

PRESS RELEASE

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Leeds City Region scoops further funding for jobs and growth

The Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has secured a further £54.6m Growth Deal funding from government to create jobs and support business growth in Leeds City Region.

As a result, the overall investment could bring up to 10,000 jobs, 2,000 new homes and up to £640m public and private sector investment to Leeds City Region.

This new funding is on top of the £1 billion deal agreed in July 2014 which saw the Leeds City Region awarded the largest settlement of any LEP area in the country.

Projects to benefit from this round of investment include:

- **Housing and Regeneration programmes** that will enable housing and employment growth
- A funding boost for the **LEP's business grants programme**, helping more companies grow, innovate and exploit supply chain opportunities
- **Innovation and Enterprise centres** at the Universities of Huddersfield and Leeds, forging links between business and universities, particularly in the health and medical, advanced manufacturing, and digital and creative sectors
- Funding to exploit **new resource efficient technologies** to provide low cost, local energy

Roger Marsh, Chair of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) said: "This expansion of the £1 billion Growth Deal we secured last summer is further demonstration of the government's confidence in Leeds City Region as an economic powerhouse-in-the-making, capable of generating extraordinary growth for the North and the nation, and transforming us into a net contributor to national wealth.

"I welcome this additional funding, which will enable us to support more local small businesses to reach their full growth potential, boost innovation and enterprise in manufacturing, healthcare, digital and other fast-growing sectors, and invest in low-cost, efficient local energy that will make our region a global leader in the low carbon energy revolution.

"Most importantly, this investment will enable us to go further and faster in delivering the ambition set out in our Strategic Economic Plan of creating sustained good growth that benefits everyone who lives and does business here."

Councillor Peter Box, Leader of Wakefield Council and Chair of the West Yorkshire

Combined Authority said: “We have proved in the Leeds City Region that strong partnership working between the public and private sectors delivers better economic outcomes, quicker and at better value for the taxpayer than centrally administered schemes.

“With this additional investment we will be able to build upon work already underway and create more jobs and economic opportunities for local people and businesses – including building more good quality, affordable homes to meet current and future demand, helping reduce energy bills for local people and small businesses, and investing in world-class college facilities to help our young people to develop the skills they need to thrive in a fast-paced labour market.

“We are clear though, in our ongoing dialogue with government, that this must be a staging post in our journey towards full devolution and giving our City Region all of the tools it needs to unleash its enormous economic potential.”

The LEP’s funding programmes - which have now supported over 350 businesses with the potential for 3,500 jobs to be created - have received an additional £16m as part of this new deal, providing additional funding to small businesses looking to expand and create jobs.

There will be an extra £20m for schemes that will bring housing and employment growth sites forward for development, supporting the LEP’s ambition to double the rate of house building. Funding has also been secured to exploit new resource efficient technologies and provide low cost, local energy.

Important new support for business innovation has been agreed, one of the key drivers of growth in the City Region. Huddersfield University will receive investment in an Incubation and Innovation Centre to support business in the advanced manufacturing and creative and digital sectors. University of Leeds will also receive investment for an Innovation and Enterprise Centre, to provide incubation space for high tech companies, primarily in the health and medical sector. These new centres will help businesses form and develop in high technology sectors, supporting innovation and retaining business talent in the region.

Further skills capital funding has been secured to create world class learning facilities in further education colleges and training providers, particularly those that will support training in highly skilled jobs such as engineering and manufacturing. This builds on the £74 million secured in the first round of funding and supports the LEP’s priority of developing a skilled and flexible workforce.

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 here in the Leeds City Region, 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 the Leeds City Region area 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 Leeds more power over skills, over business support, over infrastructure spending.

“I am delighted to announce the expansion of the Leeds City Region 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.”

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Notes to editors

Breakdown of Growth Deal funding to the Leeds City Region:

	July 2014 Total funding awarded	Jan 2015 Total additional funding awarded	Total Deal
Local Growth Fund	£572.9m	£54.6m	£627.5m

The Leeds City Region £1bn Deal includes a £573m settlement between 2015 and 2021 secured from the first round of government Local Growth Fund, to deliver the ambitious growth agenda outlined in the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). Unlike anywhere else in the country, the LEP secured a further £420m to deliver the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund in a 20-year agreement.