

CORNWALL & ISLES OF SCILLY LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP GROWTH DEAL

The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal aims to create a thriving and vibrant local economy. Alongside the LEP's EU Structural Investment Framework, the Growth Deal will play a key role in overcoming the barriers holding back the area and delivering the LEP's strategy for growth. Investments are focussed on high growth, high value specialist business sectors such as marine energy as well as raising productivity and employment in the economy as a whole and improving infrastructure. By increasing the growth of the local economy, the LEP's ambition is to reduce the area's dependency on EU funds and Government support, and graduation from less developed area status from 2020.

The Growth Deal, subject to a satisfactory conclusion of the funding agreement, will bring together local, national and private funding as well as new freedoms and flexibilities to focus on five key priority areas as identified in the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan:

- Local EU programme management
- Improving public transport
- Delivering infrastructure to release growth sites and enable development
- Increasing business engagement in schools
- Supporting growth in key sectors

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP has secured **£48.9m from the Government's Local Growth Fund to support economic growth in the area – with £10.4m of new funding confirmed for 2015/16 and £17.1m for 2016/17 to 2021.** This includes:

- As part of the Government's ongoing commitment to the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP an indicative award of a further £12.5m of funding for projects starting in 2016 and beyond; and
- £8.9m of funding which the Government has previously committed as part of Local Growth Deal funding to the area.

This substantial investment from Government will **bring forward at least £150m of additional investment from local partners and the private sector. Combined together this will create a total new investment package of £198.9m for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP.**

By 2021, this Deal will create at least 4,000 jobs and allow 6,000 homes to be built.

Summary of the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP Growth Deal projects and funding

This Growth Deal brings together different funding streams designed to support local growth, and with a share of the new Local Growth Fund, gives local partners the backing to focus on local priorities.

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP Local Growth Fund breakdown (£m)			
	2015/6	2016 onwards	Total
Local Growth Fund award	10.4	17.1	27.5
Previously committed funding	0.6	8.3	8.9
Provisional allocation to projects starting in 2016/17 and beyond	-	12.5	12.5
Total	11	37.9	48.9

These totals exclude match funding for European Social Fund skills activities. The total amount of European Social Fund skills activity LEPs have planned in their draft strategies over the 7 year programme is currently just over 1 billion euros. Actual skills European Social Fund match will be used on the basis of the skills activity which is delivered at LEP level according to their final strategies.

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP and Central Government have agreed to co-invest in the following jointly-agreed priorities:

- **Night Riviera Sleeper Service** Improvements to the Night Riviera Sleeper Service including increased capacity, upgraded sleeper berths and lounge area and space for bicycles and surf boards. This is part of a package of projects supported by Government that will see the Traincare Centre for maintenance of the Sleeper Service relocated to Penzance.
- **A38 Cornwall Gateway** Improvements to Carkeel Junction that will deliver benefits to Cornwall's connectivity with the UK and accelerate new employment and housing development in Saltash.
- **Newquay Growth Area** Supporting access to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's Enterprise Zone at Aerohub – Newquay Cornwall Airport and housing and employment in the Newquay Growth Area through delivery of transport improvements along the Newquay Strategic Route.
- **Falmouth Gateway** Improvements include a new roundabout junction to unblock a key pinch point on the highway network that will accelerate housing and employment growth in support of Cornwall's strategic education and employment sites.
- **Bodmin Cornwall's Cycling Town** Improvements to the extensive walking and cycling network in Bodmin to accelerate growth in the local economy and create a more sustainable travel pattern.
- **Truro Western Corridor** Package of schemes to accelerate housing a job growth along a key corridor into Truro, including capacity improvements at Threemilestone roundabout and the delivery of critical walking and cycle links along the Western Corridor.

Central Government has agreed provisional allocations to the following projects starting in 16/17 and beyond:

- **Bus Network Improvements** Package of improvements to the bus network to facilitate the access to employment, skills and services required by a growing economy.
- **West Cornwall Transport Interchange** Creation of a new bus rail interchange including improvements to the A30 junction, Parkway Station and refurbished and improved passenger facilities.

