

Final Report for Leeds LEGI

We've just delivered the final report of our evaluation of Leeds Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) programme 'Sharing the Success'. This is the third LEGI we have evaluated and it adds to the growing evidence to support the value these innovative programmes have brought to deprived communities. The programme funded 35 separate projects to help establish new and growing enterprises in communities that until now were not regarded as enterprising. But the programme has helped set up more than 360 new businesses while supporting over 900 growing businesses to expand, creating nearly 700 new jobs and moving 450 residents from the target areas into employment or self-employment.

Transformational change projects with long time scales – like the ten years planned for LEGI – pose challenges for evaluation. Tracking changes in behaviours and attitudes requires an ability to collect and communicate subtle changes in behaviour and attitude. So, through detailed guidance and workshops, we encouraged projects to self-evaluate to ensure they were able to communicate their success to stakeholders and clients. As a result, projects were able to provide good evidence and we were able to report in rich detail on the benefits the programme has brought to local delivery organisations and the impact of education programmes in schools. Most encouraging of all, the programme has raised the profile of enterprise, and specifically enterprise in disadvantaged communities across Leeds and within key strategic partners.

With funding for the programme now finished the City Council is continuing the pioneering work of LEGI through a range of support including the ERDF-funded Enterprising Leeds project.

Simon Brereton said "Hall Aitken have worked with the Leeds LEGI Team to help us measure and evaluate our programme over the past 3 years. They brought enthusiasm and understanding, backed with a thorough and professional approach to evaluation, and have built the capacity of my team and our delivery partners to evaluate and understand their projects. I would like to thank Paul Buchanan and his colleagues for the contribution they have made to the success of Leeds LEGI. We look forward to working with them through their new Indicate self-evaluation service."