

£21.4M EXPANSION OF GROWTH DEAL BOOSTS LOCAL PLAN FOR GREATER BIRMINGHAM & SOLIHULL ECONOMY

The Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership has agreed an expansion to its Growth Deal with the Government which will see an extra £21.4m invested in the area between 2016 and 2021. This is in addition to the £357.4m 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 29,000 new jobs could be created, 7000 new homes built and that it has the potential to generate £170m public and private investment.

The additional proposed projects include:

- Developing new enterprise accommodation at the Innovation Birmingham Campus to support University spin-outs,
- transport improvements to enhance access to major sites in North Solihull,
- Supporting the provision of new college courses including improving employability and advanced life sciences.
- Redevelopment of the station area in Kidderminster improving interchange and increasing the catchment area.

The Greater Birmingham & Solihull 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 Greater Birmingham & Solihull 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 in Birmingham and Solihull, 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 the Birmingham area, in Solihull 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 Greater Birmingham and Solihull more power over skills, over business support, over infrastructure spending.

“I am delighted to announce the expansion of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull 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 Andy Street said:

“As we continue to build on our success with new initiatives, this additional funding will enable us to deliver on a wide range of projects. These include the redevelopment of Kidderminster railway station, an additional investment for Birmingham’s Wholesale Markets project and £1.7m for improving public transport schemes in Solihull. In particular, the £3m destined for the unblocking of small housing sites programme will accelerate the delivery of 120 new homes, which is one of our key commitments for Greater Birmingham.”

Councillor Sir Albert Bore, LEP Board Member and Leader Birmingham City Council said:

“This is fantastic news for Birmingham and the wider region and will build on momentum created by the major projects already underway in the city, whether the transformation of New Street station or the regeneration of Longbridge. Our approach through economic zones is setting a clear sector focus for the city to drive economic growth and I am particularly pleased to see the focus on the Science Park and the support for improving employability around life sciences.”

FACTSHEET

1. How much is the Government investing in Greater Birmingham & Solihull as part of the Growth Deal?

	July 2015 Total funding awarded	Expansion – additional funding awarded (Jan 2015)	Total Expanded Growth Deal
Local Growth Fund	<i>£357.4m</i>	<i>£21.4</i>	£378.8m

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

The additional funding will deliver the following projects:

- **Future Skills Capital Programme** supporting additional course provision at colleges including: Employability & Enterprise, Maintaining Quality Provision, Advanced Life Sciences, delivering 3000 – 5000 skills outputs.
- **Wholesale Markets (Birmingham)** Gap funding to bring forward the southern part of the site for the new markets. This will facilitate major commercial redevelopment of a prime site in the city centre Enterprise Zone.
- **Universities@IBC (Birmingham)** Extension to the existing Faraday Wharf incubator building at the Innovation Birmingham Campus to provide an additional 445m² of state of the art enterprise space which enables local universities to collaborate with business start-ups, creating 1800 jobs supporting the Enterprise Zone.
- **Lode Lane (Solihull)** Package of public transport, cycling and walking improvements on a major route which provides access to significant development sites including UK Central, Birmingham Airport, and JLR Lode Lane plant.
- **Kidderminster Railway Station** Redevelopment of the station area improving interchange and increasing the catchment area.
- **Kingswood Lakeside Internal Access Works (Cannock)** Gap funding to support remediation works, access, lighting, and drainage works for a prime employment location adjacent to the M6 Toll, creating 1300 jobs.
- **Unblocking small housing sites programme phase 2** Extension of a programme to support the acceleration of small housing sites across the LEP area through gap funding combined with facilitation through pro bono support, delivering up to 120 homes.

This adds to the projects that were announced in July 2014, including:

- **Funding to support work on strategies to maximise the local benefits from HS2** funding for work on the growth strategies for the HS2 stations and identifying the priorities for future investment to support wider growth opportunities.
- **South Kidderminster Enterprise Park – Hoobrook Link Road (joint with Worcs LEP)** - Links the A451 Stourport Road to the A449 Worcester Road through the 24ha former British Sugar Site (Silverwoods), improves the accessibility to/within South Kidderminster Enterprise Park.
- **Longbridge Connectivity Scheme** - Includes upgrade of the railway station, improvements to the existing bus interchange, extension to the park and ride site, highway improvements, wayfinding and cycling improvements. Will facilitate further development of the former MG Rover site.
- **Hagley Road SPRINT** - Bus Rapid Transit scheme along the Hagley Road to Quinton, a major upgrade to buses in this corridor linking key areas of Birmingham City Centre such as Broad Street, Paradise Circus, New Street and Moor Street stations and in the longer term Curzon St HS2.
- **Ashted Circus, Birmingham Ring Road** - The proposed layout will alleviate future capacity constraints by providing an additional approach lanes and remove some left turning vehicles from the roundabout, which provides access to Enterprise Zone sites
- **Journey Time Reliability Improvements to Growth Areas** - Highway measures to help improve journey reliability throughout the GBS area with a focus on the Enterprise Zone and other growth points
- **Solihull Aviation (Engineering Training Centre), Solihull College** - Development of an aviation/aerospace facility close to Birmingham Airport and provision of equipment for maintenance and repair training activities.
- **Skills Excellence hub (Food technology hub), University College Birmingham** - A food technology/food science hub. Providing access to specialist facilities that will enable skills development for a growth sector.
- **Unblocking small housing sites programme** - A programme to support the acceleration of small housing sites across the LEP area through gap funding and support from experts.
- **Life Sciences Centre, Bournville College** - Provision of laboratories to train technicians in clinical chemistry, pharmacy, immunology, haematology, pathology, microbiology etc
- **Mid-Cannock road/rail freight interchange** - Construction works on the Chase Line and the Mid-Cannock container depot to create new road-rail interchange facility with rail sidings and container handling cranes.
- **Unlocking Birmingham's Sustainable Urban Extension** - New accesses for two major development sites east of Sutton Coldfield, including 80ha major investment site, proposed as part of Birmingham's Development Plan.

