



Spring Budget 2020 - West Midlands

Today's announcements for the West Midlands include:

- The government will invest a further £200 million over six years to pilot innovative actions that improve the long-term flood and coastal resilience of 25 local areas across the country, to ensure that they can better prepare for and adapt more quickly to flooding and coastal erosion. Funding, which will be around £6m per area, will be awarded to places at a strategic scale (reflecting county and river catchment boundaries), including those that contain communities which have repeatedly flooded, such as the Calder Valley, Severn Valley and Airedale.
- In the West Midlands, the increase to the National Living Wage (NLW) this April is expected to benefit around 190,000 people.
- In the West Midlands, the increase to National Insurance thresholds to £9,500 in 2020-21 will result in a tax cut for 2.6 million people and will lift 86,000 people out of paying Class 1 and Class 4 National Insurance Contributions.
- A five-year, intra-city transport settlement for West Midlands Combined Authority from a **£4.2 billion** envelope, starting in 2022-23. This will build on their existing devolved Transforming Cities Fund allocation.
- **£700 million** spending on strategic road schemes between 2020 and 2025. This will upgrade key junctions in Coventry, Walsall and at Birmingham Airport. We will also begin planning of the A5 Tamworth to Hinkley, supporting growth and housing.
- **£20 million** development funding for the Midlands Rail Hub – a series of upgrades to improve connections between cities and towns across the Midlands.
- **£54 million** additional funding for local road maintenance through the Potholes Fund in 2020-21.
- Devolving over **£160 million** for the Eastside Metro extension and Phase One of the Sprint bus rapid transit network to West Midlands Combined Authority to accelerate delivery of the schemes
- Developing plans to upgrade the A426/A4071 Avon Mill/Hunters Lane in Warwickshire.
- A share of the next **£5.2 billion** flood and coastal defence investment programme starting in 2021. These locations will benefit from at least the following levels of funding as a result of this programme: **£23 million** for the Severn Valley, **£7 million** for Tamworth, and **£7 million** for Solihull to better protect over 3,500 properties.
- The Midlands will benefit from a share of the **£640 million** Nature for Climate Fund, including further funding for the National Forest.
- **£21.3 million** for a Trade, Tourism, and Investment programme to take full advantage of the economic opportunities of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. This will be delivered jointly by DIT, DCMS and the West Midlands Growth Company with a programme of activities before, during, and after the Games to ensure a strong legacy of economic benefits for the West Midlands and the country from this exciting sporting event.

- **£79.5 million** housing investment in the North Warwickshire A5 corridor to deliver 3,880 homes.
- The Midlands Engine will benefit from a share of **£5 million** for increased DIT face-to-face support for exporters.
- The Midlands Engine will benefit from a share of **£2 million** for regional champions at key overseas posts.

The West Midlands will also benefit from its share of:

- **£5 billion** to support the rollout of gigabit-capable broadband in the most difficult to reach 20% of the country, particularly benefiting rural areas.
- **£510 million** to support the Shared Rural Network to extend 4G mobile coverage across the UK, particularly in rural areas.
- **£1.5 billion** over five years to return the entire Further Education college (FEC) estate to a good condition.
- **£400 million** Brownfield Housing Fund, as part of the wider housing package.
- **£1 billion** Building Safety Fund for non-ACM cladding on residential buildings above 18 metres. High rise buildings tend to be concentrated in Birmingham, as well as London and Manchester.
- **Up to £400 million** immediate boost for world-leading research, infrastructure and equipment in 2020-21.
- At least **£800 million** in a new blue skies research and innovation agency. This ground-breaking institution will provide new funding for high-risk, high-reward science across the UK.
- **£80 million** will be made available over the next five years to support the UK's foremost specialist institutions build on their global influence
- **Over £500 million** to cement our world-leading position in cutting edge technologies including space, electric vehicles and life sciences. This will support innovation and benefit supply chains and sectors across the whole country, including the West Midlands where the automotive sector accounts for 18% of all manufacturing.
- **£13 million** to expand the British Library's network of Business and Intellectual Property Centres to 21 cities and 18 surrounding local library networks across the UK, including Birmingham.
- **£90 million** Cultural Development Fund for cultural and creative-led regeneration outside of London, to be allocated by competition.
- **£10 million** additional funding for Growth Hubs to increase the number of business advisors by over a third and ensure that high quality advice and guidance is available across all regions.
- **£387 million** in 21-22 to continue priority Local Growth Fund projects before decision on the Local Growth Fund are made at the Spending Review. MHCLG will provide further guidance on how the department will work with places to identify relevant projects.