



The Leeds City Region Multi Area Agreement

People's day-to-day lives do not start and end at local authority boundaries.

This is why the Leeds City Region Partnership was formed, so that our eleven local authorities can improve the prosperity of everyone that lives, works, and studies in the city region.

Our Multi Area Agreement (MAA) is a joint commitment by both the partnership and central government to work together towards a better quality of life for our communities. The MAA for the Leeds City Region Partnership was signed in July 2008.

The MAA includes things we have asked for from the government, as well as things they have required from us.

We have asked for more freedom and flexibility in how we go about improving local access to higher level skills training in the workplace and enhancing transport connectivity.

In turn, we have agreed to a number of ambitious joint targets for sustainable economic growth, all of which will help Leeds City Region close the productivity gap with the rest of the UK by 2016.

This document is a summary of the key facets of the Multi Area Agreement; a full version of our MAA is available from the Leeds City Region Secretariat at:
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Tel 0113 247 4584 Web www.leeds.gov.uk/leedscityregion



what it means



- **Improved outcomes for local people:** The city region commuting area and labour market currently employs some 1.5m people and annually creates almost £46bn of gross value added. Two key issues limiting the economic success of the city region are transport issues such as congestion and the shortfall of high level skills in our workplaces. The MAA allows us to jointly address these key issues.
- **Faster decisions on major investment:** The partnership will work with the Department for Transport and its agencies including Network Rail and the Highways Agency to speed up investments in our transport infrastructure. Together, we will pilot a series of better ways to bring forward investments in key regional road and rail schemes valued over £5m.
- **Better value for money:** For the first time the MAA will enable the partnership's authorities to pool their money to deliver fully integrated transport schemes such as park and ride, bus priority routes, and cross ticketing across local authority boundaries.
- **Local solutions to national issues:** By working with the Learning and Skills Council and Qualification and Curriculum Authority, the partnership will pilot ways of making national training arrangements more flexible so that accrediting work-based learning is less of a burden for those involved. This will enable more of our employers to receive public funds for training and provide a boost in the local take up and formal recognition of higher level skills in our key business sectors, such as financial and business services.
- **A simpler working relationship with central government:** The government recognises that the partnership is best placed to understand the challenges facing the Leeds City Region economy and also has the capacity to respond to key issues such as transport connectivity, skills and housing. Measures in the MAA that bring Government to the table with us to agree our plans, along with the commitment to formally consult with the partnership on national proposals mean that the Government will be listening to the city region in a way it hasn't before.
- **And finally, a better city region in which to live, work and play:** Our MAA marks a milestone for the partnership, which since its inception has consistently been at the forefront of working across local authority boundaries. It is an approach which will continue to evolve into the future, building on government proposals to devolve ever greater control over economic development to strong city regions.