

Fit for the Future? II

Local Enterprise Partnerships' Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Good Practice

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About Sustainability West Midlands

We are the sustainability adviser for the leaders of the West Midlands. We are also the regional sustainability champion body for the West Midlands, designated by government. We are a not-for-profit company that works with our members in the business, public and voluntary sectors. Our Board is private sector led and has cross-sector representation; they are supported by our team of staff and associates.

Our vision is that by 2020 businesses and communities are thriving in a West Midlands that is environmentally sustainable and socially just.

Our role is to act as a catalyst for change through our advice to leaders, to develop practical solutions with our members and share success through our communications.

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Executive Summary

This report, *Fit for the Future II*, is aimed at Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and those working with LEPs at the local and national level to integrate climate adaptation, mitigation and the low carbon economy into the economic strategies to inform the potential for billion pounds worth of investments over the next five years.

The research represents the second national review of all 38 LEPs' commitments to tackling climate change and embracing the low carbon economy, based on information from their recent key strategies, websites and interviews with LEP individuals. It was carried out by Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) with support from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and builds on the first iteration of *Fit for the Future* originally published in January 2016 and re-published in May 2016,¹ also produced by SWM with support from other partners.

The report contains good practice case studies, benchmarking tables, maps and recommendations aimed at LEPs and those working with LEPs.

Headline: Despite the need for greater certainty, clear guidance and resources from national government on what is expected from LEPs in terms of climate change, there is a good range of local good practice emerging from LEPs on addressing climate adaptation, mitigation and the low carbon economy.

Key findings:

- Overall performance is still very varied.
- Promoting the low carbon economy remains the strongest, compared to mitigation and adaptation, in terms of integration within LEPs leadership, strategy and delivery structures.
- The weakest is still climate adaptation.
- Funding levels do not necessarily correlate with LEP activity on this agenda.
- Northern LEPs are, by and large, still performing better than southern LEPs.

Key recommendations for LEPs:

- Embedding climate change and low carbon activity across LEP priorities, rather than keeping it standalone, is most effective when translating strategy into delivery.
- Cross-LEP working is still very uncommon but can have huge benefits.

¹ <http://bit.ly/1Kp0c0A>

- Key partners, such as universities and local authorities, should be brought in to support programmes but manage their expectations.
- Recognise the breadth of activities encompassed by local energy and promote community energy activities.
- Consult the report commissioned by Liverpool City Region LEP, '*LEPs and local energy*'.²
- Liaise continuously with other LEPs listed in this report that are demonstrating good practice.
- Put pressure on national and local bodies if you need support; do not wait for them to approach you.
- Use the forthcoming opportunity provided by BEIS to develop an energy strategy and use this as an opportunity to strengthen your overall low carbon agenda.
- Establish a sustainability/low carbon Board champion or working group.
- Improve your reporting; publish an annual report that reflects recent activity.

Key recommendations for national bodies:

- Provide support to help encourage poorer performing LEPs on climate change and the low carbon economy to engage with better performing LEPs to benefit from peer support.
- Produce guidance for LEPs to help strengthen this agenda and ensure that energy strategies come with peer-to-peer and expert advice opportunities.
- All national bodies should work together to develop a mutually beneficial joint support package.
- Implement a mandatory mechanism so that LEPs must publish an annual report.
- Train assessors in the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to improve the quality of EU funding bids.
- Be transparent about future funding opportunities, especially post-Brexit.
- Produce guidance on current, relevant funding opportunities.

² See <http://bit.ly/2voXVoX>.

- Initially target support for those LEPs performing less well but that have an appetite to improve.
- Resource a national event, such as the forthcoming *Fit for the Future II* conference to maintain momentum.
- As part of the devolution agenda, government should resource clusters of leading LEPs on key sustainability themes.
- Provide resource to help LEPs strengthen their resilience to climate impacts.

The full findings and recommendations are included in the main report.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) were formed by local authorities and businesses in 2011 across England to help advise and deliver local economic growth. They replaced the abolished Regional Development Agencies, but with a fraction of the staff and funding. Over time they have developed and taken on more responsibility from the delivery of local growth funds to advising on EU funding priorities. The LEP structures vary across the country, but consistencies are that they all have: a board; a Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) that sets out their economic ambitions for the area and how these will be achieved; and European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) strategy outlining how the LEP plans on spending its allocated European money. They all engage with a range of local authorities, businesses and other partners working together in the local area to promote economic growth.

These LEPs and their partners play an important role in the delivery of local economic growth across England. Therefore, LEPs have a key role in the implementation of relevant climate change action around preparing for extreme weather events, reducing carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases and turning these risks into opportunities through the growth of the low carbon economy.

This report aims to promote the benefits of integrating climate change and low carbon economy activity into LEP working, how doing so can strengthen the economy as well as contribute towards low carbon targets and share good practice showing how LEPs can embrace the agenda.

This report presents the second analysis of each of the 38 LEP's commitments to addressing climate change and embracing the low carbon economy, based on information from their Strategic Economic Plans (SEP), European Structural Investment Fund Strategies (ESIF), annual reports and websites. This iteration has also been supplemented by interviews with individuals based within or working on behalf of LEPs.

The report quantifies progress based on evidence of commitments and projects in published documents that relate to:

- Climate adaptation (preparing for the impacts of extreme weather, including flood risk and green infrastructure provision).
- Mitigation (carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas reduction via implementation of projects related to energy and transport).
- The low carbon economy (support for the production and application of energy efficient products and services and low carbon business support).

Using this analysis, the report provides good practice examples where LEPs are performing well and recommendations on how they can improve.

1.2 Audience

This report is for:

- LEP Board members, champions and their supporting working groups that are tasked to specifically progress climate change or low carbon issues, as well as the broader LEP Boards.
- For local authority sustainability teams or those who manage external funding sources in local authorities on behalf of a LEP.
- The nominated environment and sustainability champion on the LEP area local European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) committees.
- For national bodies, including BEIS, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra), Energy Systems Catapult and others that either provide national or local support to LEPs.

1.3 How to use the report

This report can be used in the following ways:

- To promote existing good practice through the identified case studies. These examples have also informed a second national LEP, climate change and low carbon good practice event³ on 17 October 2017 in Birmingham.
- To identify where your LEP requires improvement either through communicating existing good practice through published documents or by addressing gaps in activities on the ground. For example, the individual LEP detailed assessments can be provided on request to help inform any locally led and agreed improvements.
- To provide a methodology and benchmark that can be repeated to help identify further good practice and progress and provide a clearer national set of criteria for LEPs to work towards on this agenda. This report will build on this following the first *Fit for the Future* report published in early 2016.
- Recommendations on how government can further improve its support to LEPs in the delivery of this agenda.

1.4 Other associated reports

Fit for Future II is being supplemented by other reports, the first of their kind, that analyse climate change and low carbon progress in combined authorities and city regions in the UK. These reports can be found alongside this one on the Sustainability West Midlands website.

³ http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/?post_type=events&p=10895

2. Methodology

The main element of this research consisted of a desk-based exercise that ultimately aimed to build a solid evidence base showing each LEP's climate change and low carbon economy credentials. This process, along with subsequent information gathering processes, is described below. This literature review was supplemented by interviews with LEP officers, or those that work on behalf of LEPs, to get a more in depth and up to date understanding of progress being made by the LEPs that may not be reflected in all the literature.

2.1 Assessment criteria

To assess the extent to which each of the 38 LEPs is committed to addressing climate change and the low carbon economy, a set of criteria was developed by SWM that aims to cover a range of parameters. This includes the implementation of carbon targets, evidence of funding projects relating to climate change and the low carbon economy and methods to ensure these issues are being considered across all LEP activity.

The criteria to identify good practice was developed with support from three existing publications developed and tested by SWM and partners:

- 'The Local Enterprise Partnerships Resilient Growth Information Note.'⁴
- 'How Green is your Local Enterprise Partnership? A guide for LEPs to deliver the low carbon economy.'⁵
- The UK's longest running sustainability benchmark for local authorities 'Local Authority Sustainability Benchmark 2016.'⁶

These publications had already developed and tested criteria to allow climate change champions to assess their LEP's or local council credentials around climate change and the low carbon economy and so these were utilised for the purposes of this exercise.

Other national research was also reviewed to identify any additional review criteria. This included:

- 'Building Economic Resilience 2014' by IPPR North. This reviewed all 39 SEPs⁷ for a range of issues including corporate social responsibility, natural resource use and preparing for climate change.⁸

⁴ <http://bit.ly/2iFAw9g>

⁵ <http://bit.ly/2uZO0p9>

⁶ <http://bit.ly/2oD6lw2>

⁷ Prior to the merger of Northamptonshire LEP and South East Midlands LEP

⁸ http://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/Building-economic-resilience_May2014.pdf?noredirect=1

- ‘Research to Survey Local Authority Action on Adaptation 2015’ for the Committee on Climate Change. This included a sample review of 16 LEPs in high risk areas.⁹

Our criteria have been modified for this second iteration of *Fit for the Future*, reflecting learning from the previous report and additional factors, such as considering post-Brexit funding mechanisms and whether LEPs have low carbon, energy or climate change related strategies.

A spreadsheet was then developed containing the final criteria and assigned (a) letter(s) to determine whether the criteria referred to climate adaptation (A), mitigation (M) or the low carbon economy (LCE). We wanted to cover these broad categories so that a wide spectrum of progress on several issues could be analysed, the exercise could be repeated to benchmark performance and so that the questions were clear enough to indicate what action was required and that it is broadly consistent with previous specific assessments from the previous methodologies.

Overall, there are 26 criteria, 12 of which focus on adaptation, 11 on mitigation and 12 on the low carbon economy, with seven criteria overlapping across two or three of these themes. These were grouped around issues of leadership (11 criteria), strategy (6 criteria) and delivery (9 criteria). These are shown in figures 1a, 1b and 1c.

Figure 1a: Leadership

	Criteria	Theme
1a	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why climate adaptation is important to the local economy, both now and in the future?	A
1b	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why climate change mitigation is important to the local economy, both now and in the future?	M
1c	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why stimulating the low carbon economy is important to the local area, both now and in the future?	LCE
2a	Is there evidence of an individual or team working on behalf of or embedded into the LEP staffing structure whose primary responsibility is to deliver climate adaptation activity?	A
2b	Is there evidence of an individual or team working on behalf of or embedded into the LEP staffing structure whose primary responsibility is to deliver low carbon activity and stimulate the low carbon economy?	M LCE
3a	Is there evidence of a lead or champion on the LEP Board who focuses partly or wholly on climate change adaptation?	A
3b	Is there evidence of a lead or champion on the LEP Board who focuses partly or wholly on carbon reduction or stimulating the low carbon economy?	M LCE

⁹ <http://bit.ly/2u9OIGX>

4a	Is there evidence of an established working group that has a partial or full responsibility for identifying and developing actions with cross-sector partners to deliver climate adaptation actions?	A
4b	Is there evidence of an established working group that has a partial or full responsibility for identifying and developing actions with cross-sector partners to deliver low carbon activity and stimulate the low carbon economy?	M LCE
5a	Is the LEP working with other LEPs on joint adaptation actions (e.g. developing cross-boundary flood alleviation programmes)?	A
5b	Is the LEP working with other LEPs on joint low carbon actions (e.g. developing large scale housing retrofit schemes)?	M LCE

Figure 1b: Strategy

	Criteria	Theme
6	Is there evidence of understanding the climate risks affecting critical elements of your economy (e.g. large businesses; industrial parks; key clusters and sectors)?	A
7a	Is there any evidence of analysing your area's strengths and opportunities in producing adaptation goods and services, e.g. by mapping or developing a SWOT analysis?	A
7b	Is there any evidence of analysing your area's low carbon businesses and infrastructure, e.g. by mapping or developing a SWOT analysis?	LCE
8	Has the LEP published a strategy that sets out how it will deliver activity related to one or all the themes of climate adaptation, local clean energy development, reducing environmental impacts and carbon emissions and/or stimulating a low carbon economy?	A M LCE
9	Is there evidence of the LEP measuring its impact on the environment, in particular in relation to the implementation of carbon reduction targets or increasing renewable energy uptake?	M
10	Is there evidence of sufficient sites and premises in development for low carbon businesses to thrive (e.g. incubator sites, demonstrators, Enterprise Zones etc.)?	LCE

Figure 1c: Delivery

	Criteria	Theme
11a	Is there evidence of a commitment to fund the development of specific projects that will help deliver climate adaptation objectives (e.g. flood alleviation programmes, green infrastructure schemes)?	A
11b	Is there evidence of a commitment to fund the development of specific projects that will help deliver carbon reduction objectives (e.g. heat networks, renewable energy schemes, energy efficiency, sustainable transport programmes)?	M

11c	Is there evidence of a commitment to fund the development of specific projects that will help deliver objectives in relation to stimulating the low carbon economy (e.g. supporting low carbon businesses, local energy markets, renewable energy schemes)?	LCE
12	What systems are in place to monitor and appraise the overall impact that all funded, committed and proposed programmes across the LEP have on climate adaptation (e.g. no. businesses exposed to extreme weather), climate mitigation (e.g. whole-LEP carbon measuring) and the low carbon economy (e.g. low carbon business growth)?	A M LCE
13a	Are actions underway to strengthen the resilience of local businesses and supply chains to climate impacts (e.g. signposting to guidance, advice or training)?	A
13b	Are actions underway to strengthen local businesses and supply chains by reducing energy, carbon and/or waste costs (e.g. signposting to environmental networks or advice)?	M
13c	Are actions underway to strengthen local businesses and supply chains for low carbon technologies and services (e.g. meet the buyer events, networking between suppliers, raising awareness of low carbon opportunities amongst businesses)?	LCE
14a	Is there evidence that the LEP is considering future funding options so that it can continue to deliver activity that supports climate adaptation?	A
14b	Is there evidence that the LEP is considering future funding options so that it can continue to deliver activity that supports climate mitigation or low carbon economic objectives?	M LCE

2.2 Documents analysed

The documents that were selected for analysis were either based on those strategic documents required by government, EU funding strategies, or documents that provide an opportunity to present and report on overall strategic progress.

Therefore, for each of the 26 criteria, three documents were analysed to determine progress, along with each LEP's website. The documents analysed were:

- Strategic Economic Plans (SEP),
- European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) strategies, and
- Annual Reports for the most recent year, either 2016, 2016-17 or 2017.

Originally, both SEPs and ESIF strategies were published by all LEPs in 2014; these were the documents that were reviewed under the first iteration of *Fit for the Future*. Since then, many LEPs have refreshed both strategies and, as such, SWM has reviewed these new documents for *Fit for the Future II*. Annex 2 gives a list of documents that SWM has reviewed (as available in August 2017) and whether they have been updated since the first *Fit for the Future* research exercise. If no update has been published since the first exercise, the documents were not reviewed again.

The rationale for viewing these documents and not others, such as Local Growth Deals, is because it is felt that the development of low carbon activity or action to tackle climate change should be reflected in the LEP's main strategic document (i.e. the SEP) if it deems these aspects critical to strengthening its economy. ESIF strategies were reviewed given that there is an element of consistency of the types of projects that ESI funding can be used for and that at least 20% of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aspect of ESIF in each LEP is required to be allocated to low carbon priorities.

In relation to the ESIF strategies, particular attention was paid to whether the LEP has invested in the relevant thematic priorities, especially 4 (low carbon) and 5 (adaptation).¹⁰ However, it was recognised that other low carbon and climate change actions can and should be embedded into other thematic objectives. For example, the adaptation response of green infrastructure and business resilience support was often laid out under other themes. Therefore, the full contents of each ESIF strategy were reviewed.

It is worth noting that of the 38 LEPs, there was evidence of only 16 that had published an annual report for either 2016, 2016-17 or 2017. For the other 22 LEPs, it was assumed no report had been produced. On some occasions, older annual reports were still available online to view, but these were not included in the analysis.

The LEP websites were particularly useful in gaining aspects of the criteria pertaining leadership and current projects and activity; these were analysed in more detail than in the previous *Fit for the Future* report (see section 2.5).

2.3 Interviews with LEPs

An additional aspect to *Fit for the Future II* is the inclusion of interviews with LEPs. Prior to being commissioned to undertake this piece of work, SWM undertook a similar exercise on behalf of the Energy Systems Catapult and part of this exercise included interviewing LEPs around issues pertaining low carbon and energy progress. We used this opportunity to ask questions related to other aspects of the low carbon and climate change agenda and as such gained a clear, up to date picture of local progress that supplemented the literature review.

The interview questions were then amalgamated into the criteria outlined in section 2.2 and a new column to the main database was introduced to reflect whether the intelligence gained against particular criteria was because of the answers given in the interview.

When undertaking these interviews for the Energy Systems Catapult, we successfully obtained answers from 27 of the 38 LEPs. As such, we attempted to contact the remaining eleven that did not respond to an interview upon commissioning of this project and integrated answers from all the LEPs that did respond into the findings of this exercise. In total, 36 LEPs responded to an interview request.