Local flexibility over Growth Deal programme: Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP has demonstrated strong partnership arrangements which deliver collective decisions, has articulated a clear and deliverable vision for growth in the area, and has established strong financial monitoring procedures and cross local authority collaboration. Government will disburse funds to the LEP annually in advance. The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP will be expected to deliver the projects highlighted in the Deal, but will have flexibility over the management of these projects in order to deliver the greatest economic benefits to the area. Any significant changes to the projects will need to be discussed with the Government in advance.

The Growth Deal does not amount to an endorsement of everything in the submitted Strategic Economic Plan. All development decisions for specific proposals must go through the normal planning process and be guided by local plans taking into account all material considerations.

The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP Growth Deal

The investment secured by the deal will be focused on five key areas to deliver transformative growth:

Local EU Programme Management - Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI):

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are unique. Under the new EU Structural Funds arrangements they constitute the only Less Developed Region in England, with the highest EU allocation outside London at just under 600 Million Euros. They also have unique growth potential. The Growth Deal recognises the need to use the maximum flexibility and investment available in order to enable the growth potential of the LEP area. As a result of its unique status, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's money from the EU Structural Funds is ring-fenced and cannot be spent anywhere else. Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will decide how it is spent. Through the Growth Deal Government has agreed to work with the LEP to establish a Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Territorial Investment to better integrate structural funds at the LEP level. The Integrated Territorial Investment will be taken forward on the basis that it is not delivered through an Intermediate Body. Government will seek to fully clarify this point with the European Commission; Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will be invited to be part of those discussions. This will be recognised in the National Partnership Agreement and European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund Operational Programmes, and will be part of the Government's negotiating position with the European Commission.

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP commitments	Central Government commitments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornwall Council will prioritise its own Capital Programme in order to align it with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly EU Structural Funds Integrated Territorial Investment up to a maximum of £60 million, when it is agreed with the Commission. This funding will be used to maximise the impact of the programme. • Cornwall and Isles of Scilly will invest repaid Growing Places Funding (projected to be £4m) as additional match funding to the EU programme for their proposed Financial Instrument. • Cornwall and Isles of Scilly will match fund the Technical Assistance required to deliver the Integrated Territorial Investment locally and will work with government on the design and delivery of a complementary local Technical Assistance Strategy for the administration of the Structural Funds in Cornwall & Isles of Scilly. • Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will resource the production of the Integrated Territorial Investment Strategy for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to include elements from the national ERDF and ESF Operational Programmes as well as a Financial Instrument for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and the use of the Community Led Local Development delivery mechanism. • Cornwall Council and the Council of the Isles of Scilly will maintain investment in Economic Development over the programme period in order to match fund key projects and programmes and drive the Government's growth and devolution agenda in line with both the Heseltine Review and 'Local Growth: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government will work with the LEP to design the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly EU Structural Funds Integrated Territorial Investment as set out in the guidance from the European Commission. The Integrated Territorial Investment will be taken forward on the basis that it is not delivered through an Intermediate Body. We will seek to fully clarify this point with the European Commission; Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will be part of those discussions. This will be recognised in the National Partnership Agreement and ERDF and ESF Operational Programmes. Cornwall & Isles of Scilly will be offered a seat on the Growth Programme Board and the ERDF and ESF Programme Monitoring Committees. • Cornwall & Isles of Scilly will have a seat on the Government negotiating team for the ERDF and ESF Operational Programmes to support discussions on Cornwall & Isles of Scilly issues; Government will work with Cornwall & Isles of Scilly on the fast track implementation of Community Led Local Development to ensure it meets the needs of local communities, as set out in the LEP's Structural and Investment Fund Strategy. • Devolve the delivery of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly elements of the communications strategy for the Structural funds, funded by Technical Assistance, within EU legislative requirements. • Alignment with other EU funds such as Horizon 2020. • Government will work with Cornwall & Isles of Scilly to develop a locally tailored and branded suite of business support, taking into account national programme branding protocols where appropriate.

