

GROWTH DEALS 3 FACTSHEET – GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

1. How much is the Government investing in GFirst LEP as part of the Growth Deal programme?

	Growth Deal One (July 2014)	Growth Deal Two (Jan 2015)	Growth Deal Three (Nov 2016)
Local Growth Fund Award	£62.5 million	£15 million	£29.13 million
Total Award	£106.63 million		

2. What will this new funding deliver?

This new tranche of funding is expected to deliver:

- The development of road infrastructure for a new **Cyber Business Park in Cheltenham** next to GCHQ;
- A new roundabout and access road on the **A40** to release land for housing at **Longford**; and
- Investment in a brand new **Gloucestershire College campus in the Forest of Dean** to enhance skills and learning.

3. What has previous funding delivered?

This builds on previous Growth Deal investments in Gloucestershire, which have funded the following projects:

- The Growth Hub Network & Expansion;
- Gloucestershire Renewable Energy Engineering and Nuclear Skills Centre (GREEN);
- Blackfriars and Quayside Regeneration;
- Berkeley Cyber Security Centre;
- Digital High Street Hub;
- Farm491 – Agri-tech Innovation Centre;
- Gloucestershire Airport – access for new hangar development;
- Gloucester Transport Hub;
- STEM Centres at Gloucestershire College, Hartpury College and Cirencester College;
- Cheltenham Spa Railway Improvements;
- Advanced Renewable Energy Resource Centre; and
- Transport projects:
 - Metz Way to Abbeymead Avenue
 - A40 Elmbridge Court Roundabout
 - Cinderford Northern Quarter
 - A40 Highnam Roundabout
 - A38 Berkeley Bridges
 - A419 Access to Berkeley
 - B4063 Staverton Junction
 - A419 Corridor
 - Gloucester South West Bypass
 - St Barnabas Roundabout
 - Lydney Strategy

4. How will this benefit the local community?

The two road infrastructure projects will jointly create access to employment land for a nationally significant Cyber Technology Park and two housing sites that will deliver up to 7,500 high value jobs in a critical knowledge-based sector and up to 1,800 homes. The projects will also mitigate as far as possible the traffic impacts of these developments by enhancing the local road networks in both areas.

The investment in the new college campus will provide high quality further education facilities and the resulting skills in an area that has suffered from significant deprivation since the demise of the local mining and associated industries. The investment will also 'kick start' a much larger regeneration programme on a brownfield site which will ultimately provide for 185 homes, 4.8 hectares of employment land and help to drive economic development both locally in Cinderford and more broadly across the Forest of Dean as a whole.

5. How will this benefit local businesses?

The Cheltenham Cyber Business Park will create a specialist employment site on 45 hectares of land next to the Government Communications Head Quarters (GCHQ), delivering a highly accessible 'honeypot' for the cyber security and high tech supply chain to locate alongside the national cyber innovation centre. It will act as a catalyst for commercial cyber development activities for business start-ups, technology incubators and more mature businesses. This will offer local businesses the opportunity to benefit from the supply chain opportunities, innovation and access to cyber specialist companies.

The Gloucestershire College Cinderford campus will have a positive impact on the Forest of Dean in terms of both local skills development and regeneration and will be the key driver for education-led regeneration of the Cinderford Northern Quarter. It will incorporate a Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) centre to develop the STEM skills of all students and to build progression pathways into STEM careers. This will encourage investment and will meet the needs of the businesses in the area whose growth has been affected by the lack of access to the right skills.

6. How will this Deal help the Government work to deliver one million homes in this Parliament?

This deal will support the provision of 1,800 homes in the Gloucester/Cheltenham area on sites that the private sector would not bring forward otherwise.

Other Sources of Funding for LEPs

This is currently the last round of Growth Deals that will take place in this Parliament. However, LEPs are eligible to bid for many other sources of funding, which they can use to make investments in significant economic projects in their local area.

GFirst LEP has successfully secured investment which will help to fund a number of projects:

- £8.5 million from the **Growing Places Fund**, resulting in leverage of £28.2 million and 175 jobs
- €38.1 million from the **European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund**.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said:

“This Government is backing Gloucestershire with millions of pounds of investment for business projects across the county, from the Cyber Business Park next to GCHQ to a new college campus in the Forest of Dean.

“This new funding will enable local business leaders to create jobs, boost skills, improve infrastructure and give Gloucestershire businesses the support they need to help your county reach its full potential.”

Dr Diane Savory OBE DL, Chair of GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership, commented:

“We are thrilled to receive £29.1 million from Government in the recent Growth Deal 3 allocations. Receiving this amount within such a highly competitive process is a brilliant result, now enabling us to deliver on our top three priorities. As a Local Enterprise Partnership we have now secured well over £100 million for Gloucestershire, which shows the faith the Government has in GFirst to deliver our vision.”