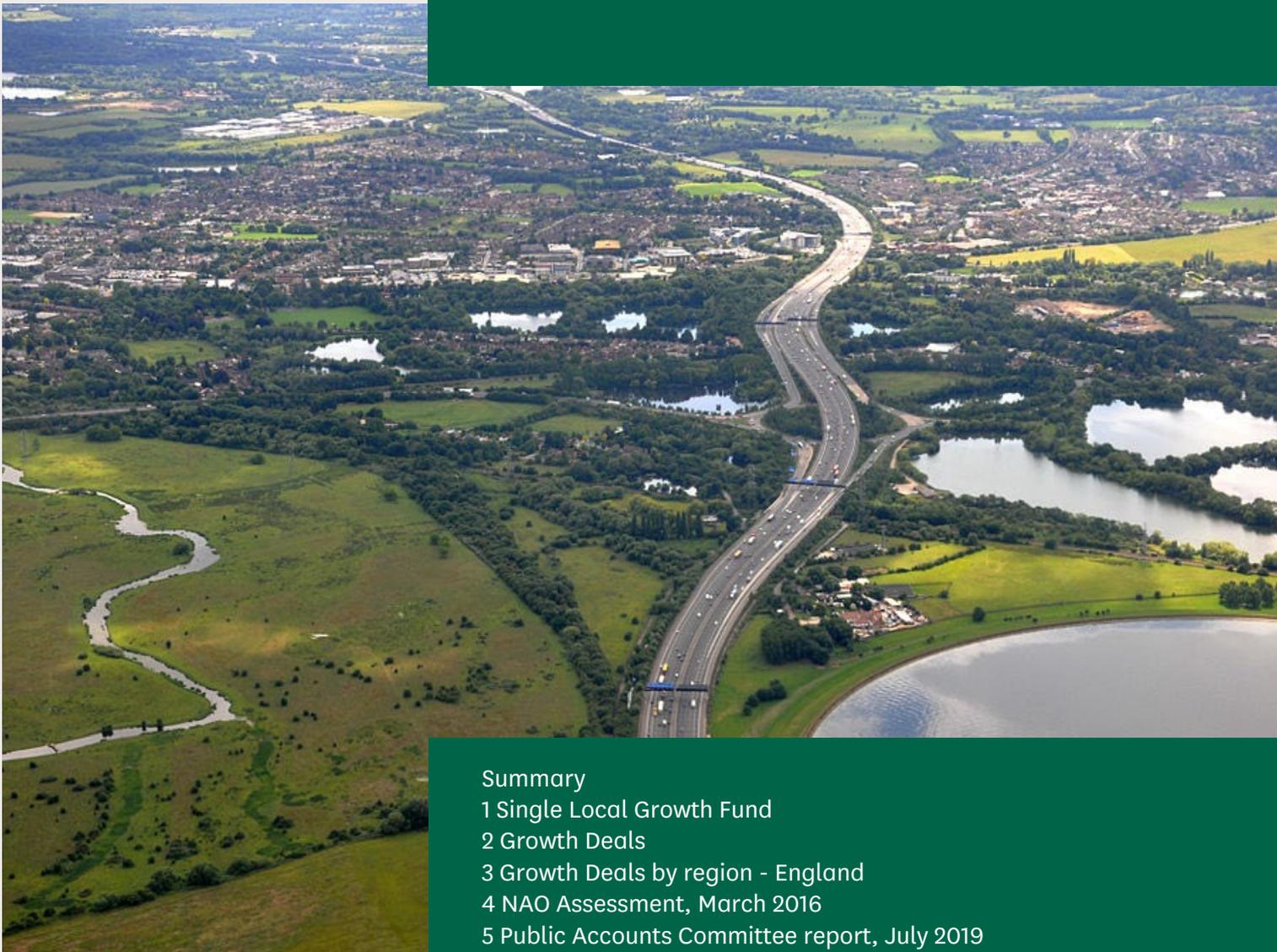


Research Briefing

30 October 2024

By Matthew Ward

Local Growth Deals



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Summary

The June 2013 Spending Review saw the government ask Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to develop multi-year local Strategic Economic Plans, which would then be used for negotiations on ‘Growth Deals’. These deals would see LEPs awarded funding from the Single Local Growth Fund, created in the 2013 Spending Review.

In March 2014, the then existing 39 LEPs submitted Strategic Economic Plans. In July 2014, the government announced details of funding received by each LEP over the period 2015 - 2021. In January 2015, the government expanded the deals, with LEPs awarded a further £1 billion in total between 2016 and 2021.

