

## **WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY (WMCA) GETTING BUILDING FUND**

The Government is making £900 million available through the new Getting Building Fund (GBF) for investment in local, shovel-ready infrastructure projects to stimulate jobs and support economic recovery across the country. **West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)** has been allocated **£66m** from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy.

The WMCA Getting Building Fund includes an allocation spread across the seven constituent authorities, for projects led by the WMCA working with the three LEPs; Black Country LEP, Coventry and Warwickshire LEP (for Coventry<sup>1</sup>) and Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP.

**The funded projects are expected to build on previous government investments in the area and will make a significant contribution to driving forward the Local Industrial Strategy as part of the economic recovery plan. The University Station project will provide a key Commonwealth Games asset and is an important gateway to nationally significant R&D assets, whilst the 5G Accelerator and Very Light Rail projects will seek to maximise the benefits in key LIS themes and reduce the costs of green infrastructure. The Brownfield Land Institute will support the housing deal and drive levelling up across the region.**

### **Indicative outputs<sup>2</sup>**

<b>Direct Jobs Created</b>	1,440
<b>Construction Jobs Created</b>	1,410
<b>Houses Unlocked</b>	17,210
<b>Commercial Space Unlocked (sqm)</b>	32,700
<b>New Learning Space Unlocked</b>	724
<b>New Learners Assisted</b>	3,800
<b>Businesses Assisted</b>	1,500
<b>Roads/Cycle Lanes/Walkways Unlocked (km)</b>	3
<b>R&amp;D Floorspace</b>	360
<b>Public Realm/ Green Space Created (sqm)</b>	325,000
<b>New Superfast Broadband Connections</b>	8
<b>CO2 Emissions Saved (kg)</b>	1,183,876

### **Summary of projects**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>University Station</b>	The investment transforms the user experience with a new station building, booking hall, wider footbridge, lifts, drop off facilities and improved pedestrian access. It will also include retail units, direct access to the adjacent University of Birmingham and landscaping of the area outside the new station entrance.

<sup>1</sup> Coventry and Warwickshire LEP have received a separate allocation of £8.1m for projects in Warwickshire, which is not a constituent member of the Combined Authority.

<sup>2</sup> The outputs listed are locally reported and will undergo further quality assurance before being finalised and confirmed in grant offer letters.

<b>Very Light Rail Innovation Centre</b>	This is a strategically important and innovative project that will support the development of the very light rail and autonomous technology sector and provide growth for new UK industries supplying domestic and international rail schemes. The investment will also contribute to the further development of autonomous pod vehicles. The facilities will provide companies with a significant opportunity to develop and prove new solutions, predominately for very light rail, but also autonomous pod vehicles that focus on the last few miles of a journey.
<b>Very Light Rail Coventry</b>	The investment supports the creation of Very Light Rail solutions which will be cheaper, greener (zero emissions), and quicker to deliver than conventional tram systems. It will provide a low-cost solution on rail branch lines, allowing disused lines to reopen and lower cost services to be provided on existing lines.
<b>Precision Health Technology Accelerator</b>	The investment will deliver innovation, co-creation and incubation space, and act as a focal point of the Birmingham Life Sciences Park – a four-hectare development at the heart of the Birmingham Health Partners campus. The new laboratories and technology platforms will utilise healthcare data to drive healthcare innovation and the development of new technologies.
<b>Regional WM5G Application Accelerator Extension</b>	The 5G Application Accelerator will be the UK's first commercial 5G accelerator centre to help businesses learn about, and engage with, 5G technologies to develop and grow products and services. Based in three locations, each will have a building with flexible office space, and workshop and engineering space. In Birmingham a cutting edge private 5G network will allow organisations to use 5G features before being publicly released.
<b>National Brownfield Land Institute</b>	The investment will secure the City of Wolverhampton's position as an international leader in sustainable construction, circular economy, and brownfield development. The world-class institute will deliver new jobs and skills and develop new technologies to support the green growth priorities.
<b>Completing the Cultural Capital</b>	The City of Culture 2021 is set to be one of the biggest years in the history of Coventry – and this package of wide-ranging, exciting measures will help maximise the impact for visitors, local people and the economy as well as leaving an invaluable legacy.
<b>Commonwealth Economic Legacy at Ricoh Arena, Coventry</b>	The investment will establish a world-class conference, exhibition and sporting venue through Commonwealth Games legacy projects, including refurbishments to Ericsson Hall, the main arena hosting the Judo and Wrestling events in the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The project will also establish the Commonwealth Convention Centre and create a new food and beverage offering.

**The WMCA** will be expected to deliver the agreed projects but will have flexibility to deliver the greatest economic benefits to the area. Any significant changes to the projects should be

discussed with the Government in advance, and all investment decisions must be undertaken in line with locally agreed audit and scrutiny arrangements.