

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) Strategic Economic Plan (March 2016) sets out how we will work together and with our partners to deliver economic growth throughout Greater Birmingham & Solihull, and in doing so, raise the quality of life for all our residents, visitors and businesses. It sets out our ambition to become a top global city region by 2030 as well as the major driver of the UK economy outside of London.

**WHAT IS THE ESF?**

The ESF is Europe’s main instrument for supporting jobs, helping people get better jobs and ensuring fairer job opportunities for all EU citizens. It works by investing in Europe’s human capital – its workers, its young people and all those seeking a job. ESF financing of EUR 10 billion a year is improving job prospects for millions of Europeans, in particular those who find it difficult to secure sustainable employment.

The European Union is committed to creating more and better jobs and a socially inclusive society. These goals are at the core of the Europe 2020 strategy for generating smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU. The current situation in the UK with ongoing negotiations around BREXIT has produced some uncertainty over the future of projects. However, the UK government has now guaranteed to maintain funding agreed under the ESIF which includes both ESF and ERDF. The extension means the UK government will continue to sign new projects, even in the event of a no deal Brexit, throughout 2019 and 2020.

The ESF is playing an important role in meeting the UK and Europe’s goals, and in mitigating the consequences of the economic crisis – especially the rise in unemployment and poverty levels.

**Setting ESF priorities**

The European Commission and EU countries in partnership set the ESF’s priorities and how it spends its resources.

The key outcomes as a result of the ESF investment will be:

* Improved economic participation across the labour market
* Reduced income disparity and increased social inclusion
* Increased employment levels and productivity

A key priority is to focus on disadvantaged groups and enable them to secure sustainable employment. This is part of enhancing ‘social inclusion’ – a sign of the important role that employment plays in helping people integrate better into society and everyday life.

**Projects for people**

The ESF is helping to fund local, regional and national employment related projects in the GBS LEP area. These include small projects run by neighbourhood charities to help local disabled people find suitable work, up to nationwide projects that promote vocational training among the whole population.

There is a great variety in the nature, size and aims of ESF projects, and they address a wide variety of target groups. There are projects aimed at job-seekers, people who are currently inactive in the labour market, those looking to improve their education within the workplace and those who are facing redundancy as well as potential entrepreneurs from all backgrounds.

**The key measurable outputs to ensure investment is on track will include:**

* Participants on the programme
* Unemployed participants
* Employed participants on the programme
* Young people participating in the programme

**The key measurable results to ensure investment is making a difference will include:**

* Number of people supported into work
* Number of people with improved basic/higher level skills
* Number of people in employment
* Reduced skills deficits

**Current Provision**

Current delivery is constantly changing with new programmes and projects being commissioned and targets adapted to meet the needs of participants, employers and the unemployed/economically inactive of the area.

