

£17.2M EXPANSION OF GROWTH DEAL BOOSTS LOCAL PLAN FOR LANCASHIRE ECONOMY

The Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership has agreed an expansion to its Growth Deal with the Government which will see an extra £17.2m invested in Lancashire between 2016 and 2021. The Government will work with the LEP to bring together other funding- including the Public Works Loan Board - to support the delivery of this deal. This is in addition to the £233.9m 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 8000 new jobs could be created, 3000 new homes built and that it has the potential to generate £280m public and private investment.

The additional proposed projects include:

- **The Engineering and Innovation Centre** at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) campus in Preston. It will deliver an Engineering Transformation Programme to enhance UCLan's capabilities in knowledge exchange, training and research.
- **Burnley Visions Park** which will maximise the benefits of a new £90m Further and Higher Education Campus by developing a high quality business park, to provide a continuum of business accommodation aimed at LEP priority sectors.
- **Rawtenstall Redevelopment Zone** will support the development of a new bus station and a mix of retail, leisure and housing units above one of the retail blocks.
- **M6 J28 improvements & Business Growth Centre** which will investment in the provision of a start-up / incubation led site at Shady Lane that can provide flexible space for start-up businesses and SME's adjacent to the new housing development.
- **Making Rooms - Lancashire's first FabLab**, a fabrication laboratory which will offer companies, educational establishments and individuals open access to Additive manufacturing technologies along with on-site technical expertise.
- **Redevelopment of Brierfield Mill** – reviving this historic building and local landmark into a new business and leisure destination

In addition the Government is also committing in principle support for an **Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing Exploitation Centre**, which will support the strengthening of small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) through access to new technology & innovation for key sectors including for the emerging unconventional oil and gas sector. The funding for this project will be confirmed through future Growth Deals

The Lancashire 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 Lancashire 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 Lancashire, 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 Lancashire 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 Lancashire more power over skills, over business support, over infrastructure spending.

“I am delighted to announce the expansion of the Lancashire 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 Edwin Booth said:

"We are building a hugely significant economic programme, which will deliver new investment, employment and housing growth opportunities in Lancashire. Today's expansion to our Growth Deal announcement represents a further vote of confidence in the work of the LEP and its local partners".

Jennifer Mein, LEP Board member and Leader of Lancashire County Council said:

"The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and local partners have developed an expanded Growth Deal programme which supports the delivery of Lancashire's long-term economic plan. The LEP's approach to supporting schemes that will create jobs and investment in the Lancashire economy underlines the value of local partners working together in pursuit of common objectives".

Tim Webber MBE, Chairman and Chief Executive of Barnfield Construction Ltd said:

"I am pleased to see the hard work of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and local partners like ourselves has been recognised by the Government. We are committed to working with the LEP to deliver projects that will improve our local communities whilst continuing to make Lancashire a great place to work and invest in".

FACTSHEET

1. How much is the Government investing in Lancashire as part of the Growth Deal?

	Initial Growth Deal (July 2014)	Expansion – additional funding awarded (Jan 2015)	Total Expanded Growth Deal
Local Growth Fund	£233.9m	£17.2m	£251.1m

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

- **The Engineering and Innovation Centre** at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) campus in Preston. It will deliver an Engineering Transformation Programme to enhance UCLan's capabilities in knowledge exchange, training and research.
- **Burnley Visions Park** which will maximise the benefits of a new £90m Further and Higher Education Campus by developing a high quality business park, to provide a continuum of business accommodation aimed at LEP priority sectors.
- **Rawtenstall Redevelopment Zone** will support the development of a new bus station and a mix of retail, leisure and housing units above one of the retail blocks.
- **M6 J28 improvements & Business Growth Centre** which will investment in the provision of a start-up / incubation led site at Shady Lane that can provide flexible space for start-up businesses and SME's adjacent to the new housing development.
- **Making Rooms - Lancashire's first FabLab**, a fabrication laboratory which will offer companies, educational establishments and individuals open access to Additive manufacturing technologies along with on-site technical expertise.
- **Redevelopment of Brierfield Mill** – reviving this historic building and local landmark into a new business and leisure destination

In addition the Government is also committing in principle support for an **Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing Exploitation Centre**, which will support the strengthening of small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) through access to new technology & innovation for key sectors including for the emerging unconventional oil and gas sector. The funding for this project will be confirmed through future Growth Deals

