

GROWTH DEALS 3 FACTSHEET – Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

1. How much is the Government investing in Black Country as part of the Growth Deal programme?

	Growth Deal One (July 2014)	Growth Deal Two (Jan 2015)	Growth Deal Three (Nov 2016)
Local Growth Fund Award	£138.7 million	£24 million	£55.05 million
Total Award	£217.75 million		

2. What will this new funding deliver?

This new tranche of funding is expected to deliver:

- The **Black Country Garden City** project, resulting in use of brownfield land for imaginative place-shaping and the creation of sustainable communities. Working with public and private sector partners the LEP will deliver a 21st century Black Country interpretation of a garden city in an urban setting;
- The **High Value Manufacturing City** which is an innovative platform designed to accelerate the growth of leading design, manufacturing and engineering businesses in the Black Country;
- **Skills capital** investment will deliver further improvements to the local skills infrastructure, mirroring the delivery of previous innovative solutions including the award-winning Skills Factory and the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills. This will enable the LEP's employer-led skills system to meet the skills needs of Black Country businesses; and
- **The Connecting Our Region** programme of transport interventions which will tackle congestion, improve access to the motorway network, develop sustainable choices of transport and provide access to key employment sites. These include transport infrastructure at Birchley Island, improvements around Junction 4 of the M54 to improve access to the extended i54 site and other sustainable transport measures.

3. What has previous funding delivered?

This builds on previous Growth Deal investments in the Black Country which have funded the following projects:

- **Goscote Lane Corridor – £8.8 million of Growth Deal funding currently supporting an £87 million housing regeneration programme.** The development will see 741 new energy-efficient homes, created along with improved infrastructure and environment;
- **Advanced Science, Engineering & Technology Centre - £1 million of Growth Deal funding has enabled delivery of a £3.7 million skills capital development at Halesowen College.** This new centre, now operational, will meet identified skills gaps and has the backing of major local businesses The focus is on advanced and higher apprenticeships in digital media, science, engineering, IT and business;

- **Wolverhampton Interchange - £13.5 million of Growth Deal funding currently supporting a £120 million transformational connectivity programme.** The centrepiece of the Interchange masterplan will be a new mainline railway station at the heart of the UK's high speed rail network, serving over 4.75 million passengers per year. A refurbished and extended multi-storey car park has almost doubled capacity to provide more than 800 spaces. Proposals from Transport for the West Midlands are also progressing in parallel, with plans to extend the Metro route, linking the existing network to the bus and railway stations. Together with the upgraded bus, rail and tram facilities and connectivity, new office, leisure and retail opportunities will be created; and
- **M6 Junction 10 - £30 million Local Growth Fund investment to complement over £30 million from Highways England.** A junction improvement scheme to tackle local congestion and improve access to nearby regeneration corridors.

4. How will this benefit local businesses?

Through this round of Growth Deal funding the Black Country LEP estimates it will lever £195 million of private sector investment and £25 million from public sector partners. Over 40 hectares of brownfield land will be reclaimed providing 39,200 sqm of commercial floorspace. The resulting growth in businesses could create 2,700 jobs, 1,300 of which would be apprenticeships.

The deal will also address capacity issues around Birchley Island through a major improvement to the linked junctions of Birchley Island and M5, Junction 2, as well as around the i54 Enterprise Zone through highways investment at Junction 2 on the M54. The improvements have been identified as a pre-requisite of planning consents for the proposed extension of the business park, which the LEP estimates could create between 2,900 and 7,000 jobs in the automotive sector.

5. How does this announcement link to the Midlands Engine?

Through the Local Growth Fund, central government has already agreed £1.5 billion worth of investment in the Midlands, supporting locally-led projects to boost economic growth. This additional funding round will provide an extra boost of **£392 million** to LEPs based in the Midlands. This funding will be used to provide vital investment for transport, infrastructure, skills, innovation and business-support projects, acting as a catalyst for growth and building towards the Prime Minister's vision of an economy that works for everyone, up and down the country.

6. What is the connection between devolution and the Local Growth Fund?

As part of our efforts to deliver an economy that works for everyone, the Government is devolving wide-ranging powers directly from Whitehall to local people who know their areas best. Opportunities for growth are best identified by those with detailed local knowledge, and the Local Growth Fund enables places to tailor transformational interventions to local circumstances.