| **Programme Name** | **Lead Organisation and Contact** | **Area Covered** | **Target Group** | **Brief Description of project** | **Start date** | **End Date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Positive Futures | Ashiana Community Projectshafique@acpgroup.org.uk<http://www.acpgroup.org.uk/>0121 687 6767 | GBSLEP | 1.1 jobseekers and economically inactive individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged communities  | Basic and general employability skills, supporting jobseekers or economically inactive people to move towards, enter or progress in work including pre-recruitment, and basic skills (such as literacy, numeracy, ICT and ESOL) support.Promoting self-employment and enterprise as a credible route out of worklessness, including setting up social enterprises.  | 21/11/2016 | 31/10/2019 |
| Working2Succeed: Building Community Pathways to Greater Employment | Enterkey Training LimitedAbdul Ahad (a.ahad@enterkeytraining.com) | GBSLEP | 1.1 jobseekers and economically inactive individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged communities  |  |  |  |
| Employment Plus previously known as Access to Employment | The Salvation Army Trustee Company | GBSLEP | 1.1 jobseekers and economically inactive individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged communities  |  |  |  |
| World of Work | Birmingham City CouncilKam Hundal Kam.Hundal@birmingham.gov.uk | GBSLEP | 1.1 jobseekers and economically inactive individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged communities  | The World of Work project is to improve the employability of long term unemployed and inactive residents through a set of targeted interventions, training and work experience pathways and support to move into sustainable employment. The particular focus will be those facing disadvantage and barriers to entry in the existing labour market and growth sectors. The project will engage with unemployed and inactive residents across Birmingham and Solihull supported by Jobcentre Plus (JCP), National Careers Service (NCS) and community and voluntary sector partners, particularly targeting those with no/low basic skills, BME (black and minority ethnic) groups, women, lone parents, people with disabilities and health conditions and those from areas of high unemployment.  In partnership with employers and sector representatives, training pathways will be available for participants from target groups and linked to GBSLEP sectors of high demand and growth: * High Speed 2 and supply chain
* Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering
* Creative Industries
* Low Carbon & Environmental Technologies and Services
* Transport & Logistics
* Life Sciences
* Digital & Tech
* Business, Professional and Financial Services
* Sectors where there is a significant replacement demand, such as Construction & Infrastructure, Health and Social Care.
 | 01/07/2018 | 30/10/2020 |
| Youth Promise Plus | Birmingham City Council* Birmingham North and South, Prospects email louise.tomlinson@prospects.co.uk or call 0121 262 3960
* Birmingham East, Pioneer Group email YPPeast@pioneergroup.org.uk or call 0121 748 8111
* Birmingham West, People Plus, email alex.youlden@peopleplus.co.uk or call 0121 322 8961
* Solihull, APM email yeisolihull@apm-uk.co.uk or call 0121 770 2345
 | Birmingham and Solihull | 1.3NEET age 15 - 30 | The Birmingham and Solihull Youth Promise Plus Partnership responds to the needs of the most disadvantaged young people (aged 15 – 29) in the local jobs market. Putting a ‘Work First’ ethos into its operation, it addresses issues of silo working identified in GBSLEP’s ESIF Strategy while incorporating best local and national practice (e.g. Back on Track, Talent Match). Key to the success of the project is the creation of a clear, seamless skills and employment support system which provides responsive personalised support, challenge and intervention at key transition points, ensuring successful integration and pathways into working life.  | 01/01/2016 | To be confirmed |