The specific questions that were asked during the interviews relevant to this piece of work were as follows (A = Adaptation, M = Mitigation, LCE = Low Carbon Economy):

¹⁰ See http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/what/glossary/t/thematic-objectives for full titles.

- Who leads on delivering projects focusing on low carbon/energy/climate change at the LEP? *[Leadership, A, M, LCE]*
- Does the LEP run a low carbon/energy/climate change related working group and if so who is the Chair? *[Leadership, A, M, LCE]*
- Is there anyone on the LEP Board who champions the low carbon/energy/climate change agenda? *[Leadership, A, M, LCE]*
- Do you believe that the low carbon and green growth agenda in your LEP area is robust against any future changes to policy or funding? Will you continue to invest in the agenda in future *[Leadership, M, LCE]*
- What funding do you currently use, and what future funding do you envisage utilising to support and invest in the low carbon agenda, in particular post-2019? *[Delivery, M, LCE]*
- Has the LEP developed a low carbon/energy strategy that sets out how you will develop the low carbon/energy agenda? *[Strategy, M, LCE]*
- Has the LEP set, or does it work towards, a carbon reduction or any other low carbon/energy related target(s), and how does it monitor these? *[Strategy, M]*
- Has the LEP implemented a mechanism to signpost businesses to how they can become more energy efficient, access low carbon markets and/or become more resilient to climate impacts? *[Delivery, A, M, LCE]*
- What progress has the LEP made towards understanding and addressing the key climate risks that your local economy will face? *[Strategy, A]*
- Do you have a list of current or pipeline projects you are developing which you could share related to low carbon, energy or climate change? *[Delivery, A, M, LCE]*
- Has the LEP implemented any heat network schemes in your area and who have you worked with to achieve this? *[Delivery, M, LCE]*
- Who are the key stakeholders that the LEP works with when developing low carbon and energy related projects? *[All, A, M, LCE]*

2.4 Scoring

The approach used to score each of the 26 criteria was the same as that used in the first *Fit for the Future* publication and originally taken from the existing SWM local authority benchmarking process,¹¹ which uses a scoring system as shown in Figure 2:

¹¹ <http://bit.ly/2oD6lw2>

Figure 2: Scoring system used for assessing progress against the criteria.

0 - Minimal evidence	1 - Some evidence	2 - Good evidence	3 - Leading evidence
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This represented a useful approach that was utilised for consistency and because of its simplicity. Each metric that formed the criteria was given a score and from these an average score was determined:

- Overall for that LEP.
- Overall for Adaptation, Mitigation and the Low Carbon Economy per LEP.
- Overall for each of the categories of Leadership, Strategy and Delivery per LEP.

This score was then converted to a percentage score for the purposes of this report. This was done by taking the awarded score 0-3 (y) and the maximum possible score of 3 and using the following sum:

$$(y \div 3) \times 100$$

The scoring system, when converted to a percentage, is as follows:

Figure 3: Scoring system used for assessing progress against each metric, when converted to %.

0% - 16.49% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50.0% - 83.0% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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This provided a useful overall comparison between each LEP on each of these key sub-sections and nationally. The scoring of the criteria was undertaken by SWM staff and then reviewed for consistency by the lead researcher.

Given that the criteria used in *Fit for the Future II* is similar to that used in the original *Fit for the Future*, the scores were relatively comparable between the two years. Therefore, for each LEP, a change in both their overall percentage score and their league position was calculated to show how it has progressed relative to the other LEPs between the two years. This is where the true success and usefulness of this benchmarking exercise can be realised, so that LEPs can compare themselves both to other LEPs but also to themselves between 2015 and 2017.

2.5 Significant methodology changes between 2015 and 2017 assessments

There were a few changes to the methodology between the first and second *Fit for the Future* iterations which have made the process more robust. These are outlined below.

- In the first iteration, where one document had achieved a score of '3' against a criterion, the LEP was awarded a '3' against this criterion regardless of the extent of evidence in the other sources perused. In this review, this has not necessarily been the case as we learnt that for certain issues we would expect a LEP to include content about a specific

criterion in more than one document analysed. Moreover, on occasion the interviewee would contradict the content given in a document, which had to be factored into the score.

- The websites of each LEP were analysed in greater detail, especially for current and/or previously funded project activity.
- Aligning with the above, we have been more stringent in *Fit for the Future II* about **actual** and **potential** project activity. For example, most LEP ESIF strategies list a series of potential low carbon activity that the LEP may undertake. Previously, we may have scored this a '3' showing evidence of strong commitment towards developing projects. However, this time around, we have been looking more closely at actual activity that has been undertaken in the past two years and how it has been funded, rather than literature content that may only be aspirational. This is largely why most LEPs' overall score has declined as actual activity is not necessarily a given, or it is inaccessible via the sources we analysed.
- Linking with the above, the utilisation of Local Growth Funding (LGF) has been analysed more closely this time. We have not looked at LGF strategies but have considered any relevant projects funded by LGF, for example sustainable transport programmes or low carbon centres of excellence.

2.6 Comments

Where a score other than '0' was awarded, for each criterion a brief commentary of evidence was provided in the adjacent column on the spreadsheet. This represented a summary of why the score had been given and the evidence to prove it, sometimes in the form of a direct quote taken from one of the documents or the interviews, or a page number for reference where necessary. On occasion, the commentary included guidance on how the LEP could have scored higher, especially if it could have done this easily.

2.7 Limitations and future improvements

There are a few limitations to the research that may reduce the clarity and accuracy of the results. These were listed in the last iteration of *Fit for the Future* and are repeated below, with an indication in italics as to how these have been addressed for *Fit for the Future II*.

- The scoring could be somewhat subjective based on the evidence interpreted by the review team. *This remains the case but given the same scoring system has been used in 2017 and the principal researcher and reviewer is the same, there is strong consistency between the first and second Fit for the Future reports.*
- There can still be a gap between stated intention and action on the ground. For example, we were surprised by the lack of recent annual reports. *This is why we supplemented the literature review with interviews this time around, to gain more depth of occurring activity and an indication of reality, as well as scrutinising each website more closely.*

- LEPs were set up to determine their own priorities for local growth and jobs. Therefore, in some areas the results may reflect what the locally agreed risk and opportunity is related to climate change and the low carbon economy. *This is still the case is time around; however, it is felt that there are advantages to embracing the low carbon and climate change agendas in any LEP area, regardless of existing assets and funding allocation.*

3. Results

The following section provides an overview of the results of the research.

3.1 Climate change and low carbon economy rankings

The following tables overleaf show how each LEP performed following the approach outlined in section two. These show an average score across all 26 criteria overall (Figure 4a) and then for each individual metric with a corresponding map. The maps are a visual way of representing the key geographical patterns of the research findings and they also allow LEP members to see at-a-glance how their LEP has performed against these criteria. Also included in the league tables is each LEP's change in both percentage and league position compared to the first *Fit for the Future* publication, to show progress over the last two years.

The maps are copyrighted as follows:

Contains National Statistics data © Crown copyright and database right 2017.

Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

Also in relation to the maps overleaf, it should be noted that many of the LEPs have overlapping boundaries with each other.¹² These are constantly being reviewed as new combined LEP areas emerge with devolution. Therefore, to help illustrate the different current spatial patterns of LEP strategies on climate change, we have used the closest LEP boundaries to local authority unitary and county boundaries. This is the clearest and least-complex way of depicting the results cartographically.

¹² See here: <http://www.lepnetwork.net/about-leps/the-network-of-leps/>

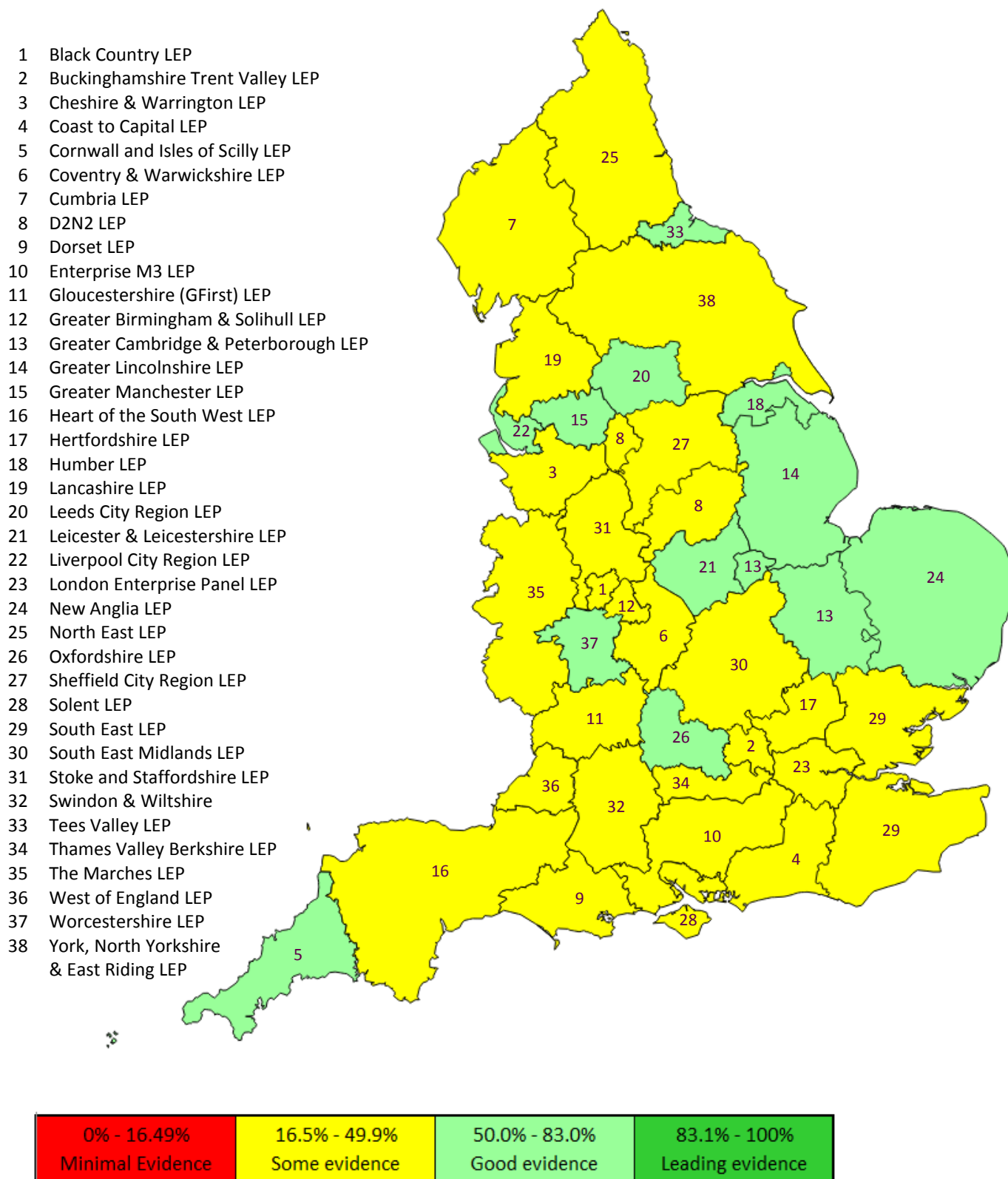
0% - 16.49% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50.0% - 83.0% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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Figure 4a: Overall league table reflecting LEP commitments to all of climate adaptation, mitigation and the low carbon economy.

	Rank chg 2015-2017	LEP	% - 2017*	% chg 2015- 2017
1	+2	Greater Manchester	64.1	-3.8
2	-1	New Anglia	59.0	-14.8
3	-1	Leeds City Region	59.0	-9.1
4	+12	Tees Valley	55.1	+6.4
5	+7	Oxfordshire	53.8	+4.0
6	+9	Greater Lincolnshire	53.8	+4.9
7	-1	Humber	52.6	-5.2
8	+19	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough	51.3	+7.6
9	-4	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	51.3	-9.1
10	+14	Liverpool City Region	50.0	+5.7
11	-3	Worcestershire	50.0	-2.9
12	-5	Leicester & Leicestershire	50.0	-5.9
13	-9	D2N2	47.4	-18.1
14	+9	Heart of the South West	47.4	+3.1
15	+16	Sheffield City Region	43.6	+1.5
16	+12	North East	43.6	+0.2
17	-7	Cheshire & Warrington	42.3	-9.1
18	-	Cumbria	42.3	-5.1
19	+15	Gloucestershire (GFirst)	42.3	+1.7
20	+6	Enterprise M3	42.3	-1.4
21	-12	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding	42.3	-10.5
22	+8	West of England	41.0	-1.9
23	+9	Greater Birmingham & Solihull	39.7	-1.8
24	-10	Black Country	39.7	-9.8
25	-4	London Enterprise Panel	38.5	-7.1
26	-9	Coventry & Warwickshire	37.2	-11.1
27	+6	Coast to Capital	37.2	-3.6
28	+7	South East	34.6	+5.8
29	-10	Stoke and Staffordshire	34.6	-12.0
30	-10	Hertfordshire	33.3	-13.0
31	-18	South East Midlands	32.1	-17.8
32	-3	Swindon & Wiltshire	32.1	-11.0
33	-11	Solent	29.5	-15.1
34	-9	Dorset	25.6	-18.0
35	-24	The Marches	25.6	-25.7
36	+2	Lancashire	24.4	-2.2
37	-1	Thames Valley Berkshire	21.8	-7.1
38	-1	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley	20.5	-7.6

* Where scores are level, the total scores for A, M and LCE are added and whichever LEP has the highest total is ranked above the other.

Figure 4b: Map reflecting overall LEP commitments to all of climate adaptation, mitigation and the low carbon economy.

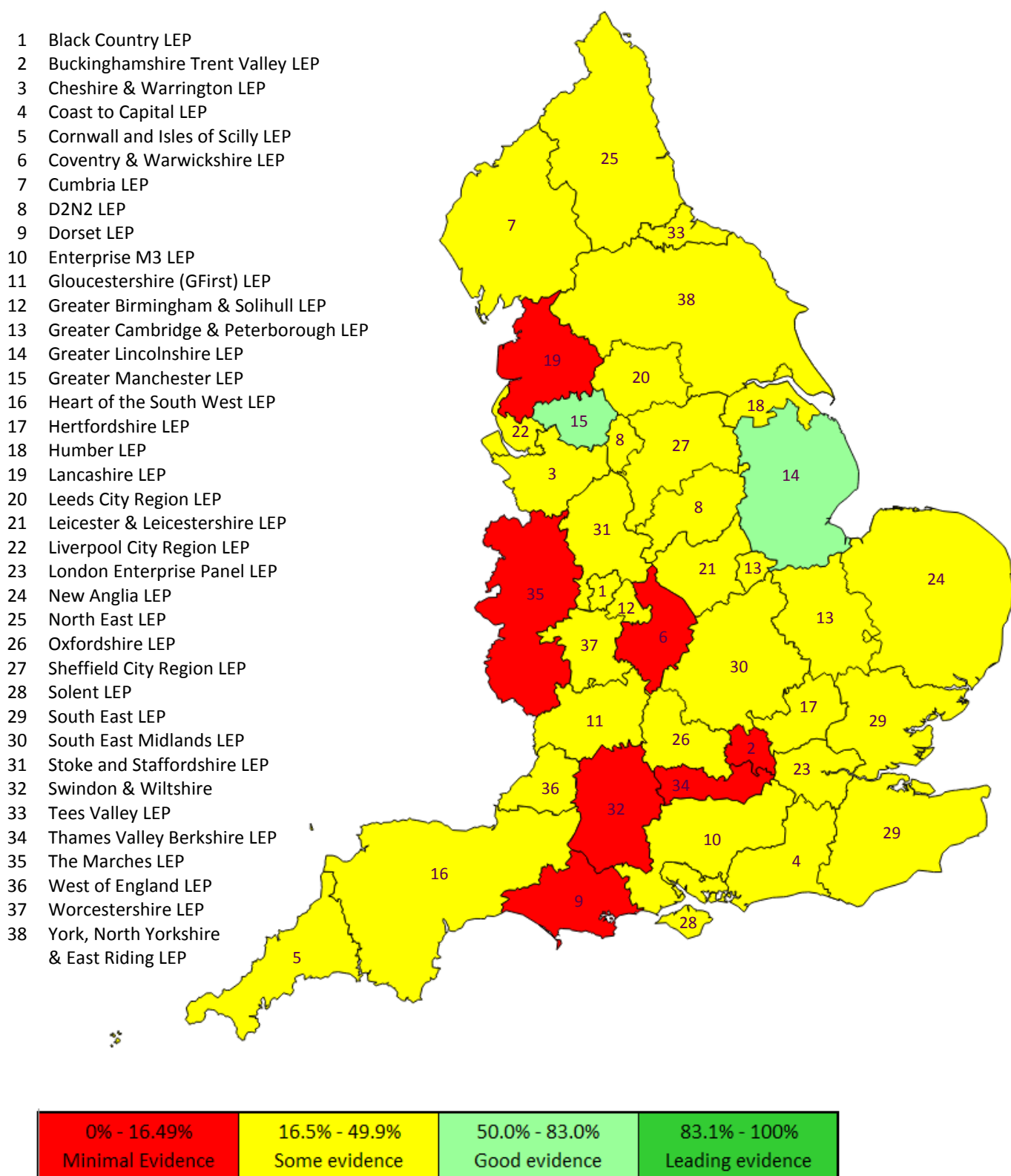


0% - 16.49% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50.0% - 83.0% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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Figure 5a: LEP commitments to climate adaptation (including flood risk and green infrastructure) only.

