

Construction nears completion on Runshaw's £6.2m science facility

The construction of a new facility at Runshaw College's Euxton Lane campus in Chorley – which has been partly funded by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership - is nearing completion.

The £6.2m Science Engineering Innovation Centre's external structure has been finalised and the 'first fix' of internal works, such as plastering and electrics, is now ongoing.

The state-of-the-art facility, due for handover in March 2016, will host cutting edge laboratories and workshops, accommodating up to 400 new students across a wide range of engineering and science programmes.

By combining university qualifications and Apprenticeship programmes, Runshaw aims to transform science and engineering skills training locally, in terms of both volume and quality through this new development. Once operational, the SEIC will facilitate and support the College's aim to revolutionise the employability of students in the region.

Made a reality through £4.3m funding from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the SEIC forms part of the LEP's 'Hub and Spoke' programme, providing educational centres of excellence with new industry-focused facilities.

Runshaw College's Principal, Simon Partington, recently welcomed representatives from stakeholder organisations for a tour of the site.

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director, Lancashire Skills Hub, said: "The LEP has £30m overall to invest in creating hundreds of extra training and apprenticeship places for local young people across Lancashire.

"The new centre at Runshaw College is only one of a number of new facilities and programmes supported by the LEP's funding that will be opening over the next few months and years, with the aim of ensuring Lancashire's workforce has the skills employers will need in the future.

"A highly skilled workforce is an essential part of the LEP's ambitious multi-million pound strategic economic growth programme to grow the local economy significantly and create tens of thousands of new jobs."

The LEP aims to create 50,000 jobs, build 40,000 new homes and support the delivery of the infrastructure needed for this ambitious growth, boosting the local economy by £3bn by 2025.

Principal, Simon Partington, believes the new centre will boost the local economy and transform the employability of those studying science and engineering programmes at Runshaw.

Simon said: "We're delighted to see such progress on the site and are looking forward to the handover. The Science & Engineering Innovation Centre is vital for our area, as Lancashire has the largest concentration of aerospace production and high technology manufacturing in the UK and these sectors are anticipated to grow over the next few years. Similarly, the need for qualified science professionals is predicted to increase, with demand in particular in pharmacology, physiology, biotechnology, drug metabolism, toxicology and pathology."

"The SEIC has been designed to support growth in these sectors and to enhance our current partnerships with local businesses. We aim to deliver real business benefits through the provision of innovative education and training programmes, working collaboratively with employers to ensure the creation of a highly skilled workforce for the future."

The 2150m² two storey extension to the campus' existing building will play a key part the provision of training for the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal. City Deal will see an investment of £434 million to expand transport infrastructure in the area at an unprecedented rate, driving the creation of around 20,000 new jobs and generating the development of more than 17,000 new homes over the next ten years.

The SEIC development has been supported by both Chorley Council and South Ribble Borough Council.

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Council leader, said: "This will be a fantastic facility which will help local people get the skills they need to get better paid jobs in one of Lancashire's top growth sectors. "Boosting the local economy is one of our main priorities and one way we can make that happen is to help our residents find work, which is why we work closely with Runshaw College on our apprenticeship programme."

Councillor Phil Smith, South Ribble Borough Council cabinet member with responsibility for regeneration and leisure said: "It is fantastic to see the Science Engineering Innovation Centre near completion.

"The new centre at Runshaw College will provide students with the very best technology and resources to help them in their careers.

"South Ribble Borough Council are extremely proud to have supported this facility and it will prove crucial to the borough, especially with such strong automotive and aerospace roots which will continue to thrive and grow with the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal.

"To see students using this excellent, state-of-the-art facility is fantastic and the SEIC will encourage more students to take up these subjects which, in turn, will encourage the growth of these key sectors.

"The skills and trades which will be taught here will help them to become the future of South Ribble and Lancashire."

ENDS

Photo caption:

*Dr Michele Lawty-Jones - Director, Lancashire Skills Hub
Cllr Phil Smith - Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Leisure, South Ribble Borough Council
Cllr Alistair Bradley – Leader, Chorley Council
Claire Foreman - Deputy Principal, Runshaw College
Simon Partington - Principal, Runshaw College*

Notes to editors:

The Lancashire Skills Hub is part of the LEP. It is a strategic unit working in partnership with Lancashire businesses and stakeholders to build a skilled labour market, improve economic well-being and stimulate economic growth.

The £30m Growth Deal Skills Capital Programme has been funded via the £251.1 million secured by the LEP from the Government's Local Growth Fund to support economic growth in Lancashire.

The Lancashire Growth Deal aims to realise the growth potential of the whole of Lancashire, building on key local economic assets including the universities and colleges, the Enterprise Zone, the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal and high-value business clusters across the county.

Over the lifetime of the deal (2015 – 2021) the Growth Deal is expected to create up to 8000 new jobs, 3000 new homes and attract £280m of additional public and private investment to Lancashire.

