

Annex A: Local Growth Academy FAQs

What is the purpose of the Local Growth Academy?

The purpose of the Local Growth Academy is to build the operational capacity and capability of anchor institutions to grow their individual and collective contribution to local and inclusive growth. Anchor institutions include combined authorities, local authorities, higher education providers and local NHS institutions.

What are the benefits of participation?

Benefits include:

- a. Building the individual and collective capacities of anchor institutions to act as more sophisticated clients when developing projects in support of local growth, especially when seeking to engage professional service firms in support contracts.
- b. An increase in the number and value of collaborative projects which attract new forms of investment finance.
- c. Strengthening and sustaining collaborative capacity across different institutions.
- d. Transferring innovation and best practice across the country.

Why now?

The Government has indicated that it intends to pursue a renewed drive for stronger and more inclusive growth in all places. The ambition to decentralise elements of fiscal policy through local business rate retention, the creation of new forms of devolved governance with increased responsibility for skills, employment and infrastructure investment, and the potential for a place-based national industrial strategy all increase the need for collaborative local leaders who are able to harness new and more sophisticated forms of investment finance.

Across the country institutions from the public, health and higher education sectors have built effective partnerships which are fundamental to the success of their local economies. Many of these partnerships are making good use of investment finance from a wide range of sources, recognising the increasing fiscal constraints of national public finances. However, the structure of investment finance is changing and the Government's drive for growth is now placing an increased focus on local economic performance. These trends require institutions to think differently and engage with external stakeholders in new ways. With the UK's departure from the European Union just over the horizon, now is the time to prepare for growth in a period of unprecedented economic uncertainty.

Who is the Local Growth Academy for?

Delegates to the Academy would ideally be aspirant future leaders or a senior member of your team (nominated by chief executives, vice-chancellors or principals) with responsibility for external stakeholder management, raising external finance, or co-ordinating local infrastructure developments with other partners.

Places will be limited and will be allocated on the basis of 'first come, first served.'

Who will oversee the work of the Local Growth Academy?

The Academy will be overseen by an informal steering group of national partners including Universities UK, university mission groups, the Local Government Association and the NHS Confederation. It will also include individuals representing local institutions of varied capacity and experience of working together. Relevant central government departments may wish to contribute as critical friends.

HEFCE will provide central coordination and the Secretariat.

Who will deliver the development sessions?

The sessions will be delivered by public agencies and a consortium of professional service firms.

A number of professional service firms have expressed keen interest in providing development sessions on a pro bono basis as part of their external engagement activity. They also consider they may at a later date secure commercial service contracts. A simple operating protocol will be developed to manage the transition from one form of support to another.

The choice of members of consortia will be confirmed by the steering group following a short and simple 'call process' to allow other service firms not already consulted to express an interest.

When and where will the Local Growth Academy happen?

We have planned four regional groupings. Each will include similar content to help spread best practice. Each grouping will meet twice, with each module consisting of two successive working days (with an overnight stay). These will be held between April 2017 and the end of October 2018 in venues around the country. Priority will be given to venues in close vicinity to train stations with good accessibility to other places.

	North	Midlands	London /SE	West / South
Module 1	Leeds	Birmingham	London	Bristol
	25-26 April	16-17 May	23-24 May	6-7 June
Module 2	Manchester	Birmingham	London	Gloucester
	19-20 Sept	26-27 Sept	3-4 Oct	10-11 Oct

How much does it cost?

There is a single fee of £399.00 (plus VAT) to cover the costs of venues, refreshments and an informal dinner. This cost does not include travel and accommodation.

What will the programme include?

The indicative programme is set out below, but is subject to change.

Module 1		Module 2	
Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	Days 2
Understanding Place	Growth of Risk Based Finance	What Works?	Inclusive Growth
Theories and Tensions Understanding Widening Disparities Place in the Industrial Strategy	Understanding Financialisation Bonds / Placements / Loans Venture Capital Funds Crowdsourcing	Intervention Logic Evidence Building Monitoring & Evaluation Counterfactual Impacts	Societal Challenges Health and Local Growth Sustainability Equalities
Major Project Development	Decentralisation of Investment Finance	Working with Private Partners	Strategic Organisational Choices
Business Case / Green Book 5 Stages RIBA Stages Positioning Nationally and Locally Effective Delivery	Enterprise Zones Combined Authority Devolution Deals Implications of Localisation of Business Rates	Successful Joint Ventures Successful Procurement Managing State Aids	Managing Internal Tensions Effective Local Partnerships Lessons from Leading Places
Understanding Devolution		Brexit and Place	
Trends and Legislation Devolution Deals Working with Government		TBC	

Where can I find more information?

Please contact Kevin Richardson, HEFCE's Local Growth Consultant (email k.richardson@hefce.ac.uk, tel 07795 257383) if you would like an informal discussion.

How do I register?

Please ask your chief executive, vice chancellor or principal to email your nomination to Hannah Ashley (h.ashley@hefce.co.uk) by 1700 on Tuesday 14 February 2017. All that is required at this stage is your name, position with responsibilities, and contact details.