

£15.13M EXPANSION OF GROWTH DEAL BOOSTS LONG TERM PLAN FOR CHESHIRE & WARRINGTON ECONOMY

The Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership has agreed an expansion to its Growth Deal with the Government which will see an extra £15.13m invested in Cheshire & Warrington between 2016 and 2021. This is in addition to the £142.7m of funding committed by the Government on 7 July 2014. Over the lifetime of its Deal (2015-2021) the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership estimates that up to 12000 new jobs could be created, 5000 new homes built and that it has the potential to generate £280m public and private investment.

The additional proposed projects include:

- **Crewe Green Roundabout:** Infrastructure improvements to remodel a roundabout which forms a major confluence of five roads to the east of Crewe. The work would remove a key congestion pinch point on the main distributor network in Crewe and improve access to strategic employment sites at Basford, Capricorn (M6 Junction 17) and to a number of allocated housing sites in the vicinity.
- **Sydney Road Bridge:** Replacement and upgrading of an existing single lane bridge with a new two lane structure on the main northern road corridor in Crewe, removing a significant pinch point and unlocking capacity to support a number of allocated housing sites.
- **Ellesmere Port Central Development Zone:** Funding will deliver a new, purpose built public services hub in the centre of Ellesmere Port which would bring together the services of up to seven public sector agencies under one roof and supporting the Government's 'One Public Estate' initiative. The new hub would release a number of public-owned sites around the town for housing development.

In addition, as a result of implementing the Growth Deal agreed in July 2014 we expect to be able to proceed with construction of a **high level bridge crossing the Manchester Ship Canal**. This project provides a new high level crossing of the Manchester Ship Canal from the A56 Chester Road, opening up a substantial area of land for development immediately south of Warrington town centre, providing considerable traffic relief to Warrington Town Centre and greatly increasing the resilience of the local road network.

The Cheshire & Warrington 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 Cheshire and Warrington 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. That’s 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 Cheshire and Warrington 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 the area more power over skills, over business support, over infrastructure spending.

"I am delighted to announce the expansion of the Cheshire and Warrington 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 Christine Gaskell MBE, said:

“We are delighted that the huge potential of the Cheshire and Warrington economy has been recognised in this latest round of the Local Growth Fund. The LEP has worked closely with its local authority partners to identify a number of projects that will make a real difference to our infrastructure, unlock significant development opportunities for the private sector and facilitate better public service delivery.”

Councillor Michael Jones, Leader of Cheshire East Council and LEP Board Member, said:

“The Crewe Green roundabout is essential to the £26.4m Crewe Green Link Road South project, which will facilitate the creation of 12,500 high-value jobs and revitalise the town centre.

“Alongside our efforts to secure an HS2 hub station, these improvements are central to our strategy to turn Crewe into a nationally significant economic centre and draw in massive investment which will transform the prospects for people in the town and in surrounding areas.”

Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council, Mike Jones, said:

“I am delighted that our work, with partners including the Ellesmere Port Development Board, has been recognised by Government and will act as a catalyst for regeneration in the centre of Ellesmere Port.

“As we develop our ideas I look forward to Ellesmere Port being a priority for the Council and initiating conversations with the local community to ensure that their valued opinions are included and their needs are met as work progresses.

“This is a huge vote of confidence in this council’s ability to deliver this kind of project – working closely with partners across the board to deliver regeneration benefits to Ellesmere Port and indeed the whole borough.”

Councillor Terry O’Neill, leader, Warrington Borough Council said:

“Warrington Borough Council has very ambitious regeneration plans which are set out in Warrington’s framework for growth, Warrington Means Business, which was adopted in 2013. Warrington Waterfront is a major initiative in our plan and will create 2000 new homes and 2000 new jobs close to the heart of the Town.

We’ve already been successful in gaining funding for the first phase of the Waterfront’s infrastructure -to build a new bridge from Chester Road into Centre Park over the Mersey.

We are in discussions with Government to deliver our ambitious plans and hopefully funding will be provided for a new high level bridge over the ship canal. This will not only open up the Waterfront area for new jobs and homes, but will also provide a lasting solution to Warrington’s most pressing congestion issue. The Council has been working hard to achieve this and I’m pleased that at long last we are moving toward achieving our goal”.

