Luton Investment Framework
April - June 2018

www.luton.gov.uk/LIF
2018: The year so far...

It’s been a busy spring with significant progress in many areas - all having a positive impact on the people of Luton.

Once again helping to improve skills has very much been on the agenda with European funding made available for the coaching and training for specific groups who really need the help to get into employment. There was also the launch of the Aspiration Centre - a mobile unit which gives access to information on jobs and training opportunities for the whole town and helps people see what they need to improve career prospects.

We also saw developments with a number of health and wellbeing schemes. A new Food Plan was put in place which will go a long way to help improve health. We saw a school health and wellbeing conference and a new service which offers integrated emotional and physical wellbeing support set up.

There have also been some really good stories to tell about cultural activities with more renovations and refurbs in the cultural quarter as part of the Hat District works, and national recognition for the great night time offer available in the town.

This along with the Luton International Carnival and the Luton Town Football Club’s promotion celebration in May, the Big Iftar and Imagine Luton in June shows the diversity in the town as well as demonstrating Luton as a desirable place to live, work and enjoy life.
Luton Council announced an agreed investment package of a £3.2m grant with Peugeot SA, securing the Vauxhall van factory’s future and the creation of over 200 new jobs. This will also mean protecting many local supply and support jobs which depend on the operations of the plant. The package also includes reduced business rates. There will also be support for the recruitment of additional workers needed for the plant’s expansion, and help to secure permanent jobs at the plant for the over 50s and long-term unemployed.

A ground-breaking ceremony at the site of the Luton DART marked the official start of the works on the state-of-the-art £225m fast transit system. The DART will link London Luton Airport with Luton Airport Parkway station in just under 4 minutes.

Lord Porter of Spalding, Chairman of the Local Government Association turned the first sods of earth at the event. It is planned to be in operation by spring 2021 and will create 500 construction jobs over 3 years, 30 apprenticeships and 17 permanent positions.

The Women Like Me conference, celebrating the achievements of Luton’s women, was held in conjunction with Women Talk as part of the 100th anniversary of the women’s suffrage movement and some women’s right to vote.

The Luton Food Plan was formally approved at a council Executive meeting. The four year initiative aims to raise awareness of the importance of a balanced diet and good food to improve health, the town’s food sustainability and economy.

It focuses on 3 priority areas:

- the council providing healthier food options through its catering service, removing unhealthy vending machines from council premises and influencing local businesses to improve food options
- encouraging access to healthier food options and working with food outlets to reduce sugar, fat and salt content
- increasing access to green space and empowering residents to grow their own fruit and vegetables
Wizz air launched its UK subsidiary based at London Luton Airport and introduced a fourth aircraft to its fleet as well as the UK’s only low-fare direct flight to Albania. It also announced a further seven new routes from the airport including Athens, Tallinn and Reykjavik. The airline will have a total of eight aircraft based at the airport in 2018.

The Secretary of State for Education, Damian Hinds and Children and Families Minister, Nadhim Zahawi, visited Rothesay Nursery School. It provided an opportunity to promote the importance of early years and the work done to improve children’s early language skills. Staff emphasised the good practice taking place in Luton within the Flying Start Children’s Centres, nursery schools, and early years providers as part of the early years strategy, and Flying Start, which aims to give children the best possible start in life.

The new Total Wellbeing service for Luton was launched at Hightown Community Sports and Arts Centre. This is the first of its kind in the UK offering integrated emotional and physical wellbeing services and is a partnership between the national social enterprise Turning Point and Active Luton. The programme will be delivered in leisure centres and community settings across the town in partnership with community organisations to ensure they are as accessible and flexible as possible for Luton residents.

The ‘Link’ Community Led Local Development Workforce Coaching and Leadership programme gained momentum with a number of local people successfully completing training which has led to employment.

The European Social Fund project aims to break down barriers to employment among specific groups in Luton including women, people over 50 and those with mental or physical health problems.

The project links people with free training opportunities to help them where various factors such as lack of qualifications or confidence, age, disability, and language or cultural barriers may have left them feeling excluded.
During Walk to School Week pupils from Luton schools put their artistic skills to the test by designing posters as part of a competition organised by the council’s Road Safety Team to promote walking to schools.