	Rank chg 2015-2017	LEP	% - 2017*	% chg 2015- 2017
1	+3	Greater Lincolnshire	58	+3.8
2	-	Greater Manchester	53	-1.8
3	+5	Worcestershire	42	-3.8
4	-1	Humber	39	-15.7
5	-	Leeds City Region	36	-12.4
6	+28	Sheffield City Region	36	+24.0
7	+4	Cumbria	36	-3.3
8	+9	North East	36	+5.8
9	-8	New Anglia	33	-30.3
10	+5	Oxfordshire	33	+3.0
11	-5	D2N2	33	-15.2
12	+4	Heart of the South West	31	+0.3
13	-3	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding	31	-11.9
14	-2	Tees Valley	28	-8.6
15	-8	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	28	-17.7
16	+17	West of England	28	+15.7
17	+2	London Enterprise Panel	28	+0.5
18	+7	Coast to Capital	28	+6.6
19	+1	Cheshire & Warrington	25	+0.8
20	-6	Solent	25	-8.3
21	+6	Liverpool City Region	22	+4.0
22	+4	Leicester & Leicestershire	22	+4.0
23	+5	Gloucestershire (GFirst)	22	+4.0
24	-2	Black Country	22	-2.0
25	-4	South East Midlands	22	-2.0
26	+6	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough	17	+4.5
27	+8	Greater Birmingham & Solihull	17	+7.6
28	+2	Enterprise M3	17	+1.5
29	+7	South East	17	+7.6
30	-12	Stoke and Staffordshire	17	-10.6
31	-8	Hertfordshire	17	-7.6
32	-3	Dorset	14	-1.3
33	-2	Thames Valley Berkshire	14	-1.3
34	-10	Swindon & Wiltshire	11	-10.1
35	-26	The Marches	11	-34.3
36	+2	Lancashire	11	+2.0
37	-	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley	11	+2.0
38	-25	Coventry & Warwickshire	8	-28.0

Figure 5b: Map of LEP commitments to climate adaptation



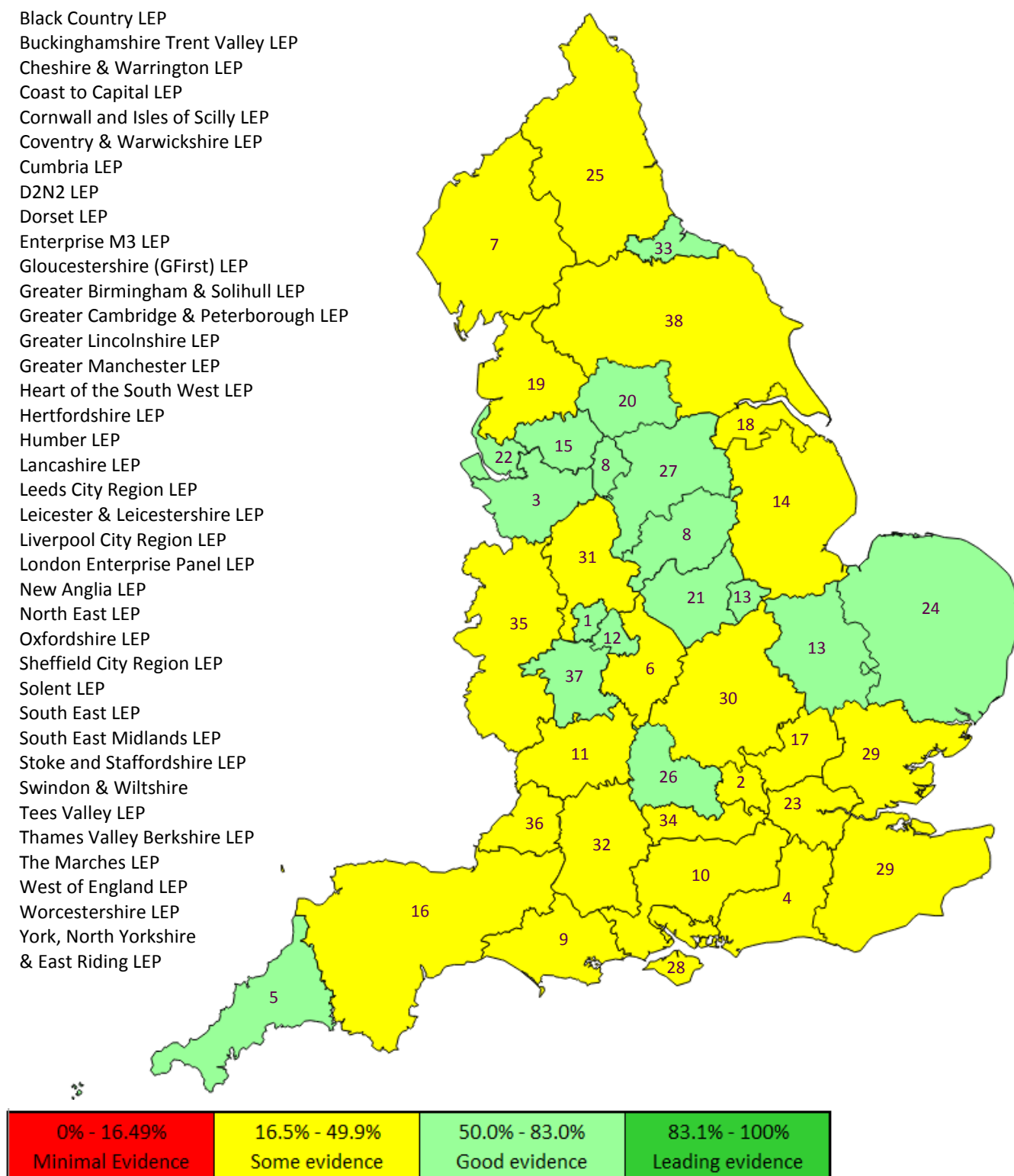
0% - 16.49% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50.0% - 83.0% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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Figure 6a: LEP commitments to climate mitigation / carbon reduction only

	Rank chg 2015-2017	LEP	% - 2017*	% chg 2015- 2017
1	+2	New Anglia	79	0.0
2	+22	Tees Valley	79	+24.2
3	+1	Greater Manchester	73	0.0
4	-3	Leeds City Region	73	-9.1
5	+8	Liverpool City Region	73	+12.1
6	+15	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough	70	+12.1
7	-1	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	67	-3.0
8	+9	Oxfordshire	64	+6.1
9	-7	Leicester & Leicestershire	64	-18.2
10	-1	Greater Birmingham & Solihull	61	-3.0
11	-1	Worcestershire	58	-3.0
12	-5	Black Country	58	-12.1
13	-5	Cheshire & Warrington	55	-9.1
14	-9	D2N2	55	-18.2
15	+7	Sheffield City Region	52	-6.1
16	+9	Heart of the South West	48	-6.1
17	-5	Cumbria	48	-12.1
18	+12	Gloucestershire (GFirst)	48	0.0
19	+1	Enterprise M3	48	-9.1
20	+3	Humber	45	-9.1
21	-3	London Enterprise Panel	45	-12.1
22	-6	Coventry & Warwickshire	45	-12.1
23	+8	Greater Lincolnshire	42	-3.0
24	-10	West of England	42	-18.2
25	-10	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding	39	-18.2
26	+10	South East	36	0.0
27	-1	Stoke and Staffordshire	36	-18.2
28	+1	Dorset	36	-15.2
29	-18	The Marches	36	-24.2
30	+5	North East	33	-3.0
31	-4	Hertfordshire	33	-21.2
32	+5	Thames Valley Berkshire	33	+3.0
33	-1	Coast to Capital	30	-15.2
34	-15	South East Midlands	30	-27.3
35	-7	Swindon & Wiltshire	30	-24.2
36	-2	Solent	27	-12.1
37	-4	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley	24	-18.2
38	-	Lancashire	18	-9.1

Figure 6b: Map of LEP commitments to climate mitigation

- 1 Black Country LEP
- 2 Buckinghamshire Trent Valley LEP
- 3 Cheshire & Warrington LEP
- 4 Coast to Capital LEP
- 5 Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP
- 6 Coventry & Warwickshire LEP
- 7 Cumbria LEP
- 8 D2N2 LEP
- 9 Dorset LEP
- 10 Enterprise M3 LEP
- 11 Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP
- 12 Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP
- 13 Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP
- 14 Greater Lincolnshire LEP
- 15 Greater Manchester LEP
- 16 Heart of the South West LEP
- 17 Hertfordshire LEP
- 18 Humber LEP
- 19 Lancashire LEP
- 20 Leeds City Region LEP
- 21 Leicester & Leicestershire LEP
- 22 Liverpool City Region LEP
- 23 London Enterprise Panel LEP
- 24 New Anglia LEP
- 25 North East LEP
- 26 Oxfordshire LEP
- 27 Sheffield City Region LEP
- 28 Solent LEP
- 29 South East LEP
- 30 South East Midlands LEP
- 31 Stoke and Staffordshire LEP
- 32 Swindon & Wiltshire
- 33 Tees Valley LEP
- 34 Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
- 35 The Marches LEP
- 36 West of England LEP
- 37 Worcestershire LEP
- 38 York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP



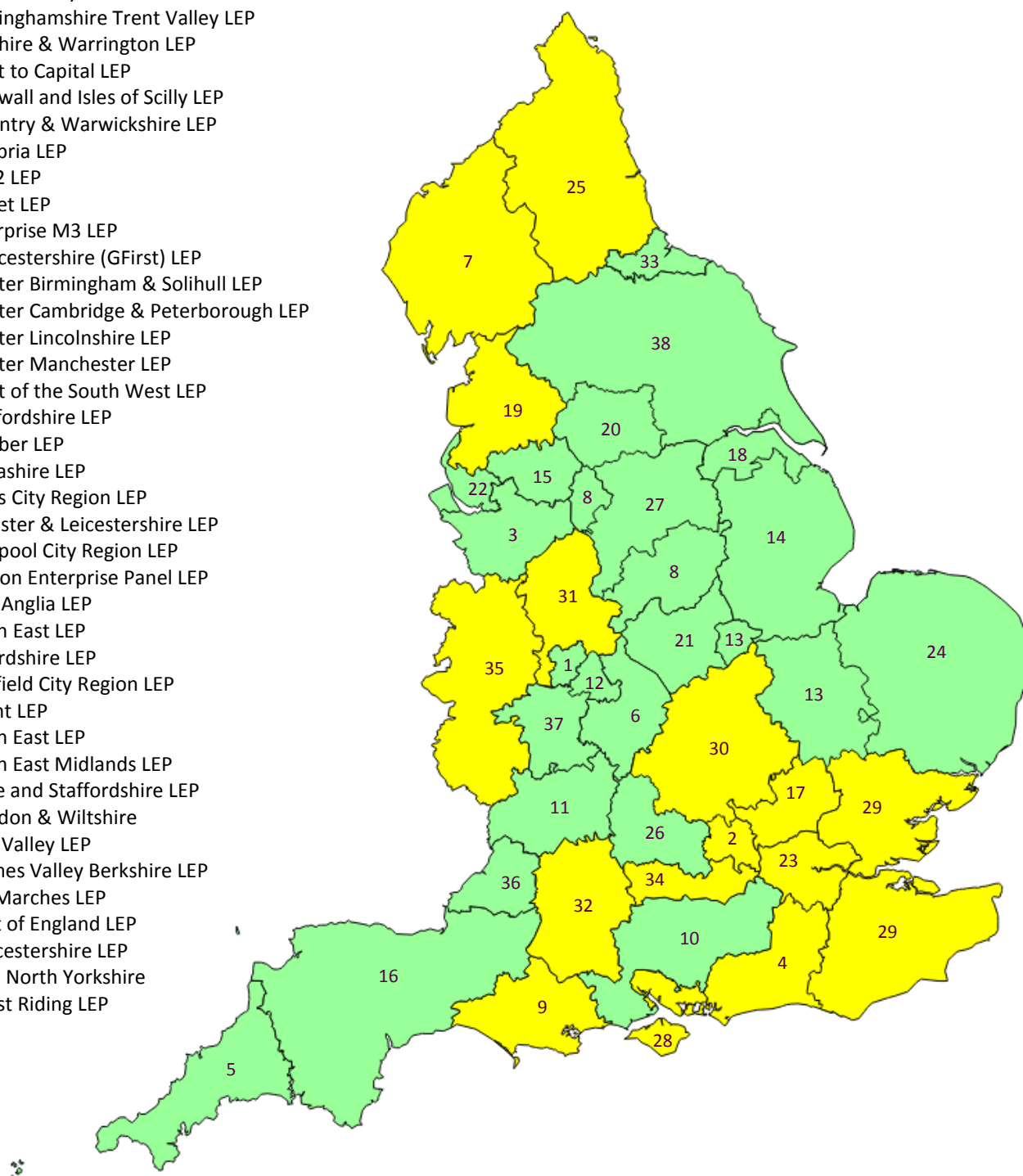
0% - 16.49% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50.0% - 83.0% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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Figure 7a: LEP commitments to the low carbon economy only

	Rank chg 2015-2017	LEP	% - 2017*	% chg 2015- 2017
1	+6	Liverpool City Region	81	+7.2
2	-1	New Anglia	75	-8.3
3	+11	Tees Valley	75	+11.7
4	+16	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough	75	+18.3
5	-3	Leeds City Region	72	-7.8
6	+10	Oxfordshire	72	+12.2
7	-2	Greater Manchester	69	-7.2
8	+4	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	67	+3.3
9	-5	Leicester & Leicestershire	67	-10.0
10	+13	Humber	64	+10.6
11	-5	Cheshire & Warrington	64	-12.8
12	+10	Enterprise M3	64	+10.6
13	+13	Gloucestershire (GFirst)	61	+7.8
14	+17	Worcestershire	58	+11.7
15	+9	Heart of the South West	58	+5.0
16	-7	Greater Birmingham & Solihull	58	-8.3
17	+2	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding	58	+1.7
18	-15	D2N2	56	-24.4
19	-6	Sheffield City Region	56	-7.8
20	+8	Coventry & Warwickshire	56	+5.6
21	+8	Greater Lincolnshire	50	0.0
22	-14	Black Country	50	-20.0
23	-8	West of England	50	-10.0
24	+8	Cumbria	47	+0.6
25	+5	North East	47	-2.8
26	-5	Coast to Capital	47	-9.4
27	-2	Hertfordshire	47	-6.1
28	+7	South East	44	+1.1
29	-18	Stoke and Staffordshire	44	-22.2
30	-20	South East Midlands	42	-25.0
31	+3	Swindon & Wiltshire	42	-1.7
32	+1	London Enterprise Panel	39	-4.4
33	-6	Solent	33	-20.0
34	-17	Dorset	33	-26.7
35	-17	The Marches	31	-26.1
36	-	Lancashire	31	-9.4
37	-	Thames Valley Berkshire	28	-8.9
38	-	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley	22	-7.8

Figure 7b: Map of LEP commitments to the low carbon economy

- 1 Black Country LEP
- 2 Buckinghamshire Trent Valley LEP
- 3 Cheshire & Warrington LEP
- 4 Coast to Capital LEP
- 5 Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP
- 6 Coventry & Warwickshire LEP
- 7 Cumbria LEP
- 8 D2N2 LEP
- 9 Dorset LEP
- 10 Enterprise M3 LEP
- 11 Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP
- 12 Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP
- 13 Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP
- 14 Greater Lincolnshire LEP
- 15 Greater Manchester LEP
- 16 Heart of the South West LEP
- 17 Hertfordshire LEP
- 18 Humber LEP
- 19 Lancashire LEP
- 20 Leeds City Region LEP
- 21 Leicester & Leicestershire LEP
- 22 Liverpool City Region LEP
- 23 London Enterprise Panel LEP
- 24 New Anglia LEP
- 25 North East LEP
- 26 Oxfordshire LEP
- 27 Sheffield City Region LEP
- 28 Solent LEP
- 29 South East LEP
- 30 South East Midlands LEP
- 31 Stoke and Staffordshire LEP
- 32 Swindon & Wiltshire
- 33 Tees Valley LEP
- 34 Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
- 35 The Marches LEP
- 36 West of England LEP
- 37 Worcestershire LEP
- 38 York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP



0% - 16.49%	16.5% - 49.9%	50.0% - 83.0%	83.1% - 100%
Minimal Evidence	Some evidence	Good evidence	Leading evidence

3.2 Key findings and summary of tables

The tables shown between Figures 4a and 7a rank the LEPs in order of their activity around climate adaptation, mitigation and stimulating a low carbon economy. A summary of the findings are as follows:

Best performing LEP overall:



Best performing LEP on adaptation:



Best performing LEP on mitigation:



Best performing LEP on LC economy:



Highly commended:



Appears in the top five in each metric

3.3 Key changes between 2015 and 2017

The tables shown between Figures 4a and 7a compare the LEP's rankings between the previous *Fit for the Future* report, the research for which was done in late summer 2015 and *Fit for the Future II*, for which the research was carried out almost exactly two years later. Summary findings are as follows and in figures 8-10 below.



