



RAS & Economic Development

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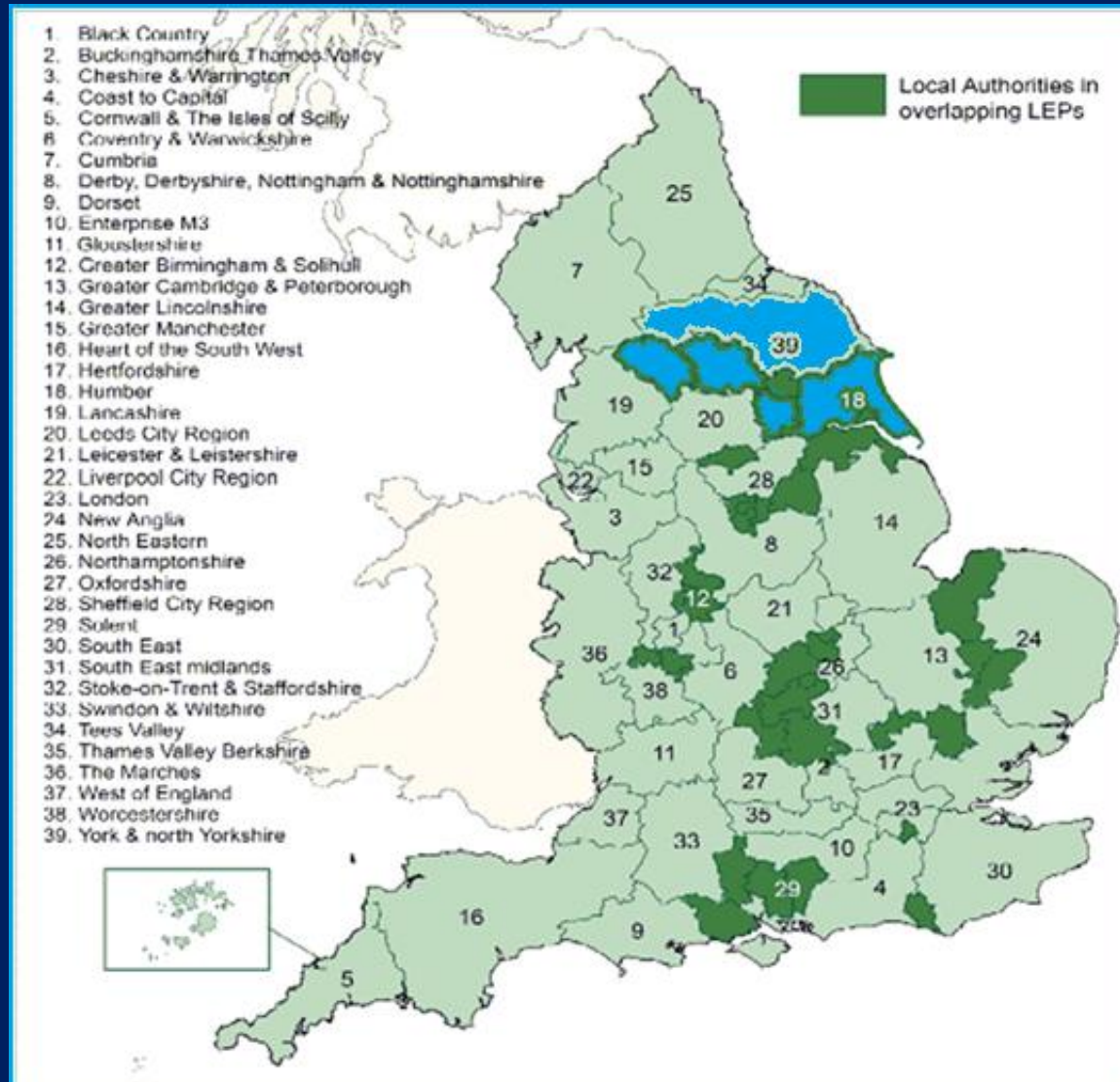
Local Enterprise Partnerships

Set up in 2011 by Government to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth across the country and between industries.

39 in England; designed to represent a functional economic area that reflects labour markets and offer sufficient economies of scale.

Partnerships between local authorities and businesses; determine local economic priorities, lead economic growth and job creation within the local area.

Responsible for delivering growth programmes worth £2 billion annually. Also set strategic direction over the use of European funding in their area.





YNYER LEP

- Geographically biggest LEP
- Value of our economy £24 billion; Total number of businesses > 48,000
- 5 priorities: A global leader in the bio-economy; Profitable and ambitious small businesses; Inspired people (Skills); Successful and distinctive places; Connectivity
- Our key performance indicators: Job creation; GVA growth; number of businesses supported; closing productivity and wage gap; number of new houses built.



Global Leader in the Bio-economy

- Over 10% of the area's economy is from the agri-food and bio-renewables sector.
- 70% of the area is farmed. Clusters in wheat, peas, beetroot, pig rearing, potatoes, horticulture and poultry.
- One of the largest shell fishing ports in the UK.
- Largest concentration of food & drinks businesses in the UK.
- HQs and manufacturing facilities: McCain Food (GB), William Jackson Food Group, Marlow Foods (Quorn), Arla Foods, ABP Food Group, Cranswick and Nestle (Kit Kat bar).
- An agri-food R&D and innovation growth corridor



Challenges we face

- Brexit - reduced migrant labour force.
- Perception that RAS kills jobs – our success is judged on job creation
- Chicken & Egg situation: RAS support industry needs to be built up in parallel to avoid net job losses. Major up-skilling is required. But does agri-food support a RAS support industry ?
- Little data on levels on adoption of RAS by agri-food businesses or on number of ‘RAS’ businesses. How can we provide the right business support ?



Challenges we face

- Integration of agri-food supply chains is sub-optimal – how to introduce RAS, data integration, etc. across the chains ?
- Whole of food-chain optimisation requires adoption of new agri-food systems – more change
- Our regional innovation systems need to be developed further to get the best out of RAS for our industry



Role of Robotics & Autonomous Systems

- High value jobs created in the course of innovative process – retain / attract new talent; wages that are in line with living cost
- Drive productivity – e.g. increase yields, reduce waste, improved predictability
- Enable supply chain integration between agri-food / bio-renewables businesses – data integration; improved resilience of business
- Attract investment to our area – new: industry to support RAS
- Provide new technologies and processes which drive commercial value
- Skills development



Thank you !



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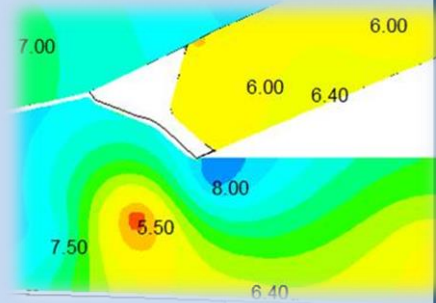


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