



ERDF local growth success stories

2014



Yorkshire and Humber European Regional Development Fund Programme 2007 - 2013



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Introduction

From 2007 to 2013, the Yorkshire and Humber Competitiveness and Employment Programme has provided €583m (c£490m) from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for investment in a range of initiatives and projects that stimulate local growth and regeneration, create jobs and support local businesses.

The Programme is focused on four priorities:

- Priority 1: promoting innovation and research and development
- Priority 2: supporting and stimulating successful enterprise
- Priority 3: sustainable communities
- Priority 4: economic infrastructure (South Yorkshire only)

Since 2007 137 projects have been part funded by ERDF helping to rebalance the local economy and promote strong sustainable economic growth. Our investments are directly contributing to the ERDF and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) objective to support businesses to grow and create jobs and have:

- created and safeguarded over 21,000 jobs
- created 465 businesses
- provided support to 10,000 businesses
- created 40,500sqm of new and upgraded floor space

This publication highlights only a few examples of the range of ERDF funded projects, supporting innovation, successful enterprise and sustainable communities to create great places to live and work in the Yorkshire and the Humber.

Priority one: promoting innovation and research and development

Biorenewables Development Centre

- The Biorenewables Development Centre on the University of York Science Park is helping businesses across the Yorkshire and Humber following £4.4m ERDF develop techniques to convert plants, microbes and biowastes into profitable bio-based products.
- The Centre was established through collaboration between the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence and the Centre for Novel Agricultural Products, which coupled with the Centre's expertise, services, open access facilities and access to 100 scientists means the Centre is in a strong position to help businesses.
- Since its launch in 2012, the Centre has:
 - ⇒ worked with over 150 SMEs
 - ⇒ increased GVA by £3.8 million
 - ⇒ awarded £320,000 in capital grants to nine businesses
- It has helped Wilson Bio-Chemical Ltd, a SME specialising in the treatment of waste through a £64,000 ERDF grant for a new stream processing facility allowing the business to better explore what high-value applications the material has and improve its process to make the most out of the waste stream. The facility is expected to open new markets for the business.

Innovation Futures 2

- This project received £966,868 ERDF and is focusing on promoting innovation and growth through long-term collaborations between businesses and Sheffield Hallam University.
- A dedicated team of delivery researchers have provided help and support to more than 50 SMEs during the project so far.
- The funded support is aiming to develop longer term industry-academia partnerships, increasing commercial opportunities, business growth and business sales to create and sustain jobs and encourage innovation.



The project allowed A1 Materials to access the University's knowledge and capabilities which resulted in improving A1's research and development capability and knowledge of advanced steel materials thereby increasing its business opportunities.

Priority one: promoting innovation and research and development

Mercury

- This Innovative Materials and Manufacturing Research Centre at The University of Sheffield received £5m ERDF to support business growth by enabling industry to secure a globally leading position through faster time to market for new sectors.
- The Centre supports industry in the assessment and early adoption of additive manufacturing technologies by providing access to the latest knowledge and technology.
- JRI Orthopaedics, who design, develop and manufacture orthopaedic implants, worked with Mercury and won a University of Sheffield Enterprise Innovation and Impact—Early Stage Impact Award in recognition of applied research on joint repair and reconstruction to create positive social impact in the wider community.
- Together they created a package of work gathering information giving JRI the confidence to embark on the next phase of development, enabling them to differentiate their products from the competition and work towards becoming the UK's leading orthopaedic company providing the best solutions for joint repair and reconstruction.

WasteValor

- WasteValor's state-of-the art laboratories are located at the University of York's Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence which uses science and technology to create economic value from unavoidable food waste.
- The project received £1.8m ERDF and as a result has assisted 39 SMEs who; generate unavoidable food losses to find viable alternatives to landfill or anaerobic digestion; process food waste and can use materials extracted from food waste as sustainable feedstocks for their products.
- The Friendly Soap Company make a range of sustainable, high quality and affordable soaps from natural ingredients and WasteValor contacted the company to see if they were interested in using natural oils from locally sourced waste materials offering a more ethical and potentially cheaper alternative than importing oils from overseas. The Friendly Soap Company is now using orange oil from waste orange peel generated by commercial juicing as a regular component in its range.

Priority two: supporting and stimulating successful enterprise

Enterprising Barnsley

- £3m ERDF investment is helping to support and stimulate successful enterprise and business growth across Barnsley.
- The project helps businesses achieve their goals and overcome barriers to growth through a programme of one-to-one support, seminars and business networks. Since April 2012, the programme has:
 - intensively assisted 320 SMEs
 - created 781 jobs
 - safeguarded 174 jobs
- It has helped businesses like Building Product Solutions of Goldthorpe, manufacturers of doors and windows. Enterprising Barnsley coaches offered advice and worked on a strategy for growth securing a Regional Growth Fund grant which led to a £100,000 investment to nearly triple its manufacturing capabilities and double its workforce to 32.

Hebden Bridge Creative Quarter

- Hebden Bridge Community Association (HBCA) formed in 2008 with the aim of transforming the barely used Town Hall building into a state-of-the-art centre for community and creative enterprise, putting it back at the centre of the town's life.
- The HBCA raised £3.7 million and ERDF invested £1.2 million to ensure major redevelopment of the Town Hall site as well as an extension to complement the original building.
- A new contemporary community and business building opened in 2012 offering a range of spaces for community, enterprise and recreational use. The new Town Hall offers fibre-optic wi-fi, a range of office units for businesses which have been fully occupied since opening, a café and one of the largest conferencing and event venues in the Calder Valley.