Figure 8: Average %age change for each metric

Overall	2015	47.6	-5.7
	2017	41.9	
Adaptation	2015	29.1	-3.4
	2017	25.7	
Mitigation	2015	56.9	-8.6
	2017	48.3	
Low Carbon Economy	2015	57.9	-4.4
	2017	53.5	

Figure 9: Difference between %age of top and bottom ranking LEPs for each metric between years

		Highest		Lowest	
Overall	2015	74	-10	27	-8
	2017	64		21	
Adaptation	2015	64	-6	9	-1
	2017	58		8	
Mitigation	2015	82	-3	27	-9
	2017	79		18	
Low Carbon Economy	2015	83	-2	30	-8
	2017	81		22	

Figure 10: Change in the number of LEPs providing, on average, leading, good, some and minimal evidence (note there were 39 LEPs in 2015).

		Leading		Good		Some		Minimal	
Overall	2015	0	0	13	-1	26	0	0	0
	2017	0		12		26		0	
Adaptation	2015	0	0	4	-2	25	+4	10	-3
	2017	0		2		29		7	
Mitigation	2015	0	0	30	-15	9	+14	0	0
	2017	0		15		23		0	
Low Carbon Economy	2015	1	-1	29	-6	9	+6	0	0
	2017	0		23		15		0	

Blue = improved performance | Red = worse performance

Some possible reasons for the observed changes above include the following.

- The general decline in average performance between 2015 and 2017 is likely to be because of a more rigorous analysis of actual funded and delivered projects, rather than aspirational ones. Whereas in 2015 where we may have scored a LEP highly if it stated that it would invest European money into low carbon activity, in this assessment we have been looking more closely at whether this has actually happened. This information was largely gleaned by looking in more detail at each LEP website (where they list projects and activity) and via the interviews.
- Many of the improved LEPs, especially Tees Valley and Liverpool City Region, have also become devolved regions since 2015 which has allowed a more coherent approach to priorities, activities and resourcing. This will have inevitably strengthened the LEPs ability to deliver activity pertaining to low carbon, energy and climate change matters.
- Progress on climate adaptation is still considerably less than the other two metrics, however the decline is overall less severe. This is likely to be because our analysis has focused more closely on Local Growth Funding and associated projects and this is more likely to fund flood defence schemes than EU funding, which was the only funding source we analysed in detail previously.
- Those LEPs that have not updated their SEPs or ESIF strategies are overall worse off due to the more out-of-date reflection of delivered projects or focus on activity.

Reasons why LEPs have been allocated their score and, therefore, the change in their league position compared to 2015 can be gleaned by viewing the spreadsheet that contains the detailed evidence base. Each LEP can gain access to its individual tab within this spreadsheet by contacting enquiries@swm.org.uk.

3.4 Thematic patterns

Along with the rankings, the figures also show that scores for climate adaptation are lower than those for mitigation and the low carbon economy; this is consistent with the findings two years ago. The average score for adaptation is 26%, whereas the average mitigation score is 48% and low carbon economy is 53%. This is largely due to the requirement of 20% spend of LEP EU money on low carbon related projects, whereas no LEP is asked to spend any money specifically on climate adaptation. It could also be due to less perceived tangible

economic gains that can be made by investing in adaptation measures compared to investing in the low carbon economy. Adaptation, therefore, can make a significant difference to the overall score. Greater Lincolnshire LEP, for example, was ranked top for adaptation but only 23rd for mitigation and 21st for the low carbon economy. Yet it ranked sixth overall.

One can also determine the focus of LEP activity overall, both thematically and strategically, when analysing the average score against each criterion; this is presented in figures 11a-11c. In the third column, 'A' refers to Adaptation, 'M' refers to Mitigation and 'LCE' refers to Low Carbon Economy.

0% - 16.49% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50.0% - 83.0% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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Figure 11a: Leadership (average score = 34%)

	Criteria	Theme	Average score across all LEPs %
1a	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why climate adaptation is important to the local economy, both now and in the future?	A	48
1b	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why climate change mitigation is important to the local economy, both now and in the future?	M	67
1c	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why stimulating the low carbon economy is important to the local area, both now and in the future?	LCE	74
2a	Is there evidence of an individual or team working on behalf of or embedded into the LEP staffing structure whose primary responsibility is to deliver climate adaptation activity?	A	3
2b	Is there evidence of an individual or team working on behalf of or embedded into the LEP staffing structure whose primary responsibility is to deliver low carbon activity and stimulate the low carbon economy?	M LCE	38
3a	Is there evidence of a lead or champion on the LEP Board who focuses partly or wholly on climate change adaptation?	A	5
3b	Is there evidence of a lead or champion on the LEP Board who focuses partly or wholly on carbon reduction or stimulating the low carbon economy?	M LCE	43
4a	Is there evidence of an established working group that has a partial or full responsibility for identifying and developing actions with cross-sector partners to deliver climate adaptation actions?	A	11
4b	Is there evidence of an established working group that has a partial or full responsibility for identifying and developing actions with cross-sector partners to deliver low carbon activity and stimulate the low carbon economy?	M LCE	60

5a	Is the LEP working with other LEPs on joint adaptation actions (e.g. developing cross-boundary flood alleviation programmes)?	A	2
5b	Is the LEP working with other LEPs on joint low carbon actions (e.g. developing large scale housing retrofit schemes)?	M LCE	28

Figure 11b: Strategy (average score = 52%)

	Criteria	Theme	Average score across all LEPs %
6	Is there evidence of understanding the climate risks affecting critical elements of your economy (e.g. large businesses; industrial parks; key clusters and sectors)?	A	53
7a	Is there any evidence of analysing your area's strengths and opportunities in producing adaptation goods and services, e.g. by mapping or developing a SWOT analysis?	A	13
7b	Is there any evidence of analysing your area's low carbon businesses and infrastructure, e.g. by mapping or developing a SWOT analysis?	LCE	80
8	Has the LEP published a strategy that sets out how it will deliver activity related to one or all the themes of climate adaptation, local clean energy development, reducing environmental impacts and carbon emissions and/or stimulating a low carbon economy?	A M LCE	55
9	Is there evidence of the LEP measuring its impact on the environment, in particular in relation to the implementation of carbon reduction targets or increasing renewable energy uptake?	M	40
10	Is there evidence of sufficient sites and premises in development for low carbon businesses to thrive (e.g. incubator sites, demonstrators, Enterprise Zones etc.)?	LCE	69

Figure 11c: Delivery (average score = 51%)

	Criteria	Theme	Average score across all LEPs %
11a	Is there evidence of a commitment to fund the development of specific projects that will help deliver climate adaptation objectives (e.g. flood alleviation programmes, green infrastructure schemes)?	A	57
11b	Is there evidence of a commitment to fund the development of specific projects that will help deliver carbon reduction objectives (e.g. heat networks, renewable energy schemes, energy efficiency, sustainable transport programmes)?	M	74
11c	Is there evidence of a commitment to fund the development of specific projects that will help deliver objectives in relation to stimulating the low carbon economy (e.g. supporting low carbon businesses, local energy markets, renewable energy schemes)?	LCE	69

12	What systems are in place to monitor and appraise the overall impact that all funded, committed and proposed programmes across the LEP have on climate adaptation (e.g. no. businesses exposed to extreme weather), climate mitigation (e.g. whole-LEP carbon measuring) and the low carbon economy (e.g. low carbon business growth)?	A M LCE	53
13a	Are actions underway to strengthen the resilience of local businesses and supply chains to climate impacts (e.g. signposting to guidance, advice or training)?	A	18
13b	Are actions underway to strengthen local businesses and supply chains by reducing energy, carbon and/or waste costs (e.g. signposting to environmental networks or advice)?	M	64
13c	Are actions underway to strengthen local businesses and supply chains for low carbon technologies and services (e.g. meet the buyer events, networking between suppliers, raising awareness of low carbon opportunities amongst businesses)?	LCE	59
14a	Is there evidence that the LEP is considering future funding options so that it can continue to deliver activity that supports climate adaptation?	A	21
14b	Is there evidence that the LEP is considering future funding options so that it can continue to deliver activity that supports climate mitigation or low carbon economic objectives?	M LCE	47

In summary, drawing on figures 11a-11c, the below outlines reasons why LEPs have scored well in the analysis and what we'd expect to see the majority of LEPs doing if they are truly committed to tackling climate change and embracing a low carbon economy.

Leadership:

- The lowest average scores are found within the leadership criteria, especially those associated with climate adaptation. There are hardly any LEPs that run a working group, have a staff member or a board champion that focuses on this agenda. The average score for leadership around adaptation is only 14%.
- However, the average leadership score for mitigation and the low carbon economy combined is 52%, with the main positives being shown in the way that LEPs communicate this agenda externally and by running low carbon or energy related working groups.
- Improvement is still required in terms of establishing individuals either at board or staff level to drive the agenda; low carbon, energy or sustainability officers/managers are still quite rare within LEPs and individuals that focus on this agenda, if they exist at all, are often absorbed within ERDF or multiple sector posts which may have limited focus on the low carbon agenda, or may not have longevity.
- There is also limited activity occurring across LEP boundaries (criteria 5a/5b); this is likely to largely be due to complicated structures and procedures that make joint bids for projects particularly challenging. However, there is still the potential for huge benefits in joint-LEP working to tackle cross-boundary issues such as transport and flood risk.

Strategy:

- Strategy metrics score reasonably well, with most LEPs showing evidence of developing an analysis of their area's low carbon businesses and infrastructure (criterion 7b). The mandatory low carbon aspect of LEP ESIF strategies will help towards this, as all LEPs will have been required to explain how their low carbon ESIF money will be spent based on evidence. The best performing LEPs will have produced a standalone Low Carbon Goods and Services evidence strategy and then used this to inform investment.
- There is a wide-range of climate change, energy and/or low carbon strategies (criterion 8) in existence. In many cases, one or more of these themes will feature in one part of a wider strategy that may focus on infrastructure (which could include flood defences and transport links) or smart cities (which could include energy systems and autonomous vehicles) for example. Not too many LEPs have a strategy dedicated purely to low carbon or climate change, although recent funding from BEIS has helped all LEPs begin to develop an energy strategy which will help to address some of these issues.¹³ Some examples of the best existing strategies can be found in section 4.10 of this report.
- Less promising is the low score of 40% in relation to LEPs monitoring their impact on the environment via carbon reduction or renewable energy targets, for example (criterion 9). It is concerning that LEPs may not know what impact their economic strategies are having on these factors.
- Many LEPs are also using a variety of funding to develop low carbon, energy or transport demonstrators or centres of excellence (see section 4.6), as shown by the reasonably high score against criterion 10.
- It is pleasing that climate risks are reasonably well understood across LEP areas (criterion 6), although there is a significant focus on flooding. Few LEPs have considered impacts from hot weather or drought, or impacts from climate change as a whole.

Delivery:

- There are lots of examples of good practice taking place across the country as reflected by the promisingly high scores against certain delivery criteria and by the case studies given in section 4 of this report. It is thought that delivery of projects may also be more extensive than reflected by this research as it is more than possible that some LEPs have done more than they are able to share or they have not published all their projects online.
- Overall, delivery of adaptation projects is less consistent and prevalent than delivery of projects that reduce carbon emissions or support the low carbon economy, although many LEPs have used primarily Local Growth Funds to invest in flood alleviation programmes.
- Monitoring of the impacts of sustainability across all projects (whether low carbon in nature or not) is mixed (criterion 12). LEPs are required to do this across their ESIF

¹³ In 2017, in England BEIS funded 13 LEPs to develop local energy strategies and will support the remaining 25 LEPs to produce their own later this year. We will also launch a new Local Energy programme to support local areas in England to play a greater role in decarbonisation. This will increase local capacity and capability across England and provide on the ground practical support and expertise to unlock local energy opportunities. The programme will start to support delivery of the Industrial Strategy and Smart Systems Plan, working with local areas to demonstrate that deep decarbonisation can be achieved through local system change in a way that keeps costs down and maximises economic benefit.

programmes which is why the score is reasonably high, but monitoring across all funded projects is far weaker. This is also reflected by the relatively low score attributed to criterion 9, reflecting whether LEPs have implemented any carbon reduction targets.

- ERDF funding is the main reason why low carbon business support (criteria 13b/13c) is quite high as many LEPs have used this funding to set up green business support programmes.
- Many LEPs have yet to consider what funding they may access post-Brexit and the scores allocated to criteria 14a and 14b are quite low. However, we were still impressed that many LEPs had begun to give this some thought and the appetite to continue funding the low carbon theme is still very high.

Another key reason why some LEPs have scored highly may be due to the emerging devolution agenda. Some LEPs, in particular Greater Manchester and Tees Valley, have effectively merged with their newly formed combined authority. Although they remain separate entities, they pool resources and are better able to implement relevant activities. Indeed, since the 2015 assessment, the Tees Valley Unlimited LEP website no longer exists and all information is now contained within the Combined Authority website. There is a supplementary report accompanying this one which looks at energy devolution across the country.

3.5 Spatial patterns

There are spatial patterns that can be observed from analysing each LEP's ranking on climate change/low carbon economy. The LEPs were grouped regionally based on the former Government Office boundaries and used currently by government and the Office for National Statistics. This is shown in Figure 12.

Figure 12: The geographical region in which each LEP sits.

East Midlands (4)	D2N2 LEP	South East (7)	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP
	Greater Lincolnshire LEP		Coast to Capital LEP
	Leicester & Leicestershire LEP		Enterprise M3 LEP
	South East Midlands LEP		Oxfordshire LEP
East of England (3)	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP		Solent LEP
	Hertfordshire LEP		South East LEP
	New Anglia LEP		Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
London (1)	London Enterprise Panel LEP	South West (6)	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP
North East (2)	North East LEP		Dorset LEP
	Tees Valley Combined Authority		Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP
North West (5)	Cheshire & Warrington LEP		Heart of the South West LEP
	Cumbria LEP		Swindon & Wiltshire LEP
	Greater Manchester LEP		West of England LEP
Yorkshire & Humber (4)	Lancashire LEP	West Midlands (6)	Black Country LEP
	Liverpool City Region LEP		Coventry & Warwickshire LEP
	Humber LEP		Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP
	Leeds City Region LEP		Stoke and Staffordshire LEP
	Sheffield City Region LEP		The Marches LEP
	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP		Worcestershire LEP

The rankings for each metric showed geographical patterns as detailed in Figures 13a – 13d below.

0% - 16.49% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50.0% - 83.0% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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Figure 13a: Overall score

Rank	Rank chg 2015-2017	Region (No. LEPs)	Av % 2017	% chg 2015-2017
1	-	Yorkshire & Humber (4)	49.38	-5.8
2	+4	North East (2)	49.35	+3.3
3	-1	East of England (3)	47.9	-6.7
4	-1	East Midlands (4)	45.8	-7.5
5	-	North West (5)	44.6	-2.9
6	+1	South West (6)	40.0	-5.8
7	+1	London (1)	38.5	-7.2
8	-4	West Midlands (6)	37.8	-10.6
9	-	South East (7)	34.2	-3.6

Figure 13b: Adaptation

Rank	Rank chg 2015-2017	Region (No. LEPs)	Av % 2017	% chg 2015-2017
1	-	Yorkshire & Humber (4)	35.5	-3.9
2	-	East Midlands (4)	33.8	-0.7
3	-	North East (2)	32.0	-1.3
4	+2	North West (5)	29.4	-0.3
5	+2	London (1)	28.0	+1.3
6=	-3	East of England (3)	22.3	-11.0
6=	+2	South West (6)	22.3	-1.4
8	+1	South East (7)	20.7	+1.7
9	-4	West Midlands (6)	19.5	-11.8

Figure 13c: Mitigation

Rank	Rank chg 2015-2017	Region (No. LEPs)	Av % 2017	% chg 2015-2017
1	+1	East of England (3)	60.7	-2.9
2	+6	North East (2)	56.0	+10.5
3	+4	North West (5)	53.4	-3.6
4	-1	Yorkshire & Humber (4)	52.3	-10.6
5	-1	West Midlands (6)	49.0	-12.1
6	-5	East Midlands (4)	47.8	-17.7
7	-	South West (6)	45.2	-11.4
8	-3	London (1)	45.0	-12.6
9	-	South East (7)	37.4	-6.8

Figure 13d: Low Carbon Economy

Rank	Rank chg 2015-2017	Region (No. LEPs)	Av % 2017	% chg 2015-2017
1	-	East of England (3)	65.7	+1.3
2	+1	Yorkshire & Humber (4)	62.5	-0.8
3	+3	North East (2)	61.0	+4.3
4	-	North West (5)	58.4	-4.3

5	-3	East Midlands (4)	53.8	-10.2
6	+1	South West (6)	51.8	-3.8
7	-2	West Midlands (6)	49.5	-9.9
8	-	South East (7)	44.3	-3.3
9	-	London (1)	39.0	-4.3

This analysis shows that the northern and eastern portion of England is performing better overall on climate change and low carbon at present. North East and Yorkshire & Humber are consistently in the top four regions against each metric. East of England also tops the mitigation and low carbon economy metrics and is third overall. The South East goes against the trend in terms of more eastern regions performing well, as this is consistently the lowest regional performer.

