

£22.3M EXPANSION OF GROWTH DEAL BOOSTS LOCAL PLAN FOR THE HERTFORDSHIRE ECONOMY

The Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership has agreed an expansion to its Growth Deal with the Government which will see an extra £22.3m invested in the county between 2016 and 2021. This is in addition to the £199.2m 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 15000 new jobs could be created, 20000 new homes built and that it has the potential to generate £430m public and private investment.

The additional proposed projects include:

- An Evergreen Infrastructure Fund, a £12.5m extension to the LEP's successful Growing Places Fund, will support a number of regeneration schemes including projects in Bishops Stortford and South Oxhey with the potential to build an additional 2910 homes.
- Initiatives to strengthen the local skills base through the provision of new facilities including the development of a state of the art engineering design and innovation centre based in Stevenage.
- Supporting the urgent renewal of Hatfield town centre to ensure its full economic potential can be realised.

In addition, Government has made £19.63m of borrowing available to Dacorum Borough Council at the Public Works Loan Board project rate to support regeneration in Hemel Hempstead. The proposed projects, which will bring additional employment, housing and leisure uses together with substantial urban realm improvements, are part of a holistic plan to regenerate Hemel Hempstead's town centre.

The Hertfordshire 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 Hertfordshire 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 across Hertfordshire, 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 Hertfordshire 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 Hertfordshire more power over skills, over business support, over infrastructure spending.

"I am delighted to announce the expansion of the Hertfordshire 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 John Gourd said:

“We are delighted at the announcement today that the Government is to expand our current Growth Deal which will see £22.3m further investment to be spent on vital town centre regeneration, growing the skills base and accelerating further new homes and jobs creation.

“Hertfordshire LEP successfully secured a £200m Growth Deal due to its targeted and achievable Strategic Economic Plan. One of our key priorities outlined in the SEP is the regeneration of our new towns. As a result of this Growth Deal extension, £6 million will be invested in Hatfield to make sure the town realises its full economic potential and remains an attractive and vibrant place to live, work and do business.

“We also welcome the investment in a Design and Innovation Centre at North Herts College in Stevenage, a new STEM centre at Oaklands and an innovation hub at the University of Hertfordshire, all of which will strengthen further Hertfordshire’s

outstanding science and technology sector, making sure our current and future businesses have the skills they need to keep thriving.”

Hertfordshire County Council Deputy Leader and Hertfordshire LEP Board member, Chris Hayward said:

“The regeneration of our town centres and New Towns is vital for our future economic prosperity. A regeneration fund will accelerate further growth by creating new homes and employment opportunities.

“The investment in our further education colleges and the University of Hertfordshire will also provide a pipeline of talent to feed our science and technology sector and forge further links between businesses and training providers.”

FACTSHEET

1. How much is the Government investing in Hertfordshire 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>£199.2m</i>	<i>£22.3m</i>	<i>£221.5m</i>

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

- A £12.5m Evergreen Infrastructure Growth Fund supporting regeneration projects providing new homes and employment space including at Bishops Stortford and South Oxhey.
- North Herts College Design and Innovation Centre - Renovation of industrial space for engineering skills in Stevenage
- A Scientific Knowledge and Innovation Hub at the University of Hertfordshire which will integrate Knowledge Transfer and Doctoral Training Programmes in an incubation facility attached to the University's School of Life Sciences.
- Redevelopment of the Oaklands Welwyn Garden City campus to include a STEM centre
- £6m of funding to support the regeneration of Hatfield Town Centre

In addition, Government has made £19.63m of borrowing available to Dacorum Borough Council at the Public Works Loan Board project rate to support regeneration in Hemel Hempstead. The proposed projects, which will bring additional employment, housing and leisure uses together with substantial urban realm improvements, are part of a holistic plan to regenerate Hemel Hempstead's town centre.

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

- Croxley Rail Link - a transformational scheme that focuses on a new extension of the Metropolitan underground line and new stations at Cassiobridge and Watford Vicarage Road. The scheme offers significant substantial economic impacts for Watford and beyond linking Watford's core business area and town centre with London and stimulating investment in Watford Business Park and Health Campus.
- Growth Area Forums for the growth corridors around the A1(M)/Stevenage, M11/A10 and M1/M25 to accelerate housing delivery in the growth area.

- Broxbourne Enterprise - which will provide much needed space for new and small enterprises in Broxbourne
- Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst Phase 2 a project to accelerate the second phase of this facility which is driving innovation at the heart of UK bioscience
- Daniel Hall, Rothamsted – for improvements of incubator facilities on Rothamsted Research Campus
- West Hertfordshire College – re-development of a town centre campus as part of an integrated approach to the regeneration of Hemel Hempstead town centre.
- M1/M25 Transport package - Package of transport schemes including A414 Junction Improvements, Hemel Hempstead station forecourt enhancements, and Watford Business Park Pedestrian and Cycle Access Enhancements
- Transport Packages for the A1(M), M11/A10 and M1/M25

3. How does this benefit the people of Hertfordshire?

The Growth Deal will promote growth in Hertfordshire through investment around its New Towns and by building on its strategic location at the heart of significant UK science assets. The Growth Deal will foster growth in Hertfordshire through investment around its New Towns and by building on its strategic location at the heart of significant UK science assets. The Deal focuses on three growth areas identified around Hertfordshire's main transport corridors – the A1(M), M1/M25 and M11/A10.

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

- Up to 15000 jobs
- Up to 20000 homes
- Up to £430m public and private sector investment

4. What is the benefit for local businesses?

In addition to supporting the creation of a further 1700 jobs, the new tranche of funding further strengthens skills provision in the country through the creation of North Herts College Design and Innovation Centre, the redevelopment of the Oaklands Welwyn Garden City Campus and the creation of a new incubation facility at the University of Hertfordshire.

5. Facts and figures

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

Growing Places Fund total allocation: £16.2m

Regional Growth Fund: Hertfordshire LEP area could benefit from £3.2m invested in neighbouring LEPs through the Regional Growth Fund.