

£20.9M EXPANSION OF GROWTH DEAL BOOSTS LOCAL PLAN FOR CUMBRIA ECONOMY

The Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership has agreed an expansion to its Growth Deal with the Government which will see an extra £20.9m invested in Cumbria between 2016 and 2021. This is in addition to the £26.8m of funding committed by the Government on 7 July 2014. Over the lifetime of its Deal (2015-2021) the Local Enterprise Partnership estimates that up to 3000 new jobs could be created, 3000 new homes built and that it has the potential to generate £60m public and private investment.

The additional proposed projects include:

- **Barrow Waterfront Enterprise Zone** – The project involves the improvement of the only large employment site available in Barrow, which will accommodate supply chain firms alongside a major new BAE logistics facility.
- **Connecting Cumbria - Phase 2 of Connecting Cumbria** will extend availability of Superfast Broadband to an additional 5,000 premises over and above the approximately 111,000 covered by Phase 1. Phase 2 will extend coverage to approximately 95%, meaning it will be dealing with more isolated rural areas and will have a more complex technical nature.
- **Port of Workington Access & Infrastructure** - The project will future-proof the Port, in the first instance by delivering better road and rail links to the port and employment land to the north, and by progressing core Port infrastructure works.
- **Carlisle College: Advanced Manufacturing Centre** - The AMC will deliver an employer-led curriculum at all levels to the engineering, manufacturing, and processing sectors.

The Cumbria Growth Deal is part of a long term plan to devolve at least £12 billion from central government to local economies. The plan aims for every part of the country to be a motor of growth for the national economy – building on the strength of the Cumbria area.

Quotes

The Prime Minister said:

“Giving local communities the power and the money to unlock growth and development and make the spending decisions that work for them is a key part of our long-term economic plan to secure a brighter future for Britain and ensure a recovery for all.

“And this is happening right here in Cumbria, with more money announced today for key projects to boost the local economy as part of the multi-million pound expansion of the Government’s Growth Deals.

“And because the money will be in the control of a partnership of local community, business and civic leaders it means it will go on the things that really matter to people and businesses here.

“That is what Growth Deals are all about, backing local people and investing in the infrastructure, housing and skills that will drive forward local economies, create more jobs and opportunities for hardworking people and supercharge all parts of our country.”

The Deputy Prime Minister said:

“A quiet revolution is underway in Cumbria and across the country, as Growth Deals signal the death of the culture where Whitehall calls the shots. I’ve seen for myself the difference it makes to give the county more power over skills, over business support, over infrastructure spending.

“I am delighted to announce the expansion of the Cumbria Growth Deal today.

“The Coalition Government has been relentless in our efforts to sort out the public finances and set firm foundations for growth. Growth Deals help create a stronger economy and a fairer society by boosting local economies, and providing more jobs, better transport and affordable homes.”

The LEP Chair George Beveridge said:

“This announcement is welcome news for Cumbria, it supports our economic strategy and is further evidence of the county co-operating with Government to unlock the significant growth potential in Cumbria. This expansion to our existing Growth Deal, provides the LEP with further resources to deliver additional projects aimed at improving the long term economic performance of Cumbria in line with our strategic ambition.”

FACTSHEET

1. How much is the Government investing in Cumbria as part of the Growth Deal?

| | Initial Growth Deal (July 2014) | Expansion – additional funding awarded (Jan 2015) | Total Expanded Growth Deal |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Local Growth Fund | <i>£26.8m</i> | <i>£20.9m</i> | <i>£47.7m</i> |

2. What proposed projects will this new tranche of funding deliver?

- **Barrow Waterfront Enterprise Zone** – Expansion of a project funded in July 2014. The project involves the improvement of the only large employment site available in Barrow, which will accommodate supply chain firms alongside a major new BAE logistics facility.
- **Connecting Cumbria - Phase 2 of Connecting Cumbria** will extend availability of Superfast Broadband to an additional 5,000 premises over and above the approximately 111,000 covered by Phase 1. Phase 2 will extend coverage to approximately 95%, meaning it will be dealing with more isolated rural areas and will have a more complex technical nature.
- **Port of Workington Access & Infrastructure** - The project will invest in the future of the Port, in the first instance by delivering better road and rail links to the port and employment land to the north, and by progressing core Port infrastructure works.
- **Carlisle College: Advanced Manufacturing Centre** - The AMC will deliver an employer-led curriculum at all levels to the engineering, manufacturing, and processing sectors.
- **Ulverston Infrastructure Programme** - The programme will invest in projects which will help to reduce flood risk from all sources, reducing the risk to existing homes and businesses as well as enabling future sustainable growth and investment.
- **Cumbria Skills & Capital Investment Programme** - The funding will be utilised to deliver state-of-the art facilities, bring together learning and

workspace to stimulate enterprise, improve the local leadership & management offer, and increase specialist STEM R & D laboratory space, enabling training to be provided to at least 1,200 learners and delivering a range of qualifications from Level 2–4

- **Growing our Potential** - The programme will provide grant aid to help Cumbrian businesses deliver capital projects that can help them grow and create and/or safeguard sustainable private sector jobs.

This adds to the projects that were announced in July including:

- An **Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centre** at Furness College to equip Cumbrians with the skills to take up the expanding opportunities at BAE and within the supply chain for major manufacturers.
- A package of sustainable transport measures to **optimise connectivity within Cumbria**, particularly around key visitor arrival points and visitor attractions around Windermere and Grasmere.
- The remediation and improvement of the **Barrow Waterfront** site, enabling growth in this key centre of manufacturing.
- **Transport improvements in and around Kendal** facilitating housing development and business growth.
- Junction improvements to increase capacity in **South Ulverston** to support the expansion of GlaxoSmithKline and housing development.
- Supporting the creation of the **Nuclear Technology Innovation Gateway**, an innovation and support centre for the nuclear industry bringing together the National Nuclear Laboratory, research activities from the University of Manchester and other facilities.
- Access improvements to the **Durranhill Industrial Estate** to enable business expansion and the revitalising of this enterprise asset.

3. How does this benefit the people of Cumbria?

The Cumbria Growth Deal will provide local people with more training opportunities, new and better jobs, more local housing and better transport to access the opportunities being developed by international and local businesses.

According to estimates by the LEP, the Growth Deal could bring to Cumbria:

- 3000 Jobs

- 3000 Homes
- 5000 premises with access to Superfast Broadband
- 1700 learners to acquire new skills
- 62,000 m² of new or refurbished commercial floor space
- £60m public and private sector investment

4. What is the benefit for local businesses?

As well as much needed superfast broadband improvements, the Growth Deal confirms additional funding to support over 1700 learners to acquire skills for employment, additional funding towards new or refurbished commercial floor space, a capital business support programme and reduced flood risk to businesses.

5. Facts and figures

The Growth Deal builds on significant recent investment in growth opportunities in Cumbria including:

Growing Places Fund total allocation: £6.7m which the LEP are using to set up a revolving fund to support infrastructure projects which unlock development, create jobs and new homes in Cumbria.

Regional Growth Fund: Cumbria LEP area has to date received £18.2m investment from the Regional Growth Fund.

Coastal Communities Fund: £3,905,259