



Spring Budget 2020 - North West

Today's announcements for the North West include:

- In the North West, the increase to the National Living Wage (NLW) this April is expected to benefit around 252,000 people.
- In the North West, the increase to National Insurance thresholds to £9,500 in 2020-21 will result in a tax cut for 3.3 million people and will lift 121,000 people out of paying Class 1 and Class 4 National Insurance Contributions.
- Five-year, intra-city transport settlements for Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Region Combined Authorities from a **£4.2 billion** envelope, starting in 2022-23. This will build on their existing devolved Transforming Cities Fund allocations.
- **£700m** spending on strategic road schemes between 2020 and 2025. This includes starting to dual the A66 across the Pennines and improving the M60 Simister Island. We will also develop plans to relieve congestion around South East Manchester.
- **£40 million** for Preston City Region through the Transforming Cities Fund delivering a new station at Cottam Parkway on the Preston-Blackpool line.
- **£66 million** additional funding for local road maintenance through the Potholes Fund in 2020-21.
- Accessibility improvements at Walkden railway station, as part of a wider **c. £50 million** investment in station accessibility.
- A share of the next **£5.2 billion** flood and coastal defence investment programme starting in 2021. These locations will benefit from at least the following levels of funding as a result of this programme: **£23 million** for Fleetwood, **£4.5 million** for Southport, and **£700 thousand** for Manchester to better protect over 12,500 properties.
- **£51.6 million** from the Housing Infrastructure Fund for the 'Manchester Northern Gateway' inner-city regeneration project to unlock up to 5,557 homes.
- **£140 million** from the Housing Infrastructure Fund for the 'South Lancaster Growth Catalyst' proposal which will unlock up to 9,185 homes.
- Eligibility for a fund to decarbonise industrial clusters through Carbon Capture and Storage – in leading areas such as Humberside, Teesside, Merseyside and Peterhead.
- The Northern Powerhouse will benefit from a share of **£5 million** for increased DIT face-to-face support for exporters.
- The Northern Powerhouse will benefit from a share of **£2 million** for regional champions at key overseas posts.

The North West will also benefit from its share of:

- **£5 billion** to support the rollout of gigabit-capable broadband in the most difficult to reach 20% of the country, particularly benefiting rural areas.
- **£510 million** to support the Shared Rural Network to extend 4G mobile coverage across the UK, particularly in rural areas.
- **£1.5 billion** over five years to return the entire Further Education college (FEC) estate to a good condition.
- **£640 million** Nature for Climate Fund.
- **£400 million** Brownfield Housing Fund, as part of the wider housing package.
- **£1 billion** Building Safety Fund for non-ACM cladding on residential buildings above 18 metres. High rise buildings tend to be concentrated in Manchester, as well as London and Birmingham.
- **£100 million** seed funding for 21 schemes from the Health Infrastructure Plan, three of which are in the North West.
- **Up to £400 million** immediate boost for world-leading research, infrastructure and equipment in 2020-21.
- At least **£800 million** in a new blue skies research and innovation agency. This ground-breaking institution will provide new funding for high-risk, high-reward science across the UK.
- **£80 million** will be made available over the next five years to support the UK's foremost specialist institutions build on their global influence.
- **£13 million** to expand the British Library's network of Business and Intellectual Property Centres to 21 cities and 18 surrounding local library networks across the UK, including Manchester.
- **£90 million** Cultural Development Fund for cultural and creative-led regeneration outside of London, to be allocated by competition.
- **£10 million** additional funding for Growth Hubs to increase the number of business advisors by over a third and ensure that high quality advice and guidance is available across all regions.
- **Over £500 million** to cement our world-leading position in cutting edge technologies including space, electric vehicles and life sciences.
- **£387 million** in 21-22 to continue priority Local Growth Fund projects before decision on the Local Growth Fund are made at the Spending Review. MHCLG will provide further guidance on how the department will work with places to identify relevant projects.