

£9M EXPANSION OF GROWTH DEAL BOOSTS LOCAL PLAN FOR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE'S ECONOMY

The Northamptonshire Local Enterprise Partnership has agreed an expansion to its Growth Deal with the Government which will see an extra £9m invested in Northamptonshire between 2016 and 2021. This is in addition to the £67.3m of funding committed by the Government on 7 July 2014. Over the lifetime of its Deal (2015-2021) the Local Enterprise Partnership estimates that up to 2000 new jobs could be created, 5000 new homes built, and that it has the potential to generate up to £60m public and private investment.

The additional proposed projects include:

- A Food and Drink Technology Academy at Moulton College. The academy will assess market demand and provide specialisms and qualification pathways to make young people aware of the career opportunities presented in the Food and Drink sector and for employers in the convenience food and added-value products sectors.
- The second phase of improvement works to the A43 Northampton to Kettering link road, dualling the A43 between Moulton and Holcot/Sywell roundabouts. The project will enable up to 1500 new homes to be built.

In addition:

- Government is also discussing the possible use of Public Work Loans Board borrowing to support the acceleration of the Vulcan Iron Works Project which will deliver a Creative Industries Hub of managed workspace in the Northampton Enterprise Zone, and unlock Sustainable Urban Extension sites,
- Government is very supportive of the Weekley-Warkton bypass, which will support the delivery of 5,000 new homes in Kettering East. Government will look at ways to provide support for this project, which would unlock and accelerate the development. Any financial support will be confirmed following on-going discussions of funding options with the LEP.

The Northamptonshire Growth Deal is part of a long term plan to devolve at least £12 billion from central government to local economies. The plan aims for every part of the country to be a motor of growth for the national economy – building on the strength of the Northamptonshire area.

Quotes

The Prime Minister said:

“Giving local communities the power and the money to unlock growth and development and make the spending decisions that work for them is a key part of our long-term economic plan to secure a brighter future for Britain and ensure a recovery for all.

“And this is happening right across Northamptonshire, with more money announced today for key projects to boost the local economy as part of the multi-million pound expansion of the Government’s Growth Deals.

“And because the money will be in the control of a partnership of local community, business and civic leaders it means it will go on the things that really matter to people and businesses here.

“That is what Growth Deals are all about, backing local people and investing in the infrastructure, housing and skills that will drive forward local economies, create more jobs and opportunities for hardworking people and supercharge all parts of our country.”

The Deputy Prime Minister said:

“A quiet revolution is underway in Northamptonshire and across the country, as Growth Deals signal the death of the culture where Whitehall calls the shots. I’ve seen for myself the difference it makes to give the county more power over skills, over business support, over infrastructure spending.

"I am delighted to announce the expansion of the Northamptonshire Growth Deal today.

“The Coalition Government has been relentless in our efforts to sort out the public finances and set firm foundations for growth. Growth Deals help create a stronger economy and a fairer society by boosting local economies, and providing more jobs, better transport and affordable homes.”

John Markham, OBE, Chair of Northamptonshire LEP said:

“I welcome this further £9million of Local Growth Funding from Government which, together with the £119.5million that Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership secured in our Growth Deal, allows us to fund two of our top priority projects - the Food and Drink Academy at Moulton College and Phase 2 of the A43 road scheme.

This further investment clearly demonstrates that Government recognises Northamptonshire's growth potential and is investing in this".

Cllr Jim Harker, OBE, Leader of Northamptonshire County Council added:

"Government's decision to provide £5.5million towards the £18million dualling of the A43 between the Moulton and Holcot/Sywell roundabouts is excellent news for Northamptonshire's economy, as it will open up a number of important development areas. I'm sure that this news will be welcomed by local residents, who recognise that this is a real pinchpoint. This new investment together with our original Growth Deal money means that Northamptonshire's roads really are open for business."

Stephen Davies – Principal, Moulton College and Chair of NEP's Employment & Skills Strategy Board said

"I am delighted that Government is providing £3.5 million of Local Growth Funding towards Moulton College's new £5million Food and Drink Technology Academy, which will provide high quality technical and vocational training for the sector. The Food and Drink industry makes a significant contribution to Northamptonshire, employing 46,000 people and contributing over £1.5billion to the local economy, which means that it is essential that we provide people with the right skills to support the sector's growth".

FACTSHEET

1. How much is the Government investing in Northamptonshire as part of the Growth Deal?

	Initial Growth Deal (July 2014)	Expansion – additional funding awarded (Jan 2015)	Total Expanded Growth Deal
Local Growth Fund	<i>£67.3m</i>	<i>£9m</i>	£76.3m

2. What proposed projects will this new tranche of funding deliver?

The additional funding will deliver the following projects:

- A Food and Drink Technology Academy at Moulton College. The academy will assess market demand and provide specialisms and qualification pathways to make young people aware of the career opportunities presented in the Food and Drink sector and for employers in the convenience food and added-value products sectors.
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This adds to the projects that were announced in July 2014, including:

- A45 Northampton to Daventry Development Link road which will bring significant environmental improvements for Flore, Weedon and Upper Heyford and allow the development of over housing and employment sites.
- Improvements to the A43 in Northampton including extra lanes, improved public transport and roundabout improvements allowing new housing and business sites to be developed.
- Silverstone Metrology Centre: high precision measurement facility at a cost that is affordable for SMEs, enabling them to develop new products and processes.
- Stanton Cross: funding a new road bridge over the Midland Mainline railway, which will allow major new housing and business developments to the east of Wellingborough.

3. How does this benefit the people of Northamptonshire?

The Growth Deal will promote growth in Northamptonshire by funding 2 new projects across the LEP area.

According to estimates by the LEP, the Growth Deal could bring to the Northamptonshire LEP area:

- Up to 2000 Jobs
- Up to 5000 new Homes
- Up to £60m public and private sector investment

4. What is the benefit for local businesses?

Spread across the County, this wide ranging programme builds on the fact that Northamptonshire is an area which combines high housing growth ambitions with a drive to grow businesses in key sectors such as high performing technologies, logistics and food and drink. The Growth Deal focuses on making the most of the area's central location – providing access to markets across the country.

5. Facts and figures

The Growth Deal builds on significant recent investment in growth opportunities in Northamptonshire including:

Growing Places Fund total allocation: £8m

Regional Growth Fund: Northamptonshire LEP area has to date received £6.5m investment from the Regional Growth Fund, and could also benefit from £16.35m invested in neighbouring LEPs.