e.g. The LEP's Business Innovation and Growth panel) and key employers in specific sectors (e.g. Digital) enables us to focus on a sector's educational or skill needs, which has led to several local developments (e.g. Digital skills gaps and rapid education of nursing associates). Additionally, our DVC chairs the Go Higher West Yorkshire initiative ensuring we link strategic activity into developing routes within local schools to widen educational growth through participation in higher education.

Supporting the Cultural and Wellbeing of a Place

Much of our KE activity provides benefits across cultural and wellbeing activities. We focus primarily on young people through the Carnegie School of Sports' support for local clubs and elite athletes. We have invested in Carnegie Great Outdoors, a service that raises aspirations and resilience of all-ages through outdoor activities. Our health and wellbeing programmes delivered by students, spin outs and academics are tailored to benefit localities and improve lives. We support and invest to deliver enhanced culture of place informed by our engagement with civic and community stakeholders (e.g. our role as key patron and Board member for the Leeds 2023 European Capital of Culture bid).

Word count: 668

Aspect 2: Activity

Delivering your strategy

Information on the focus of your approach and the activities delivered. How do you know it met the identified needs of the geographic areas you identified? Please focus on the last three years of activity.

Refer to the supporting guidance document for examples of evidence you may wish to include to corroborate your narrative (page 11).

Our approach to local growth and regeneration is needs and evidence based, built on long term commitment, appropriately resourced and sustainable into the future. Intelligence is derived through direct intervention and by actively participating in lasting partnerships. The longevity of these relationships provides the mechanism for receiving direct feedback and the ability to continually evaluate and improve activity.

We provide evidence to support our approach set out in the four thematic areas suggested by NCCPE.

Strategic Investment to Maximise our Local Impact

Our role in the Leeds Anchor Network provides us with a collective view of the needs of our city. It also allows us to canvas opinion about the specific role our university should play. Our Anchor strategy and activities are led by our Vice-Chancellor who, through research, identified the value of the “Leeds Beckett Pound” when applied to local suppliers. As a result, we and other members of the Anchor Network changed our procurement practice to support a doubling of our spending with local suppliers, now £1bn which in turn led to growth in their businesses, an increase in local employment and a reduction in the carbon footprint of our supply chain.

Supporting the Economic Life of a Place

Our university has formalised its relationship with several of our City Region’s Local Authorities (LAs) through MOUs. Our work with LAs identified a need (confirmed by the HEFCE report on HEI Cold-Spots), recognising places without a university suffer disproportionately in terms of growth opportunities and access to skilled workers. As a result, our university invested GBP 500,000 in a partnership which supported the creation and sustaining of new businesses in Leeds City Region (Ad:Venture). The Investment of over GBP 300,000 from our LA partners enabled us to establish University Business Centres (UBCs) in Halifax and Wakefield to deliver the programme and provide a HE presence in these places for the first time. In the last two years, we have secured additional funding of over GBP1.5million from the City Region to ensure the sustainability of this activity. Delivered by our Business School in partnership with our UBCs, these activities are meeting needs identified by our City Region partners in relation to SME development, Women in Business and productivity improvements through management practices via mKTPs.

The evolution of the Ad:Venture programme into Accelerate (a continuation of ESIF funding) was informed by the evaluation of our activity and provides evidence of success in meeting local place based need.

Supporting the Educational growth of a Place

Our deep partner relationships enable us to identify very specific needs of key sectors in terms of educational and skills needs. Over the last three years, working with representatives from the local construction, nursing, hospitality management and digital sectors, we have invested over GBP 100,000 pa (HEIF) to develop a portfolio of Degree level Apprenticeships. This activity has over 900 students studying to meet the identified skill needs of local employers. Recognising that our programmes meet the needs of Leeds’s priority sectors, Leeds City Council transferred some of their own levy funds to enable employers to send apprentices to LBU.