The Hat Factory closed for refurbishment and will re-open again in spring 2019 with a new entrance, reception, theatre foyer and skills and learning spaces. While the improvement works are going on Luton Culture will continue to deliver its outstanding artistic programme in other locations in the Hat District and across its other sites: Wardown House Museum and Gallery, Stockwood Discovery Centre and Central Library. Internationally renowned artist Tim Head met with the designer and arts team to work on ways of integrating his work into the new Hat Factory space. His work ‘Light Rain’ was commissioned in 1998 by the council when the Hat Factory Arts Centre was known as Artezium Arts and Media Centre.

Some Luton pupils took part in the Football for Peace tournament at LTFC. The event was organised by 20 peace ambassadors aged 16 and 17 years and was the culmination of a series of events aimed at improving community cohesion in the town.

The council and LTFC Community Trust joined forces with Football for Peace enabling young people to work together within communities to create greater mutual understanding and respect, while developing personal skills in the process.

Opto Property Group won Developer of the Year at the 2018 Property Wire Awards for delivering three purpose-built student developments in Luton.

The high quality of the developer’s work helped the company to be crowned this year’s winner.

Altogether, Opto Property Group has delivered over 800 purpose-built student rooms across these three high specification buildings in Luton.

Luton town centre received Purple Flag status by the Association of Town and City Management for its diverse, safe and enjoyable nightlife. Luton is now one of 70 town and city centres in the UK and Ireland with the award which is comparable to the ‘Green Flag’ for parks and ‘Blue Flag’ for beaches. This is a sought after accreditation for areas with a vibrant mix of dining, entertainment and culture while promoting the safety and wellbeing of visitors and residents.
Hundreds of fans attended the celebration for LTFC’s promotion to League One. The event included live music and an open top bus tour which travelled from Kenilworth Road to St George’s Square. The players and officials joined the Mayor on stage for celebratory speeches and were then welcomed into the town hall for a civic reception.

The Aspiration Centre was launched at an event in St George’s Square. The pilot project aims to provide people with the skills they need to improve their jobs and career prospects. This mobile unit forms part of the £1.9m skills and opportunities programme – a three year plan to drive aspiration and highlight career opportunities across Luton.

The centre promotes the skills platform which provides an accessible resource to promote education, job and career opportunities across Luton. The centre moves from location to location making it accessible to all residents so they are able to find out what jobs are available in their ward and the town, how to access these new opportunities and how to improve their skills and life chances.

Strategic Community Services teamed up with MIND-BLMK to hold a mental health services themed networking event during Mental Health Awareness Week. 97 professionals attended. These regular themed events aim to raise the profile of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations, promoting partnership working and increase dialogue between VCS and the statutory sector.

ALMOST 1.5 MILLION PASSENGERS TRAVELLED THROUGH LONDON LUTON AIRPORT 3.6% INCREASE COMPARED TO MAY LAST YEAR

THIS IS THE 16TH CONSECUTIVE MONTH THAT OVER ONE MILLION PASSENGERS HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE AIRPORT AND REPRESENTS THE BUSIEST MAY EVER
Capital & Regional announced it has leased 52,000 sq ft to the council of previously vacant office space at The Mall Luton.

The council has taken a ten year lease for four out of the five available floors located above the shopping centre. Capital & Regional has invested over £5m in a full refurbishment of the entire office space.

The letting enables the council to consolidate a number of public sector uses into one location under its One Public Estate strategy. Occupiers at The Mall Luton already include Luton and Dunstable NHS Trust, which recently opened a clinic to deliver medical services in the town centre.

Lewsey Sports Park new gym opened following an extensive refit with a state-of-the-art cardiovascular, resistance and functional training equipment to complement the centre’s large new group fitness studios and comprehensive aquatic offer.

Corporate volunteer teams from TUI and Vauxhall gave Holy Trinity Church in Biscot a makeover in advance of the 150th Anniversary of the Church. The makeover included re-varnishing the pews and flooring, giving the oak doors a new lease of life and revitalising the lych gate which is a 100 year old war memorial.

