



**A LOCAL ENTERPRISE  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**PROPOSAL TO BIS/ CLG**

**AUGUST 2010**



## 2 Our principles for a Hertfordshire LEP

### 2.1 What the LEP will do

The Hertfordshire economy is already a powerhouse of UK plc. However, we want to go further. Our ambition is for Hertfordshire to become a world-leading economy – one of the top three in the country outside of London.

A Hertfordshire LEP will bring together key partners from business, academia and the public sector to provide the necessary strategic leadership, vision and focus for the county to deliver this ambition by:

- Stimulating **innovation**, particularly by building on the county's key strengths in research and development, life sciences, telecoms and information technology and hi-tech engineering; developing our emerging clusters such as digital media and low carbon technology; and improving the links with business and academia in the county.
- Encouraging **enterprise** to maintain our high levels of business start-ups, and supporting the growth of local SMEs via improved access to high quality advice and business finance.
- Continuing to attract significant **inward investment**, as well as ensuring the retention and growth of existing firms and bringing forward **key strategic sites** for private sector led investment in the county.
- Influencing future **skills commissioning** to ensure the skills of the county's workforce meet the needs of employers.
- Addressing the **structural issues** currently constraining competitiveness in the county such as transport infrastructure, congestion and utilities provision, as well as driving the provision of high speed broadband.
- Raising Hertfordshire's **profile**, supporting our vibrant town centres, and promoting culture and tourism activity.

The LEP will have a key responsibility in balancing future growth with safeguarding Hertfordshire's unique quality of life, because we recognise that this is a prerequisite in attracting and retaining the key staff businesses need to innovate and grow.

While recognising that statutory responsibilities for spatial planning rest with local government, we would also want the LEP to play a key role in considering the consequences of growth at the strategic level and, in particular, articulating the need for future investment to underpin and support sustainable development in Hertfordshire.