<p>Realising Every Places Potential’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornwall Council will support their proposed approach to Community Led Local Development by investing in programme delivery and provide a cash flow facility to speed up investment. • Cornwall Council will continue their investment in the Cornwall Brussels Office to facilitate good working relations with the European Commission. • Cornwall and Isles of Scilly will ‘Opt in’ to all Government’s proposed national products subject to final agreement of outputs and value for money. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government will continue to support the development of a revolving community infrastructure fund as a Financial Instrument. • Government will explore with Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly the potential for cooperation with public bodies which deliver the priorities in the LEP’s Strategic Economic Plan.
--	--

Improving Public Transport

A growing economy in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly requires robust public transport infrastructure to facilitate access to employment and education opportunities. The Growth Deal will invest in projects to improve current bus, rail and air connections. The Government has committed to a package of rail improvements around mainline signalling improvements, new Sleeper maintenance facilities in Penzance and upgrade of the Night Riviera Sleeper coaches that will support the wider delivery of 2,715 jobs across the LEP area. In addition, work will begin on a bus network review and a Bus and Integrated Transport Strategy to identify and progress improvements that are needed to the bus network.

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP commitments	Central Government commitments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornwall commits to paying Network Rail the financing costs of bringing forward the resignalling of the Cornish Main Line from CP6 to CP5 to allow more frequent services to operate. • Invest £32.6m in the package of rail improvements around mainline signalling improvements, new Sleeper maintenance facilities in Penzance and upgrade of the Night Riviera Sleeper coaches. • Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership and partners commit to fund, develop and deliver a Bus and Integrated Transport Strategy (including Bus Network Review). • The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP and partners agree to the LEP to take a more proactive role in consultation on long-term rail planning and franchise specification; and provide a co-ordinating role between constituent local authorities. • Progress on the development and delivery of the priority transport schemes identified by the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Transport Body that are fundable within available pre-allocated Local Growth Fund resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government has committed to a package of rail improvements for Cornwall around mainline signalling improvements, new Sleeper maintenance facilities in Penzance and upgrade of the Night Riviera Sleeper coaches. Heads of Terms have been signed with Cornwall Council and First Great Western and announced on 3 July 2014. The Office of the Rail Regulator has confirmed its agreement to this in principle and Cornwall is awaiting formal confirmation from Network Rail that it will bring the resignalling scheme forward. • Investment of £7m in the Night Riviera Sleeper Service. • The Department for Transport commit to work with the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership and local partners on a Bus Network Review; Bus and Integrated Transport Strategy development and delivery (including the provision of capital grant for new buses via the Local Growth Fund, subject to due diligence from existing budgets); share best practice from existing Government-funded rural bus studies; and consider Cornwall favourably for pilots. Government will also work with the LEP and partners to identify any potential legislative changes that could be delivered in the next Parliament to further achieve the objectives of the

	<p>strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department for Transport and Network Rail commit to more proactive engagement of the Local Enterprise Partnership in the long-term rail planning process (e.g. Route Studies) and in rail franchise specification through targeted local engagement of the Local Enterprise Partnership as part of an enhanced consultation process. The Department for Transport also commits to encourage bidders for franchises to identify and take into account the priorities of Local Enterprise Partnerships and other key local stakeholders as part of the franchising process, and will also encourage Train Operating Companies to continue with, and enhance where possible, their engagement with Local Enterprise Partnerships as key local stakeholders. • Government is willing to deliver a Public Service Obligation agreement for the Newquay to London Air Link. The tender process for the subsidy is underway through the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) published on 9 June 2014. It is anticipated that the preferred bidder will be announced in early autumn 2014. • Provisional allocation of £8m in 16/17 and beyond for bus network improvements. • Provisional allocation of £4.5m in 16/17 and beyond for the West Cornwall Transport Interchange.
--	---

Delivering Infrastructure to Release Growth Sites and Enable Development

The Growth Deal provides investment to both improve Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's connectivity to the rest of the UK and to enable the development of key employment and housing sites through town based infrastructure packages. Investment in the A38 at Carkeel Roundabout will help reduce journey times into Cornwall and support the delivery of 1,000 homes and 1,300 jobs. In addition, investment in infrastructure packages in Newquay, Falmouth, Bodmin and Truro will collectively support the delivery of around 4,000 homes and 1,100 jobs.