LEP unlocks development in Lancashire

Burnley Bridge Business Park, a 70-acre employment site near Junction 9 of the M65, is a good example of how the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is investing strategically to unlock development at key sites with the aim of boosting business and creating jobs.

The £50m industrial park, which is on the outskirts of Burnley, is set to create 1,400 new and sustainable jobs in the area when it is fully-occupied.

Combining an excellent location with a high standard of purpose-built industrial, office and warehousing accommodation, Burnley Bridge will offer around one million sq ft of industrial/warehousing space, with purpose-built, contemporary units offering operational cost savings of up to 50 per cent as compared to older facilities.

The Lancashire LEP used funding from its Growing Places fund to help 'unlock' development at the scheme. The LEP has invested three quarters of its £20m Growing Places fund in commercial loans that provide the investment needed for key projects which will encourage economic growth and job creation.

The LEP's has contributed to the £34m scheme to build new offices, a hotel, shops and a restaurant in the historic Blackburn Cathedral Quarter. The new mixed use development responds to the setting but also to the current underperformance of the area, economically, socially and environmentally, ensuring buildings and spaces are fully-utilised.

The Growing Places fund is just one strand of the LEP's ambitious multi-million pound investment programme to support and grow business.

Over the next ten to 15 years, the LEP aims to create 50,000 new jobs, encourage the building of 40,000 new houses and boost the Lancashire economy by £3 billion in total.

Lancashire is already an economic powerhouse, with many world class businesses and strong exports, but the LEP aims to take the economy to a whole new level.

One of the LEP's flagship initiatives, the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal, is a transformational, once in a lifetime investment programme to power up central Lancashire. Driven by the LEP, the City Deal, signed in 2013 by government, has seen local councils, government departments and the private sector pool resources and invest in a major infrastructure programme.

New and improved roads will allow new housing in areas like north west Preston and new commercial developments in, for example, Preston city centre and Cuerden, which will boost the Lancashire economy.

The impact is already being felt across central Lancashire which has posted strong house-building figures for the last quarter with more starts up than anywhere else in the north-west.

The country's transport connectivity, by road and rail, needs improving, not only to allow businesses to operate more efficiently within Lancashire but also to make sure Lancashire is better connected to the emerging Northern Powerhouse. The LEP's transport body, Transport for Lancashire, is developing, for the first time in decades, a transport strategy which can deliver both these objectives.

In fact, the LEP's Growth Deal investment programme will see many of these transport priorities funded and delivered in the next six years. The Growth Deal is also financing capital projects which support innovation and research, improve skills for the workforce and develop new commercial floorspace in Lancashire's towns and cities.

Zoning in on job creation

The LEP's Enterprise Zone at Samlesbury and Warton will form a centre of excellence for advanced manufacturing, attracting investment into Lancashire and creating jobs, building on BAE Systems' world leading aerospace business.

At Samlesbury, work has begun on a new BAE Systems £15.6m state-of-the-art facility to train apprentices from across the region, and Wincanton recently agreed to become the first non-BAE firm to set up in the enterprise zone, creating 70 new jobs for the local area. A new road already being built will run through the site providing two major new gateway entrances, maximising the site's excellent location.

When both sites are fully occupied, up to 6,000 highly skilled jobs will be created with more jobs in the local supply chain.

Meanwhile the LEP has worked hard with local landowners to develop two more EZ proposals which have been submitted to government for consideration: Blackpool Airport Corridor and at Hillhouse International Business Park.

The 138 hectare Hillhouse site is already occupied by over 40 businesses and has been a centre of advanced chemical manufacturing since the 1950s.

Building on this heritage and targeting firms within the wider energy and advanced manufacturing sectors could double the number of local jobs to over 3,500 in twenty years.

Meanwhile, the 144-hectare site Blackpool airport site will build on the existing strengths of the local economy, including the oil and gas industry, and could support many as 3,000 new jobs up to 2037.

An ambitious plan for growth

By LEP Chair Edwin Booth

With an economy of over £25 billion, Lancashire is home to over 40,000 businesses. We are the UK's leading region for aerospace manufacture, and related industries, and have rapidly growing clusters across energy, advanced manufacturing, chemicals and automotive sectors.

We also have a strong visitor economy, boast three world-class universities, and are surrounded by some of the country's most outstanding rural and coastal beauty.

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) aims to leverage these considerable competitive advantages and unique assets to deliver an economic step change through a growth plan of national significance.

We aim to support opportunities which maximise jobs and growth, improving the capability and capacity of our local economy, seizing new market opportunities and overcoming barriers that constrain our economic prosperity in order to re-establish Lancashire as a national economic leader.