The [2016 Budget](#) included the announcement that up to £1.8 billion will be allocated through a further round of growth deals in the course of 2016.

The [2016 Autumn Statement](#) stated the government would award a third round of growth deal funding, worth £1.8 billion. Of this, £556 million will be awarded to LEPs in the North of England, £392 million to LEPs in the midlands, £151 million to LEPs in the east of England, £492 million to LEPs in London and the south east and £191 million to LEPs in the south west. In total, £9.1 billion worth of growth deal funding was allocated to LEPs.

Initially growth deals, like Local Enterprise Partnerships, covered England only. Since 2017, deals have been initiated or agreed with areas in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – six in Scotland, two in Wales and two in Northern Ireland.

In September 2024, it was reported that the UK government was “pausing” funding committed to Northern Ireland’s two growth deals and the Argyll and Bute deal in Scotland. In a statement on 9 October 2024, Hilary Benn, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, indicated “the Chancellor will set out the results of the first phase of the spending review on 30 October”, which will include an update on the status of funding for the Mid South West Northern Ireland and Causeway Coast and Glens growth deals.

The 2024 Autumn Budget indicated the UK government would continue with its original funding allocations for the Argyll and Bute deal and the Mid South West Northern Ireland and the Causeway Coast and Glens deals.

1 Single Local Growth Fund

In March 2012, Lord Heseltine was commissioned to produce a report for the Chancellor and Secretary of State for Business, with a brief to provide ideas to stimulate economic growth at a local level. This reflected Lord Heseltine's work on competitiveness during his tenure as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in the 1990s and his time as Secretary of the State for the Environment between 1979 and 1983.

His report, [No Stone Unturned: In Pursuit of Growth](#), published in October 2012 made 89 recommendations on how to stimulate economic growth and wealth creation. Among these was a recommendation to combine separate funding streams which support growth into a "single funding pot" for local areas:

Central government should identify the budgets administered by different departments which support growth. These should be brought together into a single funding pot for local areas, without internal ring fences.¹

This recommendation was accepted as part of the [2013 Spending Review](#)² and detailed in the Treasury document [Investing in Britain's Future](#), which states:

The Government agrees with Lord Heseltine that local leaders are best placed to set the strategic direction for an area, and has accepted his recommendations to devolve economic power to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) through the creation of a Single Local Growth Fund and Growth Deals.³

This document confirmed:

- the creation of a Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF) with a budget of £2 billion drawn from the existing skills, housing and transport budgets from 2015/16; and
- commitment of £5 billion of transport funding to the SLGF between 2016/17 and 2020/21 and a pledge to maintain the SLGF at a total of at least £2 billion each year in the next Parliament.⁴

LEPs would also be asked to develop "multi-year strategic plans" detailing funding proposals for the SLGF and plans for EU Structural and Investment

¹ Rt. Hon. Lord Heseltine of Thenford, [No Stone Unturned: In Pursuit of Growth](#), October 2012 pg. 37

² HM Treasury, [Spending Round 2013](#) Cm8639, June 2013, pg. 21

³ HM Treasury, [Investing in Britain's Future](#), Cm 8669, June 2013 pg. 57

⁴ HM Treasury, [ibid](#) pg. 57 - 61

Funds, covering 2015/16 to 2020/21.⁵ In turn, these plans would be used as the basis for negotiating “Growth Deals” between central government and each LEP.

LEPs with the strongest strategic plans that demonstrate their ability to deliver growth will gain the greatest share of the SLGF...Areas will also be able to argue for additional freedoms and flexibilities as part of this process. An area’s allocation from the SLGF will be available to be spent on the priorities LEPs and their partners have determined in their strategic economic plans.⁶

⁵ HM Treasury, [ibid](#) pg. 57 - 63

⁶ HM Treasury, [ibid](#) pg. 61 - 63

2 Growth Deals

In July 2013, the then Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published the document [Growth Deals Initial Guidance for Local Enterprise Partnerships](#), providing detailed guidance on how LEPs should prepare the preparation of Strategic Economic Plans and details of the timetable for the delivery of funding.

This clarified the function of Growth Deals, stating that Growth Deals will be:

A partnership between the Government and Local Enterprise Partnerships, where the Government will respond to the offers made by Local Enterprise Partnerships in pursuit of the shared objective of growth.

It also confirmed that funding would be made as a single annual grant payment, made at the start of each financial year to a nominated local authority to act as accountable body.⁷

This document gave LEPs a deadline of March 2014 to submit final versions of their Strategic Economic Plans, which would then be assessed by central government.