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP commitments	Central Government commitments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest £0.3m in A38 Cornwall Gateway, leveraging in £5.5m private sector funding. • Invest £0.9m in Newquay Growth Area. • Invest £0.3m in Falmouth Gateway. • Investment of £0.6m in Bodmin, Cornwall's Cycling Town. • Investment of £0.7m in the Truro Western Corridor (with £3.1m forward funding). • The Local Enterprise Partnership agrees to take a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment of £3.5m in A38 Cornwall Gateway (with £0.3m in 15/16). • Investment of £2m in Newquay Growth Area (with £0.2m in 15/16). • Investment of £0.9m in Falmouth Gateway (with £0.4m in 15/16). • Investment of £5.8m in Bodmin, Cornwall's Cycling Town (with £1.8m in 15/16). • Investment of £8.2m in the Truro Western Corridor (with £0.6m in 15/16).

<p>more proactive role in consultation on long-term strategic road network planning and provide a co-ordinating role between constituent local authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the extension of superfast broadband coverage (30+Mbps) to 95% of premises by 2017 and 99% of premises by 2020; to connect 500+ additional businesses to ultrafast broadband (100+Mbps); to drive a demand stimulation and exploitation programme; and, help secure match for the next round of projects. • The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP and local planning authorities commit to working together to deliver the housing provided for in Local Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Highways Agency commits to developing a more proactive and collaborative approaches to promoting national and local growth and commits to continue building strong relationships and working arrangements with Local Enterprise Partnerships and the Local Enterprise Partnership Network, in the same way as with Local and Combined Authorities and the Local Government Association. Through its Route Strategies, the Highways Agency will engage the Local Enterprise Partnership in better understanding the challenges and opportunities associated with the network and to develop evidence based long-term plans to bring about much needed local economic growth and development, and commits to providing each Local Enterprise Partnership with a named contact, generally the relevant regional director. The Highways Agency commits to forming a Growth and Economic Development Group to support Local Enterprise Partnerships at a national and sub-national level, and a draft licence published on 23rd June 2014 for the new Highway Agency company includes a requirement to co-operate, which will underpin the arrangements described above. • The Homes and Communities Agency is supportive of closer working with the LEP to identify the potential for collaboration within the existing programmes. • Government and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP recognise investment is needed to ensure water and sewerage infrastructure meets modern standards removing a potential barrier to future economic growth on the islands. Government commits to continue working with the LEP to consider options for this investment, but at this stage cannot pre-empt any decisions.
--	--

Increasing Business Engagement in Schools:

It is important that young people are given the opportunity to make informed choices about the education, employment and training opportunities available to them as they start their career. Local Enterprise Partnerships are well-positioned to enhance the current Careers Information, Advice and Guidance offer by tailoring provision to the needs of the local economy. Moreover, they have the ability to link employers with education providers; can have strategic influence over skills supply; and have the ability to coordinate local services towards a shared goal.

Government welcomes Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP’s ambition to strengthen the link between education providers and businesses in the local area. Through the Growth Deal, Government will work with Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP to explore the feasibility of implementing a programme of Enterprise Advisers in line with Lord Young’s recommendation in his review ‘Enterprise for All’, in addition to wider school-business linkage activities. Advisers would be volunteers drawn from local private and public sector organisations and would advise head teachers and teachers on how employers can engage with schools. The Government remains committed to helping all young people to achieve their potential and specifically to reduce long-term youth unemployment. As part of this commitment, the government provided £1.4m through the Plymouth and South Peninsula City Deal to support a youth and employer scheme, including through the use of personalised case workers for young people at risk of long term

unemployment. Alongside this Growth Deal, the Government expects Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP to deliver against its commitments towards youth employment.

