



LEPs: Supporting growth for the future 15th June 2011

The government has announced a whole range of initiatives to drive economic growth through sustainable jobs and enterprise including local enterprise partnerships (LEPs), regional growth fund (RGF) and enterprise zones. The government's priority is rapid growth which helps to reduce dependency on the public economy, create new jobs and attract investment. However, this is a challenge for many localities at the current time and there are also questions about how LEPs can deliver this. How can we ensure that we develop quality economic growth that benefits local areas and is sustainable long term?

- 9.30 Registration and refreshments
- 9:45 Welcome and introduction to CLES' thoughts on LEPs to date
Neil McInroy, Chief Executive, CLES
- 10:00 Overview of the government's strategy for growth and the role of LEPs
Speaker from BIS invited
- 10:15 How LEPs can support economic renewal for sustainability: Findings from Localise West Midlands research
Karen Leach, Localise West Midlands
- 10:30 Question and answer session
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Group discussion session:
- *What are the characteristics of sustainable growth in your LEP?*
 - *LEPs are operating in very different economic contexts, some areas will grow quickly, others may struggle. How should LEPs respond to the challenge of low or sluggish growth?*
 - *What are the main challenges for LEPs at the current time?*
- 11:30 Financing LEPs to deliver on the growth agenda
- 11:45 Questions and discussion
- 12.15 Summary and conclusions
Neil McInroy, Chief Executive, CLES
- 12:30 Close

