

£18.1M EXPANSION OF GROWTH DEAL BOOSTS LOCAL PLAN FOR BRISTOL AND THE WEST OF ENGLAND ECONOMY

The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership has agreed an expansion to its Growth Deal with the Government which will see an extra £18.1m invested in the West of England between 2016 and 2021. This is in addition to the £212.6m 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 6000 new jobs could be created and that it has the potential to generate £200m public and private investment.

The additional proposed projects include:

- Developing Engine Shed Phase 2 in Bristol to meet the high demand for more space for business incubation, offices for businesses to grow into, as well as meeting and collaboration space. Engine Shed is home to, amongst others, a university business incubator which was recently judged to be the best in Europe and second best in the world.
- Providing over 14,000 business premises with the opportunity to connect to Superfast Broadband.
- Support for a programme of transport improvement schemes which will reduce congestion and provide new or improved access to key economic sites.

The West of England 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 West of England.

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 here in the West of England, 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 the West of England 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 region more power over skills, over business support, over infrastructure spending.

"I am delighted to announce the expansion of the West of England 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.”

The LEP Chair Colin Skellett said:

“We are delighted that Government continues to reaffirm that the West of England is an economic powerhouse and that we have a strong and ambitious long term economic plan with strong projects that will deliver economic growth. We welcome this additional tranche of funding and together with other sources of public and private funding we will bring forward as many of our projects as possible. We look forward to future rounds of the growth fund where we will be pushing hard to ensure we secure more funding so that our programme is fully delivered.”

Councillor Paul Crossley Vice chair of the LEP and chair of the Strategic Leaders Board said:

“We welcome further recognition from Government that our local priorities and ambition resonate with Government’s vision to deliver economic growth. We will work together with all local partners to ensure delivery of our exciting programme.”

FACTSHEET

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

	Initial Growth Deal (July 2014)	January 2015 Total additional funding awarded	Total Expanded Growth Deal
Local Growth Fund	£212.6m	£18.1m	£230.7m

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

The additional funding will deliver the following projects:

- **Engine Shed 2** - more incubation and grow on space for high tech companies under the SETSquared model.
- **Superfast Broadband Extension Programme** - provision of open access ducting and a voucher scheme to support the roll out of Superfast Broadband across the West of England area.
- **Local Pinch Point Schemes** – delivery of 3 schemes which will address congestion hotspots and provide new and improved access to key economic sites.

Subject to the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership approving a full business case this Local Growth Fund could help to fund the delivery of:

- **Bath Innovation Phase 2** – the provision of incubator and grow on space for high-tech and creative and digital media businesses.
- **Bristol and Bath Science Park Grow On Space phase 1** - expansion of Bristol and Bath Science Park, providing grow on space including hybrid workshop, and wet and dry labs.
- **Food & Drink Technology Centre phase 1** - A Centre of Excellence for Food and Drink Industries which brings together expertise ranging from biotechnology to engineering; chemistry to design that strives to excel in food research, production, manufacturing and resource efficiency.
- **IAero – Advanced Technology Centre phase 1** - working collaboratively with a broad range of global aerospace customers and suppliers to establish an Advanced Technology virtual Centre.
- **Quantum Technologies Hub** – transforming pioneering research at the University of Bristol and the city-region’s successful semiconductor companies into commercial opportunities.
- **Minor transport schemes** – provision of new and improved highway infrastructure, more efficient network management.

- **Bristol Aerospace Centre** - Aerospace museum which will showcase Bristol's innovation, design and engineering past, present and future linked to learning and outreach opportunities aimed at inspiring school children to take up STEM subjects.
- **Bristol and Bath Cultural Destinations Media Bank** - Will enable the tourism and cultural sector to deposit and withdraw images, audio and video material from a media bank.

This adds to the projects that were announced in July 2014, including:

- **Bristol Robotics Institute of Technology** – start-up and grow-on space to facilitate industry and academic collaboration in robotics and autonomous systems, bio-sensing and biotechnology, biomedical and other related fields
- **Terabit West** - a research and development testbed infrastructure for projects relating to Smart Cities, Software Defined Networks, Internet of Things and Big Data.
- **Innovation in composites for marine energy** – provision of a new test centre to provide development testing and accreditation for new tidal blade models and dynamic testing capability
- **Composite Bridge Construction** – the application of new technology to develop an advanced composite footbridge design solution that could be efficiently and economically used in a variety of locations
- **MetroWest Phase 1 and 2** – reopening the Portishead and Henbury rail lines
- **Sustainable Transport Programme** – transport capital measures to make it easier to walk, cycle, and travel by public transport
- **FE capital build programme** – investment to create new and improved space to deliver skills to provide opportunities for our workforce and better meet our business needs.

3. How does this benefit the people of the West of England?

The Growth Deal will promote growth in the West of England through the creation of new jobs and opportunities for investors and the workforce with a focus on local priority sectors including high tech industries, creative, advanced engineering, low carbon and professional services. The Deal will support development and will help reduce congestion and make it quicker and easier to travel around the West of England.

According to estimates by the LEP the Growth Deal could bring to the West of England:

- Up to 6,000 Jobs
- Up to £200m public and private sector investment
- And help to deliver 11,500 new homes

4. What is the benefit for local businesses?

As well as much needed transport improvements, the new Growth Deal funding provides the opportunity to invest over £10m additional funding to create new space for business incubation and facilities for businesses to grow-on and into. The Deal will also provide additional funding towards increasing access to Superfast Broadband.

5. Facts and figures

The Growth Deal builds on significant investments in growth opportunities in the West of England including:

Revolving Infrastructure Fund (Regional Growth Fund and Growing Places Fund)
total allocation: £56m

Enterprise Zone: £6 million

University Enterprise Zone £4.5m

The City Deal will see the West of England invest its own resources in critical infrastructure projects that will maximise growth. In return, the West of England will retain 100% of business rate growth in five Enterprise Areas for 25 years. This business rate income will be pooled and pumped into a £1 billion Economic Development Fund which will be used to invest in growth projects.

Regional Growth Fund: West of England LEP area has to date received £74.7m investment from the Regional Growth Fund, and could also benefit from £1.9m invested in neighbouring LEPs.

Coastal Communities Fund: £982,429