- **Engineering Centre for manufacturing support, South & City College, Birmingham** - Refurbishment and upgrade of facilities to provide training in latest techniques for electrical and mechanical fault finding and diagnostics.
- **Advanced Manufacturing Hub, Birmingham** - 20ha regional investment site next to J6 of the M6 aimed at high technology manufacturing companies.
- **HS2: Construction skills, South & City College, Birmingham** - Enhance the college facilities and equipment to deliver the skills identified in the specialist areas under project HS2.
- **Battery Way Extension, Tyseley, Birmingham** - New link road between Battery Way and Reddings Lane, and a new traffic signal junction where the new road will meet Reddings Lane and Olton Boulevard West, will help deliver the regeneration of a redundant industrial site.
- **Selly Oak New Road Phase 1b, Birmingham** - Highway improvements to the 'Selly Oak triangle', a key junction between the A38 and A4040, providing access to the Life Sciences campus, UoB, and QE Hospital. Bus, pedestrian and cyclist facilities would also be upgraded.
- **A34 corridor - Perry Barr, Birmingham** - Improving access to a large redevelopment site which has potential for significant retail and office development.
- **Life Sciences Campus, Birmingham** - A 4ha science park facility for life science businesses, capable of supporting over 400,000 sq ft of office space (including wet labs) to attract both existing large-scale life science businesses, and support the expansion of local businesses and their retention within the region.
- **University Station Interchange, Birmingham** - Station enhancements to support growth around University of Birmingham, including the new Life Sciences Campus, will alleviate current overcrowding.
- **Motor Vehicle Centre for Advanced Automotive Training and Skills, South & City College Birmingham** - Establish a dedicated training facility for engineering SMEs in the supply chain of major companies
- **Iron Lane, Birmingham** - Increasing junction capacity and reducing congestion at the junction of Iron Lane, Flaxley Road and Station Road in Stechford. Dedicated pedestrian/cycle crossing facilities will be provided to enhance 'active travel'.
- **East Staffordshire Growth and Regeneration programme** - Preparing sites for three brownfield land housing and employment developments in Burton and Uttoxeter.
- **Snow Hill Station: Phase 1** - The development will make it easier for passengers to change between rail, bus and Metro.
- **CofE for Advanced Technologies, Birmingham Metropolitan College** - Creates an interdisciplinary centre for advanced technologies and skills development that directly responds to GBS LEP priorities
- **Midland Metro Birmingham Eastside Extension (prep costs)** - Links city centre and Brindleyplace to HS2 Curzon Street Station and Digbeth EZ sites

- **Birmingham Cycle Revolution Phase 2** - 100km of cycle routes feeding into Birmingham city centre, builds on cycle ambition funding, aims to increase cycle trips from <2% to 10% by 2030.
- The Government will also increase the Housing Revenue Account borrowing limit for Birmingham City Council by £10,620,000 to support the development of new affordable homes.
- **Tame Valley Viaduct Phase 3** Major maintenance of the A38(M) between Birmingham city centre and the M6.
- **Midland Metro Extension to Edgbaston** Extension of the Metro from Centenary Square to Five Ways.
- **Midland Metro Birmingham Eastside Extension** - Links city centre and Brindleyplace to HS2 Curzon Street Station and Digbeth EZ sites
- **A457 Dudley Road** Widening the road, improving junctions and enhancing pedestrian and cycling facilities.
- **A45 Rapid Transit** Between Birmingham city centre and the airport, International Station, and the HS2 Interchange Station.

3. How does this benefit the people of Greater Birmingham & Solihull?

The Growth Deal will promote growth in Greater Birmingham & Solihull through the provision of courses to develop the skills of the local workforce, providing improved access to jobs through improvements to Lode Lane (Solihull) and Kidderminster Railway Station, and accelerating the delivery of small housing sites.

According to estimates by the LEP, the Growth Deal could bring to Greater Birmingham & Solihull up to:

- 29,000 jobs,
- 7,000 homes, and
- £170m public and private sector investment.

4. What is the benefit for local businesses?

As well as much needed transport improvements, the Growth Deal will provide start-up space for local entrepreneurs, enable a major site to be developed in Cannock, and facilitate the redevelopment of the Wholesale Markets site on the edge of Birmingham city centre.

5. Facts and figures

The Growth Deal builds on significant recent investment in growth opportunities in Greater Birmingham & Solihull including:

Growing Places Fund total allocation: £22m which has supported a range of projects across the LEP, with loan funding repaid for use on other projects.

Enterprise Zone: £3.9m from the DfT local pinch point fund to improve access to the City Centre Enterprise Zone from ring road junctions.

The Greater Birmingham & Solihull City Deal established GBS Capital, ultimately a £1.5 billion investment fund to deliver local priorities, and invested £24 million in the life sciences sector. The City Deal has also seen an expansion of the Green Deal programme to provide energy efficiency improvements to 15,000 houses and 40 public buildings.

Regional Growth Fund: Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP area has to date received £70.9m investment from the Regional Growth Fund, with a further £37m invested in programmes which cover the area.