We are delivering this through a number of priorities:

- Our City Deal programme to transform Central Lancashire, creating thousands of new jobs and homes
- The Lancashire Enterprise Zone, forming a centre of excellence for high technology manufacturing
- Our Growth Deal, investing in new innovation and skills facilities, building roads and releasing more land for homes and businesses
- Our business growth hub, Boost, has worked with over local 3,000 SMEs to develop their individual growth plans

A range of major projects to improve connectivity throughout the county and to the rest of the UK

- Expert advice, funded programmes and financial incentives to support business
- A multi-million pound programme of flexible training to develop key skills

Together, these will enable us to create 50,000 new jobs and build 40,000 new homes, boosting the economy by £3bn over the next ten to 15 years.

Edwin Booth welcomes strong housing growth figures in Lancashire

Lancashire is leading the way on house-building with more new home starts in the last quarter than anywhere else in the North West, according to Government figures.

Work started on 1,140 new dwellings in the three months up to the end of August – an impressive 3.2 per cent of nationwide home starts and more than in areas such as Greater Manchester and Liverpool as well as many regions outside the North West.

The impressive figures have been hailed as a very encouraging result by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which has prioritised house-building in the county.

LEP works to support and encourage local businesses. It aims to build more homes as part of a massive investment programme to create 50,000 new jobs and boost the local economy by £3bn.

LEP has made funding available across Lancashire for homes and has identified potential sites for development. A major house building programme is central to the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal, the LEP's once-in-a-lifetime funding programme to transform central Lancashire. The LEP's Growing Places Fund is also being used to unlock housing developments across the county.

The latest figures show that this is having an effect as house building ramps up.

The Government statistics show that Lancashire's total of house starts this quarter exceeds the 1,100 for Greater Manchester, Cheshire's 670, Liverpool city region's 430 and Cumbria's 400.

In terms of housing completions, Lancashire delivered a credible 850 new homes – less than Greater Manchester and other northern cities but more than many other areas such as Cheshire and Cumbria.

Chair of the LEP, Edwin Booth, said: "This is a strong performance. It is a real achievement to be one of the best counties at house building outside of the housing bubble in the South East of England.

"New homes for the increasing numbers of employees and their families, along with other infrastructure, are being delivered by our City Deal funding and are an essential part of our ambitious multi-million pound programme to grow the local economy by £3bn and create tens of thousands of new jobs.

"These new homes are a clear indication to local people of the tangible improvements the LEP is making to the local economy. We will continue to work with our local authority and developer partners to deliver sustainable housing growth in Lancashire."

Notes for editors.

The data can be found on www.gov.uk and covers the three months to 20 August.

For more on LEP, visit www.lancashirelep.co.uk/

Post-event notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

College facilities will keep Lancashire at the forefront of advanced manufacturing

Nelson and Colne College has unveiled a £2m hi-tech engineering facility designed to help the county stay at the forefront of the aerospace and advanced manufacturing sectors.

The College's new department features a subsonic wind-tunnel, along with workshops equipped with the latest technology and software such as computerised numerical control machinery, and was designed in consultation with local employers.

It will help the college's engineering students learn the skills needed to help them get jobs in Lancashire's advanced manufacturing sector.

The department was launched on Tuesday 19 January, when guests, including employers, College governors, and North West Aerospace Alliance's chief executive David Bailey, were given chance to explore the site, which also includes an innovation laboratory and 3D printing and manufacturing area, and take part in demonstrations with students. Companies in attendance included Hycrome (Europe Ltd), JD Engineering, Integrating Aluminium Components and Merc Aerospace Ltd.

An impressive interactive robot called Oscar was also on hand on the night, talking to guests about apprenticeships and giving out canapés from the College's restaurant and bistro.

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has invested £1.4m into the project, as part of a £30m Lancashire Growth Deal initiative which will support new top-quality facilities across the county offering extra training places and apprenticeships in key sectors of the local economy.

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills Hub, said: "Being able to learn on advanced equipment such as the wind-tunnel will give students a huge advantage when they go into higher education or the jobs market.

"Lancashire is number one for aerospace and at the forefront of advanced manufacturing generally and to keep that position and develop it still further, we need to make sure we are producing workers with the skills employers will need in the future.

"That's why the LEP is investing in a number of modern, well-equipped training facilities which will open over the next two or three years and help provide the skilled workforce needed to fuel economic growth."

Nelson and Colne College's Assistant Principal for Enterprise and Engagement Alison Rushton said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to all our visitors who joined us for our Engineering launch event. This is such an exciting time for the College, and we are looking forward to seeing school, college and adult learners, as well as employers, benefit from this outstanding skills facility.



"This event was designed to showcase the impressive facility to local employers and let them know the services we have on offer, including the manufacturing of components and laser and 3D cutting, and the facilities we have available for use, such as our Innovation Laboratory and adjoining conference facility. By taking on apprentices, businesses can benefit in a number of ways, ensuring they are up to date with industry standards and gaining skilled staff in a cost effective way.

"Manufacturing forms the largest private sector employment for Pendle, so there really is no better time for students to get ready for their future with Nelson and Colne College."

Talking about the new £2million facilities, Northern Powerhouse Minister James Wharton added: "Lancashire is a global player in the aviation and advanced manufacturing markets and thanks to government investment this new facility will help us build on these strengths. Local MP Andrew Stephenson has been a long term campaigner and invited me to visit and see for myself what is being done locally only recently.