In March 2014, all 39 LEPs submitted Strategic Economic Plans for approval. In July 2014, the government announced details of funding secured by each LEP over the period 2015 - 2021. In January 2015, the government expanded the deals, with LEPs securing a further £1 billion in total investment between 2016 and 2021.

The [2016 Budget](#) included the announcement that an additional £1.8 billion will be allocated to LEPs through a third round of Growth Deals in the course of 2016.

This was confirmed in the [2016 Autumn Statement](#), which stated £556 million will be awarded to LEPs in the North of England, £392 million to LEPs in the midlands, £151 million to LEPs in the east of England, £492 million to LEPs in London and the south east and £191 million to LEPs in the south west.

Details of total public funding secured by LEP is available in [the Appendix, with maps showing total funding and funding per head](#).

⁷ BIS, [Growth Deals: Initial Guidance for Local Enterprise Partnerships](#), July 2013 pg. 3 - 7

3 Growth Deals by region - England

Details of funding awarded to each LEP by region are provided below.

3.1 North-East

North Eastern

The North Eastern LEP's Strategic Economic Plan, [More and Better Jobs: A Strategic Economic Plan for the North East](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the North Eastern LEP was awarded £289.3 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £40.6 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £49.7 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 5,000 new jobs could be created and £130 million of public and private investment could be generated as a result of this funding.

Tees Valley Unlimited

The Tees Valley Unlimited LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Tees Valley LEP was awarded £90.3 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £13.9 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £21.8 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates to 5,000 new jobs could be created, safeguarded or enabled, 1,500 new homes built and £150 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this deal.

3.2 North-West

Cumbria

The Cumbria LEP's Strategic Economic Plan, [The Four Pronged Attack](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Cumbria LEP was awarded £26.8 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £20.9 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £12.7 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates 3,000 new jobs could be created, 3,000 new homes built and £60 million public and private investment generated as a result of this deal.

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership

The Lancashire LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [A Growth Deal for the Arc of Prosperity](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Lancashire LEP was awarded £233.9 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £17.2 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £69.8 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 8,000 jobs could be created, 3,000 homes built and up to £280 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Liverpool City Region

The Liverpool City Region LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Liverpool City Region LEP was awarded £232.3 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £31.6 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £72.0 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 13,000 jobs could be created, 10,000 homes built and up to £200 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Greater Manchester

The Greater Manchester LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Greater Manchester LEP was awarded £476.7 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £56.6 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £130.1 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 5,000 jobs could be created and up to £140 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Cheshire and Warrington

The Cheshire and Warrington LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Cheshire and Warrington Matters](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Cheshire and Warrington LEP was awarded £142.7 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £15.16 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £43.3 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 12,000 jobs could be created, 5,000 homes built and up to £180 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

3.3

Yorkshire and the Humber

York and North Yorkshire

The York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the York, North Yorkshire and East

Riding LEP was awarded £101.1 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £12.1 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £23.7 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 5,000 new jobs could be created, 5,000 homes built and £150 million of public and private investment could be generated as a result of this funding.

Leeds City Region

The Leeds City Region LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Leeds City Region LEP was awarded £572.9 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £54.6 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £67.5 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 10,000 jobs could be created, 2,000 homes built and up to £640 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Humber

The Humber LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Humber LEP was awarded £103.7 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £9.9 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £27.9 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 9,000 jobs could be created, 5,000 homes built and up to £300 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Sheffield City Region

The Sheffield City Region LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Sheffield City Region LEP was awarded £295.2 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £30.7 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £37.0 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 15,000 jobs could be created, 12,000 homes built and up to £530 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

3.4

East Midlands

Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

The D2N2 LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the D2N2 LEP was awarded £174.3 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £22.2 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £63.0 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 22,000 jobs could be created, 10,000 homes built and up to £550 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Leicester and Leicestershire

The Leicester and Leicestershire LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Leicester and Leicestershire LEP was awarded £80 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £20.3 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £25.9 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 3,000 jobs could be created, 1,300 homes built and up to £160 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Northamptonshire

The Northamptonshire LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Northamptonshire LEP was awarded £67.3 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021; in January 2015 a further £9 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021. The LEP 2,000 jobs could be created, 5,000 homes built and up to £60 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

In August 2016, it was announced that the Northamptonshire LEP would merge with the South-East Midlands LEP. Accordingly, Northamptonshire did not receive a separate third round allocation and first two allocations were added to the South-East Midlands LEP's total.

