

CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON GETTING BUILDING FUND

The Government is making £900 million available through the new Getting Building Fund (GBF) for investment in local, shovel-ready infrastructure projects to stimulate jobs and support economic recovery across the country. The **Cheshire and Warrington LEP** has been allocated **£15.5m** from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy.

In Cheshire & Warrington, the funded projects are expected to deliver support for innovative businesses in the life science sector, infrastructure improvements in Chester to unlock further commercial and residential development, as well as increase low carbon travel in Warrington, helping to facilitate a green recovery. These projects align with the LEP's key priorities and will support the LEP area's recovery from Covid-19.

Indicative outputs¹

Direct Jobs Created	367
Construction Jobs Created	205
Jobs Safeguarded	550
Houses Unlocked	600
Commercial Space Unlocked (sqm)	9,334
Businesses Assisted	20
R&D Floorspace (sqm)	450
Public Realm/ Green Space Created (sqm)	5500
CO2 emissions saved (kg)	12,170

Summary of projects

Project	Description
Chester Drainage Tunnel	A new rainwater drainage tunnel, which forms a critical part of delivering Phase 1 of the Northgate scheme in the centre of Chester. It will also enable other regeneration schemes to be developed. The tunnel will be almost 1km long and 1.2m diameter and will deliver environmental benefits such as significantly reducing the risk of flooding and the separation of rainwater from foul water. The Northgate scheme this supports will replace existing poor-quality buildings and under-used land with a comprehensive mixed-use development of the highest architectural quality. Phase 1 of the scheme will deliver a new market, a cinema, food/beverage units, offices and new public realm/event space.
All Electric Bus Fleet Depot, Warrington	The new depot, on land owned by Warrington Borough Council has received planning permission. It involves the relocation of Warrington's Own Buses Depot from its current site to a purpose-

¹ The outputs listed are locally reported and will undergo further quality assurance before being finalised and confirmed in grant offer letters

	<p>built new depot. This is complementary to the recently submitted All Electric Bus Town Expression of Interest which seeks funding towards the extra over costs of making this depot suitable for an all-electric bus fleet. This would be powered by electricity generated by the Council's investments in Solar Farms.</p>
<p>Alderley Park Validation Centre of Excellence, Macclesfield</p>	<p>Capitalising on the success of the Lighthouse Lab in order to create a new Validation Centre of Excellence for innovative diagnostics, biomarkers and complex medicines and develop the UK's onshore diagnostic capability and capacity and the associated supply chain. The project incorporates the creation of specialist laboratories, including a Category 3 biosafety facility for testing of new diagnostics, biomarkers and therapeutics for highly-infectious pathogens, including respiratory viruses such as COVID-19 and national biobank and supporting on-site infrastructure including a new multi-storey car park to attract and retain talent.</p>

Cheshire and Warrington LEP will be expected to deliver the agreed projects but will have flexibility to deliver the greatest economic benefits to the area. Any significant changes to the projects should be discussed with the Government in advance, and all investment decisions must be undertaken in line with locally agreed audit and scrutiny arrangements.