Corporate volunteering (also called employee volunteering) is a really simple and effective way for businesses to contribute to the community. The council’s volunteer officer and voluntary sector support officer have teamed up to co-ordinate a wish list of projects from community groups and then match these to potential corporate volunteers.

Planning consent was given to refurbish an old hat factory, Hat House at 32 Guildford Street into a creative workspace. Internal works were completed by Neville Construction Limited and several important architectural and factory style features have been revealed and will be retained.

To find out more about the creative workspaces email hatdistrict@lutonculture.com or call 01582 547470. For more information go to www.hatdistrict.co.uk.

The 42nd Luton International Carnival took place with participants from the Caribbean, Latin America, South Asia, Poland, Leeds, East Midlands, Isle of Wight and London. Local participant groups included LTFC, Luton Tigers, Beds Police, Luton and Beds Fire Brigade and local Samaritans had floats. For another year the magnificent costumes with the music created a fantastic party atmosphere. In Wardown Park there were fairground rides, food stalls, the Aspiration Centre, health and wellbeing stalls and arts and crafts.

The Aspiration Centre was on the road and based at a number of sites and events including St George’s Square, Market Hill, Sainsbury’s Dunstable Road, Luton Carnival, Homebase Enterprise Way, Lidl Marsh Road, LTFC, Hockwell Ring and Chaul End Community Centres.
The skills platform (www.lutonskills.com) was officially launched. It provides information on job searching, in-work benefits that may be available, grants to help with study, study options, apprenticeships and more. It allows employers to advertise local vacancies free of charge. Visitors to the Aspiration Centre are encouraged to sign up to the skills platform where they can view local job opportunities, training courses and volunteering positions. The platform can be accessed easily at home and on mobile devices.

June

- A school health and wellbeing conference was held to help staff gain new skills to support pupils. The conference included practical workshops and resources covering a range of topics including child sexual exploitation, healthy relationships, youth violence, online safety and mental health.

- Luton’s Big Iftar 2018 took place at Popes Meadow organised by Inspire FM with the council and Bedfordshire Police. People from all communities shared good food and learned more about this special day. Activities included face painting, mehndi/henna, bouncy castles, Nasheed singing, and family entertainment. The event provided the opportunity to learn about Islam and Ramadan and to break the fast (Iftar) with a shared meal.

- Imagine Luton returned this year with the magic of circus. A Big Top was in place in St George’s Square and the town centre streets were brought to life with amazing circus, dance, theatre and music performances.

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- Cllr Naseem Ayub was invested as the new Mayor of Luton becoming the first female Asian Mayor of the town. Born and raised in Luton, she has been a councillor since 2011 when she became the first female to be elected in the Biscot ward.

Cllr Mark Rivers, who was appointed deputy mayor, has lived in Luton from the age of ten. Currently an engineering consultant and project manager, he was elected as councillor for Round Green in 2011.
As part of the celebration and thanks to volunteers during National Volunteers Week the council gave certificates of thanks to organisations using volunteers. These were to acknowledge their contribution in supporting volunteering opportunities in Luton. A small selection of these organisations joined together in St George’s Square alongside the Aspiration Centre to promote volunteering. Mayor Cllr Naseem Ayub presented the organisations and their volunteers with their certificates.

A vacant plot of land at 33 Guildford Street was secured to build Hat Studios – the fourth and final building in the Hat District project. This is the biggest investment and use of the Local Growth Fund from South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP). The new building will provide 8,500 sq. ft. of workspace for creative industries and retail managed by Luton Culture. Hat Studios will inject new vibrancy into this run-down part of the conservation area. A brief was released inviting tenders from architects’ practices who share the project vision.

The CCG held its first workshop, ‘Reimagining Mental Health’ which brought together commissioners, providers, voluntary and community organisations to begin a different conversation about what mental health in Luton could be. This was a co-production approach towards developing mental health and wellbeing support integrated with physical health and social care, focused on prevention and recovery.