There are also five northern authorities in the top ten overall ranked LEPs for climate change and the LCE and two southern LEPs (the rest central). There are also five southern LEPs ranked in the bottom ten, compared to only one northern LEP (the rest central).

There is not a huge difference between this year's assessment and the 2015 research, which also reported stronger performance in the north and east regions more generally. The biggest regional mover this year compared to two years ago is the North East, mainly due to a significantly improved performance by the Tees Valley. The West Midlands region has seen the most significant fall across the metrics due to worsening performances by some of its six LEPs.

3.6 Scores versus LEP funding allocations

European funding

It is recognised that the amount of EU money that each LEP is allocated will affect its ability to implement activity around climate change and the low carbon economy, especially ERDF monies given that 20% of this funding must be spent against a low carbon priority. The government has published¹⁴ the total amount of ERDF and European Social Fund monies that has been allocated to each LEP and, although not a completely clean indicator of likely climate change / low carbon activity, it provides some idea of why some LEPs may be performing better than others. The following analysis factors this in by taking their rank for each climate change/low carbon economy metric and subtracting this from their rank in terms of their total ERDF/ESF funding allocation.

What Figure 14 shows is how much higher or lower ranked each LEP area finds itself compared to what may be expected based on how much EU funding they have been allocated overall. It would be expected that each LEP would score around zero, as this would show that climate change and the low carbon economy is given about the expected level of attention depending on the amount of EU funding it receives. However, the reality is that this is not the case and there are many LEPs that scored significantly less or more

¹⁴ Figures taken from <http://bit.ly/24KoNZb>, page 4.

than would be expected, as Figure 14 shows. It also shows, in the second column from left, how this has changed compared to the first iteration of *Fit for the Future*.

Figure 14: Climate change / low carbon commitment of each LEP area against the amount of ESF/ERDF money allocated (in 2014). Where two or more LEPs have the same score, the LEP with the best climate score is put on top.

	Rank chg 2015-2017	LEP Area	EU funding allocation €m	Allocation rank /38	Overall climate rank /38	Rank; allocation vs climate score
1	-	Oxfordshire	19.3	37	5	+32
2	-	New Anglia	94.1	24	2	+22
3	+21	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough	75.2	26	8	+18
4	-1	Worcestershire	67.8	29	11	+18
5	+15	Gloucestershire (GFirst)	38.1	35	19	+16
6	-2	Humber	102.0	22	7	+15
7	+12	Greater Lincolnshire	133.0	18	6	+12
8	+4	Enterprise M3	45.5	32	20	+12
9	-	Leicester & Leicestershire	125.7	19	12	+7
10	+3	Cumbria	91.0	25	18	+7
11	+19	Tees Valley	201.7	11	4	+6
12	+20	Heart of the South West	117.8	20	14	+6
13	+15	West of England	68.3	28	22	+6
14	+8	Greater Manchester	413.8	4	1	+3
15	+14	Coast to Capital	67.0	30	27	+3
16	+2	Leeds City Region	389.5	5	3	+2
17	-11	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding	97.1	23	21	+2
18	-1	Swindon & Wiltshire	43.4	33	32	+1
19	-11	Solent	42.9	34	33	+1
20	+1	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley	13.8	38	38	0
21	+12	Liverpool City Region	220.9	9	10	-1
22	-8	Cheshire & Warrington	141.6	16	17	-1
23	-	Thames Valley Berkshire	28.5	36	37	-1
24	-13	Hertfordshire	69.2	27	30	-3
25	-10	Dorset	47.1	31	34	-3
26	-10	D2N2	244.0	8	13	-5
27	+8	Sheffield City Region	207.2	10	15	-5
28	-1	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	590.4	2	9	-7
29	-3	Coventry & Warwickshire	135.5	17	26	-9
30	-5	Black Country	176.6	13	24	-11
31	+7	North East	537.4	3	16	-13
32	-22	The Marches	113.3	21	35	-14
33	-2	Stoke and Staffordshire	160.9	14	29	-15
34	+3	Greater Birmingham & Solihull	254.8	7	23	-16
35	+1	South East	185.1	12	28	-16
36	-29	South East Midlands	142.7 ¹⁵	15	31	-16
37	-3	London Enterprise Panel	745.4	1	25	-24
38	-	Lancashire	265.2	6	36	-30

Oxfordshire LEP received the second lowest amount of EU funding and yet was ranked fifth overall in terms of its climate change and low carbon economy commitment. This

¹⁵ Assumption that the Northamptonshire LEP EU funding allocation was absorbed into SE Midlands LEP when they merged in 2016.

combination represents the biggest positive discrepancy in terms of a LEP that has been allocated less money than most but is still performing quite strongly on tackling climate change and embracing the low carbon economy. This suggests that this LEP appreciates the benefits of investing in this agenda, as well as suggesting that it may have a greater need or opportunity to do so, in terms of local issues or assets.

Conversely, Lancashire LEP, which scored third from bottom of the climate change and low carbon economy score ranking, is scoring bottom on this scale, as it was allocated the sixth highest amount of EU funding and therefore scores -30 overall. Thames Valley Berkshire LEP, which scored the worst of all the LEPs overall on climate change and the low carbon economy, has also received the least amount of EU funding from government. As such, it scores zero reflecting that its low commitment on tackling climate change is better understood because it is one of the least resourced LEPs from an EU funding perspective. In a sense, using this scale, it does not matter how much above zero each LEP scores; the greater significance is how much **below** zero a LEP scores, as this reflects how much it could improve on tackling climate change overall.

Oxfordshire and New Anglia LEPs were top of this scale in the previous assessment and this remains the case in 2017. The biggest improver is Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough LEP which has demonstrated good practice in this agenda in the last couple of years despite being allocated a relatively small amount of EU funding; it has risen 21 places in this table. Heart of the South West and Tees Valley partnerships are also commended for rising 20 and 19 places respectively. The biggest faller was South East Midlands, although this is understandable due to the merger of the LEP with Northamptonshire LEP in 2016. It is not clear if the LEP has acquired all of Northamptonshire LEP's EU funding allocation and even if it has, a potential hiatus in activity is understandable given potential changes to structure and priorities.

Local Growth Funding

New to *Fit for the Future II* is the same analysis as the above but looking at the amount of allocated Local Growth Funding (LGF) from government that each LEP has received. Growth Deals provide funds, i.e. LGFs, to LEPs for projects that benefit the local area and economy¹⁶ and as per this definition are broad in what they can fund and can include projects pertaining to innovation, culture, skills, regeneration, R&D and more. However, projects that benefit objectives around climate change and that can strengthen the low carbon economy are equally as likely to be funded by LGF, especially pertaining sustainable transport, low carbon demonstrators and flood defences. Additional analysis would be required to learn exactly how LGF money has been spent nationwide and such analysis is beyond the scope of this study. However, it is reasonable to expect that those LEPs that have received more LGF monies should demonstrate greater activity in the low carbon and climate adaptation space, either by using funding to directly deal with these issues, or by integrating low carbon and climate change activity into other LGF-funded growth projects.

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-growth-deals>

Therefore, in a similar way to Figure 14, Figure 15 looks at the amount of LGF received by LEPs and their respective overall score in this climate change and low carbon analysis. Figure 15's allocation figures represent the combined total LGF money that has been allocated as a result of Growth Deals one to three in July 2014, January 2015 and November 2016, according to the House of Commons Library.¹⁷

Figure 15: Climate change commitment of each LEP area against the total amount of Local Growth Fund money allocated over three rounds, 2014-2016. Where two or more LEPs have the same score, the LEP with the best climate score is put on top.

	LEP Area	LGF funding allocation £m	Allocation rank /38	Overall climate rank /38	Rank; allocation vs climate score
1	Tees Valley	126.0	30	4	+26
2	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	78.2	35	9	+26
3	Worcestershire	71.7	37	11	+26
4	Oxfordshire	142.6	25	5	+20
5	Humber	141.5	27	7	+20
6	Cumbria	60.3	38	18	+20
7	Leicester & Leicestershire	126.2	29	12	+17
8	Greater Lincolnshire	155.5	22	6	+16
9	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough	146.7	23	8	+15
10	Gloucestershire (GFirst)	106.6	32	19	+13
11	New Anglia	290.9	11	2	+9
12	Heart of the South West	212.0	18	14	+4
13	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding	145.9	24	21	+3
14	D2N2	259.5	15	13	+2
15	Cheshire & Warrington	201.1	19	17	+2
16	Coventry & Warwickshire	131.8	28	26	+2
17	Stoke and Staffordshire	121.0	31	29	+2
18	Greater Manchester	663.4	2	1	+1
19	Dorset	98.5	34	34	0
20	Leeds City Region	694.9	1	3	-2
21	Liverpool City Region	332.9	8	10	-2
22	The Marches	104.9	33	35	-2
23	Buckinghamshire Trent Valley	73.5	36	38	-2
24	Enterprise M3	219.1	16	20	-4
25	Black Country	217.8	17	24	-7
26	Sheffield City Region	365.0	7	15	-8
27	North East	379.6	6	16	-10
28	West of England	283.5	12	22	-10
29	Swindon & Wiltshire	168.9	21	32	-11
30	Thames Valley Berkshire	142.4	26	37	-11
31	Solent	182.9	20	33	-13
32	Coast to Capital	304.0	10	27	-17
33	Hertfordshire	265.5	13	30	-17
34	South East Midlands	261.3	14	31	-17
35	Greater Birmingham & Solihull	433.0	5	23	-18
36	London Enterprise Panel	435.3	4	25	-21
37	South East	593.0	3	28	-25
38	Lancashire	320.9	9	36	-27

¹⁷ <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN07120>

Figure 15 shows that Tees Valley, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and Worcestershire LEPs all receive lower Local Growth Funding allocations but have performed well in this assessment on low carbon and climate change activity. Lancashire is, consistent with the EU funding analysis, bottom of this list, receiving the ninth greatest amount of LG funds but being ranked low in terms of climate change and low carbon. Greater Manchester is showing that it is using its generous LGF allocation to fund low carbon and climate change activity given it ranks high on both scales. Other LEPs, like Dorset, the Marches and Buckinghamshire Thames Valley rank low on the climate change / low carbon activity scale, but this is more understandable when analysing LGF allocations as they have all received relatively lower amounts. Again, scoring 0 would be expected if climate change and low carbon activity was linear against the amount of funding received by government.

Both funding sources

LGF and ESIF are significant pots of money for the LEPs and are consistent in that all LEPs have access to them. Therefore, when adding the total allocations together, a convincing case is made that LEPs that do more on climate change and the low carbon economy would be expected to have more money allocated to them overall. Figure 16 demonstrates whether this is the case or not.

Figure 16: Climate change commitment of each LEP area against the total amount of Local Growth Fund money and EU funding allocated since 2014 (figures 14 and 15 combined). Where two or more LEPs have the same score, the LEP with the best climate score is put on top.

	LEP Area	Total LGF & EU funding allocated £m*	Allocation rank /38	Overall climate rank /38	Rank; allocation vs climate score
1	Oxfordshire	159.39	33	5	+28
2	Worcestershire	130.69	37	11	+26
3	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough	212.12	29	8	+21
4	Humber	230.24	27	7	+20
5	Cumbria	139.47	36	18	+18
6	Tees Valley	301.48	20	4	+16
7	Greater Lincolnshire	271.21	21	6	+15
8	Gloucestershire (GFirst)	139.75	34	19	+15
9	Leicester & Leicestershire	235.56	25	12	+13
10	New Anglia	372.77	12	2	+10
11	Heart of the South West	314.49	19	14	+5
12	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding	230.38	26	21	+5
13	Enterprise M3	258.69	23	20	+3
14	Greater Manchester	1,023.41	3	1	+2
15	Cheshire & Warrington	324.29	18	17	+1
16	Dorset	139.48	35	34	+1
17	Liverpool City Region	525.08	10	10	0
18	Buckinghamshire Trent Valley	85.51	38	38	0
19	Leeds City Region	1,033.77	2	3	-1
20	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	591.85	7	9	-2
21	D2N2	471.78	11	13	-2
22	Coventry & Warwickshire	249.69	24	26	-2
23	Swindon & Wiltshire	206.66	30	32	-2

24	The Marches	203.47	31	35	-4
25	Solent	220.22	28	33	-5
26	Thames Valley Berkshire	167.20	32	37	-5
27	Sheffield City Region	545.26	9	15	-6
28	West of England	342.92	15	22	-7
29	Stoke and Staffordshire	260.98	22	29	-7
30	Black Country	371.44	13	24	-11
31	North East	847.14	4	16	-12
32	Coast to Capital	362.29	14	27	-13
33	Hertfordshire	325.70	17	30	-13
34	South East Midlands	337.77	16	31	-15
35	Greater Birmingham & Solihull	654.68	6	23	-17
36	South East	754.04	5	28	-23
37	London Enterprise Panel	1,083.80	1	25	-24
38	Lancashire	551.62	8	36	-28

* EU figure converted from € to £ using a recent conversion rate, €1 = £0.87.

When combining allocated ESIF and LGF funds, Oxfordshire LEP comes out on top, emphasising how the organisation appears to understand the importance of tackling climate change and the benefits of strengthening the low carbon economy despite receiving a relatively low amount of key funding compared to other LEPs. Worcestershire LEP is a close second. SWM congratulates any LEP that has been awarded a positive integer shown in figure 16.

It is understood that the amount EU and LGF funding received by LEPs is not the only reason for the level of investment and activity around the climate change and low carbon agenda. Each LEP would have scored '0' on this scale, otherwise. Other factors could include:

- Their available assets, for example inland LEPs would have no access to offshore renewable energy (wind or tidal) capacity.
- Exposure to climate risk, for example areas that have had little or no historic flooding events.
- Significant or more urgent issues to address, aside from climate change, such as unemployment, infrastructure pressures etc.
- Utilising other funds aside from EU or LGF sources to develop low carbon projects.

However, strengthening the low carbon economy and addressing climate risks has huge benefits to an area's economy regardless of the factors above and, as such, we would expect these funds to be partially utilised to develop long-term, sustainable projects that benefit the area's environmental and economic development. This is why it is a useful indicator in determining progress.

3.7 Summary of research findings

Using the methodology outlined in section 2 and focusing on the analysis outlined in section 3, the key results are as follows:

Strong performers

- Greater Manchester LEP is the strongest performer overall on climate adaptation, mitigation and the low carbon economy.
- Leeds City Region LEP is highly commended as it appears in the top five in each of the four climate change and low carbon league tables.
- Oxfordshire LEP is commended for obtaining a relatively low allocation of EU and LG funding but performing well on climate change and low carbon issues regardless.
- North and East regions show the strongest commitment on tackling climate change and embracing the low carbon economy, with Yorkshire and Humber the strongest overall.

Opportunities for improvement

- Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP is the weakest performer on this agenda overall, although it does receive the lowest amount of EU and LG funding. It is also ranked in the bottom two on each of the four climate metric tables.
- Lancashire LEP is the weakest performer when factoring in each LEP's allocated amount of EU and LG funding.
- The Southern regions, especially the South East, are consistently the poorest performers regionally on tackling climate change, with the West Midlands next.