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

- **Centenary Way Viaduct Maintenance** - The project will bring about essential maintenance and repairs to this key bridge structure in Burnley, enabling it to operate to full capacity and support town centre growth.
- **Blackpool Integrated Traffic Management** - project will provide an Intelligent Transport System (ITS) that will reduce pedestrian / vehicle conflict on the Promenade by offering alternative route and improving public transport performance, whilst supporting the illuminations and other event management.
- **Blackpool Bridges Maintenance** - will repair 11 defective bridge structures across Blackpool, which are either failing or have restrictions placed on them, thus ensuring key corridors to the resort remain open.
- **Blackburn Town Centre Improvements** - This project comprises a range of small interventions linked to the Blackburn Town Centre Transport Strategy, and will underpin existing town centre developments including the Cathedral Quarter and the Freckleton Street Knowledge Zone.
- **Preston City Centre to Bus Station improvements** - will enable the extension of the Fishergate public realm improvements from their current point to the bus station, integrating the city's two public transport hubs and supporting future development and modernisation of both the rail and bus stations.
- **M55 to St Anne's Link Road** - will provide a new road connecting the south of Blackpool to the north of St Annes, having a positive impact upon future employment sites (including Whitehills and Blackpool Airport), new housing growth (Heyhouses) and upon tourism, including future hosting of the R&A Open Golf Championships.
- **Heritage Visitor Attraction** - project will create a new tourist attraction based around Blackpool's resort heritage, proposed for the Winter Gardens.
- **FE Skills capital** – programme of investment in Energy and Engineering facilities, estate renewal of poor quality college accommodation
- **Lancaster Health Innovation Park** - will establish new facilities and a test space for companies carrying out product and service development in collaboration with the university and healthcare bodies.
- **Blackburn to Bolton Rail Corridor** - Project will deliver line improvements to support an enhanced train frequency between Darwen, Blackburn, Ribble Valley and Manchester, thus supporting greater commuting journeys into Manchester and improved opportunities those travelling into Lancashire from Greater Manchester.
- **Burnley – Pendle Growth Corridor** - project targets junction improvements and other transport improvements to release additional site capacity, and enable quicker movement of goods, services and people through this key Economic Corridor.

- **East Lancashire Cycle Network** - enables better cycle access between major residential areas and places of employment.
- **Preston Western Distributor** - will link the A583/A584 to the motorway network via a new junction (junction 2) on the M55, improving access to the Warton site of the Lancashire EZ and enable the comprehensive development of the North West Preston strategic housing location.
- **A6 Broughton Bypass** - will provide critical congestion relief on the A6 to the north of Preston, also unlocking housing sites and enabling full development of new and future employment sites in Preston East.
- **Blackpool Town Centre Green Corridors** - will create green infrastructure corridors to Blackpool Town Centre, improving gateway and arrival points into the town centre.
- **Blackpool-Fleetwood Tramway extension** - will extend the existing Blackpool tram network to Blackpool North Railway Station, creating seamless rail provision for visitors to Blackpool and residents of the Fylde Coast.
- **Darwen East Distributor Route** - will provide a new road that will support significant new housing development to the east of Darwen.

3. How does this benefit the people of Lancashire?

The Lancashire Growth Deal aims to realise the growth potential of the whole of Lancashire, building on key local economic assets including the universities and colleges, the Lancashire Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing Enterprise Zone, the Preston and South Ribble Lancashire City Deal, and the high value business clusters in Central and East Lancashire.

This expansion to the Growth Deal will support the development of a state-of-the-art engineering building at UCLan's Preston campus and provide a dedicated space for applied research and development. It will also help to up-skill the existing workforce and provide additional graduate engineers to meet increasing demand from industry.

The extended Deal will also help retain and grow jobs with the development of new and existing business parks in Chorley and Burnley and the expansion of new retail, leisure and housing units in Rawtenstall.

According to estimates by the LEP, the Growth Deal will bring to Lancashire:

- Up to 8000 jobs
- Up to 3000 homes
- Up to £280m in public and private investment

4. What is the benefit for local businesses?

The Growth Deal confirms additional funding for the UCLaN Engineering and Innovation centre and Lancashire's first FabLab, which will deliver significant new programmes to support the growth of local engineering and manufacturing companies. These facilities will include specialist labs for innovation and prototype development, access to additive manufacturing technologies and will assist supply chain development and interaction with the engineering related knowledge base.

It will also support the improvement and expansion of quality commercial premises across Lancashire through the introduction and redevelopment of business sites in Rawtenstall, Chorley and Burnley.

5. Facts and figures

Growing Places Fund total allocation: £19.4

Enterprise Zone funding: £14.5m

Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire- The City Deal created an Infrastructure Delivery Programme and Investment Fund, which together are worth £434 million, leading to £2.3 billion commercial investment and build a Preston Western Distributor to link the A583/A584 to the motorway via a new junction on the M55, which will accommodate 4,000 new homes.

Regional Growth Fund: Lancashire LEP area has to date received £38.2m investment from the Regional Growth Fund and could also benefit from £12.8m invested in neighbouring LEPs.

Coastal Communities Fund: £4,073,071