

GFirst LEP 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 **GFirst LEP** has been allocated **£11.3m** from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy.

In GFirst the funded projects are expected to deliver a diverse mix of projects supporting the area's sector strengths in cyber, digital innovation and construction through the creation of new workspace, a landmark digital skills centre and a £2m construction education centre. Taken together, the projects will deliver 959 jobs, help to support 960 businesses and create nearly 3,000sqm of new commercial space. This investment will help support the wider development of Gloucestershire and surrounding areas into the UK home of cyber. This will support the UK in its mission to become a global leader in this sector and become the safest place to do online business in the world.

Indicative outputs¹

Direct Jobs Created	959
Jobs Safeguarded	82
Commercial Space Unlocked (sqm)	2,905
New Learning Space Unlocked	2,552
New Learners Assisted	1,979
Businesses Assisted	960
Improved Learning/ Training Space Unlocked	2,552

Summary of projects

Project	Description
The 'Minster Innovation Exchange	This low carbon modular construction will deliver innovative co-working space in central Cheltenham. It will provide a purpose-built performance, event and community venue, and connect to the high street through upgraded historic linkages from the Cheltenham Minster grounds. It will also act as a pilot for developments at the Cyber Park – allocated £3.114 million.
The Gloucestershire Applied Digital Skills Centre	Building a new landmark building, modelled on digital industries delivering the skills needed in the Cyber and Digital sectors – allocated £4.48 million.
Cyber Incubation Units	Creating a range of new office space, shared and dedicated laboratories, workshops and co-working facilities designed specifically for high-tech, cyber-based entrepreneurs and innovators, with access to educational facilities – allocated £950,000.

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

<p>The Digital Innovation Farm</p>	<p>Creating new innovation and demonstration workspace for high growth SMEs in the growth phase already operating within the agri-tech sector to explore, test, trial, research and develop products, or enhance existing ones – allocated £1.25 million.</p>
<p>A Construction Education Centre</p>	<p>A brand new multipurpose conference and training facility to be based in the heart of the Forest of Dean. Thoughtfully designed to link the construction industry with education by providing a learning environment that is digitally advanced, safe, interactive and relevant. The Centre will be co-funded by a privately-owned family business, which has been in operation for over 50 years, founded in, and operating within, the Forest of Dean – allocated £1.956 million.</p>

GFirst 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.