

Evaluation

Our team possesses significant expertise in undertaking Process, Impact, and Value for money evaluation across a broad range of interventions, helping to assess and shape policy. Lichfields offers a comprehensive approach to evaluation, underpinned by best practice guidance and technical expertise. We develop bespoke evaluation and impact frameworks, toolkits, and methodologies that help our clients and their funders better understand the impact of intervention. We achieve this through: highlighting successes; identifying and understanding the challenges faced and lessons learned; quantifying the economic and wider impact attributable; and presenting detailed and visually impactful evaluation reports that offer sound recommendations to help shape future interventions.

Projects

Summative Assessment of Cheshire and Warrington 4.0 Project

Client: University of Liverpool's Virtual Engineering Centre

Commencing in 2021, Cheshire and Warrington 4.0 (CW4.0) was a three-year project designed to support SMEs across the sub-region to adopt industry 4.0 technologies and enable a shift in productivity and industrial resilience across the manufacturing industry and related supply chains. The support aimed to drive innovation in SMEs by facilitating research and development programmes focussed on the use of advanced digital toolsets to bring products to market and generate growth via the delivery of new products and process efficiencies.

Lichfields was commissioned to undertake an independent evaluation in accordance with the ERDF Summative Assessment Guidance. The purpose of the Summative Assessment was to reflect on the experience of implementing the CW4.0 project, identify the difference the project made to beneficiaries, relevant partners and stakeholders, and the wider Cheshire and Warrington economy as well as assess whether the project provided value, and the lessons learned and best practice that could be used to inform future project design and delivery.

Evaluation of ENE & SENE Projects

Client: University of East London

Lichfields was appointed by the University of East London (UEL) to undertake Summative Assessments of the University's two low carbon support programmes. The Eastern New Energy (ENE) and South East New Energy (SENE) projects were delivered by the UEL and a consortium of regional partners at a cost of £6.2 million and £6.4 million respectively.

The projects sought to accelerate the transition towards a low carbon economy across the relevant delivery areas. This included building a stronger local energy and low carbon economy by helping to remove barriers preventing the rapid decarbonisation of communities, buildings, transport, and lives.



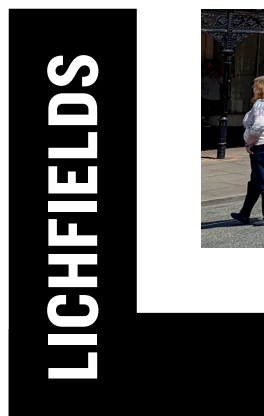
Services

- Process evaluation
- Impact evaluation
- Value for Money and Benchmarking assessments
- Evaluation and Impact Framework design
- Design of monitoring and evaluation research tools
- Longitudinal assessments

Intervention areas

- Business support and Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I)
- Employability support
- Capital development and physical regeneration
- Culture and the visitor economy

Images from top:
Renewable energy © Gustavo Fring
Conwy © Lichfields



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AMRC Training Centre Cohort Study

Client: Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre

Lichfields was appointed by the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre ('AMRC') to lead an independent cohort study focussed on assessing the effectiveness and impact of the programme. The purpose of the study was to: reflect on the delivery of the programme; identify the additionality delivered by the AMRC Training Centre to beneficiaries, relevant partners and stakeholders; and explore how its delivery has supported the wider South Yorkshire economy and the advanced manufacturing sector more widely.

Evaluation of the Aura Innovation Centre (AIC)

Client: University of Hull

The AIC is a purpose-built facility which aims to facilitate collaboration between SMEs and the University of Hull's research base to promote low-carbon innovation. The facility provides support to Humber-based businesses by providing access to cutting-edge facilities, specialist support and physical space to innovate and collaborate, with the ultimate goal of delivering clean business growth. Lichfields was commissioned by the University of Hull to undertake a final Summative Assessment of the Aura Innovation Centre (AIC), covering both capital and revenue aspects.

Evaluation of Digital Cheshire

Client: Cheshire East Council

Starting in 2020, Digital Cheshire was a three-year programme designed to provide digital support to SMEs and local entrepreneurs. The purpose of the project was to enable beneficiaries to adopt and utilise digital technologies, thereby improving competitiveness and productivity and catalysing digital-led business growth. The project also included a digital infrastructure component focusing on broadband deployment. The programme was delivered across the Cheshire and Warrington LEP area, covering the following local authorities: Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, and Warrington.

Lichfields was commissioned by Cheshire East Council to undertake a final Summative Assessment of the Digital Cheshire Project. The reporting helped feed into shaping the Cheshire East Digital Strategy.

Process Evaluation of the Town Centres First Study

Client: Conwy County Borough Council

In April 2022, Lichfields was commissioned to undertake a process evaluation of the Town Centres First Study on behalf of Conwy County Borough Council, part-funded by the UK Community Renewal Fund (UK CRF). The evaluation included an assessment of: the success of the project delivery; progress against contractual agreements; and the effectiveness of the working relationships established between delivery and organisational partners.

The evaluation report included a review of the existing evidence base and the appropriateness of the initial project design. It also considered the delivery and management process, outcomes and impacts associated with the project and conclusions/lessons learned (reflecting on the challenges faced and the best practice approaches identified).



Lichfields provided us with an excellent team with appropriate background and expertise to quickly get to grips with the project requirements. We were impressed with their ability to synthesize and appropriately work with large amounts of project information and background documentation. They utilised personable and effective communication with our project partners and end beneficiaries in their research process. The final reports captured the methodologies, value and future impact of our New Energy Projects clearly in a convincing, cohesive and visually appealing way.

Susan Keeping,
ENE/SENE Project Manager,
University of East London

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Digital Cheshire © Digital Cheshire
Aura Innovation Centre © Lichfields