FACTSHEET

1. How much is the Government investing in Cheshire & Warrington as part of the Growth Deal?

	Initial Growth Deal (July 2014)	Expansion – additional funding awarded (Jan 2015)	Total Expanded Growth Deal
Local Growth Fund	<i>£142.7m</i>	<i>£15.13m</i>	£157.9m

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

- **Crewe Green Roundabout:** Infrastructure improvements to remodel a roundabout which forms a major confluence of five roads to the east of Crewe. The work would remove a key congestion pinch point on the main distributor network in Crewe and improve access to strategic employment sites at Basford, Capricorn (M6 Jn 17) and to a number of allocated housing sites in the vicinity.
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This adds to the projects that were announced in July 2014, including:

- **Chester Central:** Inner ring road junction improvements and bus infrastructure measures including a new bus interchange to free up capacity and open up development sites to accommodate city centre growth. These

measures are critical components of the city's regeneration plans, enabling the mixed-use development of Northgate, which is 5.4 ha of brownfield developable land earmarked for the development of retail and leisure led mixed-use scheme with a gross development value of £313m.

- **East Warrington, Birchwood transport improvements:** Enable use of sites and land in the Birchwood employment area of North East Warrington, currently hampered by congestion and access by making changes to three critical locations.
- **Life Science Investment Fund:** Revolving Investment Fund to support growth in the life science business cluster in Cheshire and Greater Manchester. Although not exclusively focused on the AstraZeneca Alderley Park campus, this Fund will be instrumental in encouraging new start-ups and spin outs following AstraZeneca's departure to Cambridge by 2016.
- **Thornton Energy Demonstrator:** Establishment of an energy systems demonstrator at the Thornton Science Park owned by the University of Chester. This will enable innovative energy companies to test at scale new power saving and distribution technologies.
- **Skills Capital:** Employer informed programme to address skills needs in engineering, energy, logistics, manufacturing, agri-tech and sports science. Focus on estate renewal and employer led business hubs.
- **West Warrington, Omega, M62 Junction 8:** Motorway junction improvements and revised connections to local road and motorway slip road, allowing for improved access and less congestion to the Omega development sites for employment and housing.
- **Warrington Waterfront:** Supports release of employment and residential sites which are currently hampered by lack of access through additional infrastructure in the form of (i) a new bridge crossing over the River Mersey and (ii) improved route from there to Slutchers Lane at the Southern end of the town centre and road changes in the Palmyra Cultural Quarter of the town centre itself.
- **Poynton Relief Road:** A 3km relief road, reducing traffic congestion in Poynton, and contributing to the physical and social regeneration of Poynton. It also improves connectivity for the northern Macclesfield business area and the strategic link between A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road (A6MARR) and Junction 17 of the M6 via Congleton, facilitating wider economic and transport benefits.
- **Congleton Link Road:** A 5.5km single carriageway road between the A534 Sandbach Road and the A536 Macclesfield Road, with links to the existing Radnor Park trading estate and the Congleton business park. It will include a new 80m bridge across the River Dane, and combined footway and cycleway on one side of the road. The link road is a crucial piece of infrastructure required to support the employment and housing aspirations included within the council's Local Plan Strategy.

3. How does this benefit the people of Cheshire & Warrington?

The Cheshire & Warrington Growth Deal will promote growth in Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington and improve quality of life through easing severe road traffic congestion. This will support new jobs and housing in Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington.

According to estimates by the LEP, the Growth Deal could bring to Cheshire & Warrington:

- Up to 12,000 Jobs
- Up to 5,000 Homes
- Up to £280m public and private sector investment

4. What is the benefit for local businesses?

As well as much needed road improvements, helping with the movement of goods and services, the Growth Deal will support new and growing businesses in Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington as land is made available for commercial use.

5. Facts and figures

The Growth Deal builds on significant recent investment in growth opportunities in Cheshire & Warrington including:

Growing Places Fund total allocation: £13.16m

Regional Growth Fund: Cheshire & Warrington LEP area has to date received £46.0m investment from the Regional Growth Fund

Coastal Communities Fund: £653,708