

## **The West of England Combined Authority 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 West of England Combined Authority** has been allocated **£13.7m** from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy.

**In The West of England Combined Authority** the funded projects are expected to deliver greater connectivity across the region through significant transport works, investment in digital connectivity which will bring together academic research and economic sites, and regeneration to revitalise town centres and high streets.

### **Indicative outputs<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Direct Jobs Created</b>	1144
<b>Construction Jobs Created</b>	153
<b>Jobs Safeguarded</b>	1259
<b>Houses Unlocked</b>	244
<b>Commercial Space Unlocked (sqm)</b>	94,200
<b>New Learning Space Unlocked</b>	250,800
<b>New Learners Assisted</b>	30
<b>Businesses Assisted</b>	265+
<b>Roads/Cycle Lanes/Walkways Unlocked</b>	3.7km
<b>R&amp;D Floorspace</b>	203,000
<b>Public Realm/ Green Space Created</b>	19,900 sqm
<b>New superfast broadband connections</b>	27

### **Summary of projects**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>
A4018 Corridor Improvements	A package of transport improvements on the A4018 corridor including a cycle path, new pedestrian crossings, bus stop upgrade and Variable Message Signs
Portway Station	A new single platform rail station adjacent to the existing Portway Park and ride site on the Severn Beach Line
Keynsham Town Centre Improvements	Provision of a permanent one-way high street which prioritises and dedicates space to walking and cycling and transforms the public realm.
Bath Quays South Phase 1a Enabling Infrastructure	A project to deliver enabling infrastructure for the development of over 50,000 ft <sup>2</sup> of new offices, some 40,000 ft <sup>2</sup> of Creative Workspace with some retail on the south side of the river at Bath Quays. The project will also see 5,000m <sup>2</sup> brownfield land reclaimed.

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

Umbrella (Urban Multi Wireless Broadband and IoT Testing for Local Authority and Industrial Applications)	The project seeks to create a Centre of Excellence for 'open' research and innovation into future Industrial Internet of Things (IIOT) linking key academic, research and economic locations such as National Composites Centre, Bristol & Bath Science Park, and the UWE Bristol Robotics Lab and FutureSpace. The project will deliver an open testbed platform which links, through fibre and wireless connectivity, to multiple testbeds and platforms across different sites.
Composites Bridge Construction	The project focuses on the application of new technology to develop an advanced composite bridge design solution that can be efficiently and economically used in a variety of locations. It also includes the implementation of pedestrian and cycle facilities at Emersons Green.
Weston General Stores	<p>The project will develop a significant portion of Weston High Street, repurposing redundant retail space in Weston town centre to deliver workspace for collective trading platforms entrepreneurs, micro-manufacturing, events and rehearsal, cycle hub, business support, and skills, learning and employability. This will be delivered alongside the Central Weston Primary Care facility (funded).</p> <p>This is identified in the Weston Placemaking Strategy (over 5000 local people consulted) with support of business community, Weston College, CCG and North Somerset Enterprise Agency. The projects is a key move that will consolidate and diversify the town centre and drive footfall (extra 450k per annum), increase town centre employment, reduce out-commuting and support distributed working models.</p>

**The West of England Combined Authority** 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.