"I was left in no doubt that this county has a major role to play in the success of the Northern Powerhouse and this is further proof the region will continue to lead the way with skills and jobs in high-tech sectors as we rebalance the economy."

Engineering is a vocational programme at Nelson and Colne College, which has seen many students progress to top Universities and successful careers. These include Amy Crawshaw, who achieved a triple distinction* in her BTEC Extended Diploma, before leaving to study Mechanical Engineering at the University of Leeds.

For more information about studying Engineering at Nelson and Colne College contact 01282 440217 or visit www.nelson.ac.uk

Notes to editor

For more information please contact Nelson and Colne College's PR and Communications Officer Rebecca Cohen by emailing r.cohen@nelson.ac.uk or ringing 01282 440217.

The latest Alps report places Nelson and Colne College Sixth Form as outstanding across the board, measured against 1480 other education providers.

Latest Government data from the Department for Education's Schools' and Colleges' confirms that Nelson and Colne College Sixth Form is:

- **1st for A Level and Vocational Value Added scores in the local area** These measure the distance between a student's eventual grades compared to the results they were predicted based on their GCSEs
- **The 3rd highest performing college in the country for young Apprenticeship success (16-18 year old)**
- **The BEST in the area for A Level and Vocational grades**

A Level 2015

100% A Level pass rate
Continued rise in A* grades

Vocational 2015



100% Vocational pass rate.

Nelson and Colne College is a Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) Beacon College – confirming the college's status as one of the best in the country

Nelson and Colne College has been categorised as 'Outstanding'

The LEP aims to boost the local economy by £3bn by 2025, creating 50,000 jobs and supporting the delivery of essential infrastructure, including the building of 40,000 new homes.





12 January 2016



Press Release

Groundworks start on new marine engineering centre

Building work has started on a pioneering new learning centre at Fleetwood Nautical Campus.

The Marine Engineering Centre, due to open in September 2016, will provide a first-class and highly realistic working environment for cadets training as officers at sea.

Advanced facilities mirroring life on board ship mean students will be job-ready and highly skilled to meet the needs of the maritime industry.

The £1.2m project will also allow training to be delivered on a single campus for the first time. Huge growth in the number of students from all over the world choosing to study marine engineering at Fleetwood has meant the College having to lease teaching accommodation elsewhere in the town in recent years. And even this is now becoming unsustainable to meet demand.

In addition, the new building will complement the existing range of cutting edge facilities at Fleetwood, including a five-bridge ship simulator and a survival training tank.

Neil Atkinson, Head of Fleetwood Nautical Campus, said: "With 95% of the UK's imports and exports now transported by sea and the maritime industry worth up to £14bn a year to the economy, the country is crying out for suitability qualified marine engineers.

"By investing in a centre like this, Blackpool and The Fylde College is showing a real commitment to meeting this need and establishing itself as the training provider of choice for the maritime sector.

"Our plans have been received favourably by the shipping companies who have viewed them, which can only strengthen our position and encourage more investment into Lancashire."

The Marine Engineering Centre has been part funded by a Growth Deal grant via the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. Pinington Construction has been appointed as contractor.

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills Hub, said: "We are pleased to fund the Marine Engineering Centre, which is part of a world-class maritime training facility attracting trainees from across the UK and beyond.

"By investing in what will be a new first-class training facility, the LEP is helping ensure that Fleetwood and Lancashire will continue to stay at the forefront of the UK and global maritime industry for years to come."

ENDS

Note to Editors:

1. Photographs attached:
 - Artists impression of new building
 - Ground breaking, left to right: Tom Rennie, Site Manager for Pinington Construction; Neil Atkinson, Head of Fleetwood Nautical Campus; Brady Hogg, Curriculum Manager for Marine Engineering
2. The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership has secured £251.1 million from the Government's Local Growth Fund to support economic growth in the area through the Growth Deal.

The Lancashire Growth Deal aims to realise the growth potential of the whole of Lancashire, building on key local economic assets including the universities and colleges, the Enterprise Zone, the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal and high-value business clusters across the county.

Over the lifetime of the deal (2015 – 2021) the Growth Deal is expected to create up to 8000 new jobs, 3000 new homes and attract £280m of additional public and private investment to Lancashire.

Press Information:

For more information, please contact Nikki Wilcock, Public Relations Officer on 01253 504336 / 07956 925931 or email nikki.wilcock@blackpool.ac.uk

11 February, 2016

Press Release



Permission granted for flagship energy college

A dedicated training hub for the energy industry moved has a step nearer to reality after being given the go-ahead by planners.

Blackpool and The Fylde College has been advised of permission to build the Lancashire Energy HQ, which is set to become the flagship of the new Blackpool Enterprise Zone.

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is providing £6.2m in Growth Deal funds towards the £9.8m cost of the project.

