

## THAMES VALLEY BERKSHIRE 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. **Thames Valley Berkshire LEP** has been allocated **£7.5m** from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy.

**In Thames Valley Berkshire LEP the funded projects are expected to deliver impact and add resilience for the local economy including: a Pharma and Life Sciences Lab where 300 young people will receive scientific work experience in a high-quality laboratory; a new 475 sqm Renewable Resources Centre that will deliver more qualified engineers to install energy efficient systems; investment in the roll-out of gigabit fibre connectivity across West Berkshire communities; and a new Future Skills Hub with the aspiration to place 200 people into employment and ensure over 1,500 people gain appropriate skills required by industry.**

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

<b>Direct Jobs Created</b>	550
<b>Construction Jobs Created</b>	120
<b>Jobs Safeguarded</b>	50
<b>Houses Unlocked</b>	110
<b>Commercial Space Unlocked (sqm)</b>	3411
<b>New Learners Assisted</b>	2,300
<b>Businesses Assisted</b>	30
<b>Roads/Cycle Lanes/Walkways Unlocked (km)</b>	1.6
<b>Improved Learning/ Training Space Unlocked (sqm)</b>	8,875
<b>Public Realm/ Green Space Created (sqm)</b>	300
<b>New superfast broadband connections</b>	1620

### Summary of projects

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1. Road Improvements to Langley High Street, Slough</b>	This scheme will increase capacity, reduce congestion and delay through Langley High Street and facilitate development of the Western Rail Link to Heathrow which will unlock an estimated £800m GVA per annum for Berkshire. It will also unlock opportunities for the Langley Business Centre which is proposing a significant redevelopment of its site.
<b>2. Building a Future Skills Hub in Slough</b>	Slough is one of the English towns most impacted by Covid-19. The 'Future Skills Hub' is an appropriate response to this challenge and brings together partners in 8,000 sqft of new learning floorspace within Slough town centre. The Hub will create opportunities for employment, skills training, and apprenticeship support and drive social mobility. It will place a minimum of 200 people into employment and ensure over 1,500 people gain appropriate skills required by industry.

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

<p><b>3. Bringing Full Fibre to Rural Communities across West Berkshire</b></p>	<p>Providing digital connectivity for rural communities is a key government and LEP objective. This project will bring gigabit fibre connectivity to all schools across West Berkshire enhancing lessons, online training, cloud services and educational tools. It will enable schools to become digital community hubs and aid adult education and re-skilling. Communities adjacent to connected schools will also be able to access gigabit connectivity via new digital infrastructure.</p>
<p><b>4. Building a new Health and Social Care College, Bracknell/Wokingham</b></p>	<p>Some industrial sectors have been less impacted by Covid-19, though important skill gaps remain. The new 150 sqm Health and Social Care College will meet this gap by expanding the current Care Suite in Reading by providing a best-in-class Health and Social Care learning environment in Bracknell. It will offer a simulated domestic setting for social care and allow NHS Trust staff to train and provide learning opportunities. The project aims to have connected with over 500 new learners over the first 3 full years of opening.</p>
<p><b>5. Renewable Resources Centre, West Berkshire /RBWM</b></p>	<p>As we build back post Covid-19, we want to support a green recovery. Newbury College and BCA will jointly create a 475 sqm Renewable Resource Facility in Newbury which will generate economic benefit by increasing the number of qualified engineers able to install energy efficient systems. BCA will equip an existing College facility to provide for training in servicing and maintenance of hybrid and electric vehicles, responding to increased demand for these skills from the motor industry.</p>
<p><b>6. Bracknell Pharma and Life Sciences Lab, Bracknell/ Wokingham</b></p>	<p>The Life Sciences sector is a strength of the Berkshire economy which has proved resilient throughout the current crisis. This project aims to expand the Science &amp; Pharma capabilities across Berkshire with a new 250 sqm facility at Bracknell &amp; Wokingham College, training 250 new learners in total over the first 3 full years of opening. The Lab will also enable local students to receive science-related work experience in a high-quality laboratory.</p>

**Thames Valley Berkshire 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.