South-East Midlands

The South-East Midlands LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the South-East Midlands LEP was awarded £79.3 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £46.7 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £59.0 million was awarded in November 2016.

Following the LEP's merger with Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire's allocations to date were added to the South-East Midlands LEP's total, bringing it to £261.3 million.

3.5

East of England

Greater Lincolnshire

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Greater Lincolnshire LEP was awarded £111.2 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021; in January 2015 a further £14.8 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021. The LEP estimates up to 4,000 jobs could be created, 4,000 homes built and up to £110 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough

The Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Internationally Competitive, Nationally Significant](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough LEP was awarded £71.1 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £38 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £37.6 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 15,500 jobs could be created, 10,000 homes built and up to £210 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

New Anglia

The New Anglia LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Releasing Our Potential](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the New Anglia LEP was awarded £173.3 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £48.5 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £69.1 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 16,000 jobs could be created, 3,000 homes built and up to £240 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

3.6

West Midlands

Black Country

The Black Country LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Made in the Black Country, Sold Around the World](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Black Country LEP was awarded £138.7 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £24 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £55.1 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 5,000 jobs could be created, 1,400 homes built and up to £310 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Greater Birmingham and Solihull

The Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [The SEP to Change Britain](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP was awarded £357.4 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £21.4 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £54.2 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 29,000 jobs could be created, 7,000 homes built and up to £170 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire

The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP was awarded £82.3 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £15.4 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £23.3 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 7,000 jobs could be created, 1,000 homes built and up to £70 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

The Marches

The Marches LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Accelerating Growth Through Opportunity](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Marches LEP was awarded £75.3 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £7.7 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £21.9 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 7,000 jobs could be created, 3,000 homes built and up to £50 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Coventry and Warwickshire

The Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [An SEP for the Future and for Bringing Manufacturing Home](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP was awarded £74.1 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £15.3 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £42.4 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 4,000 jobs could be created, 1,400 homes built and up to £220 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Worcestershire

The Worcestershire LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [World Class Worcestershire](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Worcestershire LEP was awarded £47 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £7.2 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £17.5 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 4,000 jobs could be created, 1,200 homes built and up to £100 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

3.7

South-West

Gloucestershire – GFirst

The GFirst LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the GFirst LEP was awarded £62.5 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £15 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £29.1 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 6,000 jobs could be created, 400 homes built and up to £220 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

West of England

The West of England LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the West of England LEP was awarded £212.6 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £18.1 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £52.8 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 6,000 jobs could be created and up to £200 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Swindon and Wiltshire

The Swindon and Wiltshire LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Aligning Local Innovation with Government Ambition](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Swindon and Wiltshire LEP was awarded £129.3 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £11.5 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £28.1 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 3,000 jobs could be created, 2,000 homes built and up to £80 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Dorset

The Dorset LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Transforming Dorset](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Dorset LEP was awarded £66.4 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £12.6 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £19.5 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 26,000 jobs could be created, 3,000 homes built and up to £650 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Heart of the South West

The Heart of the South West LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Heart of the South West LEP was awarded £103.2 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015

a further £65.2 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £43.6 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 22,000 jobs could be created, 11,000 homes built and up to £260 million of public and private investment generated as a result of this funding.

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP was awarded £48.9 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £11.3 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £18.0 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 5,000 jobs could be created, 7,000 homes built and up to £160 million of public and private investment awarded as a result of this funding.

3.8

South-East and London

Hertfordshire

The Hertfordshire LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Perfectly Placed for Business](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Hertfordshire LEP was awarded £199.2 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £22.3 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £44.0 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 15,000 jobs could be created, 20,000 homes built and up to £430 million of public and private investment awarded as a result of this funding.

Buckinghamshire Thames Valley

The Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Enhancing Buckinghamshire's Connectivity](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP was awarded £44.2 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £8.8 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £20.5 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 5,000 jobs could be created, 600 homes built and up to £40 million of public and private investment awarded as a result of this funding.

Oxfordshire

The Oxfordshire LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Driving Economic Growth Through Innovation](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Oxfordshire LEP was awarded £108.5 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £9.9 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £24.2 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 9,000 jobs could be created, 5,000

homes built and up to £440 million of public and private investment awarded as a result of this funding.

London

The London LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [A Growth Deal for London](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the London LEP was awarded £236 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January a further £58 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £141.3 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 8,000 jobs could be created, 5,000 homes built and up to £190 million of public and private investment awarded as a result of this funding.

Thames Valley Berkshire

The Thames Valley Berkshire LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP was awarded £96.6 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £10.2 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £35.6 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 20,000 jobs could be created, 12,000 homes built and up to £40 million of public and private investment awarded as a result of this funding.

