



The Way Forward for Leicester Shire

Leicester Shire Day 2007 was a big success as 200 delegates, mostly from the private sector, began to shape the new Economic Strategy for Leicester and Leicestershire. The event, held at the Marriott Leicester, was the first to help create a long-term vision for a flourishing sub-region.



Speakers at Leicester Shire Day.

The newly appointed chairman of Leicester Shire Economic Partnership, Rick Moore of Moore and York, made his first public appearance in his new role and outlined his ambition to bridge the mutual lack of understanding between the public and private sectors.

Five leading figures from local companies outlined issues that prevent growth for Leicester Shire businesses;

Chris Hall, chief executive, Hallmark Consumer Services, shared his experiences of trying to recruit staff with the right skills and attitude for his logistics company.

Mary Irving, chief executive, Tangible Results, provided an insight into what factors she had to take into account when considering expanding her SME.

Richard Brucciani, executive chairman, PAL International, spoke about how frustrating he found trying to locate new business premises in south Leicestershire.

Mick McLoughlin, regional director, BT, shared his vision for the first fully wireless county and what that would mean for businesses.

Steve King, partner, PKF, examined issues relating to image and identity and questioned the branding of Leicester Shire and how well this is articulated.

Delegates attended workshops on these key themes and were encouraged to look ahead. Amongst the ideas to arise was the need to:

- change the way apprentices are employed/trained
- reduce the gap between high and low skilled employees
- co-ordinate provision of services to eliminate 'fear' factor
- view the city and county as one for employment land purposes
- identify factors that will help create a successful, integrated identity for Leicester Shire



The chairman of Leicester Shire Day, Philip Hammersley (above), concluded that in his experience representatives of the public and private sectors had a great deal to learn from each other and recognised the event had identified this as a way forward in creating the vision for improving the sub-regional economy.

In July a consultation event aimed at the third sector will be held before a draft Economic Strategy is produced in October. This will be available via www.leicestershireday.co.uk

Annual Creative Event - FAME



Left to Right: Jacqueline Cawston, De Montfort University, Toyah Willcox, key note speaker, John Gough, De Montfort University and Freda Hussain, LSEP board member.

LSEP supported the annual FAME (Fashion, Arts, Media Eastmidlands) event which attracts 1,000 visitors to De Montfort University. It is a flagship event for the creative industries and is endorsed by celebrities and scores of national and regional employers.

The keynote speakers at this year's event were singer Toyah Willcox and Nick Pickard from Hollyoaks TV soap opera.

Creative employers from companies such as the BBC, Adobe, Next and Avid gave help and advice on how to get in to and succeed in the industry. There was a networking

lounge for businesses, presentation and seminar opportunities on subjects ranging from fashion and journalism to web design and e-games.

Toyah Willcox said, "It was a fantastic opportunity to get information to the people who count from the people who count. The audience at FAME was the industry's future and they need to have direct contact with people like me who have not only got a rich history but are still working in the heart of the industry.

"There is so much to share, from the importance of self confidence to the necessity of individuality within a team. FAME isn't about being a celebrity and being a size zero it's about being informed."

Kishor Tailor, chief executive of LSEP, said, "We support FAME because we recognise the contribution the creative sector makes to the wellbeing of the Leicester Shire economy. LSEP encouraged people to attend the event so they could network and identify opportunities for employment and enterprise within a fast growing sector."

Leicester Shire Success Recognised

LSEP is a corporate sponsor of the Leicestershire Business Awards and 600 guests attended the event at De Montfort Hall to find out who had won Business of the Year 2007, as well as seven other category prizes.

Pall-Ex (UK) Ltd was the star of the night, picking up the Business of the Year accolade. The company, based in Ellistown, last year celebrated its tenth birthday and over the years has gone from strength to strength.

Pall-Ex has grown from handling 100 pallets to a multi-million pound operation with a purpose built hub and logistics centre, in-house bespoke IT and access to 7,500 vehicles and five million square feet of warehousing throughout the UK.

Kishor Tailor, chief executive of LSEP, said, "The winners reflect the diverse range of successful companies that contribute to the economy. LSEP is pleased that excellence within high-performance companies is being rewarded and recognised."

Chris Corbin, chairman of the Leicestershire Business Awards, said, "The stories impressed and inspired our judges, as I hope they will other Leicestershire companies, so we can continue to showcase the tremendous business talent we have in this county."



Rick Moore Appointed Chairman of LSEP



He was appointed a magistrate in 1981 and is a former chairman of the Leicestershire Magistrates Courts Committee, the Leicester City Bench and the Leicester City Licensing, Betting & Gaming Committees.