Building on ‘The Beacon’ by Mark Titchner, a new public art commissioning opportunity has been opened up across the Hat District. Artists and designers have been invited to design, create and install a series of stimulating illuminated neon, enamel or industrial signs, symbols and letters across the four key venues. Works should respond to the heritage of the area and draw upon Luton Culture’s collections and research.

For more information go to www.lutonculture.com/about-us

The annual Flying Start and Pre-School Learning Alliance Picnic in the Park event was held in Wardown Park. This year with a theme of Five to Thrive. There were over 30 stalls and partners from right across the early years spectrum, including Flying Start Children’s Centres and Luton nurseries, midwifery, health visitors, Love Food, Aspiration Centre and Active Luton, were involved.
A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was introduced within the town centre making it a safer and more welcoming place for residents, businesses and visitors. PSPOs allow anti-social behaviour to be managed effectively and the town centre order applies to a range of behaviours including street drinking, urinating and defecating, dog fouling, and spitting. The powers allow accredited police and council officers to use a number of tactics including fines, to address these issues and help improve the quality of the area for people to enjoy.

The Employment Support Forum met for the second time. The group is made up of council, pre-employment providers and local employers. Those in attendance received an update on the Aspiration Centre, discussed a one common assessment and referral system, Job Centre Plus procurement process and looked at individual placement support. It is intended that the forum meets three times a year.

For more information email LIF@luton.gov.uk

Thirty students from Icknield High School attended an employability and activity day at TUI as part of the 16 x 16 young people’s programme. Feedback from the visit from both the learners and employers was incredibly positive. Learners had the opportunity to find out about the many career choices TUI offers locally and they were delighted to meet local young talent and to inspire them to consider different career options.

The Luton family safeguarding model reached its first anniversary resulting in a permanent change to the service and commitment to continue the model beyond the Department for Education funded period. Key features include:

- multi-disciplinary teams of specialist workers with domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health expertise
- training in motivational interviewing as a unifying framework for practice for all staff working with children and families
- group case discussions with shared risk ownership across the multi-disciplinary teams
- structured tools to support direct work
- Adult workers have been seconded in all five children’s social work teams and a strategic partnership agreement has been signed between partners and an adult worker in the children’s social work teams

The changes introduced provide better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The Aspiration Centre was located at a number of sites and events including Market Hill, Sainsbury’s Quantock Rise, Aldi Scott Road, St Francis Church Carteret Road, Inspire: Luton Sports Village, Gipsy Lane Retail Park, Aldi Dallow Road, Luton Train Station and Lewsey Festival. By the end of June over 470 people had visited the centre.
The Luton Skills Platform

An online platform that connects people and organisations - hosting jobs, training and opportunities.

**Organisations**
- encouraging local employers to seek local talent for their job opportunities
- organisations can post their local training opportunities
- all recruitment advertising is free of charge
- personal skills broker to advise on posting your vacancies
- creating a personal or organisation profile means it’s tailor made to users’ needs

**Residents**
- all visitors to the Aspiration Centre are advised to sign up to the Skills Platform
- a dedicated platform for local people looking for local jobs and opportunities
- quick and easy to use
- candidates get all the support and information they need about jobs and training opportunities
- the right candidates are matched with the right jobs and opportunities
- create and upload your CV and apply for local jobs & opportunities

For more information contact the LIF Skills Project Manager either by telephone on 01582 547367 or 07719 408851 or by email Geraldine.Horan@luton.gov.uk

www.luton.gov.uk/LIF
Skills & Opportunities in Luton

Do you want to know about jobs and opportunities in Luton?
Are you interested in changing career?
Would you like to know how to improve your job prospects?
Are you unsure about possible career pathways, training courses and skills required for jobs?

If so, come and visit the mobile Aspiration Centre.

Our experienced staff and partners will be on hand with information on jobs and opportunities across Luton.
You can also find out about developments taking place in the town as part of the Luton Investment Framework – a transformation plan that is changing the town.

To find out more about the Aspiration Centre and when it will be coming to your area email LIF@luton.gov.uk or visit www.luton.gov.uk/aspirationcentre

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