

Universities Partnership

Impacts and opportunities of new
Universities Charter for local businesses

Universities Partnership

- Manuel Alonso, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Loughborough University
- Paul Angrave, Head of Public Affairs, University of Leicester
- Jen Fensome, Director of Research & Innovation, Loughborough University
- Robin Pointon, Chair of Leicestershire Business Voice

Running order

- 10:45 Refreshments available
- 11:10 Welcome and Introduction – Dr Jen Fensome
- 11:20 Civic Partnerships – Manuel Alonso and Paul Angrave
- 11:50 Leicestershire Business Voice – Robin Pointon
- 12:00 Lunch and networking

Leicestershire Business Voice

Universities Partnership



Context

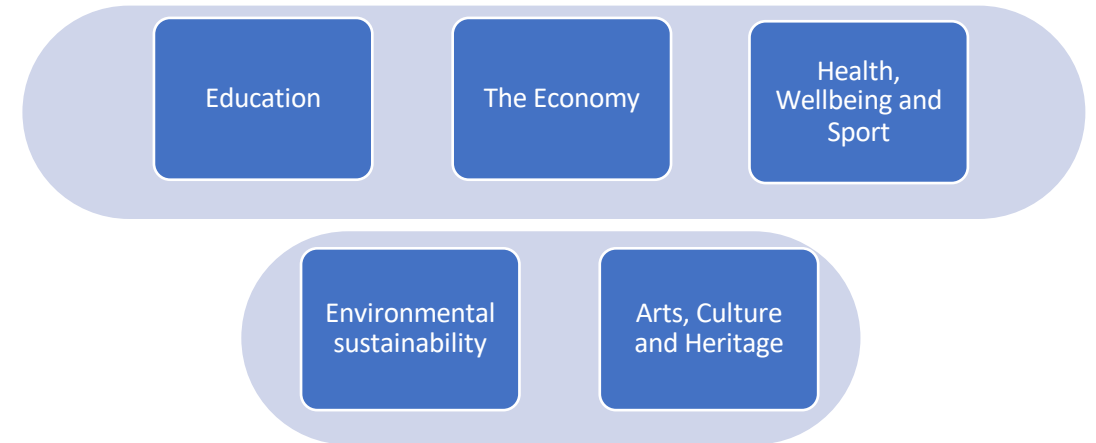
Key points

- Partnership between De Montfort University, Loughborough University and the University of Leicester
- Developed over 18 month period
- Launched on 28 June 2022 as 'Universities Partnership'
- Five partner signatories:
 - Leicester City Council
 - Leicestershire County Council
 - Rutland County Council
 - Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
 - Charnwood Borough Council
- Full agreement published via universitiespartnership.org



Themes

- Mapped based on local needs, strengths of the universities, and local consultations
- Theme group structure



- Theme groups comprised of academic and professional leads from each university



Universities Partnership Steering Group

- Comprised of strategic leads from each local authority
- Will identify areas of focus and respond to external challenges
- A forum to bring forward ideas for discussion
- Will ensure that plans remain connected with and support local strategic priorities