4. Good practice examples

One of the aims of the research was to identify good practice from across the 38 LEPs that could inspire or be replicated elsewhere. Ten examples have been selected from the research and these are shown overleaf. They showcase some best practice examples in terms of the types of projects and commitments LEPs can make to strengthen their climate change adaptation and mitigation performance and why they have decided to do so. They are also different to the nine case studies published in the first *Fit for the Future* report, although many of these are still valid. Additional examples of good practice from other LEPs can also be gleaned from the research and the number of examples provided overleaf is by no means exhaustive; please contact the authors of this report to find out more.¹⁸

Other case studies are also provided the recent LEPs and Local Energy report¹⁹ published by Liverpool City Region LEP, which *“explores the role that LEPs can play in supporting local energy and makes the case for greater LEP engagement in order to realise the economic, social and environmental benefits of local energy activities.”* The LEP has prepared this report to further its understanding of the role that it might take in supporting the local energy agenda. Its development involved surveying other LEPs to assess the overall level of awareness of local energy priorities and to understand the support already being provided. The report also contains sixteen case studies which provide further useful good practice examples of local energy and low carbon planning being undertaken by and in LEP areas.

¹⁸ Contact enquiries@swm.org.uk

¹⁹ See <http://bit.ly/2voXVoX>; the case studies commence from page 25.

MANCHESTER'S LOW CARBON VISION



4.1 Greater Manchester LEP

The Greater Manchester LEP, in partnership with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, has demonstrated leadership in low carbon integration, demonstration and implementation for several years and continues to do so despite continuous changes to policy and drivers. This can be demonstrated by:

Ambitious carbon targets

- 48% reduction in carbon by 2020 from 1990 levels.
- 80% reduction by 2050 and/or two tonnes per head per capita by 2050 from 1990 levels.

Implementation Plan

- The Whole Place Implementation Plan for Greater Manchester sets out what the area will do under five headline goals: reducing carbon emissions; growing the low carbon economy; rapidly adapting to a changing climate; embedding low carbon behaviours and achieving air quality thresholds.

Partnership working and integration

- The Low Carbon Hub and its Board brings together leading figures in the space, including from local authorities, higher education, large private sector and energy distributors.
- The Hub manages several other sustainability related Boards including one on energy, one focusing on buildings and one around carbon literacy.

Green growth

- The Greater Manchester Growth Hub contains the Green Growth team which *"is here to help you increase your profitability by reducing your environmental impact and taking advantage of the growing market for low carbon and environmental goods and services."*

Smart energy

- The Greater Manchester Smart Energy project sees 600 homes fitted with air source heat pumps which are then connected to a smart grid system which can manage the energy produced in people's homes and help reduce demand on the National Grid.



Low Carbon Project Delivery Unit (PDU)

- The Low Carbon PDU has four additional main work streams: heat networks, LED street lighting conversion, non-domestic energy efficiency and the District Energy Procurement Agency.

Links: [Implementation Plan](#) | [Low Carbon Hub](#) | [Green Growth](#) | [Smart energy](#) | [LC PDU](#)

THE PEOPLE'S POWER STATION

4.2 Oxfordshire LEP

The People's Power Station is an online platform showing the impact of renewable, locally owned energy for community benefits.

The tool not only maps all locally owned renewable generation across the whole LEP area, but also shows the contribution this makes to one of the biggest energy challenges of the 21st century: meeting energy demand.



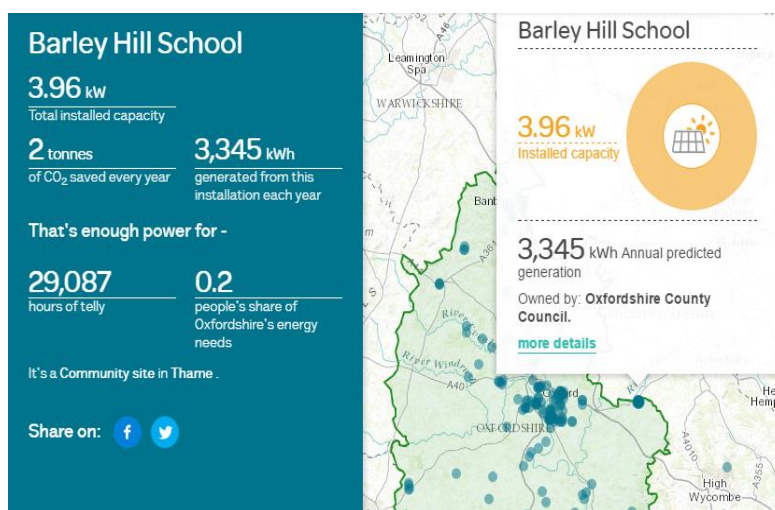
“A new kind of energy is lighting up schools, homes and businesses all over Oxfordshire: it’s renewable, locally owned and developed for community benefit.”

The vision is to plug renewable energy projects across the area into the tool, whether these be from businesses, community energy schemes, homes and schools.

The critical point is that it does not just act as a map showing where the schemes are; it also acts as an incentive towards increasing energy efficiency and security across the whole county. It will also contribute to one of the LEP's aims in its Strategic Economic Plan: to “support the preparation of a locally informed energy strategy for Oxfordshire.”²⁰

The People's Power Station is driven by Oxfordshire's Low Carbon Hub, which claims to be “one of the most important community energy organisations in the UK.” The Hub develops community-owned renewable energy in the county and re-invests its surplus into local projects, such as the People's Power Station.

The Hub also provides one of the leading examples of partnership working on the low carbon agenda in the country. The Hub effectively provides the LEP with a low carbon group and series of energy experts to call upon to inform its economic targets. This is fundamental in keeping activity levels high and also allows the People's Power Station project to be more integrated; there are plenty of experts from across the county who can provide intelligence of projects and renewable energy activity that can be fed into the tool in future.



Links: [People's Power Station](#) | [Low Carbon Hub](#)

²⁰ <http://bit.ly/2ox9Bz3>, page 94.

DRIVING DOWN CARBON EMISSIONS



4.3 Enterprise M3

The majority of LEPs have invested a considerable proportion of their Local Growth Funding (LGF) allocation to transport, including encouraging sustainable forms of travel via improving the viability of bus services, construction of cycle and walking facilities or upgrading railways stations. Enterprise M3, however, has done more than most and is one of the leading LEPs when it comes to strengthening public transport provision.

Some of the projects that the LEP's LGF has helped support in recent years include:

- Whitehill & Bordon Sustainable Transport Package:** this included a 'green loop' and 'green grid' providing a network of pedestrian and cycle routes that results in a continuous loop around the town linking major employment areas and the town centre to existing and proposed residential areas.
- Egham Sustainable Transport Package:** this programme focused on measures comprising cycling, walking and bus corridors to improve connectivity into and through the Business area.
- Staines Sustainable Transport Package:** this focuses primarily on improving links between Staines and Heathrow airport. It is formed of six schemes all of which involve improving cycling provision.
- Blackwater Valley Cycle/Pedestrian Corridor** improvements, primarily including a major upgrade to local cycling and walking facilities.
- Guildford Riverside Route:** A 1.24 kilometre high-quality, traffic-free cycling and walking route along the River Wey and Godalming Navigations towpath in Guildford around Parsonage Watermeadows.
- Blackwater Valley Gold Grid:** Investing in and improving the Gold bus service that calls at Aldershot, Farnborough, Frimley and Camberley to reflect recent developments in the area.

The projects listed here have seen LGF contributions of approximately £20m.

This is supplemented by improvements and upgrades to local railway stations, including Aldershot, Fleet and Woking, amounting to around £1m contributed by the LEP.

Embracing public transport of any sort is not just good for the environment. It is also economically beneficial, unlocking access to key sites and locations, as well as having huge benefits for health. It is one of the most effective things any LEP can do to show its support to the whole sustainability agenda. Enterprise M3 has demonstrated this in abundance.

Links: [Whitehill](#) | [Egham](#) | [Staines](#) | [Blackwater Cycle](#) | [Guildford River](#) | [Blackwater Gold](#)

HEATING LEEDS CITY REGION



4.4 Leeds City Region LEP

One of Leeds City Region LEP's four key pillars is clean energy and environmental resilience and beneath this one of its key priorities is energy generation. This recognition of the economic importance of the energy and low carbon sector is reflected in its commitment to developing heat networks across the LEP area.

The LEP's heat network journey began in 2013 when it started investigating options for heat network implementation across the city region. This would provide a secure source of local low carbon heat as well as create the opportunity to develop the region as a hub for heat network skills and expertise as part the LEPs economic growth agenda.

Ten of the projects have the potential to save over 55,000 tonnes of carbon every year, generate nearly 400 GWh of heat and 165 GWh of electricity.

A mapping exercise initially took place, which identified hundreds of potential sites for district heating schemes in ninety different clusters. This included supply from a variety of sources, including a combined heat and power generator and an energy from waste facility. These were then prioritised and so far, fifteen individual schemes have been or are being implemented.

Partnership working was key and along with engaging with local authorities, housing associations, energy distributors and large heat users, the LEP also obtained funding from the government Heat Networks Delivery Unit's initiative and the Carbon Trust, who undertook a benefits analysis study to quantify the benefits and challenges of implementing district heating schemes in the region.

Locations where heat network schemes are currently being implemented or investigated include Aire Valley, Barnsley, Bradford City Centre Civic Quarter, Castleford, Halifax Town Centre, Huddersfield Town Centre, Knottingley, Leeds City Centre, Wakefield City Centre, Wakefield City Fields and York.



The whole low carbon and energy agenda is driven by the LEP's Green Economy Panel, consisting of large and small public and private sector bodies. It appears, therefore, that the LEP's low carbon agenda is fully embedded into its way of working, not least emphasised by their achievements with heat networks.

Links: [Carbon Trust's case study](#) | [Green Economy Panel](#)

THE CASE FOR LOW CARBON BUSINESSES

4.5 South East LEP



Many LEPs have used European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) to implement projects that help to improve the energy efficiency and reduce the carbon emissions of the LEP area's SME business base. Many others are running programmes that help SMEs access low carbon products, services and markets. However, projects that do both are less common, which is where the Low Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE) project is so successful.

"The project will provide business support to 1,050 SMEs, cut emissions by 6,510 tonnes of CO₂, create 270 new jobs in LCEGS sector and invest £18 million in businesses."

The programme will provide a consistent, accessible business support programme across the South East LEP area to help businesses optimise their use of resources and adopt eco-innovative and low carbon solutions in ways that improve business performance in terms of resilience, profitability and competitiveness while at the same time contributing to the protection and preservation of the environment.

There are two types of grant funding available, each for a maximum of £10,000 that will fund up to 40% of the total project costs. The first is the implementation of energy efficiency measures installed across the business, with both the cost of materials and installation being covered. The second is an offer to those businesses that offer low carbon goods and services. Eligible funding can be provided towards a combination of marketing, consultancy, equipment, IT software, product and process development, accreditation and certification.

The other key success of this project is how simple it is for businesses to access the programme. Everything is on one concise and visual website, which is easy to navigate and provides all the key information without being diluted with too much jargon or irrelevance.

A registration form to determine eligibility is also included within the website which, consistently, is straightforward. It is an attractive site for SMEs to access as it does not take much time to determine what the programme offers and how to find out more.



LoCASE is also supplemented by specific websites that cover each individual county that make up the South East LEP area, the most impressive of which is Low Carbon Kent. This is effectively a network that any business (whether eligible for LoCASE or not) can access to network with other businesses to gain support, find suppliers of low carbon technologies and gain information about funds, above and beyond LoCASE, that could help to support their business. It is an olive branch to those businesses that are not eligible for the LoCASE scheme to get involved and gain additional support, as well as a platform on which to share good practice and ask questions.

Links: [LoCASE](#) | [Low Carbon Kent](#)

DEMONSTRATING RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES

4.6 Humber LEP

There is no doubt that the Humber is one of the best places to go to access facilities, training and support in the renewable energy sector, particularly offshore wind. The flagship development in the region is the Humber Enterprise Zone, the largest Enterprise Zone in the whole country at over 3,000 acres. Not only that, but the Zone contains two leading low carbon centres:



- **Able Marine Energy Park (AMEP):** this is a fully consented project that will be a bespoke port facility for the renewable energy sector. It is designed specifically for the marine renewables sector providing a multi-user facility for the manufacture, storage, assembly and deployment of next generation offshore wind turbines and their associated supply chains.
- **Green Port Hull:** its vision is to establish Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire as a world class centre for renewable energy and contains a range of incentives including land with quayside access, being located with a designated Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering (CORE) and utilisation of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) to provide skills and employment, business support and research and development to ensure that local people and businesses gain maximum benefit from the renewable energy sector.



Local Growth Funding, administered through the LEP, has also helped to supplement the renewable energy strengths of the Enterprise Zone by establishing three further centres that help to strengthen business and industry capability in renewables and offshore technologies. These are:

Nearly £5m has been provided through Local Growth Funding to help develop the ERGO Centre, CATCH Energy Offshore and the Environmental Logistics Learning Hub.

- **ERGO Centre** at Bridgehead Business Park: This Centre has the potential to support 3,000 jobs in its lifetime by creating managed workspaces targeting businesses and professional services that support the development of environmental technologies sector.
- **Environmental Logistics Learning Hub:** this will be a centre of excellence for the delivery of education and training for the ports, logistics and energy sectors. It will provide state of the art simulators for training lifting and support vessel operatives working in the offshore energy sector.
- **CATCH Energy Offshore:** this is an investment programme in specialist training facilities and infrastructure for the offshore wind industry. These will include indoor and outdoor training environments to deliver marine survival and a wide range of health and safety-related training.

There is no doubting that Humber offers a multifarious range of opportunities for businesses, specialists and academics to help develop their skills and supply chains in the renewable energy sector; the biggest challenge will be choosing which of the sites to visit first!

Links: [ABLE](#) | [Green Port Hull](#) | [ERGO](#) | [Environmental Logistics Learning Hub](#) | [CATCH Energy](#)

EXCELLING IN THE BIOECONOMY

4.7 York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP

**ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP**
York / North Yorkshire / East Riding

**Business
Inspired
Growth**

The bioeconomy is a sector which provides low carbon, renewable alternatives to the fossil fuel based economy. The key element of the process involves obtaining renewable biological resources from land and sea and converting these into products such as food, animal feed, materials, chemicals and energy. Adding value to bio-waste, including household food waste or by-products from food processing, is also part of the bioeconomy.

“In Yorkshire, the bioeconomy is worth GVA £8.7 billion and employs 105,000 people.”

The LEP sees that embracing the bioeconomy is fundamental twofold: firstly, because the land and assets the region has are conducive to a strong bioeconomic sector and secondly because it understands the area can benefit both environmentally and economically by utilising these assets in a sustainable way.

One way that it is harnessing these benefits is through the Biorenewables Development Centre (BDC). The Centre *“offers a broad variety of services in the fields of chemistry and biology to help businesses convert plants, microbes and biowastes into profitable green products.”*

SMEs can access 120 pre-funded projects help Yorkshire businesses grow through bio-based innovations, including biorenewables, courtesy of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The Centre’s website also helps to signpost businesses exploring innovation opportunities and sustainable technologies to relevant funds from other sources.



The BDC is also able to accommodate businesses and clients operating in the biorenewables space. One example of this is through its anaerobic digestion (AD) facility. The facility can perform pilot AD trials and conduct pre- and post-digestion analysis and can be used by anyone in the sector.

“The bio-economy, in particular if it’s embedded in a circular economy, provides such sophisticated solutions to many of the outlined societal challenges whilst providing major opportunities for high value economic growth.”
Dr. Gesa Reiss, Y, NY & ER LEP

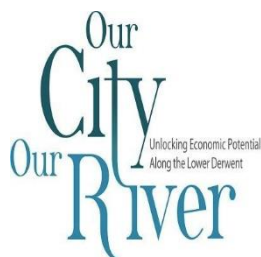
Another bioeconomy related project that the LEP has part-funded is its Sustainable Futures programme. This is a multi-layered peer learning programme, to maximise inputs and minimise waste by strengthening collaboration between farmers and food manufacturers. Two of its aims are to ‘improve competitiveness and logistics while reducing carbon footprints’ and ‘identify new ways of reducing waste, optimising resource use and recycling bi-products to improve supply chain efficiency.’

There is no question that Yorkshire and its surrounds are excelling in this area and the LEP is working very hard to support the sector via its various growth programmes and initiatives.

Links: [LEP’s bioeconomy pages](#) | [Biorenewables Development Centre](#) | [Sustainable Futures](#) | [Blog](#)

OUR CITY OUR RIVER

4.8 D2N2 LEP



Flooding presents a huge risk to many parts of England and is increasingly affecting areas that may not have experienced impacts before due to climate change making our weather patterns more unpredictable and erratic. Some LEPs recognise that these risks can have significant detrimental effects on growth and economic development.