Speaking of his appointment, Rick Moore said, *"I am delighted to be joining LSEP at this time when the economy is continuing to grow and signs of investment can be seen across Leicester Shire. I would like to build on that to make this one of the leading sub-regions in Europe."*

"It is an exciting time for the company which recently had its Sub-regional Investment Plan approved by emda who confirmed £30 million funding for the next three years"

LSEP has announced the appointment of Rick Moore JP LLB FRICS as chairman. Rick officially took up his three year appointment on 1st May 2007 and succeeds Nick Townsend who retired last year.

Rick is a chartered surveyor, director of a number of businesses, chairman of the Princes' Trust Area Board (Leicestershire and Rutland), chairman of Business Builder and governor of a sixth form college.

The chairman of LSEP is responsible for driving forward the economic growth of the sub-region. LSEP achieves this by helping to fund a programme of 100 initiatives across Leicester and Leicestershire to increase productivity.

It is an exciting time for the company which recently had its Sub-regional Investment Plan approved by emda who confirmed £30 million funding for the next three years. LSEP is to lead on developing a visionary Economic Strategy for Leicester Shire (see front page).

"One of my priorities is to improve engagement with the private sector and I hope to get involved in many events like Leicester Shire Day which give me an opportunity to meet representatives of local businesses."

Martin Traynor, interim chairman of LSEP, has welcomed the appointment. *"LSEP has performed very well in the past and we have a very solid base on which to continue to build. Rick Moore has all the necessary skills and experience to help us shape our future strategy and enable us to reach our full potential."*

Team Leicestershire at MIPIM

MIPIM is the world's largest showcase for the commercial property market and this year attracted over 26,000 participants representing 8,500 companies from 83 countries. It was the 18th and biggest MIPIM ever.

For the first time, partners from the sub-region formed 'Team Leicestershire' and collaborated in organising and staging specific promotional activities.

Solicitors Harvey Ingram Owston, Leicester Shire Promotions, LSEP and Leicester Regeneration Company (LRC) were represented. LRC are now benefiting from links established with Akeler, developers of the Carlton Square office development, who along with emda helped to fund 'Team Leicestershire'.



Youth Hostel Nears Completion



Foreground: Kishor Tailor, chief executive of Leicester Shire Economic Partnership.
Background (left to right): Stuart Lawrence, director and general manager of GF Tomlinson Building, Stephen Woolfe, chairman of the Heart of The National Forest Foundation and Clive Keble, chief officer (land and project development) of The National Forest Company.

The first Youth Hostel to be built in The National Forest will open late summer and Kishor Tailor, chief executive of LSEP, performed the 'topping out' when he fixed the final piece of timber cladding into place.

The symbolic 'topping out' signified the finishing touches to the structure of the innovative, environmentally-friendly building which has 75 beds and is expected to accommodate around 15,000 guests a year.

Kishor Tailor said, "This event was a significant milestone in establishing the new Youth Hostel in The National Forest and LSEP is delighted at the progress being made on site. LSEP invested in the Youth Hostel because of the long term benefits it will have on the economy of Leicester Shire and we will soon benefit from an increasing number of visitors to The National Forest in particular."

Sophie Churchill, chief executive, The National Forest Company, said, "This exciting new building is a great development for tourism in The National Forest. It's going to be a brilliant facility for families, young people and groups on a budget to get into the forest and enjoy all the activities on offer here. There are so many things to do in the forest and staying overnight means people can enjoy a great break with a good carbon footprint."

LSEP and *emda* are the major funders of this £1.78 m project which will bring substantial benefits to the tourism economy of The National Forest.

Health Technology Innovation Awards

Three pioneering projects to improve patient care have been awarded a share of £15,000 to accelerate their commercial development. The awards were made at a gala dinner for over 100 researchers, clinicians and senior representatives from the region's largest medicines research organisations, hospitals, universities and business development agencies.

The awards were launched to honour the immense contribution of Professor Peter Smith who was the co-founder of the Da Vinci Network. He died in a tragic accident in February 2006. LSEP helped make available the prize fund as part of its commitment to funding the growth of the network whilst additional funding was provided by NHS Innovations East Midlands.

The First prize of £10,000 was awarded to:

Dr Richard Keal, consultant radiologist, Glenfield Hospital, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and Professor



Dr Jennette Smith presents the £10,000 first prize to Dr Richard Keal, Professor Roy Kalawsky, John O'Brien and Ian Holmes for their medical imaging breakthrough.

Roy Kalawsky, John O'Brien and Ian Holmes from Loughborough University's Advanced Virtual Reality Research Centre, for a ground breaking technique to allow clinicians to remotely access superior quality 3D images of heart patients on palm pilots.

Da Vinci
health technology innovation network
For further information, visit www.davinci-net.org

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