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP commitments	Central Government commitments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEP commits to work with Government to explore the design of a programme of Enterprise Advisers to advise schools on how to drive employer engagement. • The LEP is committed to developing and delivering a new approach to raising aspirations and achievements in our schools. • The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP will facilitate stronger linkage between education providers and local businesses. The LEP will also work with relevant local stakeholders to communicate their priorities and align their offer to the National Careers Service providers ahead of the new service's roll-out in October 2014 in order to augment the service. • The LEP will consider employment and skills implications as part of decision taking on growth strategies. • The LEP will clearly articulate and evidence their skills priorities in the light of strategic national and local growth opportunities and communicate them to the FE, HE and skills sector. • The LEP will positively engage the FE, HE and skills sector in its Employment and Skills Board. • The LEP will recognise where the private sector has a responsibility to invest in skills provision and work with business and the skills system to realise that investment. • The LEP will open up new jobs associated with the Local Growth Fund to local unemployed and long-term unemployed people working closely with local and national back to work initiatives. This would be part of a wider expectation that local areas use the Social Value Act, drawing on best practice across local councils and central expertise in maximising social value. • Alongside this Growth Deal, the LEP, as a partner of the Plymouth and South Peninsula City Deal, will deliver against its commitments towards youth employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government commits to work with the LEP to explore the design of a programme of Enterprise Advisers, in addition to wider school-business linkage activities, and allocate funding for such a project subject to further discussions. • Government commits to facilitating the involvement of outstanding school leaders to support local activity to raise educational achievement. • The Government commits to working with The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP to help ensure that local employer priorities are fed into the operations of the new National Careers Service providers in South West. • Government, through the Skills Funding Agency, will support the process to ensure that provision meets local priorities and that increasing responsiveness is delivered through a three-pronged approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Procurement of new provision: LEPs will be involved throughout the process and providers' track records against LEP requirements will be considered as part of this assessment; ○ Accountability: Providers will be required through their funding agreements with the Agency to explain to LEPs details of their provision and planning and we are testing ways in which they can be most effectively held to account for being responsive to local economic priorities. The Skills Funding Agency is trialling Skills Incentives Pilots from 2014/15 in Stoke and Staffordshire, the North East and West of England, designed to explore the mechanisms through which providers will account to LEPs for delivery; ○ Allocations and Intervention: In future years providers' records in delivering to LEP requirements will be taken into account when setting allocations and triggering interventions. From 2015/16 the Skills Funding Agency will take into account the outcomes of the Skills Incentive Pilots in Stoke and Staffordshire, the North East and West of England, in making allocations to

	<p>those providers in scope; subject to evaluation of the pilots, these mechanisms will be rolled out to other LEPs in future years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government will set out revised information for LEPs on how they can take advantage of this approach and options for seeking advice if provision is not responsive to their needs. The Skills Funding Agency will publish information during summer 2014 on how LEPs can influence the use of all skills budgets in their localities, and the steps they can take if they are dissatisfied with the pattern of delivery. • Government will seek to improve the provision of skills data for LEPs and will develop and publish new reports that will quantify and assess responsiveness to local skills needs. In the summer of 2014 the Skills Funding Agency will provide all LEPs with a data set that updates them on the provision delivered in their areas.
--	--

Supporting Growth in Key Sectors

The Growth Deal provides support for the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP’s aim to invest in activities that will enhance the productivity and competitiveness of existing small and medium sized enterprises, encourage new enterprise and further develop high growth and specialist business sectors. The Government strongly recognises the key role that Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP plays in exploring the potential for sustainable marine energy and recognises Cornwall’s ambition for deep geothermal energy. This commitment has been shown through the on-going engagement between the Marine Management Organisation and the LEP to review the experiences of marine licensing for offshore energy devices in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly with a view to clarifying the most streamlined consenting process and providing direction to applicants from this sector. The Growth Deal provides the opportunity to further strengthen these sectors and provide coordinated support to the businesses within them.

