



LEICESTER • LEICESTERSHIRE
BRITAIN'S GROWTH HOTSPOT



Welcome to Leicester & Leicestershire – the largest economy in the East Midlands

A GLOBALLY CONNECTED PLACE TO START,
THRIVE AND GROW YOUR BUSINESS. A SMART,
SKILLED AND AMBITIOUS POPULATION PROVIDING
A TALENT PIPELINE DRIVEN BY A SUPPORTIVE
AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM AND AN
OUTSTANDING QUALITY OF LIFE.

THIS IS THE PLACE FOR YOUR NEXT BUSINESS
EXPANSION OR RELOCATION.



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New houses, good transport links and skilled people – that’s what companies are looking for, and that’s why more and more are making the county their home.

Building on our thriving market towns, commercial parks and rolling countryside, we benefit from a prime central UK location in the heart of the east midlands.

We have space for growth - with four motorways centring on the m1, the uk’s no1 pure cargo airport – east midlands airport - and rail hub connectivity that is second to none.

Already home to amazon, caterpillar, next and santander, many big companies are already making leicestershire their home, underlining why the county has been voted one of the best places to live and bring up a family.

Driving this growth and investment is vital and we’re committed to helping businesses bounce back from covid-19 – and we’re doing everything we can to boost the economy, develop skills and create jobs, we’re doing so, alongside our partners in the city council, the llep and three world-class universities.

Leicestershire is very much open for business – and i look forward to welcoming more companies to the county.

Mr Nick Rushton

LEADER OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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In recent years, Leicester has become one of the UK’s fastest growing business locations and now has the most successful city economy across the East Midlands. We have proudly welcomed a host of new businesses to the city, including IBM, Hastings Direct, Octopus Energy, Mattioli Woods and PPL PRS.

It’s easy to see why businesses choose Leicester. We have a tourism industry that has grown to £650 million in the last ten years. We have vastly improved our major infrastructure and have significantly transformed our public realm, making Leicester an even more attractive place to invest in. Our location in the heart of the UK is served by superb transport links. And we are a diverse, welcoming city with an energised and talented workforce, supported by the county’s three major universities.

And we are set up to do much more. With hugely ambitious growth plans, we, along with our partners, will continue to grow the economy of our wonderful city – securing investment, creating jobs, apprenticeships and workspaces and managing major new developments such as those at the Waterside, Space Park Leicester and Ashton Green.

The coronavirus pandemic will of course continue to pose challenges for us all. In these unusual times, we have in place what is needed to continue to allow Leicester to thrive as an attractive business location.

Sir Peter Soulsby

CITY MAYOR, LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

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A Place to Start, Thrive and Grow

WE ARE ONE OF THE UK'S FASTEST GROWING BUSINESS LOCATIONS AND CONTINUE TO BE A HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT DESTINATION.

Global organisations such as IBM, Jaguar Land Rover and Amazon, together with businesses like The Access Group, Mattioli Woods and Hastings Direct, have all chosen our area to make major investment.

Did you know?

OUR £25.9 BILLION ECONOMY IS THE LARGEST IN THE EAST MIDLANDS AND GROWING



- Ranked one of the best places to start a business in the UK – 2nd only to London
- 35% growth in business stock over the last five years – greater than London, Birmingham and Nottingham
- Over 500,000 jobs and 42,000 trading businesses in the city and county
- A workforce of 2.8 million within a one-hour drive
- Over 22 million consumers within three hours' drive
- Businesses here save on average £15,500 per annum, per employee compared to London
- Grade A office space cost is circa 22% of London levels



Space to Innovate & Grow

WE OFFER A WEALTH OF SITE AND PROPERTY OPTIONS RANGING FROM STARTER UNITS TO MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

OVER
500,000 ft²
OF AVAILABLE
AND NEW OFFICE
FLOOR SPACE



OVER
3.5m ft²
OF INDUSTRIAL/
WAREHOUSE SPACE



OVER
1,350
HECTARES OF
EMPLOYMENT LAND



HOME TO MAJOR ORGANISATIONS



Enterprise Zones

We boast two innovation-led Enterprise Zones across four locations, providing significant benefits and incentives to businesses, driving the area's expertise in space, advanced manufacturing and engineering, life sciences, automotive, energy and sports.



Smart & Skilled

WE HAVE EXCEPTIONAL GROWTH IN HIGHER AND INTERMEDIATE SKILLED POSITIONS, MAKING IT AN INCREASINGLY ATTRACTIVE PLACE FOR AMBITIOUS BUSINESSES. WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION COURSES, APPRENTICESHIPS AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, BUSINESSES CAN ACCESS A HIGHLY SKILLED TALENT PIPELINE.