Enterprise M3

The Enterprise M3 LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Working for a Smarter Future](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Enterprise M3 LEP was awarded £118.1 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £29.9 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £71.1 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 7,000 jobs could be created, 4,000 homes built and up to £210 million of public and private investment awarded as a result of this funding.

South-East

The South East LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the South East LEP was awarded £444.2 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £46.1 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £102.7 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 45,000 jobs could be created, 23,000 homes built and up to £700 million of public and private investment awarded as a result of this funding.

Coast to Capital

The Coast to Capital LEP's [Strategic Economic Plan](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Coast of Capital LEP was awarded £202.4 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further

£35.8 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £66.1 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 21,000 jobs could be created, 9,000 homes built and up to £390 million of public and private investment awarded as a result of this funding.

Solent

The Solent LEP's Strategic Economic Plan [Transforming Solent](#) was submitted in March 2014. In July 2014, the Solent LEP was awarded £124.8 million from the Local Growth Fund over the period 2015-2021. In January 2015 a further £27.1 million of funding was awarded between 2016 and 2021; an additional £31.0 million was awarded in November 2016. The LEP estimates up to 6,000 jobs could be created, 11,000 homes built and up to £400 million of public and private investment awarded as a result of this funding.

4

NAO Assessment, March 2016

In March 2016, the National Audit Office published the report Local Enterprise Partnerships, which examined the extent to which LEPs have funded and implemented Growth Deals “in a way that is likely to deliver value for money.”

Some of the report’s findings included:

- the DCLG has not set specific quantifiable objectives for what it hopes to achieve through Growth Deals and that it will be difficult to assess their contribution to economic growth
- pressure on LEPs to spend their Local Growth Fund allocation in year creates a risk that LEPs will not fund projects most suited to long-term economic development
- there is a risk that LEPs do not possess the resources necessary to deliver Growth Deal projects.

The report concludes that while the Department for Communities and Local Government expects LEPs to deliver growth deals effectively, LEPs do not have “an established track record of delivery” and LEPs themselves “have serious reservations about their capacity to deliver” and there is a risk that projects being pursued “will not necessarily optimise value for money.”

To mitigate these potential flaws in the delivery of Growth Deals, the report recommends that the DCLG should:

- distribute Local Growth Funding to LEPs in a form that will give them medium to long-term funding flexibility,
- set out specific quantifiable objectives and performance indicators for the success of Growth Deals,
- ensure that there is sufficient local capacity within LEPs to deliver Growth Deals
- use the approach to monitor Growth Deals as an opportunity to standardise output metrics for future local growth initiatives.

5 Public Accounts Committee report, July 2019

In July 2019, the Public Accounts Select Committee published the report [Local Enterprise Partnerships: progress review](#), examining how effective Local Enterprise Partnerships have been in boosting local economic growth.

With regard to growth deals, the report found:

- Generally, LEPs underspent their Local Growth Fund allocations – this underspend amounted to “over £1.1 billion in the three years to the end of 2017–18”, based on an underspend of £789.1 for the first round of growth deals (averaging £20.2 million per LEP) and an underspend of £333.1 million for the second round (averaging £8.8 million per LEP). The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have stated this underspend is due to LEPs requiring “time to develop their capacity to bring forward and manage capital projects.”⁸
- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had “chose not to set quantifiable objectives for Growth Deals” and despite receiving quarterly performance data from LEPs, this was not used “to build up an understanding of the impact that local growth funding has had nationally, nor has it measured what value for money LEPs have delivered so far.”⁹

⁸ House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts, [Local Enterprise Partnerships: progress review](#), HC 1754, 5 July 2019, pg. 11

⁹ House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts, [Ibid](#), pg. 5

6 Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

The 2018 Budget confirmed that a number of areas outside of England would, for the first time, be granted growth deals.

Five further deals covering areas in Scotland and Northern Ireland were announced in July 2019.

6.1 Scotland

Borderlands

The Borderlands Initiative was first launched by the Scottish Government in August 2013, alongside Scottish Borders Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council, Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council and Northumberland County Council, alongside the publication of the report, [Borderlands: can the north east and Cumbria benefit from greater Scottish autonomy?](#) produced on behalf of the Association of North East (of England) Councils (ANEC) and Cumbria County Council.

In October 2018, a growth deal bid was submitted; the 2019 Spring Statement confirmed “up to £260 million” would be allocated in funding.¹⁰ In [July 2019](#), it was confirmed that “up to £394.5 million” would be invested - £265 million from the UK Government, £85 million from the Scottish Government and the remainder from other partners (including local authorities, universities and other public and private sector bodies).

