

## **THE HEART OF THE SOUTH WEST LEP 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 Heart of the South West** has been allocated **£35.4m** from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy.

**In the Heart of the South West, the funded projects are expected to deliver strategically key infrastructural improvements to the South Devon highway to unlock 2000sqm of office and industrial space; reenergise Plymouth’s city centre to support the University of Plymouth, national rail companies and transport police; capitalise on the region’s environmental assets to support a green educational infrastructure and highlight the region’s potential as a centre for eco-tourism; build on an internationally renowned engineering sector and provide Exeter Airport with a skills academy to adapt to the loss of Flybe; support digital innovation in Somerset by providing high quality support and a 3000sqm digital innovation centre; deliver green homes and retrofits as part of an ambitious sustainability programme; and strengthen its education and skills sectors to ensure the Heart of the South West’s economy is properly serviced and talent retained. This fund provides the key to the region’s vision for a clean and inclusive recovery.**

### **Indicative outputs<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Direct Jobs Created</b>	2,371
<b>Construction Jobs Created</b>	1,569
<b>Jobs Safeguarded</b>	607
<b>Houses Unlocked/Delivered</b>	1,533
<b>Commercial Space Unlocked (sqm)</b>	56,971
<b>New Learners Assisted</b>	4,929
<b>Businesses/ Institutions Assisted</b>	2,872
<b>Roads/Cycle Lanes/Walkways Unlocked</b>	10
<b>R&amp;D Floorspace</b>	8,772
<b>Improved Learning/ Training Space Unlocked</b>	97
<b>Public Realm/ Green Space Created/Improved (sqm)</b>	1,658
<b>New superfast broadband connections</b>	65
<b>CO2 emissions saved (kg)</b>	2,535,227

### **Summary of projects**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>The Torquay Gateway</b>	Located on the junction of the South Devon Highway into Torbay, the Council has acquired an opportunity to deliver a strategically important and highly visible employment space. Development of the site will provide over 2000 sqm of office and industrial space along with the supporting infrastructure. This development will also act as a catalyst, to accelerate the development of approximately 400 new homes and support a larger infrastructure

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

	programme which includes the much needed Edginswell station in Torquay and the Torbay Hospital improvement programme.
<b>Brunel Plaza</b>	This project will refurbish Intercity House, improve the station concourse and provide new accommodation for the British Transport Police and Great Western Rail and Cross-Country staff. Land transferred from Network Rail to the Council will facilitate development of a multi-storey car park, a hotel and a second University of Plymouth faculty building. Public realm improvements will include a new pedestrian gateway into the city centre.
<b>Firepool and Taunton Station</b>	Improvements to Taunton Station will include the provision of a multi-storey car park, an enhanced forecourt, better integration with bus services and the relocation of the entrance and ticket office to face the Firepool development. Access and traffic signalling will be improved and will secure linkage to the station and to the Firepool regeneration site.
<b>Ilfracombe Water Sports Centre</b>	The construction of a water sports centre and associated infrastructure on a brownfield site within Ilfracombe Harbour will support regeneration at the town's main tourist attraction. The enhanced tourism offer could provide up to 100 jobs (directly and indirectly) and support up to 300 local businesses.
<b>The Burrows Centre</b>	The Burrows Centre in Northam seeks to transform a building which is no longer fit for purpose into a regional centre for environmental awareness and education. Surrounded by SSSI and within both the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and North Devon AONB, this project aims to develop a high quality offer for nature and eco-tourism and will be supported by a designated Nature Tourism Officer to work with the community and business sector.
<b>Exeter Bus Station's Regeneration</b>	Exeter's new bus station will act as a transport hub in the city centre and will service vital bus services from rural towns & villages across the county. This project is a critical enabler for the wider CityPoint regeneration project - relocating the old bus station has freed up a critical city centre site which is of great importance to the economic growth of Exeter - creating space for over 1,000 city centre jobs (offices, hotels, etc), and over 500 new city centre homes.
<b>Enhancement of Future Skills Centre</b>	The Future Skills Academy at Exeter Airport (previously a Flybe Training Academy), led by Exeter College, will provide an enhanced range of advanced engineering roles, green jobs and business skills and training. It will provide specialist courses and interactive and digital learning. Significantly, this project reinforces local capacity around advanced manufacturing training and fortifies the region against the loss of Flybe.
<b>Taunton Digital Innovation Centre</b>	This is a collaborative Somerset County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council scheme to bring forward a 3,000 square metre Digital Innovation Centre on the Firepool site in

	Taunton. The Centre will provide flexible, high-quality innovation and collaboration space and support services targeted at new and existing businesses in, or moving into, the digital economy.
<b>Welding Centres of Excellence</b>	The Welding Centre in Plymouth will improve welding capacity in the region. This will support the ongoing development at Hinkley Point C and emerging work at Devonport, ensuring the local economy is properly serviced. In addition, there is potential for match funding in early spring through the Weldability Foundation which could double the number of welding bays and specialist trainers.
<b>Exeter Science Park Grow-out Hub</b>	The net zero-carbon, BREEAM-Excellent, three-storey Grow-out Building will provide office and laboratory spaces from 95sqm-335sqm. These spaces will help larger start-ups relocate, smaller start-ups grow, support local recovery and drive Devon's productivity and economic growth.
<b>The Green Housing and Business Programme</b>	This programme will deliver low carbon housing and business spaces and includes housing and building developments and retrofits. It centres on emissions reduction and supports a Smarter Carbon scheme to help SMEs reduce their emissions.
<b>Work Hubs and Fit-out Project</b>	A programme to deliver a series of 8 work hubs across the LEP area including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Electronics and Photonics Centre and South Devon College - high tech fit-out</li> <li>2) iAero - workspace, equipment and support services to support aerospace and advanced engineering</li> <li>3) Torbay Business Centre, Phase 2 - providing flexible grow on space in Torquay</li> <li>4) Devon Work Hubs - capital grants programme to support rural work hubs</li> <li>5) Bruton Enterprise Centre - enterprise and light industrial space in Bruton, Somerset</li> <li>6) Plymouth City Business Park - supporting start-ups and scale-ups</li> <li>7) Centre for Clean Mobility - capital fit out of the new centre for clean mobility at Exeter Science Park</li> <li>8) Health Technology Incubation Hub at Plymouth Science Park</li> </ol>

**The Heart of the South West** 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.