| Employed for Success | Solihull MBCNatalie Goulding ngoulding@solihull.gov.uk0121 704 6850 | Solihull LA area | 1.430+ with barriers to work50+Health and disabilities | Employed for Success will provide a range of services to help move Solihull residents into, or closer to, education, training or employment.Partners in the project will identify support to address participants’ needs, such as debt advice and financial planning, digital skills for employment, practical employability such as CV writing, job search and interview preparation, a Fablab for hands on high tech design and fabrication experience, and an partner to provide more intensive support for participants with physical or learning disabilities. An employer engagement officer will identify suitable work experience, volunteering and work placements.  | Delivery starts 15 May 18 | 12 June 2020 |
| Bridges to Success | Enterkey Training Limiteda.ahad@enterkeytraining.com |  | 1.4: ACTIVE INCLUSION | priority will help people who are distant from the labour market and require intensive support in addressing their multiple, profound and complex barriers to participation in the labour market. The main result will be that people address their complex needs and therefore are better able to engage in labour market activity. |  |  |
| PURE | Birmingham City CouncilMark.Reed@birmingham.gov.uk | Greater Birmingham | 1.4: ACTIVE INCLUSION | Priority to help people who are distant from the labour market and require intensive support in addressing their multiple, profound and complex barriers to participation in the labour market. The main result will be that people address their complex needs and therefore are better able to engage in labour market activity.  |  |  |
| Stepping Up | The Muath Trusti.baqui@muathtrust.org0121 7530297 |  | 1.4: ACTIVE INCLUSION | Priority to help people who are distant from the labour market and require intensive support in addressing their multiple, profound and complex barriers to participation in the labour market. The main result will be that people address their complex needs and therefore are better able to engage in labour market activity.  |  |  |
| AEGIS in Communities | The Muath Trusti.baqui@muathtrust.org0121 7530297 |  | 2.1: Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning |  |  |  |
| Business Elevator | Solihull College and University CentreSam BromwichSam.Bromwich@solihull.ac.uk 0121 678 7000 | GBSLEP | 2.2SME and Micro Business | To promote improvements in the labour market relevance of skills provision through active engagement with relevant institutions and employers, particularly SMEs and Micro businesses. | 01/09/2016 | 31/12/2019 |
| Higher Level Skills Match | Birmingham City University<http://bcuadvantage.co.uk/access-students-and-graduates/higher-level-skills-match> | South Staffordshire, North Worcestershire Birmingham and Solihull | 2.2SME and Micro Business | The Project provides skills development and recruitment advice services to local SMEs, delivered by Birmingham City, Aston and Newman Universities.HLSM will secure at least 320 SME Skills and Graduate Talent Charter signatories, with 220 of these completing skills projects, designed to: * develop the leadership, business development and sustainable growth skills required to help grow their businesses;
* help then access the higher level skills essential to future business growth, and which only graduates can offer;
* contribute to the GBS LEP’s vision, to radically redesign the education and skills eco-system, to ensure skills provision is designed with and for business;
* help then benefit directly from tailored employability and skills support offered to local graduates. "
 | 01/12/2016 | 31/01/2020 |
| ESF Technical Assistance | Solihull MBC / GBSLEPGary DixonGary.Dixon@solihull.gov.ukMaria Lopezmlopez@solihull.gov.uk | GBSLEP | 3Potential applicants for ESF Funding | The GBSLEP Technical Assistance Project brings together a range of partners with relevant sector and thematic expertise to deliver a coherent package of TA provision to support the ESF elements of the ESIF strategy and GBSLEP Strategy for Growth. The project purpose and design matches the objective of technical assistance, namely to support efficient and compliant management and implementation of ESIF funds. | 01/01/2016 | 31/12/2018 |
| CFO3 NOMS | IxionKelly ThompsonKelly.Thompson@ixionholdings.com07942859809 | West Midlands | Offenders and Ex-Offenders (HMPPS) | Advice, Guidance and training for Offenders and ex-Offenders who want to access it |  |  |