An agreement was signed on 18th March 2021. This agreed funding of up to £350 million from the Scottish Government and UK Government, including investment of £150 million for Scottish elements (£85 million Scottish Government and £65 million UK Government) and up to £200 million for English elements, alongside local investment of £102.6 million

The deal aims to create “up to 5,500 jobs” and provide a “£1.1billion GVA boost to the region’s economy over 10-15 years.”¹¹

¹⁰ [Spring Statement 2019: Written statement - HCWS1407](#), 13 March 2019

¹¹ Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, [Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, £450 million Borderlands Growth Deal now underway](#) and [Borderlands Growth Deal: Full Deal Document](#), 18 March 2021

Ayrshire

Proposals for an Ayrshire growth deal were first launched in September 2016 by the South Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and East Ayrshire local authorities. In January 2017, [an adjournment debate was held](#) on the subject.

A [Heads of Terms document](#) was published in March 2019 – this committed the Scottish Government to invest £103 million over 10 years, the UK Government to invest £103 million over 15 years and £45.5 million from regional partners (including local authorities, universities and other public and private sector bodies).

The deal was agreed on 19th November 2020.¹²

Moray

The 2018 Budget also confirmed the government would work with the devolved governments in Scotland and local partners to secure growth deals for Moray.

In [July 2019](#), it was confirmed that the UK and Scottish governments would each contribute £32.5 million to the Moray Growth Deal.

The Moray Growth Deal was agreed in August 2020.¹³

Three new deals

In July 2019, it was announced that negotiations would begin on three new deals in Scotland (as well as two in Northern Ireland) – these would cover Falkirk, the Islands (covering the Shetlands, Orkneys and Western Isles) and Argyll & Bute.¹⁴

A Heads of Terms Agreement for the Islands Growth Deal was signed in March 2021, agreeing £50 million of investment from both the UK and Scottish Governments.¹⁵

A Heads of Terms Agreement for the Falkirk Growth Deal was signed in December 2021. This agreed investment of £40 million from both the UK and Scottish governments and contribution of £50.8 million from local partners. It

¹² Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, [£251 million Ayrshire Growth Deal signed](#), 19 November 2020

¹³ Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, [UK Government confirms £32.5 million investment in Moray Growth Deal](#), 24 August 2020

¹⁴ Prime Minister's Office, [Prime Minister launches new Growth Deals funding as he kicks off Union visits in Scotland, 28 July 2019](#)

¹⁵ Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, [Islands Growth Deal worth £335 million signed](#), 17 March 2021

is predicted investment will deliver “an additional 2000 jobs in the region and attract in excess of £1 billion of private investment.”¹⁶

The 2020 Budget announced £25 million of funding for the Argyll & Bute deal.¹⁷

A Heads of Terms Agreement for the Argyll and Bute Growth Deal was signed in February 2021. This agreed investment of £25 million from both the UK and Scottish governments and a contribution of £20 million from Argyll and Bute Council and partners.¹⁸

In September 2024, media reports indicated the UK government was “pausing” funding earmarked for the Argyll and Bute deal and would not take a final decision on funding “until after its review of the national finances.”¹⁹

The [2024 Autumn Budget](#) indicated the UK government would provide £25 million over 10 years for the Argyll and Bute deal “subject to a value for money assessment of business cases.”²⁰

6.2

Wales

North Wales

The [2017 Budget](#) stated the government would begin “formal negotiations toward a North Wales growth deal”, with the [2018 Budget](#) confirming £120 million in funding for the deal.

The deal will cover the six council areas of Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Flintshire County Council, Denbighshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council.

In November 2019, a Heads of Terms document was signed by the UK and Welsh governments, each agreeing to invest £120 million. An agreement was signed in December 2020, agreeing the five programmes (made up of 14 projects) that would make up the deal. In addition to the £240 million in funding agreed from the UK and Welsh governments, the deal includes £179 million of other public sector funding and £721 million in private sector finance.²¹

¹⁶ UK Government, Scottish Government, Falkirk Council, [Falkirk Growth Deal: Heads of Terms Agreement](#), December 2021, pg. 2

¹⁷ HM Treasury, [Budget 2020](#), HC 121, 11 March 2020, pg. 84

¹⁸ Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, [£70 million Argyll & Bute Rural Growth Deal agreed](#), 11 February 2021

¹⁹ Philip Sim, [Argyll and Bute growth deal put on hold by UK government](#), BBC, 24 September 2024

²⁰ HM Treasury, [Autumn Budget 2024](#), HC 295, 30 October 2024, pg. 141

²¹ Office of the Secretary of State for Wales, HM Treasury, [UK Government signs North Wales Growth Deal](#), 17 December 2020 and Ambition North Wales, [North Wales Growth Deal](#)

Mid Wales

The 2018 Budget confirmed the government would work with the Welsh Government and local partners to secure a growth deal for Mid Wales.