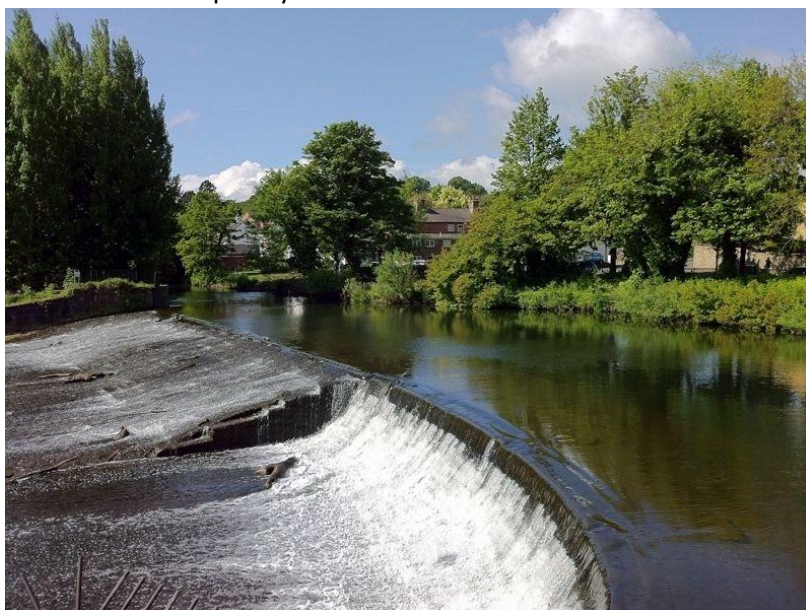


The £95m 'Our City Our River' project in Derby has been developed to reduce flood risk through long-term and sustainable economic development, creating a high quality riverside linking the city centre with the river. The project includes plans for flood defences which would protect many areas against a one-in-100 year chance of occurrence and provides an ideal opportunity to release the economic potential of brownfield sites along the city's river frontage. Moreover, at least 2,000 properties in Derby that are at risk from flooding at present.

Recognising that the first phase of the project will unlock 16 hectares of sustainable brownfield land for development and create 700 associated jobs is ample for the LEP to invest £2m into the scheme using Local Growth Funding (LGF).

Since then, a further £12m of LGF has been invested into the next phase of the project, which will be split into three packages given the extent and complexity of the works.

The benefits are not just economic, however. The team involved in undertaking the works have ensured that the local community are involved in the various archaeological works that are required prior to construction. Moreover, a total of 1,140 properties are expected to be receiving better flood protection following construction; and this is only the first phase of the scheme.



The project is also seen as an important mechanism for enhancing the local environment, creating better public access and protecting the biodiversity and heritage assets along the riverside.

D2N2 LEP understands that investing in Our City Our River is not just going to help adapt to climate change and increased flood risk. It will also enhance the wider sustainability of Derby as well as strengthen the economic resilience of the city.

Links: [LEP website project information](#) | [Main Derby City Council pages](#)

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF WATER

4.9 Greater Lincolnshire LEP



“Water management is fundamental to the growth of Greater Lincolnshire, not only because it provides valuable services that underpin our environment, economy and quality of life, and food security, but also because of our geography.” This is the opening statement on the LEP’s Water Management section of their website. It shows recognition that the issue of water – whether too much or too little – is a hugely important one for the local economy as well as the residents that live there.

“Greater Lincolnshire has been affected by a number of significant coastal (1953) and inland (2007, 2013) floods. Conversely, it is also one of the driest areas in the country and is prone to drought.” – Taken from the SEP

To respond to this issue, the LEP is one of the only ones in the country to form a board that specifically focuses on this issue. Its Water Management Board contains a variety of organisations deemed to be key players in the water management space, namely the Environment Agency, local water companies, local authorities, Defra and the local drainage board.

The LEP has also developed its water management plan 2015-2040 ‘Water for Growth,’ which recognises the unviable option of doing nothing and presents a strong business case for action.

But strategy is nothing without activity and GLLEP is already demonstrating that it is utilising a combination of funding sources to develop projects that will help the area grow whilst protecting its residents from the impacts of flooding and drought.

One of these projects is the Lincolnshire Lakes scheme near Scunthorpe, which involves the intentional creation of lakes to provide residential, employment and leisure provision. The implementation of the first of five lakes planned is underway. It “will serve a multifunctional purpose, delivering a stunning waterside setting for housing, recreational opportunities and surface water management.”

Critically, though, one of the key strategic objectives of the project is to integrate flood management solutions which will ensure that the development is free from flooding, whilst also providing additionality to the existing flood defences in the nearby villages of Buringham and Gunness. The project also shows cross-LEP working at its best, as both GLLEP and Humber LEP have provided funding through their Local Growth Deals to contribute to this activity.

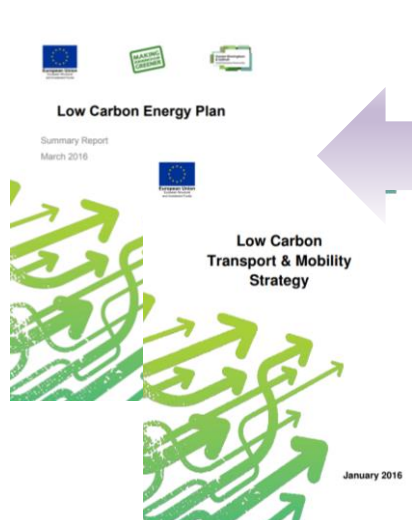


Links: [Water management priority](#) | [WM Board](#) | [WM Plan](#) | [Lincolnshire Lakes scheme](#)

THE STRATEGIC APPROACH

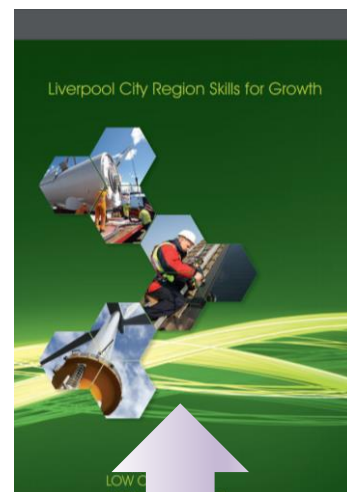
4.10 Examples of good practice strategies

Strategies are not everything; taking an ethos and intention of a strategy and turning it into reality is more difficult. However, implementing a strategy that focuses on low carbon, climate change or sustainability in some form is a good starting point to encourage and prioritise activity. Below are a few examples of good strategies that have been developed by LEPs, representing a variety of approaches.



Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP:

- Both strategies initially created to inform ERDF investment.
- Both set the context in terms of the issues in the area to address.
- Both contain activity plans; a particularly good example is included in the Energy Plan which includes timescales and possible funding sources.



Oxfordshire LEP:

- One of the few LEPs to consider environmental investment and natural capital as one of its priorities.
- Developed from an understanding on key local environmental assets, including its landscape and skills.
- Includes a series of investment proposals.

Liverpool City Region LEP:

- One of the few strategies to focus on low carbon skills development and requirements needed to grow the sector.
- Focus on STEM, university strengths and manufacturing skills in the local area.
- Provides a list of training and apprenticeship opportunities.



York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP:

- A plan that aims to support coastline growth with the environment, low carbon and community resilience embedded within.
- Very clear list of proposed activities, including flood alleviation schemes and transport measures.
- Links back to the SEP's main priorities.



Links: [GBSLEP Energy](#) | [GBSLEP Transport](#) | [Liverpool](#) | [Oxfordshire](#) | [Y, NY & ER](#)

5. Recommendations

From the results of the research and good practice case studies, a series of recommendations are set out for the different audiences of this report.

National – For organisations such as BEIS, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Energy Systems Catapult, DCLG and Defra, along with those that either provide national or local support to LEPs such as the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP):

- This latest benchmark and criteria provides a good starting point and progress indicator for government and LEPs to agree clear climate change criteria and expectations of LEPs and partners. Supporting organisations should agree on how these criteria will be assessed and measured, provide resources to help, incentivise good performance and implement consequences of poor performance.
- All LEPs should be required to provide an annual report on their website. The annual report should include progress on climate change and low carbon economy priorities. These actions should be consistently reflected in any future reiterations of LEP strategies such as SEPs, ESIF and Local Growth Deals. Key national metrics in annual reports could include productivity losses due to extreme weather events, overall greenhouse gas reduction and growth of key low carbon business sectors. Publication of the number of annual reports has not significantly improved since 2015.
- The DCLG EU funding assessment teams and local technical assistance partners should be jointly trained and supported on climate risk assessment, greenhouse gas reduction and promotion of the low carbon economy at the programme and project level. This would help improve the quality and outcomes of the new EU funded projects the LEPs advise on locally and help to allocate remaining underspend in what is a critical year to utilise the remaining EU funds.
- There should be transparency around how the government intends to replace the low carbon and climate change aspects of EU funding post-Brexit. There is a huge opportunity to provide more flexible and easier-to-access funding to strengthen this agenda both within and across LEP boundaries. However, the risk in the meantime is that LEPs stay away from the low carbon and climate change agendas due to the significant uncertainty of post-Brexit funding opportunities.
- There should also be clear guidance on other funding sources not reliant on EU support that LEPs can access today and in the future, as soon as they become available. Our findings demonstrate that the nature of understanding of other funding sources that support the low carbon and climate change agenda, aside from European ones is, at best, mixed.
- The evidence presented in this report shows where additional areas of support and intervention are required by government, both in terms of themes (e.g. adaptation) and geographical clustering (e.g. the South East). It is recommended that appropriate

interventions are considered such as resources for national bodies to help provide targeted help such as local workshops and peer support from leading LEPs.

- Similarly, SWM recommends that government and other supporting bodies focus their efforts and attention on those LEPs that are performing less well according to this assessment. From the interviews in particular, many LEPs have told us that they have not had the capacity or resources to focus significantly on the low carbon agenda but do have a strong appetite to do so; we recommend that national supporting organisations focus their attention on these LEPs initially.
- National organisations should collaborate their support rather than approach LEPs separately. BEIS could lead on this process, using the *Fit for the Future II* event on 17 October as a starting point. Approaching LEPs in isolation could add confusion and instead a clear, agreed and joint offer should be developed which sets out the expertise that each national body has and how it can support LEPs on energy, low carbon economy and climate adaptation. SWM can assist with this process.
- Building on this, ensure that LEPs gain the appropriate amount of support that they need when developing their energy strategies, funded by BEIS. Ensure that there is peer-to-peer learning available, as well as advice from energy experts.
- There should be an annual event with the national LEP network and partners to share the progress, challenges and new good practice identified through the climate change and low carbon economy benchmarking process, as well as with implementing emerging energy strategies. Like other LEP network events this also provides a forum for LEPs to feedback support ideas to government. The 17 October 2017 event in Birmingham²¹ is the second of this type of events.
- The benchmarking exercise carried out for this report could be done in future by the LEPs themselves and independently vetted by an independent body such as SWM. This would only be successful if it was mandatory, but would allow LEPs to recognise instantly what their strengths and weaknesses are on this agenda.
- As part of the devolution agenda, government should resource clusters of leading LEPs on key sustainability themes to help drive local delivery and innovation to inform national policy, devolution deals and drive up performance where local delivery is poor.
- Support has always been available to strengthen the energy and low carbon agenda and this is increasing, which SWM welcomes. However, less support is available, either via funding opportunities or advice and guidance, on the climate adaptation agenda. Ensuring that a LEP and its area's economy is resilient is crucial²² and should

²¹ http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/?post_type=events&p=10895

²² See the LEP Resilient Growth Information Note produced by Climate UK for more information on help and support on climate resilience: <http://bit.ly/2iFAw9g>

not be ignored. We call on national organisations to resource LEPs to ensure that they are protected from shocks as a result of extreme weather which is increasing due to climate change.

Local – For LEP Board members, champions and their supporting working groups that are tasked to specifically progress climate change and low carbon issues, as well as the broader LEP Boards, local authority sustainability teams or those who manage external funding sources in local authorities on behalf of the LEP and nominated environment and sustainability champion on the LEP area local ESIF committees. These recommendations incorporate the key recommendations included in Liverpool City Region LEP ‘*LEPs and local energy*’²³ report, given in *italics*.

- Identifying a sustainability/low carbon board champion and/or establishing a sustainability working group can help drive forward results and should be considered by all LEPs and published on the website.
- The detailed benchmark produced for this research for each individual LEP can help inform an annual work plan for the board champion and working group. The relevant LEP champion or partner responsible for this agenda locally should contact enquiries@swm.org.uk for a copy. Depending on your requirements and resources, SWM can then put you in touch with a relevant support organisation such as BEIS.
- Decide what you are going to report on and put this within your monitoring framework and publish this with your annual report.
- Use the forthcoming opportunity provided by BEIS to develop an energy strategy that is realistic and that addresses aspects of these recommendations. Despite the specific focus on energy, use this as an opportunity to strengthen your overall low carbon agenda.
- Many LEPs are strong on partnership working already, but where gaps exist it is recommended that LEPs forge strong relationships with other local partners, such as universities (*e.g. harnessing local research and innovation*), local authorities (*e.g. developing municipal energy projects*) and private sector organisations (*e.g. strengthening supply chains around renewable energy*), especially where there is local good practice around low carbon and climate change demonstrated. *LEPs can also act as the conduit between government and local stakeholders to establish the scope of local energy and low carbon activity within the LEP sub-region.*
- However, it is important that LEPs manage stakeholders’ expectations given limited resources and remit and identify practical areas where they can help improve the benchmarking scores. This could include help with sites, programmes, projects, leveraging in other national pilots and resources, or using their campaigning skills to influence the national framework within which LEPs have to operate.

²³ See <http://bit.ly/2voXVoX>, especially see pages iv to viii for a summary of recommendations

- *Recognise the breadth of activities encompassed by local energy, especially acknowledge the links between investment in energy infrastructure and supply chains and the growth of the economy, i.e. elements of the energy agenda that directly target LEP priorities. Appendix 2 of the 'LEPs and local energy' report provide some detailed examples of these, with a useful summary on page v.*
- *Promote community energy activities and recognise that LEPs and community groups have shared objectives. For example, LEPs can encourage local growth and further their core goals by becoming more actively involved in energy policy and projects. Outcomes of community projects can include lower energy costs, a boost to business productivity, inward investment and new jobs.²⁴*
- Embedding relevant elements of climate change and the low carbon criteria into all programmes and projects will ultimately help achieve more resilient growth and productivity gains, than relying only on a separate climate change and carbon programme. *Understand local energy as a cross-cutting theme that can involve a wide range of potential stakeholders across all sectors of the economy.*
- Cross-LEP working is not common on this agenda and by doing this more often would help to achieve potentially bigger results with less resource requirements. This is especially true with LEPs reshaping their boundaries to reflect the emerging combined local authority agenda.
- LEPs should also proactively keep in touch with other LEPs to share good practice and gain ideas. Well-resourced LEPs and LEPs that are strong on the low carbon agenda should openly offer their support to help LEPs who wish to strengthen their hand. This should include attending any nationally or locally organised events around the low carbon and climate change agenda.
- Maintain engagement with the national bodies outlined above during these transient times. Whilst there is currently much uncertainty particularly given the 2016 vote to leave the EU and the subsequent implications of funding the low carbon and climate change agenda, most LEPs have reported that they value and understand the benefits of embracing the low carbon economy and making their local area more resilient to climate impacts. This will not change and one of the best things LEPs can do is act as a voice for this agenda and shout about why it is important. Funding and support will surely follow. *LEPs can also be proactive by reviewing current and potential future funding streams that might be aligned to local energy outcomes.*
- Similarly, local support exists in various forms. It is rather ad-hoc in nature in 2017 but organisations such as Sustainability West Midlands are there to help LEPs progress this

²⁴ Liverpool City Region LEP has produced a guide for LEPs on community energy; see here: <http://bit.ly/2xw1zhZ>

agenda, either by providing general advice or developing a more detailed work programme.

- LEPs should consult the report commissioned by Liverpool City Region LEP, '*LEPs and local energy*,'²⁵ which provides a suite of useful recommendations, case studies, advice and guidance about how and why LEPs should embrace the local energy agenda and the various options open to them.
- There is little doubt that some LEPs will have done more to address climate risks and embrace the low carbon economy than has been picked up in this assessment. As such, LEPs should be transparent about the projects they are working on or have completed and should publish these on their websites and in annual reports.

²⁵ See <http://bit.ly/2voXVoX>

Annex 1: Database

The image below shows a snapshot of the spreadsheet that was used to collate the information and score each LEP based on the criteria provided in section 2.1.

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

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J

K

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M

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Region

LEP Name

BENCHMARKING

Criteria (A = Adaptation, M = Mitigation, LCE = Low Carbon Economy)

Origin of evidence

Website

SEP

ESIF

AR

Interview

Overall Score

Comments and Evidence

LEADERSHIP

1a

Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why climate adaptation is important to the local economy, both now and in the future?

A

1b

Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why climate change mitigation is important to the local economy, both now and in the future?

M

1c

Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why stimulating the low carbon economy is important to the local area, both now and in the future?

LCE

2a

Is there evidence of an individual or team working on behalf of or embedded into the LEP staffing structure whose primary responsibility is to deliver climate adaptation activity?

