

The Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Creative and Digital Industries Sector Group

FAQs.

What is the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)?

This is the organisation set up by the Government to replace the Regional Development Agencies (Yorkshire Forward, East Midlands Development Agency etc.). The LEP is based on a relationship between the public and private sector and a strong commitment to work together to ensure the growth of a rebalanced local economy. The LEP is led by the private sector and will contribute significantly to the renewal of the national economy as a whole.

What is the Sheffield City Region (SCR)?

This covers the areas of the following local authorities – Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Doncaster, NE Derbyshire, Rotherham and Sheffield.

What is the Creative and Digital Industries (CDI) sector?

This covers Computing and IT, Communications technologies, Film, Theatre and TV, Fine Art, Architecture, Design, Theatre, Advertising, Publishing, Entertainment media etc.

Who are the CDI board members?

Mike Holcombe (University of Sheffield) – Chair

Dan Bates (Sheffield Theatres)

Ross Bray (Ask4)

Martin Cantor (Barnsley MC)

Sonia Coleman (Bolsover DC)

Heather Croall (DocFest)

Michael Dimelow (ARM)

Chris Dymond (Technophobia)

Stuart Green (ZooDigital)

Ed Highfield (Sheffield CC)

Eamonn Hunt (Word for word)

Colin McDonald (LearnDirect/Ufl)

Alison McKinna (Tribal)

Mark Pearce (Apprentice agency/workshop))

Elena Rodriguez-Falcon (University of Sheffield)

Andrew Smith (BDP)

Frank Wilkes (Blueyonder)

Robert Wilkinson (Bassetlaw DC)

Simeon Yates (Sheffield Hallam University)

What does the board do?

We meet every month and try to develop ideas and strategies that will increase growth and prosperity in the region through the creative and digital industries. Currently we are looking at issues such as: enhancing the creative dimension of the regional growth strategy; looking at the international dimension and opportunities; establishing an open and transparent

governance policy for the board. We will also be looking at the skills required for the sector.

What is the current LEP strategy for CDI?

The LEP board have endorsed a strategy for the CDI group and this is being refined and extended through the Board. The main elements of the strategy are:

- establishment of a group of large scale data centres to provide for next-generation cloud systems. These would be housed in redundant buildings in the region;
- development of a collaboration network involving hubs in the proposed Science Parks and neighbouring areas in the region – called TechCity;
- transformation of public sector ICT infrastructure and services

Latest news (December 2011)

There have been on-going discussions with central government and there is the potential for the Sheffield city region strategy for CDI to become an exemplar project, possibly in combination with Leeds and Manchester. Work on the data centre element is continuing and discussions have taken place with companies who could build/operate these data centres. Work is also being done on a Science Park Business plan which is part of the collaboration strand of the strategy. As part of this there has been a meeting with professional services firms who have indicated their willingness to put resource into the activity, for example developing Memoranda of Understanding, Governance infrastructure and business plans.