

HERTFORDSHIRE LEP GETTING BUILDING FUND

The Government is making £900m 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. **Hertfordshire LEP** has been allocated **£16.8m** from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy.

In Hertfordshire LEP, the funded projects are expected to deliver over 1,500 high value jobs in high-tech sectors within the county, including film and TV; cell and gene therapies; advanced therapeutics; and smart construction. New studio space at Elstree Studios will cement South West Hertfordshire’s importance to the UK’s film and TV. We will invest in new state-of-the-art R7D and training facilities to support and develop the rapidly growing global cell and gene therapy industry in Stevenage with a new Cell and Gene Integration Lab, and a Cardiovascular Imaging Lab at the Royal Veterinary College campus in Brookmans Park. We will drive up economic growth by investing in over 5,100 sq. m. of new commercial floor space and 560 sq. m. of learning space at the BRE Open Innovation Hub and at Maxwell Farm Hi-Tech Business Centre, helping training thousands of learners for the jobs of the future.

Indicative outputs¹

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| Direct jobs created | 1,430 |
| Construction jobs created | 150 |
| Commercial space unlocked (sqm) | 12,102 |
| New learners assisted | 2,960 |
| Businesses assisted | 323 |
| Improved learning/training space unlocked (sqm) | 560 |
| New superfast broadband connections | 12 |
| CO₂ emissions saved (kg) | 26,250,000 |

Summary of projects

| Name | Description |
|---|---|
| Building New Studio Space at Elstree Studios | Elstree Studios is a major and long-established asset for Hertsmeire. In 2018, one of its long-running clients, Big Brother, finished filming, leaving an area of the site unoccupied. This vacant space will be converted into two new 18,000 sqft studios with workshops and offices to help meet the significant excess demand in the UK for dedicated studio and production space. The studios will bring new employment opportunities to the local economy and complement the existing South West Hertfordshire film and media cluster, which will be further enhanced upon the completion of Sky Studios Elstree. It is proposed that 30% of the profit made by this project will be reinvested into local creative industries. |

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

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| <p>Creating and Equipping a Cell and Gene Integration Lab in Stevenage</p> | <p>The vibrant healthcare R&D campus in Stevenage, recently designated a Life Sciences Opportunity Zone by the Office for Life Sciences, has the critical mass to host the UK's first digital training centre equipped for advanced therapy manufacturing. This new Cell and Gene Integration Lab will support the growth of the UK's world-leading cell and gene cluster, harnessing the expertise of the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult. High-growth SME collaborators will incorporate the Catapult's leading platforms and pioneering technologies into their manufacturing processes, while new virtual reality training platforms employing artificial intelligence will raise the skill levels of both scientists and operators to meet global benchmarks for excellence.</p> |
| <p>Cardiovascular Imaging Centre</p> | <p>The new Cardiovascular Imaging Centre at Royal Veterinary College's Hawkshead campus in Brookmans Park will encompass advanced medical imaging, cardiac catheterisation, surgical expertise, facilities for translational cardiovascular research, and an advanced referral clinical service for veterinary patients. To achieve this, the college will invest in a state-of-the-art 3 Tesla (3T) Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), anaesthesia and surgical preparation room, surgical theatre and recovery suite with intensive care monitoring. The facility will grant students and academics access to state-of-the-art learning and R&D facilities and support the region's veterinary sector SMEs.</p> |
| <p>BRE Open Innovation Hub</p> | <p>BRE is the world's leading building science centre and a founding partner of Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter, the county's enterprise zone. Two existing buildings on BRE's campus, located in Bricket Wood, will be refurbished to create a 2,780 sqm Open Innovation Hub to accommodate start-ups and growing businesses. The hub will encourage and facilitate collaboration with a focus on clean growth and smart construction techniques; provide new commercial space for businesses to grow within the enterprise zone; and lead to the creation of 156 new jobs within the smart construction sector and supply chain.</p> |
| <p>Construction of Maxwell Farm High-Tech Business Centre</p> | <p>A new business centre will be developed as part of the wider commercial facility planned at Maxwells Farm West in Cheshunt. Broxbourne Borough Council has agreed to develop 5.7 acres of land with outline planning permission to create circa 16,264 sqm of new B1, B2 and B8 premises, including a second Ambition Broxbourne Business Centre to mirror the successful centre already in operation in Hoddesdon. The new business centre will deliver 2,322 sqm of high-spec sustainable office space for generic use but designed to attract tech companies, creating a new asset for the borough and the wider Hertfordshire economy.</p> |

Hertfordshire LEP will be expected to bring forward 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.