**Current Closed ESF Calls**

| **Location** | **Reference** | **Investment priority** | **Details** | **Call Close** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The project must cover the GBSLEP. | Access to Employment for Jobseekers and Inactive PeopleOC12S17P0739 | 1.1: Access to Employment for Jobseekers and Inactive People. | This specific objective is focused on those who are long-term unemployed and who are less likely to move back into work than people who have been unemployed for less time. The additional support from this investment priority will help long-term unemployed people to tackle their barriers to work and move into sustainable employment. The main result target focuses on moving participants into employment (including self-employment) on leaving. | 30th of June 2017 |
| The project must cover the GBSLEP area. | NEET provision in Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP area OC12S17C0804 | 1.2 Sustainable Integration of Young People into the Labour Market | The additional support from this investment priority will help more young people enter traineeships and apprenticeships (in areas that do not qualify for the Youth Employment Initiative up to 2018) It will improve the quality of what is offered to individuals by improving recruitment and assessment and engagement with employers. By helping more young participants aged 15 to 24, male and female, who were NEET or at risk of NEET, to take up traineeships or apprenticeships, we will improve movements into work. | 05 October 2017 |
| The project must cover the GBSLEP. | Greater Birmingham and Solihull Skills for Growth Hub – Skills Training Response fund OC12S17P0799 | 2.1: Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning | GBSLEP put in place a “Growth Hub” model of business support to assist companies across the LEP and surrounding area. The Growth Hub should now be expanded with the design and creation of a GBSLEP Skills for Growth Hub, which is intended to increase apprenticeship, intern and work experience uptake, as well as supporting skills needs identified by employers, particularly in GBSLEP growth sectors. | 5th October 2017 |
| Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP – More Developed area | Greater Birmingham and Solihull – Improving Basic & Low skills and Tackling Disadvantage OC12S17P0806 | 2.1: Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning | This call is to provide additional training and support for people at basic and low skills levels, in particular addressing the needs of disadvantaged groups in and out of the workplace. It will address skills shortages or needs in the GBSLEP Growth Sectors and sectors where there is significant job replacement demand or with employers where they demonstrate the need for succession planning.  | 5th October 2017 |
| Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP – More Developed area | Greater Birmingham and Solihull Higher Skills Higher Skills Call OC12S17P0805 | 2.1: Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning | This Call is to provide additional support to address skills shortages or needs where there are gaps or specific barriers preventing individual progression and up-skilling for those in work.To increase the number of employed people progressing to the next level skills, particularly at level 3 and above and into higher and advanced level apprenticeships, to support business growth.It is important that applicants can show that they have considered how their proposal will support the current service offer in the GBSLEP Growth Hub - in the instance of providing support to businesses and mainstream providers in respect of skills and employability services. | 5th October 2017 |
| The project must cover the GBSLEP area. | Greater Birmingham and Solihull Skills for Growth Hub I.P 2.2 OC12S17P0800  | 2.2: Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems.  | Through this call the ESF Managing Authority is seeking to deliver provision and support to address the skills issues of SMEs and their employees in sectors which present the greatest opportunities for economic and employment growth in the More Developed Region of Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP area, made up of:Birmingham, Solihull, Redditch, Bromsgrove, and Wyre Forest.GBSLEP is seeking to design, create and establish a Skills for Growth Hub via an aligned ESF 2.2 call, which will support the GBSLEP Growth Hub model of business support to assist companies with skills needs across the LEP and surrounding area. The Skills for Growth Hub is intended to increase apprenticeship, intern and work experience uptake, as well as supporting skills needs identified by employers, particularly in GBSLEP growth sectors. | 5th October 2017 |

**Current Open ESF Calls**

| **Location** | **Reference** | **Investment priority** | **Details** | **Call Close** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP | Higher Skills in STEM and Key Sector Areas (OC32S18P1138) | 2.1: ENHANCING EQUAL ACCESS TO LIFELONG LEARNING | Call to run a project to address skills gaps for leadership and management training. Improving access to science and technology skills, develop an enterprise and entrepreneurialism culture linked to graduate retention and replacement and growth demand of Higher Level Skills.Approximately £5,000,000 of funding is available.[ESIF Link](https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds/higher-skills-in-stem-and-key-sector-areas-in-the-stoke-on-trent-and-staffordshire-lep-area-oc32s18p1138) | 20th of September 2018 |
| GBS LEP – More Developed area  | Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning - Intermediate and Advanced (Higher Level) Skills in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull  (OC12S18P1159) | 2.1: ENHANCING EQUAL ACCESS TO LIFELONG LEARNING | Provide training that will help low skilled people to compete for jobs that address both replacement demand and growth demand for intermediate and higher level skills, which can help them to secure career progression, particularly within key sectors,Approximately £7,000,000 of funding is available. | 1st November 2018 |

Please monitor the ESIF web site [here](https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds?keywords=) for releases.