Did you know?

DNA FINGERPRINTING WAS INVENTED HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER BY PROFESSOR SIR ALEC JEFFREYS IN 1984



Did you know?

EVERY SINGLE YEAR SINCE 1967 HAS SEEN A LEICESTER-BUILT INSTRUMENT OPERATING IN SPACE



Innovation is in our DNA!

WE PUSH THE BOUNDARIES AND COMBINE STRONG LEADERSHIP, BUSINESS COLLABORATION AND WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH, EXPERTISE AND TEST FACILITIES.

- MIRA Technology Institute, a global skills centre delivering specialist skills and qualifications to industry leaders, engineers, technicians and other professionals within the global automotive sector
- Space Park Leicester is a new £100m world-leading hub for innovative research, enterprise and education in space and Earth observation
- Loughborough University Science & Enterprise Park is home to a dynamic innovation community with thriving advanced manufacturing and engineering, life sciences, automotive, energy, digital and sports business clusters
- World-renowned centres and institutes deliver research, education and specialist services. These range from clinical breakthroughs to cutting-edge innovations and advanced manufacturing.

Home to:

3 WORLD-CLASS
UNIVERSITIES

60,000
STUDENTS

38%
EDUCATED TO DEGREE
LEVEL OR HIGHER

“

We wanted to focus on the right place for our continued expansion and decided that Loughborough was a perfect fit for our business. It's a fantastic location with easy access to skilled people from the University and the surrounding area, along with excellent connections to the whole of the UK.

access
freedom to do more

”

Nationally leading for graduates in Engineering & Technology, Computer Science, Genetics, Business Studies, Mass Communications, Sport Science & Creative Arts.



Young, Growing & Ambitious

WE HAVE THE KIND OF DEMOGRAPHICS THAT AMBITIOUS BUSINESSES LOVE TO SEE – A YOUTHFUL, GROWING LOCAL POPULATION WITH OUTSTANDING CONNECTIVITY ENABLING EASY ACCESS TO A WIDER POPULATION BASE!

Leicester has one of the UK's most youthful and dynamic populations with a median age younger than Birmingham, Coventry, Bristol, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

The number of people living in Leicester has soared. Much of this growth came within the critical 16-29 year old segment (40% growth). The city's population growth ranks within the top 4% of the UK.

Your talent pipeline and future workforce awaits!

350,000+

LEICESTER IS ONE OF THE
TOP TEN LARGEST CITIES IN
ENGLAND BY POPULATION



Home to IBM

14%

OUR POPULATION IS
FORECAST TO GROW
BY 14% BY 2035, HIGHER
THAN THE REGIONAL
(10.6%) AND NATIONAL
RATE (7.5%)

1 million

OVER ONE MILLION
PEOPLE LIVE IN LEICESTER
& LEICESTERSHIRE AND
3.5 MILLION WITHIN A
ONE-HOUR DRIVE

16-29

YOUNG AND RAPIDLY
GROWING POPULATION
WITH 27% 16-29 YEAR
OLDS – WELL ABOVE THE
NATIONAL AVERAGE

“

*We came here because of
the high-quality workers and
because the business community
wants to work together to help
each other and to grow the city*

IBM

”

Global Connectivity

WE ARE CENTRALLY LOCATED WITHIN THE UK ALLOWING EASE AND SPEED OF TRAVEL BETWEEN MAJOR GLOBAL CITIES.

Acting as a springboard into national, European and global markets, our strategically significant location offers direct access to the UK's motorway network as well as dedicated rail and air passenger and freight services.

Did you know?

IT'S ONE HOUR TO LONDON ST PANCRAS AND 4 HOURS TO MAINLAND EUROPE BY RAIL FROM LEICESTER





Distances from Leicester by road

NOTTINGHAM	27 MILES
BIRMINGHAM	41 MILES
SHEFFIELD	64 MILES
CAMBRIDGE	75 MILES
LONDON CENTRAL	98 MILES
MANCHESTER	100 MILES

- Leicester is ranked a top 10 mid-sized European city for connectivity
- East Midlands Gateway Strategic Rail Freight Terminal provides direct access to the UK's network of Rail Freight Interchanges and all major UK ports including Southampton, Felixstowe, London Gateway and the Channel Tunnel
- Two international airports within 40 mins drive
- Home to East Midlands Airport – the UK's largest pure cargo airport and national hub for DHL, TNT, UPS and Royal Mail
- East Midlands Airport globally connects over 4.8 million passengers, serving over 80 leisure and business destinations
- Four national motorways run through Leicestershire including the M1
- Access to 98% of the UK population within 4 hours' drive



“Leicester has excellent road, rail and air transport links which means it is particularly suited to growing and maintaining domestic and international sales and supply chains”



World Class Sectors

WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING TO INVEST OR RELOCATE, TAKE A LOOK AT THE KEY OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS OUR INDUSTRY SECTORS.