The West Midlands devolution deal is one of 8 across the country – 7 of which will have directly elected mayors. It means decisions that have previously been made in

Westminster will now be made in the areas they affect most. The Black Country propositions align directly to a number of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) priority programme areas and the first West Midlands devolution deal:

- The WMCA Programme on **New Manufacturing Excellence** relates to actions to build on the fact that the West Midlands is home to one of the biggest concentrations of high value manufacturing businesses in Europe and to ensure that their global companies are supplied by clusters of local businesses. This aligns directly to the Black Country **HVM City** Programme. The devolution deal's £200 million land remediation fund will allow brownfield land to be brought back into use for housing and employment will support growth of the Black Country to deliver the WMCA SEP ambitions;
- The WMCA programme on **HS2 Growth** aims to maximise the benefits of the largest infrastructure project in Europe for a decade to drive economic growth across the Midlands. The devolution deal supports the delivery of the metro extensions to Brierley Hill in the Black Country;
- Another of the WMCA strategic priority areas relates to housing and actions to accelerate the delivery of the current housing plan and enable an increase in the level of house building to support the growth envisaged in the WMCA SEP. The **Black Country Garden City** will enable the delivery of the WMCA SEP ambitions; and
- **Skills for the Supply Chain and Employment for All** is a programme of activity to ensure that business' skills needs are met and that everybody has the opportunity to benefit from economic growth. The devolution deal will also see devolved funding and responsibility for administering the 19+ adult skills budget and business support programmes. The Growth Deal skills capital programme will ensure the infrastructure is available to support the needs of Black Country business and our transformational sectors.

Other Sources of Funding for LEPs

This is currently the last round of Growth Deals that will take place in this Parliament. However, LEPs are eligible to bid for many other sources of funding, which they can use to make investments in significant economic projects in their local area.

Black Country LEP has successfully secured additional investment so far which is helping to fund a number of projects:

- £16.4 million to develop land for industrial use as part of the **Enterprise Zone** programme;
- **Growing Places Fund:** £14.5 million is used for a revolving fund facility to unlock development;

- **Regional Growth Fund:** £23.5 million is being used for industrial expansion to create employment, for example Thomas Dudley being provided with a £700,000 grant to expand its foundry and create 60 jobs;
- **EU funding:** €177.4 million to be spent within the Black Country. The Black Country has, with local partners, developed an investment strategy for the structural funds which addresses local issues. The programme is profiled to provide assistance to over 8,000 Black Country SMEs to engage with business support to improve their performance and develop new to market products. The programme is also providing training and back to work support across the area, as well as support to reduce carbon emissions and improve 40 hectares of biodiversity;
- **The West Midlands devolution deal** provides £36.5 million per year for 30 years of Gainshare funding. This will be invested by the West Midlands Combined Authority, which covers the Black Country LEP area, to drive growth in the region; and
- **Black Country LEP's City Deal** consists of £5.8 million of funding plus a £20 million loan facility. This is being invested to create 1,500 more apprentices in high value manufacturing, to develop a pilot project to assist hard to reach unemployed people, to establish a Growth Hub and to create a £20 million Public Works Loan Board facility to unlock sites.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said:

“This Government is backing the Black Country with this new £55.1 million funding pot. Exciting projects to benefit include a new Garden City and investment in skills to match the needs of local employers.

“This new money will help create jobs, boost skills and give businesses support.

“Local people will also have the chance to have their say and vote on 4 May for their new mayor.”

Stewart Towe, Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Chair, said:

“The Local Growth Fund is already helping the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership to invest in, and change the landscape of, the whole Black Country. New build specialist training facilities to support hands on skills development, new homes for our residents and investment in infrastructure will connect all these fantastic people and places.

“This new investment will enable us to quicken the pace of delivery alongside our private and public sector partners in order that we deliver our ambitious plans for homes, our travel network and investing in programmes designed to ensure the Black Country is globally recognised as the area that is setting the pace in design and manufacture of high value products. Through local growth funding we are securing a strong economic future for the Black Country.”