In [October 2019](#), the UK government confirmed it would contribute £55 million in funding to the Mid Wales Growth Deal.

The Mid Wales Growth Deal was agreed in January 2022.²² The UK and Welsh governments jointly committed £110 million in funding.

The deal covers the Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council areas.

6.3

Northern Ireland

In July 2019, it was announced that negotiations would begin on Northern Ireland's first two growth deals (as well as three further in Scotland – see above) – the Causeway Coast and Glens deal and the Mid South West Northern Ireland deal.

The 2020 Budget announced £126 million in funding for the Mid, South and West of Northern Ireland deal and £36 million for the Causeway Coast and Glens deal.²³

A Heads of Terms document for the Causeway Coast and Glens deal was signed in April 2024 by the UK government, Northern Ireland Executive and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. This included a funding commitment of £36 million from the UK government, matched by £36 million from the Northern Ireland Executive and a further £25 million from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and other “project delivery partners.”²⁴

The Mid South West Northern Ireland deal covers the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, Fermanagh and Omagh, and Mid Ulster council areas. A [Regional Economic Strategy](#) for the area was published in September 2020.

In September 2024, a press release issued by the Northern Ireland Executive stated that the UK government had indicated its intentions to pause funding committed to Northern Ireland's two growth deals, “until the Spending Review.”²⁵

²² Welsh Government, [Mid Wales Growth Deal reaches an important development milestone](#), 13 January 2022

²³ HM Treasury, [Budget 2020](#), HC 121, 11 March 2020, pg. 84

²⁴ Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, [Causeway Coast and Glens: Growth Deal Heads of Terms](#), April 2024, pg. 3

²⁵ Northern Ireland Executive, [Ministers ‘gravely concerned’ on pausing of City and Growth Deals funding by UK Government](#), 13 September 2024

Two Ministerial Statements by Northern Ireland Finance Minister Caoimhe Archibald indicated that it had been “confirmed by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury that the pause remained” for UK government funding for Northern Ireland’s two growth deals.²⁶

These statements also indicated that initially this pause also applied to funding for Northern Ireland’s two city deals (the Belfast City Region Deal and Derry City and Strabane City Deal), though both deals would now go ahead as initially planned.

In a statement on 9 October 2024, Hilary Benn, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, indicated “the Chancellor will set out the results of the first phase of the spending review on 30 October” which will include an update on the status of funding for the Mid South West Northern Ireland and Causeway Coast and Glens growth deals.²⁷

The [2024 Autumn Budget](#) indicated the UK government would provide £162 million over 15 years for the Mid South West Northern Ireland and the Causeway Coast and Glens deals “subject to value for money assessments of business cases.”²⁸

²⁶ See Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA, [Urgent Oral Statement to the Assembly: Pausing of City and Growth Deals Funding Commitment by British Government](#), 16 September 2024 and [Written Ministerial Statement: City and Growth Deals: Treasury Pause on Funding Commitments](#), 18 September 2024

²⁷ [Northern Ireland City Deals](#), HC Deb 9 Oct 2024, c 305-14

²⁸ HM Treasury, [Autumn Budget 2024](#), HC 295, 30 October 2024, pg. 141

7 Funding by Local Enterprise Partnership

Growth Deal funding awarded by LEP (£ millions)

	Growth Deal 1, Jul 2014	Growth Deal 2, Jan 2015	Growth Deal 3, Nov 2016	Total
North East				
North Eastern	289.3	40.6	49.7	379.6
Tees Valley Unlimited	90.3	13.9	21.8	126.0
North West				
Cheshire and Warrington	142.7	15.1	43.3	201.1
Cumbria	26.8	20.9	12.7	60.4
Greater Manchester	476.7	56.3	130.1	663.1
Lancashire	233.9	17.2	69.8	320.9
Liverpool City Region	229.3	31.6	72.0	332.9
Yorkshire and Humber				
Humber	103.7	9.9	27.9	141.5
Leeds City Region	572.9	54.6	67.5	695.0
Sheffield City Region	297.0	31.0	37.0	365.0
York, North Yorkshire and East Riding	110.1	12.1	23.7	145.9
East Midlands				
Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire	172.3	22.2	63.0	257.5
Leicester and Leicestershire	80.0	20.3	25.9	126.2
South East Midlands*	146.6	55.7	59.0	261.3
West Midlands				
Black Country	138.7	24.0	55.1	217.8
Coventry and Warwickshire	74.1	15.3	44.2	133.6
Greater Birmingham and Solihull	357.4	21.4	54.2	433.0
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire	82.3	15.4	23.3	121.0
The Marches	75.3	7.7	21.9	104.9
Worcestershire	47.0	7.2	17.5	71.7
East of England				
Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough	71.8	38.0	37.6	147.4
Greater Lincolnshire	111.2	14.8	29.5	155.5
New Anglia	173.3	48.5	69.0	290.8