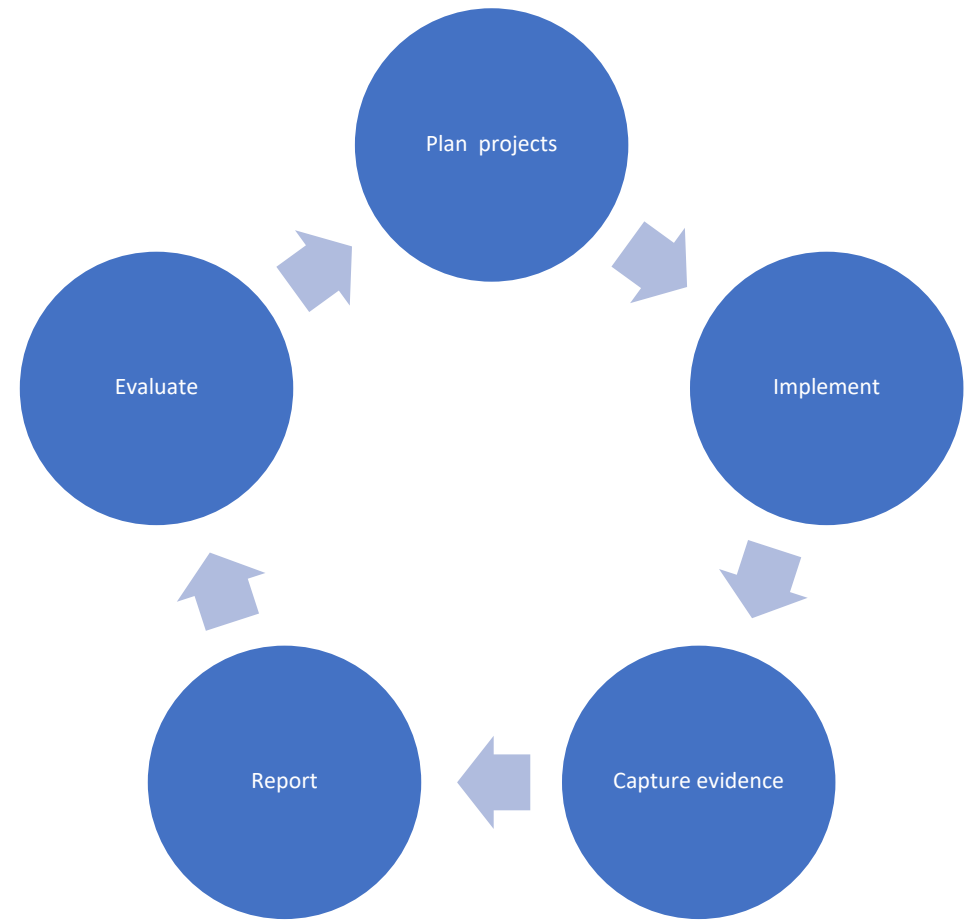



Universities Partnership Board

- Operational management group for the three universities
- Oversees and supports the development of the Theme Groups
- Identifies and supports civic projects and initiatives that may sit outside of the Theme Group structure
- Monitors implementation and resolves issues



Long term model of collaboration





Emerging projects

- **Procurement partnership**
 - to support local SMEs, grow the local economy, and secure social value
- **International place marketing**
 - to promote and boost international student recruitment
- **Graduate retention 2.0**
 - building on success of existing project to support the regional economy
- **Student mental health partnership**
 - working together to address issues and improve outcomes



ESRC funding



- £100,000 from the Economic and Social Research Council
- Funded:
 - o Consultations with schools and the community
 - o Sustainability skills programmes – supporting businesses
 - o Creation of a design directory

External Funding opportunities



- Challenging economic climate (esp. for local authorities) makes external funding critical
- £100,000 ESRC Local Accelerator Funding expired in June.
- Potential opportunities explored:
- Place Based Impact Acceleration Account - Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- Developing Local Policy Innovation Partnerships –UKRI



Universities Partnership Manager



- Jointly-funded post to support the partnership
- Investment from each university partner
- Vital to provide support for the ‘delivery phase’
- Will provide overall project coordination and support theme groups
- Will collect evidence, write reports, support funding bids, and monitor delivery



Responding to regional priorities

External Steering Group identified:

- Cost of Living Crisis
- Community tensions
- Skills gaps
- Meeting net zero targets



Defining KPIs

- Report undertaken by Hatch Regeneris
- Informed by discussion with Theme Groups
- Aim to set ‘strategic KPIs’ and ‘project level’ KPIs
- KPIs may include: graduate retention rate, spend with local SMEs, economic impact of universities, etc.



Engaging with the project

- Business engagement and knowledge exchange programmes offered by all three universities
- Scope to engage with shaping the Universities Partnership and developing specific projects
- Contact details for all theme leads via universitiespartnership.org or get in touch with us directly (details on next slide)

Contact details

Manuel Alonso via M.Alonso@lboro.ac.uk

Paul Angrave via Paul.Angrave@le.ac.uk

Sarah Thomson via sthomson@dmu.ac.uk

Questions?

Our next events

Bank of England update

Tuesday 28 February 2023 at Nelsons Solicitors, Leicester

TBC

March 2023

Leicestershire Tourism Economy

Thursday 27 April 2023 at Twycross Zoo

More details at www.lbv.co.uk/events

Lend us your voice...

If you enjoyed today's event and would like to find out about becoming a Leicestershire Business Voice member, please speak to a Board Director or visit our website at www.lbv.co.uk

By joining LBV, you can:

- ✓ Help businesses thrive
- ✓ Voice your opinions with local & regional decision makers
- ✓ Influence policy affecting our economy

To learn more about LBV, new developments and forthcoming events, please sign up to our mailing list at www.lbv.co.uk/e-mail-subscription-sign-up/