**Current ERDF Provision**

| **GBSLEP** | **Project Name and Applicant** | **Value of Projects** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority Access** | **Project Name** | **Applicant** | **Status** | **ERDF** | **Total** |
| 1 | Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise Network | University of Wolverhampton | Live | £39,383.00 | £78,766.00 |
| 1 | EBRI | Aston University | Live | £379,831.00 | £759,662.00 |
| 1 | Innovation Networks 1518 | Coventry University Enterprises Ltd | Live | £41,538.00 | £83,078.00 |
| 1 | Innovation Vouchers | Aston University | Live | £580,885.60 | £1,161,771.20 |
| 1 | BSEEN | Aston University | Live | £729,885.00 | £1,459,770.00 |
| 1 | Innovation Engine | Birmingham Science Park Anton | Live | £1,532,115.00 | £3,064,231.00 |
| 1 | Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise Network | University of Wolverhampton | Live | £711,998.00 | £1,423,996.00 |
| 1 | EBRI | Aston University | Live | £113,456.00 | £226.912.00 |
| 1 | Advanced Materials Characterisation and Simulation Hub | University of Birmingham | Live | £2,398,108.00 | £4,796,216.00 |
| 1 | Focus Digital | Coventry University Enterprises Ltd | Live | £246,867.00 | £493,746.00 |
| 1 | Focus Digital | Coventry University Enterprises Ltd | Live | £45,311.00 | £75.545.00 |
| 1 | Centre for Medical Devices Testing and Evaluation (MD-TEC) | University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust | Live | £3,527,205.00 | £7,054,411.00 |
| 1 | Innovation Networks 1518 | Coventry University Enterprises Ltd | Live | £429,226.00 | £858,450.00 |
| 1 | STEAMHOUSE | Birmingham City University | Live | £163S,347.00 | £3,270,694.00 |
| 1 | System Analytics for Innovation | Anton University | Live | £ 491.003.00 | £ 982,007.00 |
| 1 | Big Data Corridor A New Business Economy | Birmingham City Council — Digital Birmingham | Live | £ 122,666.00 | £ 245,326.00 |
| 1 | Big Data Corridor A New Business Economy | Birmingham City Council — Digital Birmingham | Live | £ 1,104,023.00 | £ 2,206,055.00 |
| 1 | Innovative Product Support Services | University of Wolverhampton | Live | £ 58,879.00 | £ 98,132.00 |
| 1 | Innovative Product Support Services | University of Wolverhampton | Live | £321,920.00 | £643,841.00 |
| 1 | GBSLEP – Alternative Raw Materials with Low Impact (ARLI) | University of Birmingham | Live | £830,201.00 | £1,660,403.00 |
| **GBSLEP** | **Project Name and Applicant** | **Value of Projects** |
| **Priority Access** | **Project Name** | **Applicant** | **Status** | **ERDF** | **Total** |
| 1 | Advanced Materials Characterisation and Simulation Hub (AMCAH) | University of Birmingham | Live | £ 79,657.00 | £ 159,315.00 |
| 1 | Innovation Engine | Birmingham Science Park Aston | Live | £97,795 | £195,589.00 |
| 1 | GBSLEP Alterative Raw Materials with Low Impact (ARLI) | University of Birmingham | Live | £34,592.00 | £69183.00 |
| 1 | Innovation Vouchers | Aston University | Live | £64,542.80 | £128085.70 |
| 1 | Systems Analytics for Innovation | Aston University | Live | £57,093.00 | £114,186.00 |
| 1 | STEAMHOUSE | Birmingham City University | Live | £128,650.00 | £257,301.00 |
| **PA1 TOTAL** |  |  | **£15,802,177.40** | **£31,569,671.90** |
| 3 | Business Growth programme (BGP) | Birmingham City Council | Live | £9,430,026.00 | £18,860,052.00 |
| 3 | SME International Growth Project | 58 | Live | £358,340.00 | £716,678.00 |
| 3 | Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) Growth Hub | Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) | Live | £670,950.00 | £1,341,900.00 |
| 3 | SME International Growth Project | 58 | Live | £88,296.00 | £163,694.00 |
| 3 | Birmingham Knowledge Economy Business Incubation Partnership | Innovation Birmingham | Live | £1,025,489.00 | £2,050,978.00 |
| 3 | Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) Growth Hub | Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) | Live | £287,550.00 | £575,100.00 |