Priority two: supporting and stimulating successful enterprise

Finance Yorkshire

- Finance Yorkshire is an EU JEREMIE initiative funded by £30m ERDF, £15m government funds and £45m from the European Investment Bank. It is providing access to finance for businesses across Yorkshire and Humber addressing market failure by providing debt and equity finance to SMEs.
- The fund works with other financial intermediaries, lenders and investors offering three types of support: business loans (£15,000 to £150,000); seedcorn finance (up to £780,000) and equity finance (£100,000 to £2million).
- The fund has to date invested c£75million in 550 investments resulting in the creation of over 3,200 jobs and the safeguarding of 4,000 jobs.
- It will create a long lasting legacy in the form of a c£30m legacy fund which will be re-invested in local businesses.
- Xerox, received £1.45m seedcorn investment. The company provides an alternative to water-based and solvent-based laundering systems by releasing polymer beads during washing cycles. Xerox machines will deliver up to £1 billion savings to UK consumers and could save the UK 400 million tonnes of fresh water per annum. The technology generates a 22% net reduction in carbon footprint.

Yorkshire Content Fund

- The Fund provides targeted co-investment finance into creative content projects across the TV, film, games and digital sectors.
- It is the biggest regional investment fund in the UK and is managed by Screen Yorkshire with £15million ERDF.
- Since its launch in 2012, the Fund has invested in more than 20 films and TV projects including Peaky Blinders; Testament of Youth; Death Comes To Pemberley; The Great Train Robbery and Get Santa, to name a few.
- Major new investments include the big screen remake of iconic British series Dad's Army to be filmed entirely in Yorkshire and starring Catherine Zeta-Jones.
- The fund has delivered a stimulus within the local



economy—with every £1 of ERDF invested in the projects £4.70 is spend locally.

- Over 40 full time jobs have been created.

Priority three: sustainable communities

Enterprising Young People

- This project is tackling economic needs for more entrepreneurial activity, aiming to help more people aged between 14 and 24 set up their own business.
 - Over 18 months the project has worked with 200 young people.
 - Successful trading businesses include website designers, drystone walling, a cake and fudge maker, a videographer, a kitchen designer, a Japanese fashion designer and an online art gallery.
 - The project addresses the financial barrier faced by young people by offering a £2,000 grant to help with start up costs and providing one to one tailored specialist business support.
- **Chloe Scurrah**, 14, originally set up **Coco's Designs** as a hobby, creating unique, handcrafted bags. Recognising the potential she sought help from Enterprising Young People to further develop her passion into a business.
 - Chloe received a grant to buy a gazebo and tables for use at events and her branding and logo were devised at a 48-hour
- **Dan Speight** was made redundant and received a grant from Enterprising Young People to help him launch **Traditional Sweets and Treats** selling sweets online and running a sweet cart service for weddings and special occasions.
 - Dan, 23, has now successfully opened a shop on



Start Up Weekend organised by the project. Chloe's handbags are unique as no two are alike, are handmade and affordable.



Hoyland's West Street, with rows of traditional jars for the sweets and pick-and-mix, and is going from strength to strength.

Priority three: sustainable communities

Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFI) Finance for SMEs and Social Enterprises

- The project is delivered by Key Fund, a social enterprise providing tailored loan investments, helping to break-down barriers to accessing finance, empowering organisations to increase their community, economic and environmental impact.
- The project received £9.9m ERDF and works in the most disadvantaged areas to create the biggest impact and to date it has:
 - ⇒ created and safeguarded over 2,600 jobs
 - ⇒ supported over 2,200 organisations
 - ⇒ invested £33 million across all sectors
- Doncaster Refurnish, recycles and refurnishes affordable furniture in an area of high disadvantage. It received £50,000 from the project, ultimately helping to:
 - ⇒ refurnish 13,785 collections of bulky household waste, diverting 817 tonnes from landfill
 - ⇒ support 8,488 people and families and 24 community groups with the proceeds

Yorkshire Venture Philanthropy Programme

- This is the first regional Programme of its kind in the UK and is working with the private sector to encourage them to invest time and money in third sector groups looking to develop or grow social enterprise activity.
- The Programme received £736,457 ERDF and provides targeted business and professional advice and is offering grant funding to help social enterprises develop.
- One successful case study is Enabled Works Ltd, set up in 2012 in response to the closure of the Leeds and Pontefract Remploy Ltd Factories. 12 former employees invested their redundancy money in a bid to guarantee the future of the business. The Programme offered two grants totalling £40,000 helping towards various costs and



resulting in safeguarding the 12 jobs as well as creating 14 new part time jobs, allowing expansion and sustainability of the business.

Priority four: economic infrastructure—South Yorkshire only

Barnsley Cultural Infrastructure

- This project involved the physical and infrastructure improvements to two key cultural, visitor and heritage sites, Experience Barnsley (Barnsley Town Hall) and Wentworth Castle Gardens and Stainborough Park.
- The aim was to make Barnsley more competitive, promoting the area to businesses and visitors as a great place to live, visit, work or invest in.
- As a result the spectacular Victorian Conservatory at Wentworth Castle Gardens has now re-opened to the public 15 years after it was closed due to its derelict condition. An £820,000 ERDF grant enabled restoration work to begin in August 2012 involving the complete dismantling of the frame into 4,000 separate sections, the cleaning away of 35 layers of paint and painstaking restoration of iron and stone work. A high specification heritage glass was used to complete the project and 35,000 new floor tiles were carefully matched into the existing flooring. *Pictured below—before and after.*



More information

Any enquiries regarding the Yorkshire and Humber Competitiveness and Employment Programme 2007—13 should be sent to:

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