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### **LEP focuses on planes, trains and automobiles in Gloucestershire**

Planes, trains and automobiles were on the agenda as experts in logistics came together to inspire growth in Gloucestershire.

Representatives from leading haulage companies, Sharpness Docks, Gloucestershire Airport, Stagecoach West and other businesses from across the sector attended the first meeting of Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership's Logistics Sector Group.

At the meeting at Llanthony Warehouse in Gloucester Docks on Tuesday, January 24, representatives agreed that the group would focus on some key issues to increase the flow of goods, services, products, skills and people in and around the county in order to improve the economy and create jobs.

Chair of the group, Eilis Cope from logistic experts Howard Tenens, said: "The launch of the logistics group was very exciting and it was great to see so many companies represented. Although it was only the first meeting we agreed our mission for the group and key areas to focus on such as congestion, more local procurement, communication and promoting county assets. Over the next few months we will be looking at these in more depth to see how this group can help influence them."

The LEP was set up by the Government in May 2011 as one of 39 across the UK aimed at inspiring economic growth.

Gloucestershire's LEP, driven by GFirst, has set up nine sector groups to build the county's economy: Creative Industries, Business and Professional Services, Construction, Engineering and Manufacturing, Environmental Technology, Logistics, Tourism, Retail and ICT.

Each group contains some of Gloucestershire's leading experts in that field with the hope of improving skills, increasing investment, promoting the county and working with partners to develop a sustainable infrastructure.

Chair of Gloucestershire's LEP Diane Savory said: "Even at such an early stage it is great to see some of the ideas that have come out of this group already. We all need logistics to survive and to make our businesses grow and this group will look at ways to get Gloucestershire moving in more ways than one."

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