Construction will start in summer 2016 and complete in the autumn of 2017, The college will become a centre of excellence for the county and beyond, delivering the higher technical skills, knowledge and training required by the energy sector.

Daryl Platt, Executive Director of Commercial Development at Blackpool and The Fylde College, said: "This is great news for Lancashire and the industries we will be supporting. Our aim is to provide a cutting-edge learning environment producing job-ready students who are highly skilled in advanced engineering, technology and energy solutions.

"The College already has a proven reputation in this field. Fleetwood Nautical Campus has more than 20 years of experience working with both on and off-shore energy sectors. The Lancashire Energy HQ will build on this, adding green and renewable energy technology to the provision offered.

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director, Lancashire Skills Hub, said: "The Lancashire Energy HQ, at the heart of a Blackpool Enterprise Zone specialising in energy, is an important part of the LEP's ambitious strategic programme to transform Lancashire's economy, growing it by £3bn and creating tens of thousands of jobs over the next decade.

"Lancashire is already a world leader in the energy sector and there is huge potential for further development. The energy hub will train the skilled workforce this sector needs which, in turn, will encourage energy firms to invest in Blackpool and Lancashire as a whole.

"This is only one of a number of high quality training facilities the LEP is funding in the county which will boost the job prospects of thousands of local people and ensure we have the skilled workforce we need to fuel economic growth."

Ends

Note to Editors

Lancashire has significant nuclear, off shore oil and gas, wind and renewables industries, employing 41,000 people and featuring a number of world-class businesses in the field, such

as EDF, Toshiba and Assystem. Lancashire universities have a track record of expertise and research excellence in renewables and energy.

The LEP's ambitious strategic growth programme will boost Lancashire's economy by £3bn by 2025, creating 50,000 jobs and supporting the delivery of 40,000 new homes and essential infrastructure.

Press Information:

For more information, please contact Nikki Wilcock, Public Relations Officer on 01253 504336 / 07956 925931 or email nikki.wilcock@blackpool.ac.uk

Pre-event notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Launch of £2million engineering facilities

Date: Tuesday 19th January

Time: 5.30pm to 7pm

Venue: Nelson and Colne College Sixth Form, Scotland Road, Nelson BB9 7YT

Nelson and Colne College's new £2million Engineering facilities are set to be showcased to East Lancashire employers and VIPs at a special launch event.

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has invested £1.4m into the impressive department, which includes a unique subsonic wind tunnel, fully equipped workshops with the latest technology and software, and CNC machinery.

On Tuesday 19th January between 5.30pm and 7pm, guests will be given chance to explore the site, which also includes an innovation laboratory and 3D printing and manufacturing area, and take part in demonstrations with students.

Principal of Nelson and Colne College and chair of the LEP Skills Board Amanda Melton, who is set to give the opening speech on the night, said: "We are thrilled that such a huge investment has been made to our Engineering department, and are so grateful for the support shown by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. By providing students with the highest quality facilities and experience, we are able to ensure they have the right skills and confidence to be career ready when they leave NCC.

"We are looking forward to welcoming industry professionals into the new department and seeing how we can continue to work with local companies and build successful relationships in the future.

"Engineering is a rapidly growing sector, with 2.56 million job openings predicted in the industry by 2022. For anybody looking to join such an exciting sector, then now is the perfect time to enrol at Nelson and Colne College – where expert tutors can help students achieve their aspirations in a modern and exciting environment."

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is investing £30m in creating top-quality facilities across the county which will offer extra training places and apprenticeships in key sectors of the local economy.

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills Hub, said: "This is the first of a number of modern, well-equipped training facilities funded by the LEP which will open over the next two or three years.



“Together, they will transform the job prospects of thousands of local people and help provide the skilled workers employers say they need to grow.

“This initiative is an important part of our ambitious strategic growth programme which will boost the local economy by £3bn and create tens of thousands of extra jobs over the next decade.”

Engineering is a vocational programme at Nelson and Colne College, which has seen many students progress to top Universities and successful careers. These include Amy Crawshaw, who achieved a triple distinction* in her BTEC Extended Diploma, before leaving to study Mechanical Engineering at the University of Leeds.

For more information about studying Engineering at Nelson and Colne College contact 01282 440217 or visit www.nelson.ac.uk

It would be fantastic if you/or a photographer could attend this event. Press, radio and broadcasting opportunities will be available. For more information please contact Nelson and Colne College’s PR and Communications Officer Rebecca Cohen on 01282 440217 or email r.cohen@nelson.ac.uk

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Lancashire's second industrial revolution

Lancashire is known as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, which in the space of a century between 1750 and 1850, transformed the life of England and, in turn, the rest of the world.

Now the county is in the grip of yet another revolution based on the same skills – innovation and making things - that Preston-born Richard Arkwright and his peers showed almost 300 years ago.

The end result is that Lancashire has once again become a major player in business and manufacturing not only in the North and the UK as a whole, but also on the international stage.