A

2b

Is there evidence of an individual or team working on behalf of or embedded into the LEP staffing structure whose primary responsibility is to deliver low carbon activity and stimulate the low carbon economy?

M
LCE

3a

Is there evidence of a lead or champion on the LEP Board who focuses partly or wholly on climate change adaptation?

A

3b

Is there evidence of a lead or champion on the LEP Board who focuses partly or wholly on carbon reduction or stimulating the low carbon economy?

M
LCE

4a

Is there evidence of an established working group that has a partial or full responsibility for identifying and developing actions with cross-sector partners to deliver climate adaptation goods and services, e.g. by mapping or developing a SWOT analysis?

A

4b

Is there evidence of an established working group that has a partial or full responsibility for identifying and developing actions with cross-sector partners to deliver low carbon activity and stimulate the low carbon economy?

M
LCE

5a

Is the LEP working with other LEPs on joint adaptation actions (e.g. developing cross-boundary flood alleviation programmes)?

A

5b

Is the LEP working with other LEPs on joint low carbon actions (e.g. developing large scale housing retrofit schemes)?

M
LCE

STRATEGY

6

Is there evidence of understanding the climate risks affecting critical elements of your economy (e.g. large businesses; industrial parks; key clusters and sectors)?

A

7a

Is there any evidence of analysing your area's strengths and opportunities in producing adaptation goods and services, e.g. by mapping or developing a SWOT analysis?

A

7b

Is there any evidence of analysing your area's low carbon businesses and infrastructure, e.g. by mapping or developing a SWOT analysis?

LCE

Has the LEP published a strategy that sets out how it will deliver activity related to one or more of the above criteria?

A

TV Berkshire (SE)

The Marches (WM)

West of Eng (SW)

Worcs (WM)

Y, NY & ER (YH)

NEW

Annex 2: Literature reviewed

The table below lists the literature that was reviewed to undertake this research (correct as of August 2017). Yellow boxes indicate that this document has not been updated since the first *Fit for the Future* assessment undertaken two years ago.

LEP	Strategic Economic Plan	ESIF strategy	Annual report	Website
Black Country	https://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/upload/files/BC%20SEP/DRAFT%20Black%20Country%20Strategic%20Economic%20Plan%2009.05.2017.pdf	https://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/upload/files/ESIF/Black_Country_EUSIF_Strategy_Jan2016.pdf	https://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/upload/files/AnnualReview/BC2016_Annual_Review%20low%20res.pdf	https://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/
Bucks Thames Valley	http://www.buckstvllep.co.uk/about-btv/strategic-economic-plan	http://www.buckstvllep.co.uk/uploads/downloads/FinalBTVLEPEUSIFInvestmentPlanv17.pdf	-	http://www.buckstvllep.co.uk/
Cheshire & Warrington	http://www.871candwep.co.uk/content/uploads/2017/07/Revised-SEP.pdf	http://www.871candwep.co.uk/content/uploads/2015/04/European-Structural-and-Investment-Fund.pdf	-	http://www.871candwep.co.uk/
Coast to Capital	http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/storage/downloads/strategic_economic_plan_2014_with_annexes_-1475571650.pdf	http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/storage/downloads/esif_strategy-1475574393.pdf	http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/storage/downloads/annual_report_2016-2017-1501596612.pdf	http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	https://www.cioslep.com/assets/file/Vision%202030/Vision-30.pdf	https://www.cioslep.com/assets/file/EU%20Investment%20Strategy/EU%20Structural%20and%20Investment%20Fund%20Strategy%20CioS%20LEP.pdf	-	https://www.cioslep.com/
Coventry & Warwickshire	http://www.cwlep.com/sites/default/files/cwlep_strategic_economic_plan_2016.pdf	http://www.cwlep.com/sites/default/files/coventry_and_warwickshire_esif_priority_chapters_dec_2016_vfinal.pdf	-	http://www.cwlep.com/
Cumbria	http://www.cumbrialep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Cumbria-LEP-final-report-1-April-2014.pdf	http://www.cumbrialep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Cumbria-LEP-ESIF-Version-1-March-2015.pdf	http://www.cumbrialep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/LEP-2016-Annual-Report.pdf	http://www.cumbrialep.co.uk/
D2N2	http://www.d2n2lep.org/write/Documents/D2N2_SEP_March_31st.pdf	http://www.d2n2lep.org/write/Documents/ESIF/D2N2-ESIF-Strategy-June-2016.pdf	http://www.d2n2lep.org/write/Documents/Annual-Review/2017/D2N2_Annual_Review.pdf	http://www.d2n2lep.org/Home

LEP	Strategic Economic Plan	ESIF strategy	Annual report	Website
Dorset	https://dorsetlep.s3.amazonaws.com/Documents/DLEP-Strategic-Economic-Plan-v331Mar14%20(1).pdf	https://dorsetlep.s3.amazonaws.com/Documents/DorsetESIFStrategy_2016.pdf	-	http://dorsetlep.co.uk/
Enterprise M3	https://www.enterprisem3.org.uk/document/enterprise-m3-strategic-economic-plan-march-2014	https://www.enterprisem3.org.uk/document/european-structural-and-investment-fund-strategy-refreshed-april-2016	-	https://www.enterprisem3.org.uk/
Gloucs (GFirst)	http://www.gfirstlep.com/gfirst-LEP/Our-Priorities/Our-Vision/	http://www.gfirstlep.com/gfirst-LEP/Our-Priorities/Our-Vision/	http://www.gfirstlep.com/home.aspx?MicrositeID=2&LevelID=1560	http://www.gfirstlep.com/#
Greater Birmingham & Solihull	http://centrefenterprise.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/SEP-FINAL.pdf	http://centrefenterprise.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/GBSLEP_A4_070214_v8.pdf	http://centrefenterprise.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/GBSLEP-Annual-Report-2016-172.pdf	http://centrefenterprise.com/
Greater Cambridge & Peterborough	http://www.gcgp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/GCGP-Strategic-Economic-Plan_WEB.pdf	http://www.gcgp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/GCGP_European-Structural-and-Investment-Funds-Strategy_February-2016-Update-V2-FINAL-1.pdf	-	http://www.gcgp.co.uk/
Greater Lincolnshire	https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/documents/Strategic_Economic_Plan_2016_Refresh.pdf	https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/documents/EU_SIF_%28Structural_Investment_Fund%29.pdf	https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/documents/LEP_Annual_Report_2016-17.pdf	https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/
Greater Manchester	https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/downloads/file/8/stronger_together_-_greater_manchester_strategy	https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/downloads/file/118/european_structural_and_investment_plan_-_investment_funds_2014_-_2020	-	http://gmlep.com/
Heart of the South West	http://heartofswlep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/SEP-Final-draft-31-03-14-website-1.pdf	http://heartofswlep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/May-2016-HotSW-ESIF-Strategy_0.pdf	-	heartofswlep.co.uk
Hertfordshire	https://www.hertfordshirelep.com/media/5417/hertfordshire-sep-july-2017.pdf	https://www.hertfordshirelep.com/media/5076/european-investment-strategy-revised-2016.pdf	-	https://www.hertfordshirelep.com/
Humber	http://www.humberlep.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/StrategicEconomicPlan.pdf	http://www.humberlep.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Humber-ESIF-Strategy-Refresh-2016.pdf	http://www.humberlep.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Humber-LEP-Annual-Review-2016-17.pdf	http://www.humberlep.org/

LEP	Strategic Economic Plan	ESIF strategy	Annual report	Website
Lancashire	http://www.lancashirelep.co.uk/media/8856/LEP-strategic-economic-plan.pdf	http://www.lancashirelep.co.uk/media/21472/Draft-ESIF-Strategy-for-Lancashire-1-Oct-15.pdf	http://www.lancashirelep.co.uk/media/49579/lep-annual-report-2016-17.pdf	http://www.lancashirelep.co.uk/
Leeds City Region	http://www.thelep.com/LEP/media/New/SEP%20documents/SEP-2016-2036-FINAL.pdf	http://www.thelep.com/LEP/media/New/ESIF%20docs/Leeds-City-Region-ESIF-STRATEGY-REFRESH-February-2016-FINAL.pdf	-	http://www.thelep.com/
Leicester & Leicestershire	https://www.llep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SEP_-_full_document.pdf	https://www.llep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/LLEP-ESIF-Strategy-2014-2020.pdf	-	https://www.llep.org.uk/
Liverpool City Region	https://www.liverpoollep.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SGS-Final-main-lowres.compressed.pdf	https://www.liverpoollep.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Final-ESIF-Strategy-4-February-2016-to-DCLG.pdf	-	https://www.liverpoollep.org/
London Enterprise Panel	https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla_migrate_files_destination/Economic-Development-Strategy.pdf	https://lep.london/sites/default/files/2016%2002%2005%20%20London%20ESIF%20with%20Financial%20alloc%20%26%20outputs%20V2.pdf	-	https://lep.london/
New Anglia	http://www.newanglia.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/New-Anglia-Strategic-Economic-Plan-V2.pdf	http://www.newanglia.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/2015-11-27-New-Anglia-LEP-EU-Investment-Strategy-version-Nov-2015-FOR-GOV.pdf	-	http://www.newanglia.co.uk/
North East	http://www.nelep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/North-East-SEP-FINAL-March-2017.pdf	http://www.nelep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/NE-LEP-ESIF-Strategy-Full-23-June-2016.pdf	http://www.nelep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/NEL128-Annual-Report-FINAL-WEB.pdf	http://www.nelep.co.uk/
Oxfordshire	http://www.oxfordshirelep.com/sites/default/files/Oxfordshire-SEP-2016-Final-with-images.pdf	http://www.oxfordshirelep.com/sites/default/files/Oxfordshire%20ESIF%20Strategy%20March%202017.pdf	-	http://www.oxfordshirelep.com/
Sheffield City Region	http://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/SCR-Growth-Plan-March-2014.pdf	http://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/SCR-ESIF-REFRESH-Feb-2016-Final-v3.pdf	-	https://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/
Solent	https://solentlep.org.uk/media/1121/solent_strategic_economic_plan.pdf	https://solentlep.org.uk/media/1613/solent-eu-esif-strategy-april-2016.pdf	https://solentlep.org.uk/media/1962/0838_slep_annual_review_2016_aw_web.pdf	https://solentlep.org.uk/

LEP	Strategic Economic Plan	ESIF strategy	Annual report	Website
South East	http://www.southeastlep.com/images/uploads/resources/SECTION_2_South_East_LEP_-_Growth_Deal_and_Strategic_Economic_Plan_WEB-2.pdf	http://www.southeastlep.com/images/uploads/resources/SELEP_ESIF_Refresh_March_2016_v11_CLLD_revised_FINAL.pdf	http://www.southeastlep.com/images/uploads/resources/South-east-lep-Annualreport.pdf	http://www.southeastlep.com/
South East Midlands	http://www.semlep.com/our-strategy/	http://www.semlep.com/modules/downloads/download.php?file_name=195	http://www.semlep.com/modules/downloads/download.php?file_name=641	http://www.semlep.com/
Stoke and Staffordshire	https://www.stokestaffslep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/140404-Stoke-and-Staffs-Economic-Plan-Part-1-Strategy-Website.pdf	https://www.stokestaffslep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/ESIF-Strategy.pdf	https://www.stokestaffslep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/SSLEP-Annual-Report-2016-final.pdf	https://www.stokestaffslep.org.uk/
Swindon & Wiltshire	http://www.swlep.co.uk/resources/document635997701081146000.pdf	http://www.swlep.co.uk/resources/document636113582842718000.pdf	http://www.swlep.co.uk/annualreport	http://www.swlep.co.uk/
Tees Valley	https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/TVCA207-SEP-Document-Full-WEB.pdf	https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/TV-CA-ESIF-Strategy-Doc-Update-DCLG-April-16.pdf	-	https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/
Thames Valley Berkshire	http://thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/Portals/0/FileStore/StrategicEconomicPlan/TVB%20SEP%20-%20Strategy.pdf	http://thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/Portals/0/FileStore/DocumentLibrary/CompanyDocuments/EUSIF/EU%20Strategy%20Refresh%20October%202016%20.pdf	-	http://thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/
The Marches	http://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/economic_plans/strategic_economic_plan/Marches%20LEP%20SEP%20FINAL310314-2.pdf	http://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/economic_plans/european_structural_and_investment_fund/Marches-Final-Strategy-070416.pdf	http://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/annual_report_and_conference_2017/The-Marches-LEP-Annual-Report-2017_FINAL.pdf	http://www.marcheslep.org.uk/
West of England	https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/so-welep-uploads2/files/About%20Us/Strategic%20Plan/LEP225%20SEP%20All%20Final.pdf	https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/so-welep-uploads2/files/Funding/EU%20SIF%20strategy%20v13%20JAN%202016%20refresh.pdf	-	http://westofenglandlep.co.uk/
Worcs	http://www.wlep.co.uk/assets/WLEP-Final-SEP-310314-V-1-1.pdf	http://www.wlep.co.uk/assets/WLEP-ESI-Funds-Strategy-Feb-2016-update-with-amendments-3-3.pdf	http://www.wlep.co.uk/assets/WLEP-Annual-Report-2016-WEB.pdf	http://www.wlep.co.uk/
York, North Yorkshire & East Riding	http://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/SEP-Update-2016.pdf	http://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/EUSIF-Implementation-Plan.pdf	http://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2017-	http://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/

LEP	Strategic Economic Plan	ESIF strategy	Annual report	Website
			Annual-Report-Making-A-Real-Difference-Email-Version.pdf	redgrowth.com/

Annex 3: Changes in literature between *Fit for the Future* first and second iterations

LEP	Strategic Economic Plan	ESIF strategy	Annual report (AR)
Black Country	SEP re-published March 2017	Revised Jan 2016	2016
Buckinghamshire Thames Valley	SEP re-published Nov 2016	Not revised	AR for 2015-16 only available
Cheshire & Warrington	SEP re-published July 2017	Revised April 2016	AR for 2015-16 only available
Coast to Capital	No new SEP (currently in consultation)	Revised Jan 2016	2016-17
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	SEP re-published 2017	Not revised	None
Coventry & Warwickshire	SEP re-published August 2016	Revised Dec 2016	AR for 2015 only available
Cumbria	No new SEP	Not revised	2016
D2N2	No new SEP	Revised April 2016	2016-17
Dorset	No new SEP	Revised Feb 2016	AR for 2014-15 only available
Enterprise M3	No new SEP	Revised April 2016	None
Gloucestershire (GFirst)	No new SEP	Revised Feb 2016	2016-17
Greater Birmingham & Solihull	SEP re-published late 2016	Not revised	2016-17
Greater Cambridge & Peterborough	No new SEP	Revised Feb 2016	AR for 2014-15 only available
Greater Lincolnshire	SEP re-published Spring 2016	Revised April 2016	2016-17
Greater Manchester	No new SEP (jointly with CA)	Not revised	Specific AR's for different topics but none 2016+
Heart of the South West	No new SEP	Revised April 2016	None
Hertfordshire	SEP re-published July 2017	Revised Jan 2016	AR for 2015-16 only available

LEP	Strategic Economic Plan	ESIF strategy	Annual report (AR)
Humber	No new SEP (to be updated this year)	Revised 2016	2016-17
Lancashire	No new SEP	Not revised	2016-17
Leeds City Region	SEP re-published May 2017 (jointly with CA)	Revised Feb 2016	None
Leicester & Leicestershire	No new SEP (to be updated Apr 2018)	Not revised	AR for 2015-16 only available
Liverpool City Region	SEP re-published 2016 (jointly with CA)	Revised Feb 2016	AR for 2015-16 only available
London Enterprise Panel	Document old but not reviewed last time	Revised Feb 2016	None
New Anglia	No new SEP	Revised Nov 2015	None
North East	SEP re-published Jan 2017	Revised April 2016	2016-17
Oxfordshire	SEP re-published 2016	Revised March 2017	AR for 2015-16 only available
Sheffield City Region	No new SEP	Revised Feb 2016	None
Solent	No new SEP	Revised April 2016	2016
South East	No new SEP (currently out to tender to write new version)	Revised March 2016	2016-17
South East Midlands	No new SEP, despite LEP merger with Northants	Not revised	2016 'highlights report'
Stoke and Staffordshire	No new SEP	Revised Feb 2016	2016
Swindon & Wiltshire	SEP re-published Jan 2016	Revised Feb 2016	2017
Tees Valley	SEP re-published 2016 (jointly with CA)	Revised April 2016	None
Thames Valley Berkshire	No new SEP	Revised Nov 2016	None
The Marches	No new SEP	Revised Feb 2016	2017
West of England	No new SEP	Revised Jan 2016	None
Worcestershire	No new SEP	Revised Feb 2016	2016
York, North Yorkshire & East Riding	SEP re-published 2016	Not revised	2017