Supporting the Cultural and Wellbeing of a Place

We recognise the important role that public health plays in the everyday lives of our communities. Our relationship with Public Health England identified a “Whole Systems Approach” could address the growing obesity crisis, globally and locally. Our world leading academic expertise in effective treatments for childhood and adult obesity, led to a spin-out company (MoreLife Ltd) which delivers Integrated Healthy Lifestyle Services (IHLS). We invested GBP 500,000 to establish the company and annually invest circa GBP 60,000 per annum in business development support. Morelife now provide services to many Local and Health Authorities with secured contracts of GBP 30 million and an annual turnover of over GBP 5 million. The recent extension of our IHLS contract with Suffolk County Council (from five to nine years) is evidence that the GBP 3.5 million a year contract is delivering to local defined need.

Working with civic partners, we identified a need to support the cultural infrastructure of our City. We invested GBP 80 million in a new Arts Building (opens 2021) with state-of-the-art performance and recording facilities. The building is based in the heart of the City’s Innovation District providing access to these facilities for the communities of Leeds.

Additionally, our investment (GBP 45 million) in a new Carnegie Sport Building (opened 2020) provides much needed sports facilities to meet demand from increasing numbers of students and cutting-edge research equipment available to communities from local residents to performance athletes.

Word count: 758

Aspect 3: Results

Achieving and acting on results

Describe the outcomes and/or impacts of your activity. How do you communicate and act on the results?

Refer to the supporting guidance document for examples of evidence you may wish to include to corroborate your narrative (page 11).

Our approach to communicating and acting on the results of our Local Growth and Regeneration activity is evidenced through the examples below.

Strategic Investment to Maximise our Local Impact

Engagement with the Leeds Anchor Network encouraged us to maximise our local procurement. The proportion of spend with LCR suppliers has increased from 38% to 59%, adding over GBP13 million of revenue to local businesses. We capture our institutional performance as an anchor through the Anchor Progression Framework championed by the Vice Chancellor. This framework drives our activity review and is regularly referenced in staff briefings.

Supporting the Economic Life of a Place

The range and scale of our impact in business support is recognised for its large scale intervention across LCR:

- GBP 21 million ESIF Ad:Venture programme (now 'Accelerate'). Co-designed with partners including, LAs, Chambers of Commerce, Princes' Trust and Business Enterprise Fund;
- The support and incubation of new businesses (over 450 supported since 2018) in our University Business Centres in Wakefield and Halifax in partnership with LAs;
- Direct business interventions through KTPs and our own Business Growth and Innovation Programmes and locally awarded grants.

We have supported over 1000 Leeds City Region SMEs in the last three years in programmes that evolve, acting on the feedback of participants and stakeholders.

Supporting the Educational growth of a Place

Our careers and employment teams, working with businesses and Leeds City Council have developed interventions for local demand in digital skills engaging more women in STEM subjects. Examples include Digital Leap, a 10-week programme providing software development and web training for students from any discipline and an "Explore Enterprise" course delivered in partnership with The Princes' Trust. The impact of these programmes, disseminated and promoted directly to our students, resulted in a 50% increase in enquiries for employment related programmes in the last two years.

Our Degree Apprenticeship (DA) programmes have been set up in rapid response to emerging skills need. We responded to demand from local HNS trusts for Nursing Apprenticeships at the start of the Covid pandemic and, starting September 2020, have a cohort of 103 students. Our DA programme successfully recruits by tailoring the capacity for places to demand informed by local sector groups in Construction and Healthcare. We remain the only university in our City Region to be able to deliver Apprenticeships to non-levy paying SMEs, again, acting to meet local demand.

Supporting the Cultural and Wellbeing of a Place

Our work in Integrated Healthy Lifestyles has contributed to a real step change in healthy living. We provide services supporting over 14,000 people a year (60% of clients from the 40% most deprived communities) with an average 5% weight-loss in addition to other benefits (reduced smoking and alcohol dependency). Results are evaluated through a comprehensive PhD research programme, fed back to our commissioners and service improvements are implemented.

Our Architecture Live Project (students working directly with communities to meet design needs) resulted in the renovation of a community building in a deprived area of south Leeds meeting local need.

Our approach to supporting culture is open and inclusive, enabling engagement through the medium of technology. For example, our Cultural Conversations series in partnership with Leeds City Council and Palgrave Macmillan; and our Inside Out Lectures. Many of our cultural place based engagements are celebrated through our external web pages. (see: [50 years](#) and [LBU Together](#))

More comprehensive details of these and other activities are included in a [summary table here](#).

Word count: 572