

GROWTH DEALS 3 FACTSHEET – Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

1. How much is the Government investing in Coventry and Warwickshire 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	£74.1 million	£15.3 million	£42.44 million
Total Award	£131.84 million		

2. What will this new funding deliver?

This new tranche of funding is expected to deliver:

- **Unlocking Growth Potential:** enhancements to the transport infrastructure to provide connectivity with the East Midlands. This will allow Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership to work with local partners to support the regeneration of Coventry and key towns across the area such as Nuneaton, Bedworth and Rugby. This will bring underutilised land into use and create new business space and investment, which has the potential to create up to 3,500 jobs, and deliver space for up to 2,000 new homes;
- **Growing Talent:** creation of facilities that will expand apprenticeship provision at multiple levels, targeting growth sectors within the local growth economy and thereby addressing a key barrier to business growth;
- **Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering:** investment in facilities to enable further research and development and facilitate the development of new innovative products and technologies within the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector; and
- Investment in **culture and tourism**, helping to capitalise on the opportunities provided by Coventry's 2021 UK Capital of Culture bid.

3. What has previous funding delivered?

This builds on previous Growth Deal investments in Coventry and Warwickshire, which have funded:

- Improvements to the local strategic road and rail infrastructure: better access to Coventry City Centre and Coventry Station and major road improvements to the A45, A46 and A5 corridors bringing forward key employment sites, creating 3,000 jobs in the local economy and providing support for over 800 local businesses to grow;
- A new railway station at Kenilworth, which will significantly enhance rail access for 25,500 residents;
- Venture House in Stratford-upon-Avon, which opened in February 2016. This business centre provides 2,500 sq ft of flexible space and offers business support and advice to address the low business start-up rates prevalent in the region;

- Coventry and Warwickshire's Growth Hub, launched in 2014, which has engaged with over 1,000 local SMEs to support their growth and modernisation and facilitate access to other specialised business support providers. The Hub's services have facilitated the creation of some 800 new jobs;
- A new advice centre at City College Coventry to provide tailored job search advice to help reduce worklessness and unemployment, especially amongst young people; and
- The construction and opening of the new 1,672 sq m Trident Centre at Warwickshire College, which has already delivered over 350 apprenticeship starts in advanced manufacturing and engineering to help to meet employers' demand for skills in this sector.

4. How will this benefit the local community?

The latest round of Growth Deals will unlock development sites and improve transport connectivity for local communities and bring many benefits to the people of Coventry and Warwickshire including new employment opportunities as businesses are attracted to new sites being made available, new homes being built as a result of investment, and improved transport links between homes, schools, jobs and leisure activities. Alongside this, the creation of apprenticeships will provide opportunities for local people.

5. How will this benefit local businesses?

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP will continue to provide good quality business support services through its Growth Hub. Support services include micro business to SME advice and guidance, inward investment advice and improvement in workforce skills.

Additional funding will help ensure there is availability of appropriate employment sites, with good transport connectivity strengthened to provide access to a strong labour pool, allowing existing businesses to grow and to attract inward investment to the region.

6. How will this Deal help the Government work to deliver one million homes in this Parliament?

Coventry and Warwickshire needs to provide 75,000 new homes by 2030. By making strategic improvements to the rail, road and broadband infrastructure this will help release important development sites. Coventry and Warwickshire LEP has been working with the Homes and Communities Agency and local public bodies on potential methods for identifying sites and working across boundaries to ensure they can meet the future housing needs of a growing population.

7. How does this announcement link to the Midlands Engine?

Through the Local Growth Fund, central government has already agreed £1.5 billion worth of investment in the Midlands, supporting locally-led projects to boost economic growth. This additional funding round will provide an extra boost of **£392 million** to LEPs based in the Midlands. This funding will be used to provide vital investment for transport, infrastructure, skills, innovation and business-support

projects, acting as a catalyst for growth and building towards the Prime Minister's vision of an economy that works for everyone, up and down the country.

8. 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 Midlands devolution deal is one of 8 across the country – 7 of which will have directly elected mayors. It means decisions that have previously been made in Westminster will now be made in the areas they affect most.

£98.8 million has been awarded by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Gainshare fund, the largest award made to date from the WMCA investment programme, for regeneration of Coventry City Centre South. The scheme is a major priority for Coventry and Warwickshire LEP and will transform an area of the city, create jobs and new housing and provide a significant boost to the wider regional economy.

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.

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP has successfully secured additional investment so far which will help to fund a number of projects:

- **Growing Places Fund:** £12.8 million to provide support to businesses through capital grants and loans, creating 700 new jobs and attracting £60 million private sector match funding;
- **Funding from the DfT's large local majors programme:** To develop a business case for a South Coventry Link Road.
- **City Deal:** £7.1 million to provide support to the growth of small and medium sized enterprises and to capitalise on existing strengths within the advanced manufacturing sector through business support and unlocking a key auto sector site at Fen End;
- **Regional Growth Fund:** £31.5 million to support business growth projects and unlock premises and investment sites, such as Whitley North and Friargate which has created 1,300 jobs and £50 million private sector match funding;
- **European Structural and Investment funds:** a total €138.9 of European Structural and Investment funds. The Coventry and Warwickshire LEP has, with local partners, developed an investment strategy for the structural funds which address skills, infrastructure and other strategic priorities including innovation, low carbon and broadband access which will support over 2,000 business and give 5,500 businesses improvements to their broadband access; and

- **The West Midlands devolution deal** provides £36.5 million of Gainshare funding per year for 30 years. This will be invested by the West Midlands Combined Authority, which covers the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP area, to drive growth in the region.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said:

“This Government is backing Coventry and Warwickshire with this new £42.4 million funding pot. Exciting projects to benefit include cutting edge facilities to support advanced manufacturing and more apprenticeships.

“This new money will help create jobs, boost skills and give businesses support.

“Local people will also have the chance to have their say and vote on 4 May for their new mayor.”

Minister for Local Government Marcus Jones said:

“We’re investing a further £42.4 million into Coventry and Warwickshire for major projects that will create jobs and support businesses across the region.

“From improving local roads and railway stations to investing in advanced manufacturing and engineering, we’re supporting local people. This latest funding comes on top of the £89.4 million we’ve awarded the area.”

Jonathan Browning, Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Chair, said:

“We’re pleased to have secured further funding to help make key projects in the region happen. At the same time we are under no illusions about how much more still needs to be done.

“This Growth Deal funding will directly lead to new jobs being created in Coventry and Warwickshire, key improvements to infrastructure, as well as the enhancement of skills and knowledge to drive the local economy.

“The Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership has worked tirelessly to unlock economic opportunities across the sub-region to stimulate economic growth and to allow the area to get close to achieving its potential. This new funding will be vital in supporting the region to build further momentum.”