

STOKE-ON-TRENT AND STAFFORDSHIRE 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. **Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP** has been allocated **£23.7m** from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy.

In Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, the funded projects are expected to deliver support for businesses through new innovation and enterprise space, investment in digital skills for young people, and improvements to transport infrastructure which will unlock new housing sites and enable increased active travel, 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	2,440
Construction Jobs Created	440
Jobs Safeguarded	110
Commercial Space Unlocked (sqm)	115,000
New Learning Space Unlocked (sqm)	2,000
New Learners Assisted	1,150
Businesses Assisted	290
Roads/Cycle Lanes/Walkways Unlocked (km)	4.6
R&D Floorspace (sqm)	30

Summary of projects

Project	Description
Health workforce transformation Advanced Digital Technology	The investment will provide advanced digital simulation and immersion suites that will enable healthcare professionals to explore and develop new techniques whilst collaborating with on-campus students. The facility will enable the teaching of advanced techniques and the required digital skills to support the future needs of our health sector.
Tamworth Corporation Street Economic Development	The Carnegie Centre is a vacant public sector building that will be repurposed as an extension to Tamworth Borough Council’s successful Enterprise Centre, which is currently over-subscribed. This investment will fund internal and external improvements to build on the existing provision of office, meeting and training spaces that support local businesses and deliver business support services.
Staffordshire Local Sustainable Transport Package	This investment will provide 3.6km of walking / cycling infrastructure in Tamworth, Biddulph, Burton, Uttoxeter, Burntwood and Eccleshall, facilitating a green recovery and continuing the rediscovery of active travel seen throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
New Enterprise Collaboratory	New Enterprise Accelerator to build on the successful Belnspired project which provides start-up advice and mentoring

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

	support. The new project will add a dedicated Enterprise & Innovation Collaboratory enabling access to specialist equipment where start-ups will share the 'co-working' environment within the wider university's Enterprise Zone, an evolving enterprise & innovation eco-system.
Drakelow Park	A strategic development in South Derbyshire that will enable 2,000 houses and 30ha of employment land. The scheme has transport implications for East Staffordshire: this funding will provide a new road bridge that will enable the development of, and free up transport capacity in, Burton upon Trent. This scheme is also being supported by the D2N2 LEP.
Powering Up Enterprise	Stoke-on-Trent City Council have a scalable portfolio of underused commercial assets which, with capital investment, will be refurbished and repurposed for start-ups, enterprise, and innovation activities to meet an existing demand for space. The blend of space will facilitate innovation, business start-ups and even companies looking to temporarily downsize as a result of the pandemic. The package of premises is located across the city and requires a range of capital investment to reshape and remodel along with the installation of gigabit digital infrastructure.
Creative and Digital Industries Skills	The CDI scheme incorporates the completion of the remodelling and refurbishment of the New Library Building to create a collaborative learning space for the development of digital skills, including coding and software engineering for Digital Arts and Engineering learners at advanced and higher levels. The investment will support skills growth for existing and new business start-ups emerging from labour market restructuring in North Staffordshire and the City of Stoke-on-Trent.
Digital Skills Academy	The Digital Skills Academy will provide digital hubs at Cannock & Tamworth that will in turn provide access to high quality skills training supported by state of the art physical and digitally simulated environments. The project will develop the skills needed by local and regional employers.
Digital Construction Skills	Digital technology will be a cornerstone of construction sector reform to productivity, efficiency and quality of delivery. This investment will allow Stoke-on-Trent College to expand the use of the AR/ VR hubs at both sites to incorporate building information management hardware and software. Learners will be work ready to support the supply of sites and commercial premises. There will be an emphasis on low carbon technology to future proof students' skills and to ensure significant improvements in economic productivity for the city and for the region. Learners from deprived communities local to the college will benefit in particular from the investment.
i54 Western Extension	This project will support the remediation and full servicing of 60 acres of previously contaminated land to create high quality employment floor space. This funding will accelerate the extension to the highly successful i54 business park on the border of South Staffordshire and Wolverhampton. The existing i54 employment site has Enterprise Zone status and is home to 3,000 employees working at major companies including JLR, Moog, Eurofins and ERA.

<p>Innovation Centre Seven</p>	<p>This investment will accelerate the delivery of Innovation Centre Seven (IC7), which will comprise 4,820sqm of BREEAM excellent innovation space at the Keele Growth Corridor University Enterprise Zone. IC7 has a strategic focus on the grand challenge areas of artificial intelligence, machine learning and a data-driven digital economy. It will enable delivery of business transformation programme, with a focus on supporting SSLEP SMEs to develop their understanding and use of advanced data analytics and related digital technologies.</p>
<p>Shire Hall Regeneration</p>	<p>This project will see Grade II* Listed Shire Hall in Stafford repurposed for entrepreneurialism and business start-ups. The old library will be converted to a business incubator. Staffordshire County Council have their own Enterprise Centre team who are ready to manage the space, and discussions are underway with Staffordshire University to create a pathway for graduates to utilise the space. This project will complement a proposed Future High Streets Fund investment to renovate the existing building as a cultural venue for the town.</p>

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire 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.