

Pathfinder Enterprise

Brief: Identify the key blockages to enterprise development in Rural Lancashire and provide innovative solutions to address underperformance

Research Methodology:

- i.) Gather evidence from a range of public and private sector participants from across Lancashire
- ii.) Test issues highlighted on a number of targeted Key Service Centres and their hinterland
- iii.) Undertake data analysis in order to understand the economic functionality of rural Lancashire
- iv.) Research how public sector intervention can best overcome the functional and policy barriers to rural enterprise development

Key Issues Highlighted:

i.) Low Level of High Growth Companies

Reasons:

- Poor business perception of Key Service Centres
- Lack of appropriate workspace
- Broadband disadvantages in more rural locations



ii.) Perceived and Actual Development Control Restrictions

Reasons:

- Highways resistance to traffic generation in rural areas
- Restricted ability to expand business premises as businesses grow
- Time, cost and uncertainty of development control process



iii.) Cost of Land/Buildings

Reasons:

- Low supply in many Key Service Centres
- Speculative residential values
- Cost of residential property as a barrier to inward migration

