

GROWTH DEALS 3 FACTSHEET – West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

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

	Growth Deal One (July 2014)	Growth Deal Two (Jan 2015)	Growth Deal Three (Nov 2016)
Local Growth Fund Award	£212.6 million	£18.1 million	£52.8 million
Total Award	£283.5 million		

2. What will this new funding deliver?

This new tranche of funding is expected to deliver:

- **Innovation Programme:** building specialisms in key sectors and technologies and the excellence of academic institutions to drive the commercialisation of research;
- **Transport Programme:** supporting projects that improve access to key employment sites, reduce congestion and promote sustainable travel; and
- **Skills capital programme:** capital investment to deliver new provision for learners that provide the skills that employers need.

3. What has previous funding delivered?

This builds on previous Growth Deal investments in the West of England, which have so far funded the following projects:

- **Future Technology Centre, Weston-super-Mare** - a flagship facility based at the South West Skills Campus to up-skill learners with ‘work ready’ technology skills focused on the Creative and Digital, Advanced Engineering/Civil Engineering and Automated Manufacturing, and Low Carbon sectors;
- **Law and Professional Services Academy** – an inspirational learning centre located in the centre of Weston-super-Mare at the Winter Gardens and Arosfa Hotel which will support employer skills needs within the Law and Professional Services sectors, whilst providing a focus for the regeneration of Weston town centre;
- **Sustainable Transport Package** - a package of transport measures including new and improved routes and facilities for walking and cycling, public transport improvements such as dedicated bus lanes and priority measures, and other sustainable transport initiatives focused on the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone and five Enterprise Areas;

- **Robotics Laboratory - BRL Institute of Technology** - building on the strengths of the Bristol Robotics Lab, this project provides essential start-up and grow-on space for technology and knowledge-based businesses in robotics and autonomous systems, bio-sensing and bio-technology, bio-medical and related high tech fields;
- **MetroWest Phase 1**– reopening of the Portishead line and additional services on the Severn Beach line and to Bath;
- **MetroWest Phase 2 Development Costs** - reopening the Henbury line to passenger services and improved frequencies to Yate including three new stations;
- **Bristol Aerospace Centre** – this attraction in the Filton Enterprise Area will showcase the brilliance of Bristol’s innovation, design and engineering and will have international appeal attracting at least 120,000 visitors per year; and
- **Metrobus Programme** - delivered by £113.2 local majors transport funding.

4. How will this benefit the local community?

This round of Growth Deals will promote growth in the West of England and the LEP estimates it will create just over 3,000 new jobs. It also estimates that additional investment in further education will deliver some 350 additional places for learners to gain the cutting edge skills that local employers have identified they need. The Deal will also invest in projects that help to reduce congestion and make it quicker and easier to travel around the West of England.

5. How will this benefit local businesses?

Funding will predominately be targeted at driving commercialisation of research, supporting business start-ups and businesses to grow, assisting sectoral clustering and linking business with University expertise.

The deal also seeks to address barriers that can hold back growth. Investments will be made in projects that deliver skills in the area’s priority sectors or those skills focussed on identified business needs, such as construction. Funding will be targeted towards projects that improve the flow of traffic and projects that provide alternative sustainable options to travel, which together will reduce congestion.

6. What is the connection between devolution and the Local Growth Fund?

As part of our efforts to deliver an economy that works for everyone, the Government is devolving wide-ranging powers directly from Whitehall to local people who know their areas best. Opportunities for growth are best identified by those with detailed local knowledge, and the Local Growth Fund enables places to tailor transformational interventions to local circumstances.

The West of England devolution deal is one of 8 across the country – 7 of which have directly elected mayors. It means decisions that have previously been made in Westminster will now be made in the areas they affect most. For example, the Deal devolves responsibility for the adult skills budget to the West of England Combined Authority. Alongside capital investments in the area's further education estate through the Local Growth Fund, the West of England can ensure the current and the future skills needs of local employers are met.

Other Sources of Funding for LEPs

This is currently the last round of Growth Deals that will take place in this Parliament. However, LEPs are eligible to bid for many other sources of funding, which they can use to make investments in significant economic projects in their local area.

The West of England LEP has successfully secured investment so far which will help to deliver a number of projects:

- £6 million infrastructure investment within the Bristol Temple Quarter **Enterprise Zone**;
- £17.1m **Growing Places Funding** which is supporting key infrastructure projects designed to unlock wider economic growth, create jobs and build houses;
- £69.1m from the **Regional Growth Fund** to deliver an infrastructure investment programme and business grant support programme;
- 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 Enterprise Zone and five Enterprise Areas for 25 years. This business rate income will be pooled and pumped into a £1 billion Economic Development Fund which will invest in growth maximising projects;
- €68.3 million from the **European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund** to invest in innovation, businesses, skills and employment programmes; and
- The **Devolution Deal** has secured £900m over 25 years Gainshare funding for investment in infrastructure.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said:

“This Government backed the West of England with major powers and resources in a devolution deal that allows local people to elect a new mayor on 4 May.

“Today we're pledging millions of pounds of extra funding for business projects, so local leaders can create jobs, improve infrastructure, and help the local economy reach its full potential.”

Local Growth Minister Andrew Percy said:

“From Bath to Bristol, today’s £52.8 million investment will support the delivery of new homes and jobs right across the region.

“Furthermore, the new West of England devolution deal will give the region direct control over its future, a brand new, directly elected mayor and almost £1 billion pounds over the next 30 years to support economic growth.”

Stephen Robertson, Chair of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership said:

“Through the previous Growth Deals we have already delivered projects including the completed Weston College Future Technology Centre and the University of the West of England Robotics Centre, alongside many other exciting projects coming soon. We continue to focus on transport, innovation and skills, reducing barriers to growth and maximising shared investment opportunities.

“Having outperformed the expectations for job growth and match funding agreed with Government this £53 million Growth Deal 3 funding provides the opportunity to enhance our programme of priorities, enabling us to work with our partners to achieve greater success in terms of increased productivity, jobs and economic growth.”