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP commitments	Central Government commitments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide public and private funding in 2015/16 to support the delivery of the local growth hub; Work closely with the Heart of the South West LEP to build appropriately on the existing growth hub model agreed through the Plymouth and the South West Peninsular City Deal. • Provide a clear model for coordinating and simplifying business support so that it joins up national, local, public and private support and creates a seamless customer experience for businesses, which makes it easy for them to get the right support at the right time. • Commitment to support the successful delivery of the South West Marine Energy Park and associated marine priorities within the Plymouth and Peninsula City Deal. • Working in partnership with the Crown Estates, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide £0.25m funding to the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP for growth hub business support coordination, subject to the growth hub meeting minimum conditions that reflect the position agreed by the Government review of business support and services. • UKTI will commit to effectively communicating its strategic priorities to LEPs and where possible help them access relevant opportunities. UKTI has doubled the number of Partnership Managers to 16. This will ensure that UKTI can work more closely with LEPs and help build their capability to secure more inward investment. • The Technology Strategy Board recognises the important and valuable role that LEPs are playing in promoting and supporting innovation, and is committed to developing strong and effective

<p>Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly LEP are committed to unlocking potential future sites of the appropriate number and scale to keep pace with the commercialisation of emerging offshore Marine Renewable Energy Technologies, within the waters of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.</p>	<p>relationships with LEPs both individually and collectively to build on this. The Technology Strategy Board is committed to supporting LEPs in developing the emerging Growth Hubs and in exploring how LEPs can help drive up local business awareness and engagement in Technology Strategy Board programmes and initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marine Management Organisation' will work closely with the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP in the ways set out in the Defra Network offer and Coastal Concordat. • The Department of Energy and Climate Change will invite the LEP to join in the Marine Energy Programme Board and its work to gain insight, share knowledge and apply best practice in developing and implementing its initiatives. • The Department of Energy and Climate Change will participate in a new Cornwall and Isles of Scilly electricity network working group, which will consider capacity issues within the region and explore options for facilitating the connection of renewable and community energy projects, including the role of smart grids. • The Department of Energy and Climate Change will continue discussions with the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP as part of its overall deep geothermal policy development. • In the summer months the Department for Transport and Civil Aviation Authority are planning to consult on technical criteria for establishing a national spaceport and on a short-list of potential locations. In keeping with an open and fair competitive process the UK Space Agency is committed to providing impartial advice to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. • The Technology Strategy Board and the UK Space Agency are both committed to discussions with Cornwall and Isles of Scilly's local teams to provide expert advice and support on the wider LEP's ambitions on space and aerospace.
---	---

As part of the deal, the LEP will:

- **Ensure implementation and demonstrate success**, by accepting the funding agreement, and by tracking progress against milestones and agreed core metrics and outcomes in line with a monitoring and evaluation framework. This will include agreeing monitoring metrics and reporting arrangements with the Government by September 2014. The LEP will also produce an evaluation plan for the projects contained in the Deal before April 2015.

- **Ensure value for money** by developing robust processes that will guide local decision-making. This will include agreeing an assurance framework with the Government by September 2014, building on existing local and national frameworks
- **Communicate the ongoing outputs and outcomes of the Deal to the local community and stakeholders** by publishing the Growth Deal and reporting regularly, and publically, on their progress to implement the strategy, ensuring that local people understand how Government money is being spent via the Growth Deal, and what the benefits are for them and the area. The Cities and Local Growth Unit will continue to work with the LEPs on communications activities, and help make the links with other Government communications teams.

Funding for projects starting in 2016/17 will be subject to conditions that Government will discuss with the LEP over the next few weeks and months, along with establishing the best timetable for the project, taking into account practicalities and affordability.

The Government commits to opening discussions with the LEP right away on its priorities for the next round of Growth Deals.