

CUMBRIA GETTING BUILDING FUND

The Government is making £900 million available through the new Getting Building Fund (GBF) for investment in local, shovel-ready infrastructure projects to stimulate jobs and support economic recovery across the country. The **Cumbria LEP** has been allocated **£10.5m** from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy.

In Cumbria, the project will focus on developing a vertical farming solution and centre of excellence and improving key road infrastructure. These two investments will deliver benefits in terms of new jobs, skills, significant leverage of private sector investment and supporting improvements to the strategic highways network. Both projects align with the LEP's key priorities and will help support Cumbria's recovery from Covid-19.

Indicative outputs¹

Direct Jobs Created	360
Construction Jobs Created	708
Commercial Space Unlocked (sqm)	70,000
New Learning Space Unlocked (sqm)	800
Businesses Assisted	15

Summary of projects

Project	Description
A595 Bothel Improvements	This proposal would see a significant upgrade to a section of the A595 between Carlisle and Cockermouth near Bothel. This will improve journey times and reliability and would be an important step in improving strategic connectivity between Carlisle and West Cumbria. This scheme has been identified as being of pan-northern significance.
Cumbria Vertical Farm Centre of Excellence	The development of a centre of excellence and integrated vertical farming solution initially located in Cumbria at the strategic site of Lillyhall. A carbon neutral facility, it will be a net generator of power through technologies such as wind, solar and green energy from waste. The site will provide international research and teaching facilities as well as providing education programmes for schools on nutrition & health linking into public health campaigns along with visitor facilities for the public.

Cumbria LEP will be expected to deliver the agreed projects but will have flexibility to deliver the greatest economic benefits to the area. Any significant changes to the projects should be discussed with the Government in advance, and all investment decisions must be undertaken in line with locally agreed audit and scrutiny arrangements.

¹ The outputs listed are locally reported and will undergo further quality assurance before being finalised and confirmed in grant offer letters

