1. UNIVERSITIES CREATE JOBS AND HIGH QUALITY EMPLOYMENT

Universities provide business support and help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to grow. For example, the Northamptonshire Growth Hub, a partnership between the University of Northampton, the local LEP and the county council, has supported over 500 local businesses in its first year.

Universities provide the higher level skills to meet the job requirements of the future. For instance, Siemens’s long-standing partnership with the University of Lincoln led to the establishment in 2010 of a new engineering school at the University, which offers innovative, industry-accredited degree courses in gas combustion and related technologies.

Since 2012–13, graduates from universities in the East Midlands have created nearly 2,150 new start-ups or social enterprises, supporting over 1,800 full-time jobs in 2015–16 alone. In the same year, universities and their staff created 35 new businesses supporting nearly 1,000 full-time jobs.

2. UNIVERSITIES INVEST IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

De Montfort University (DMU) has led the regeneration of the city centre, investing £4.2 million in the refurbishment of the historic Great Hall of Leicester Castle, which will become home to its business school. Universities in the East Midlands have already contracted for future capital projects worth nearly £270 million, providing long-term investment in local economic priority sectors such as transport equipment, food and drink manufacturing, medical and life sciences, and professional and business services.

Universities are long-term partners for the East Midlands. Together, the universities in the East Midlands have nearly 290 years of experience of working with the region, and are invested in its future.
3. UNIVERSITIES ATTRACT MONEY FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Universities are rooted locally, but they represent their region nationally. They perform 18% of the East Midlands’s research and development, often using funds drawn from outside of the region. They provide the necessary match funding to unlock investment spending for local projects from European Structural and Investment Funds and the UK government’s Local Growth Fund.

Universities are deeply embedded in the East Midlands’s local growth infrastructure that helps the region to prosper, while being nationally and internationally connected. They sit on Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) boards and second staff to work with LEPs, work with councils, and provide evidence and analysis to support the development of strategic economic plans.

With further devolution from central government to come, it is becoming increasingly important to have such capacity and expertise locally.

4. UNIVERSITIES REACH AREAS OTHER INSTITUTIONS CAN’T

Universities are working through local consortia such as the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Collaborative Outreach Programme to improve higher education participation in disadvantaged areas and to drive social mobility. Through initiatives such as the University of Leicester’s Leicester Enhanced Access Programme, designed to help talented Year 12 students from disadvantaged backgrounds fulfil their academic potential, they are central to addressing disparities at local level.

Universities also utilise international connections and expertise to benefit their local areas. Through its large campus in in Ningbo, China, the University of Nottingham has managed to establish extensive partnerships with some of China’s biggest companies and enable SMEs from the East Midlands to build links with the country.

Finally, universities in the East Midlands have stepped up to help communities hit by the collapse of large local industries. For example, in response to the decline of the mining industry, the University of Derby has developed a university-level programme to help Mansfield-based Mines Rescue safeguard jobs by successfully transforming itself into a health and safety consultancy.

5. UNIVERSITIES ATTRACT SKILLED PEOPLE TO THE AREA

The universities in the East Midlands attract 85,540 students from the rest of the UK, and a further 26,820 international students who spent £353 million in the local economy in 2014–15.

In many cases, they are also among the largest employers in the region. For example, Nottingham Trent University and the University of Nottingham are two of only 90 businesses with over 250 employees located in the city of Nottingham, and together provide jobs for over 11,000 people.

Businesses looking for skilled workers or access to research and business support often set up close to universities, or in incubation centres managed by universities. One example is the University of Lincoln’s Science Park, which offers local innovative businesses 36,000 square feet of flexible commercial space as well as access to state-of-the art laboratories and a technology centre.

A skilled local population is also vital for attracting inward investment. IBM has invested in a service centre in Leicester – its first in the UK – to harness the University of Leicester’s strengths in computer science and engineering research and development, as well as to harness the talent of the city’s graduate workforce.
YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSITIES HELP...

LOCAL BUSINESSES
Universities in the East Midlands work with thousands of – mostly small – businesses. Last year they signed over 16,600 research, consultancy or facility contracts with businesses and charities. Forms of collaboration include co-owned apprenticeships, development of curricula, internships and placements for students, and innovation and business support to help firms grow. All universities in the East Midlands also offer bespoke company training. For example, Nottingham Trent University, the University of Nottingham and the University of Derby have partnered to create Enabling Innovation, a programme that will provide over 2,500 local companies with business, research and innovation support. It will also help them recruit local talent through dedicated sector hubs and financial support with graduate interns’ salaries.

BIG BUSINESSES
Caterpillar has worked closely with Loughborough University for over 30 years. The partnership has included the creation of a joint Innovation and Research Centre which helps the company access Loughborough’s leading expertise in engines research as well as collaborate with the university on graduate recruitment, CPD and promoting STEM subjects.

COMMUNITIES
Northampton Enterprise Social Enterprise (NESE), the University of Northampton’s wholly-owned Community Interest Company, has supported over 3,100 unique local clients with 15,300 interventions. By asking suppliers to sign up to its Social Levy initiative, the university is also able to help increasing numbers of students from less wealthy homes with their fees.

SCHOOL-LEAVERS
Universities in the East Midlands are planning to provide nearly 50 degree apprenticeship places in 2017–18, giving students the benefit of industry experience with a leading company and a globally recognised degree.

LOCAL SERVICES
The jobs that East Midlands communities rely on – the teachers, doctors and nurses – are trained at university. Universities in the East Midlands are currently training over 3,600 nurses, 3,530 doctors and dentists and 4,765 teachers.

Universities in the East Midlands are also at the forefront of transforming health and social care for local residents though initiatives such as CLAHRC East Midlands, which brings together seven of the region’s universities with health providers, patient groups and industry to support the NHS to meet local priorities.

All universities in the region work closely with local schools to raise attainment and aspiration among children and young people. For example, Nottingham Trent University (NTU) runs a Schools and Colleges Community Outreach programme that reaches around 120 schools and educational providers in the city. The programme includes a Children’s University and the Students in the Classroom scheme, whereby NTU students are placed in schools to support pupils, particularly in communities with lower than expected progression rates into university.
‘The sheer scale of activity at the Universities in terms of research and major partnerships with industry is worth noting. There are hundreds of researchers and PhDs working in areas critical to business innovation in the D2N2 area. Nationally leading research groups exist within in the areas of Aerospace, Transport, Healthcare and Lifescience, Food and Drink, Construction and Energy and other areas. There also continues to be an innovative approach to multi-disciplinary working within the Universities, reflecting the increasingly organic nature of technology crossing sector boundaries. These groups are linked to some of the major world players in research and development.’

D2N2 LEP STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN

HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

Bishop Grosseteste University
De Montfort University
Loughborough University
Nottingham Trent University
The University of Leicester

The University of Northampton
The University of Nottingham
University of Derby
University of Lincoln

FURTHER INFORMATION

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