Now the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is working to take the county's economy to the next level.

The LEP is driving an ambitious multi-million pound investment programme which will create 50,000 new jobs, build 40,000 new houses and boost the Lancashire economy by a further £3 billion.

To do this – according to LEP Chairman Edwin Booth – the LEP has turned the county's economy "into a business". Just how successful that business is can be judged by the stats.

Lancashire is already the second largest economy in the North – worth £23 billion - with over 40,000 businesses, many of them world-class, and is a significant exporter.

It is the UK's number one hub for aerospace with BAE Systems, Rolls Royce and Safran-Aircelle all making their home there. As a result, Lancashire has attracted a booming supply chain sector which currently employs 20,000 people.

BAE Systems holds the UK's largest ever manufacturing contract to build the fuselage for the F35 superfighter, a fitting achievement for the only region in the UK where you can still build an entire aircraft from start to finish.

Combine aerospace with the county's strengths in the automotive and chemical sectors, and it is clear that Lancashire is one of the UK's key centres for advanced manufacturing.

PACCAR (Leyland Trucks), Piolax, Sanko Gosei and Erlson make up the automotive sector.

And Edwin Booth admits to nursing the ambition to see Lancashire have its own car manufacturing plant with TVR having announced its ambition to again manufacture a range of cars in the UK.

Chemicals – with an emphasis on polymer-science based sectors – and energy also have a formidable line-up in the county with players such as Victrex, Vinnolit and AGCE, joined by Westinghouse Springfield Fuels, Halite, and EDF with Heysham 1 and 2 nuclear reactors.

The energy sector is underpinned by substantial on-shore and off-shore production.

All the manufacturing sectors can call on top-class support from Lancaster University and the University of Central Lancashire.

Now, through the LEP, public and private sector are working together backed by massive Government funding, are working to support and encourage business in the county.

Under its business plan, the LEP has set up an Enterprise Zone as a focal point to drive each sector. There are currently two sites.

Samlesbury – which will have its own advanced training facility - and Warton are anchored by BAE Systems' world leading aerospace business.

Two more sites - at Blackpool airport and at Hillhouse, on the former ICI site at Fleetwood - are in the pipeline. Both are targeting companies to broaden Lancashire's economic base.

Lancashire is about much more than just advanced manufacturing, as the LEP has recognised - the future of an economy is dependent on having a flourishing SME sector.

The LEP's Boost Business Lancashire is a single gateway with skilled advisors to match business needs. The support it provides ranges from technical advice to raising funds linked to a broad range of local and national programmes.

"Whereas we once had 80 or 90 bodies in Lancashire offering business advice – with no one knowing where they had to go – we now have the one," explains Andy Walker, Lancashire County Council's Head of business Growth.

"There are a lot of exciting things going on."

Through its Growth Deal funding, the LEP is supporting business and manufacturing through projects such as an Engineering Innovation Centre, and also an Energy Skills HQ, through which Blackpool & Fylde College will provide training for future energy sector employees.

Meanwhile, the LEP's City Deal funding is being used to ensure the county's infrastructure underpins business growth with, for example, massive new roads building schemes.

"Like any business – and the LEP looks on Lancashire as a business, it's not just a case of getting funds but knowing how to get the most out of them," insists Edwin Booth.

"Every time we have approached the government we have done so just as a private business would do to secure a contract.

"There is no reason why there shouldn't be a second industrial revolution – albeit with different disciplines involved – and why Lancashire shouldn't be at the front of it. That is what the LEP is working towards.

"The Northern Powerhouse will help all of us because together we are much stronger and Lancashire is going to be very much part of it . . ."

www.lancashirelep.co.uk

Ends

Press Release; Immediate Release

24th November 2015

Training provider announces pioneering £1m advanced engineering centre

A Lancashire-based independent training provider has received the green light to create a brand new Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing facility at its North-West headquarters.

The project is thanks to £800,000 received from The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) towards the cost of the facility, which will open in early spring next year.

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills Hub, said:

“The LEP has a multi-million pound investment programme to improve the skills of thousands of local people in a number of key areas of Lancashire’s economy, such as advanced manufacturing, where a more skilled workforce is crucial for growth.”

In its first two years, more than 250 local people will be able to study for Higher Engineering Apprenticeships and take part in upskilling programmes in partnership with businesses, driving skills and economy across the North West. Successful apprentices will have the opportunity to continue their studies up to Degree level.

MP Kate Hollern said:

“I am delighted about this investment in the local area and the boost for higher-level Apprenticeships. This new advanced engineering facility will provide an amazing opportunity which will be fantastic for young people and businesses alike.”

Work has begun installing cutting-edge equipment supplied by world leading machinery manufacturers such as Coventry-based DMG Mori. The installation of the most advanced equipment will provide a world class manufacturing environment, adding value to industry and supporting the region’s SME and blue-chip organisations in improving manufacturing product development efficiencies and capability.