| 3 | Manufacturing Growth Programme (MGP) | WMMBF Ltd | Live | £68,027.00 | £113,3378.30 |
| 3 | Midlands Engine Investment Fund (PA£) | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) | Live | £1,830,000.00 | £6,200,587.00 |
| 3 | Midlands Engine Investment Fund (PA£) | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) | Live | £11,670,000.00 | £39,541,317.00 |
| 3 | Investing in Greater Birmingham | Marketing Birmingham | Live | £220,608.00 | £441,216.00 |
| 3 | Investing in Greater Birmingham | Marketing Birmingham | Live | £1,617,795.00 | £3,235,590.00 |
| 3 | Enterprise Development and Growth Greater Birmingham and Solihull |  | Live | £180,617.00 | £301,027 |
| **GBSLEP** | **Project Name and Applicant** | **Value of Projects** |
| **Priority Access** | **Project Name** | **Applicant** | **Status** | **ERDF** | **Total** |
| 3 | Enterprise Development and Growth Greater Birmingham and Solihull | Solihull Metropolitan Borough council | Live | £1,038,812.00 | £2,077,628.00 |
| 3 | Aston Programme for Small Business Growth | Aston University | Live | £398,837.00 | £797,674.00 |
| 3 | Transforming SME’s to improve their revenues through the adoption of advances services. (TRAN-SIP) | Aston University | Live | £584.043.00 | £1,168,092.00 |
| 3 | Manufacturing Growth Programme (MGP) | WMMBF Ltd. | Live | £428,520.00 | £857,040.00 |
| 3 | Property Investment Programme | Birmingham City Council  | Live | £2,074,800.00 | £4149,600.00 |
| 3 | Business Growth Programme (BGP) | Birmingham City Council  | Live | $498,317.00 | £992,634.00 |
| 3 | Property Investment Programme | Birmingham City Council  | Live | £205,200.00 | £410,400.00 |
| 3 | Aston Programme for Small Business Growth | Aston University | Live | £59,087.00 | £118,174.00 |
| **PA3 TOTAL** |  |  | **£32,733,314.00** | **£84,112,739.30** |
| 4 | SUD | SUD Ring-fenced | Live | £6,191,867.00 | ££12,383,734.00 |
| 4 | Low Carbon Growth Support | Groundwork West Midlands | Live | £226,206.40 | £452,411.20 |
| 4 | Low Carbon Growth Support | Groundwork West Midlands | Live | £34,792.00 | £59,531.00 |
| 4 | Low Carbon SME’s (GBSLEP) | Aston University | Live | £60,578.00 | £121,156.00 |
| 4 | Accelerating Thermals Energy Technology Adoption (ATETA) | University of Birmingham | Live | £2,034,791.00 | £4,069,583.00 |
| 4 |  | Aston University | Live | £546,206.00 | £1,090,413.00 |
| **PA4 TOTAL** |  |  | **£9,093,440.40** | **£18,178,828.20** |
| 6 | SUD | SUD Ring-fenced | Live | £1,739,372.00 | £3,748,744.00 |
| 6 | Solihull Habitat and Nature Improvements | Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  | Live | £992,205.00 | £1,984,410 |
| 6 | BASIS Birmingham and Solihull Industrial Symbiosis | Birmingham City Council | Live | £625,894.00 | £1,253,389.00 |
| 6 | BASIS Birmingham and Solihull Industrial Symbiosis | Birmingham City Council | Live | £69,633.00 | £139,266 |
| **PA5 TOTAL** |  |  | **£3.427,904.00** | **£6,855,809.00** |
| **GRAND TOTAL** |  |  | **£61,056,835.80** | **£140,715,048.40** |

**Current Open ERDF Calls**

| **Location** | **Reference** | **Investment priority** | **Details** | **Call Close** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| England | [Technical Assistance - Smart Specialisation: call in England (OC00R18P 0781)](https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds/technical-assistance-smart-specialisation-call-in-england-oc00r18p-0781) | 9 – Technical Assistance | This is a specific call for Technical Assistance looking for applications from organisations who can deliver smart specialisation activities to support the delivery of research and innovation activities.Up to £500,000 of funding is available through this call. | 12th of October 2018 |

Please monitor the ESIF web site [here](https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds?keywords=) for releases.