Advanced Logistics

- East Midlands Airport is the UK's largest pure cargo airport handling over 320,000 tonnes annually
- Sited within the 'Golden Triangle' formed by the M1, M42 and M6 motorways, a logistics hot spot where road, rail, sea and air links meet
- Direct access to all major UK ports via our dedicated Rail Freight Terminal
- Major strengths in air, rail and road freight



Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering

- MIRA Technology Park - Europe's largest transport technology R&D cluster
- Purpose built AME facilities including the new National Centre for Combustion and Aerothermal Technology
- Home to one of the UK's largest engineering universities and over 50,000 engineering students
- Specialisms in transport technologies, construction, food production and medical devices



Aerospace & Space

- £100m Space Park Leicester - epicentre of the UK's space industry
- 200 academics, 29,000 employees and 20,000 students regionally in space-related fields
- Home to the National Space Centre, National Space Academy and world-leading space research including the National Centre for Earth Observation
- Specialisms in earth observation, payload and sensors, electrical power systems and navigation equipment



Creative & Digital

- Creative community of over 12,600 employees across nearly 4,000 businesses with nearly 9,000 students
- Half of all IT employees qualified to degree level or above
- IBM and PPL/PRS chose Leicester ahead of multiple locations, due to our talent, strategic location and outstanding quality of life
- Specialisms in software development, specialised design, photography and computer consultancy



Food & Drink Manufacturing

- 135 food and drink manufacturing businesses employing over 12,600 employees
- Home to world leading companies including Arla, PepsiCo, Cofresh, Intersnack, United Biscuits and Samworth Brothers and the world's biggest crisps factory at Walkers!
- Specialisms in soft drinks, prepared meals, bakery, confectionery and snacks, not forgetting Melton Mowbray pork pies, Red Leicester and Stilton cheese



Professional & Financial Services

- Rapidly growing, young professional community of over 32,000 employees supporting strong growth of PFS
- Home to Hastings Direct, The Access Group, Octopus Energy and Mattioli Woods
- Connectivity, competitive costs and talent make our area the ideal location for offices
- Strengths in banking, finance, insurance and law



Life Sciences

- University Hospitals Leicester NHS Trust is one of the UK's largest and most active academic and research trusts
- Home to several national health institutes, clinical trials & test facilities and Charnwood Campus – the UK's first Life Science Opportunity Zone
- University of Leicester's George Davies Centre - the largest investment in medical teaching and applied research by any UK university in the last decade
- Specialisms in chronic disease prevention, sport and exercise science and rehabilitation



A Healthy Place to Live

IMAGINE BRITAIN IN ONE COUNTY. A BUSTLING CITY FULL OF ENERGY AND OPPORTUNITY SURROUNDED BY TRADITIONAL MARKET TOWNS AND BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES SET IN THE STUNNING LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE. THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS AND WITH SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO.

A plethora of music venues, museums and galleries underpinned by a year-round programme of festivals and events plus a lively arts and culture scene. The very best retail and local independent shopping, plus mouth-watering cuisine from around the world.

You don't have to travel far for a family day out with an assortment of family attractions and a long list of historical gems for you discover.

Sporting success here is second to none and it doesn't stop at football. Whether it's rugby, basketball, horse racing or golf, there is plenty of action to enjoy and participate in.

IT'S NO WONDER WE ARE ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE/BRING UP A FAMILY!



Did you know?

LEICESTER COMEDY FESTIVAL IS THE LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY FESTIVAL IN THE UK



“

A fantastic quality of life... the perfect balance between a buzzing city centre as well as a beautiful countryside right on your doorstep. It's a great place to work hard and enjoy life

octopusenergy

”



Did you know?

WE ARE RATED ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO BRING UP A FAMILY



VISIT
PROGRAMMES



ACCESS TO
ACADEMIA



SITE &
PROPERTY
INTELLIGENCE



FINANCE &
FUNDING SUPPORT



MARKET
INFORMATION



PLANNING
SUPPORT



LABOUR MARKET
INFORMATION
& ACCESS



INTRODUCTIONS
TO PROFESSIONAL
NETWORKS &
BUSINESS
AMBASSADORS



OUR FRIENDLY AND APPROACHABLE TEAM
ARE ON HAND TO HELP AND SUPPORT YOUR
BUSINESS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

Explore the opportunities by contacting the Invest in
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