Steve Finn, Managing Director of DMG MORI UK, said;

“By working with Training 2000, we will be able to help them in their objectives of developing the skills of young engineers and in offering technical advice to local businesses. This fits well with our policy of promoting new and innovative manufacturing techniques and inspiring young people to follow a career in engineering.”

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Notes to editors

Training 2000 is one of the largest Group Training Provider’s in the country, with almost 50 years’ experience of delivering high quality work-based learning and training programmes to industry and individuals. We have grown to more than 250 staff and 11 centres within the North West.

Our programmes and Apprenticeships include Automotive, Business, IT, Finance, Construction (including plumbing), Dental Nursing, Engineering, Scaffolding, work preparation courses and Military Preparation.

The LEP's £30m Growth Deal Skills Capital Programme has been funded via the £251.1 million from the Government's Local Growth Fund to support economic growth in Lancashire.

Key Facts

- Training 2000 is the largest Group Training Association in England.
- We are a national training provider with 3 OFSTED Grade 1's (overall Grade 2).
- Overall success rate for all T2000 Apprenticeships is 83.4% compared to a national average of 67.3%.
- Our learners have recently won 2 gold and 3 silver medals at the World Skills National Finals
- With almost 50 years' experience in training and development we have established strong and successful partnerships across the North of England with schools, employers and community groups.
- We have over 250 staff covering the UK.
- Our board members are made up of employers, this helps us to ensure that a real life training and development environment is embedded in everything that we do so we are developing learners from school age onwards to the needs of the job market today and in the future.

All media enquiries and to arrange photos, contact:

Alex White, PR & Communications 01254 54659
Alexandra.white@t2000.co.uk

**Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Press Information
Embargoed Until 4 February 2016**

Lancashire LEP launches ambitious Transport Strategy firmly putting the county at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse

New Transport Prospectus outlines how major investments in rail and road initiatives could create 15,000 new jobs and generate £685m in new economic growth

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has today (February 4th) published its latest Strategic Transport Prospectus which sets out the opportunities for Lancashire with regards to unlocking substantial economic potential via better transport connectivity.

The Prospectus highlights how through better transport links Lancashire can take full advantage of the government's aspirations for a thriving Northern Powerhouse, and maximise the benefits offered by the county's proximity to the North's key city-regions.

The 48-page report, entitled *Lancashire – as part of interconnected and productive northern powerhouse*, outlines the LEP's national, regional and local transport priorities in the short, medium and long term and conveys the LEP's vision of a physically connected and economically integrated Lancashire.

The Prospectus also shows through detailed analysis that if the ambitious programme being put forward by the LEP was fully realised it could create 15,000 net new jobs and would contribute an additional £685m GVA a year to the UK economy.

With regards to rail the report outlines how the government's proposals for HS2 and HS3 could transform Lancashire's role as a gateway to the whole of the North, and further how the regeneration of Preston Rail Station could stimulate substantial economic activity across the entire region.

For example by 2037, HS2 could generate the equivalent of £600m additional economic impact (at today's prices) and create around 3,000 new jobs. Such a high speed rail link could also help attract up to 75,000 additional visitors (net) annually, which in turn could add some £3.3m to the local economy each year.

Similarly it has been calculated that an expanded and modernised Preston Rail Station could create a total of 7,850 jobs and £324m in GVA over the coming decades.

Lancashire's Transport Prospectus illustrates how faster and more frequent journeys between Lancashire's main conurbations and between Lancashire's towns and cities to Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds, could substantially increase levels of inward investment, create jobs and boost the number of inbound and outbound commuters.

Other rail proposals put forward include improved services to and from a number of Lancashire's hinterland towns, and several major electrification schemes which would greatly improve inter-county connectivity.

Road priorities include all the major motorways which traverse Lancashire including specific stretches and junctions of the M6, M61, M65, M66 and M55.

In addition many major artery roads in Lancashire, including those that are crucial to access areas such as Blackpool, South Fylde, Fleetwood and Lancaster, are highlighted as requiring improvement together with proposals on how to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and alleviate 'pinch points' throughout Lancashire. Another major road scheme outlined includes a potential new River Ribble crossing, to link together the Preston Western Distributor and the South Ribble Western Distributor roads.

The Transport Prospectus will now be presented to central government and used to help leverage additional funding to support the LEP's overarching Strategic Economic Plan and build on the success of City Deal and Growth Plan which the LEP helped to secure and is delivering major economic and transport schemes in all parts of the County.

The LEP also intends to use the report as way to clearly make the case for Lancashire as a major player in the Northern Powerhouse initiative, with the Prospectus highlighting Lancashire's substantial untapped economic potential which can be unlocked through better strategic transport links. It also emphasises how Lancashire occupies a unique geographical position in the North West, and can act as a gateway to whole of the North of England and Scotland.

The Prospectus will be regularly reviewed by the LEP and local authority partners to ensure new schemes critical to Lancashire's long-term economic success are identified and included.

