

BRISTOL+BATH

Funding regional economic development:
the £1bn opportunity for Bristol & Bath.

West of England

A plan for economic growth

1 million people
£1bn opportunity
1 vision



- > Contributes £10bn to the UK Treasury.
- > International airport connects to 100-plus destinations.
- > One in four employees works in the 'knowledge' economy.
- > Global gateway: world-leading deep-water port and at the nexus of national road and rail network.
- > Home to Britain's only UNESCO world heritage city.
- > Spans Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.
- > Economy worth £25.5bn and growing.
- > 42 million people within 150 miles.
- > Home of world-leading clusters: creative and digital, hi tech, low carbon, aerospace and advanced engineering, professional services.

A plan for prosperity

An extraordinary future awaits Bristol & Bath.

More than 800 businesses have come together to form a 'local enterprise partnership', working with communities, local government, educational institutions and housing and transport providers to find ways to unlock the potential of this diverse and dynamic region. The resulting 'strategic economic plan', fully compatible with the UK Government's growth strategy, has the power to transform the West of England, substantially expanding its £25.5bn economy.

Bristol & Bath is negotiating a funding package of over £1bn to drive the economic development agenda of the region. Sources include City Deal, signed in 2012, Local Growth Fund and EU Structural Investment Funds, both of which are being negotiated now.

The vision

By 2030, this fast-growing and prosperous region will lead and influence regionally, nationally and internationally. The strategic economic plan is designed to help the West of England:

- > create at least 70,000 new jobs
- > grow GVA by more than 3%
- > help local knowledge-based businesses dominate
- > access international markets
- > lead the world in energy efficiency
- > secure acclaim for its quality of life and cultural attractions

How it's going to happen

The West of England's 2014-2020 growth plan focuses on four key areas.

People & skills

- > Expanding four world-class universities.
- > Investing in five further education (FE) colleges.
- > Improving employability through stronger links between academia and business.
- > Population growth beyond 1.1m.

Place & infrastructure

- > Establishing one enterprise zone and five enterprise areas.
- > £11.3m investment in ultra-fast broadband.
- > Building at least 90,000 new homes; focusing on affordable housing and low-energy retrofitting.
- > £244m already being invested in road, rail, public transport, cycling, walking and smart card schemes with a further £100m to come.
- > Unlocking 1,000-plus acres of land at Bristol Port and expanding Bristol Airport.
- > Investing in the Bristol Channel Tidal Energy Test Bed.

Investment & promotion

- > Attracting publicity and greener business through EU Green Capital 2015 status.
- > Millions of pounds' worth of tourism coverage for the UNESCO city of Bath.
- > Visitor economy growth target of £61m.
- > Fully funded inward investment attraction programme.

Business support

- > More than £64m secured from Regional Growth Fund.
- > Growing SETsquared business incubation centres.
- > Expanding key sectors: creative and digital; hi tech; advanced engineering and aerospace; low carbon; professional services.
- > Investment in centres of excellence such as the National Composites Centre and Engine Shed.



The power of partnership

The West of England aims to realise this ambitious economic plan by working with numerous private and public sector partners including Defra, encompassing the Environment Agency and Natural England; the Highways Agency; West of England authorities; train operators Network Rail, First Great Western, Cross Country and South West Trains; and the Homes and Communities Agency.

What's in the pipeline

Robotics Lab

A Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS) initiative will provide more facilities and advanced tools for a robotics laboratory, accommodating academic and industry innovators, collaborative projects and technology companies.

Engine Shed, phase 2

Opening in December 2013, the £1.7m Engine Shed is an enterprise hub for more than 60 high-performing tech companies. Engine Shed Phase 2 will provide more space, accommodating yet more businesses and attracting greater investment. The space has been established in partnership with the University of Bristol's business incubator, Bristol SETsquared.

Bath Innovation Quay

The ground-breaking development of Bath Innovation Campus and Quay will provide R&D facilities, incubator space, housing and 'grow on' offices for ambitious companies. The investment will create new grade-A office space in the centre of Bath, and build a creative and tech hub to complement Bristol's Engine Shed.

Advanced Technology Centre

Collaboration between global aerospace businesses and suppliers – including Airbus, GKN, Rolls-Royce and BAE Systems – is establishing an Advanced Technology Centre in the Filton Enterprise Area. The centre will develop and industrialise technologies in 3D printing, composites, robotics and more.

Food & Drink Enterprise Centre

A Centre of Excellence for Food and Drink Industries within the Junction 21 Enterprise Area to create a hub bringing together expertise ranging from bio-technology to engineering; chemistry to design that strives to excel in food research, production, manufacturing and resource efficiency.

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