Jennifer Mein, Leader of Lancashire County Council and Chair of Transport for Lancashire, the LEP's strategic body for the delivery of transport policy, said: *"This is the most extensive and ambitious transport plan Lancashire has ever put forward. It conveys not only the key transport priorities and needs of the county in order to deliver sustainable growth but also reflects the LEP's vision for Lancashire as a region that is fully integrated, both physically and economically. This document is also fundamentally about Lancashire's evidenced case-making to support more and better connectivity as a means to improve our access and economic influence over the Northern Powerhouse as a whole.*

"It recognises that all parts of Lancashire are crucial to its long term prosperity, which is why in addition to national and regional priorities the Transport Prospectus includes detailed local plans to address the economic needs of specific towns and areas. Such interlinked factors are at the heart of the government's vision for a more connected and more productive North, and it is one which Lancashire wholeheartedly embraces."

Edwin Booth, Chair of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, said: *"This report clearly shows how both existing and new funding for transport interventions will help us unlock a significant number of new jobs, new housing and new commercial development in Lancashire. It also builds on the fantastic investment the LEP has already helped to secure via initiatives such as the City Deal and the Growth Deal, and further sends a clear signal to both government and our northern neighbours about Lancashire's ambition, appetite and determination to play a key role in the north's economic prosperity."*

John Cridland, Independent Chair of Transport for the North (TfN) said: *"There is much to do to improve transport capacity and links across the north and making this happen requires an ambitious vision at both a pan-northern and local level. For the first time, TfN brings together the whole of the north to speak with one voice on the big transport decisions to benefit the region as a whole, building towards the creation of the Northern Powerhouse. We welcome Lancashire's Transport Prospectus and see it as a clear commitment to our vision and look forward to working closely with Transport for Lancashire and the LEP to build on existing strengths and ensure that every part of the north benefits in the development of the Northern Transport Strategy."*

ENDS

For all media enquiries, interview requests, copies of the prospectus and launch images please contact Richard Bond or Andrew Spinoza at SKV Communications on 0161 838 7770. Email firstname.surname@skvcommunications.co.uk

Notes to Editors

About Lancashire's Transport Prospectus

Lancashire has already secured £107m of investment for major transport schemes as part of the £430m Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire LEP City Deal, one of only five such deals nationally. As a result of this accelerated investment, a number of projects have already been completed or are well underway. These include major rail capacity enhancements between Blackburn and Bolton, the Broughton Bypass, and improvements to the Burnley-Pendle Growth Corridor.

In addition to securing further transport funding, through the Lancashire Growth Deal, the LEP convinced Government to accelerate this funding into the next 5 years to support delivery of City Deal road schemes and the key transport investment priorities for both Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Councils.

The 2016 Strategic Transport Prospectus for Lancashire is underpinned by five Highways and Transport Masterplans covering the entire LEP footprint. These masterplans have ensured that for the first time strategic transport investment across all modes has been aligned with economic development and spatial planning priorities including housing.

Copies of the full Transport Prospectus, which includes a wealth of specific details on individual projects, economic forecasts and a broad timeline of potential delivery is available upon request.

About Transport for Lancashire

Transport for Lancashire (TfL) is a dedicated committee of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and demonstrates the resolve of Lancashire's three local transport authorities (Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council) to work constructively and decisively with the private sector to deliver binding priorities. TfL's responsibilities include:

- Monitoring progress and advising the LEP Board on scheme delivery
- Advising the LEP Board on scheme approvals and investment decision making
- Advising the LEP Board on long-term rail planning and franchise specification and provide a co-ordinating role between constituent local authorities; and
- Advising the LEP Board on long-term Strategic Road Network planning and provide a co-ordinating role between constituent local authorities.

Lancashire's Current Transport Investment Programme

Through the City Deal, the LEP secured a 10-yr local major transport programme, accelerated to a 6-yr delivery programme through the LEP's 2014 Growth Deal for Lancashire. This current transport investment programme comprises:

Scheme	Total Cost	Status
Centenary Way Viaduct Maintenance, Burnley	£1.82m	Under construction
Blackpool Integrated Traffic Management	£2.42m	Funding approval October 2015
Blackpool Bridges Maintenance	£4.23m	Under construction
Blackburn Town Centre Improvements	£0.23m	Funding approval April 2016
Preston City Centre Improvements	£7.00m	Funding approval October 2015
M55 to St Annes Link Road	£15.00m	To be advised
Blackburn to Manchester Rail Corridor	£13.80m	Completed
Burnley – Pendle Growth Corridor	£12.00m	Funding approval December 2015
East Lancashire Strategic Cycle Network	£5.89m	Under construction
Preston Western Distributor	£92.00m	Funding approval December 2017
Broughton Bypass	£24.30m	Funding approval October 2015
Blackpool Town Centre Green Corridors	£7.34m	Funding approval April 2016
Blackpool Tramway Extension	£18.20m	Funding approval April 2017
Darwen East Distributor	£3.00m	Funding approval February 2017