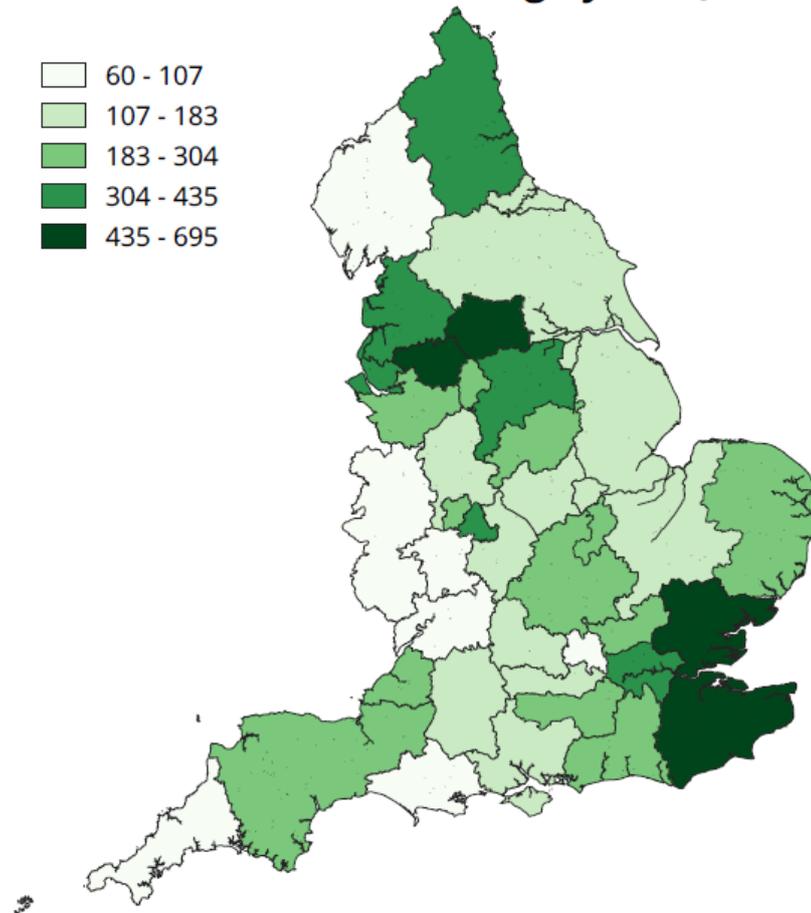
* The South East Midlands and Northamptonshire LEPs merged; the South East Midlands total includes Northamptonshire's allocation from Growth Deal One and Two

Growth Deal funding awarded by LEP (£ millions)				
	Growth Deal 1, Jul 2014	Growth Deal 2, Jan 2015	Growth Deal 3, Nov 2016	Total
South East and London				
Buckinghamshire Thames Valley	44.2	8.8	20.5	73.5
Coast to Capital	202.4	35.8	66.1	304.3
Enterprise M3	118.1	29.9	71.1	219.1
Hertfordshire	199.2	22.3	44.0	265.5
London	236.0	58.0	141.3	435.3
Oxfordshire	108.5	9.9	24.2	142.6
Solent	124.8	27.1	31.0	182.9
South East	442.2	46.1	102.7	591.0
Thames Valley Berkshire	96.9	10.2	35.6	142.7
South West				
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	48.9	11.3	18.0	78.2
Dorset	66.4	12.6	19.5	98.5
Gloucestershire: Gfirst	62.5	15.0	29.3	106.8
Heart of the South West	130.3	65.2	43.6	239.1
Swindon and Wiltshire	129.3	11.5	28.1	168.9
West of England	212.6	18.1	52.8	283.5
Total	6,325.0	975.5	1,783.5	9,084.0

Source: [Cabinet Office](#)

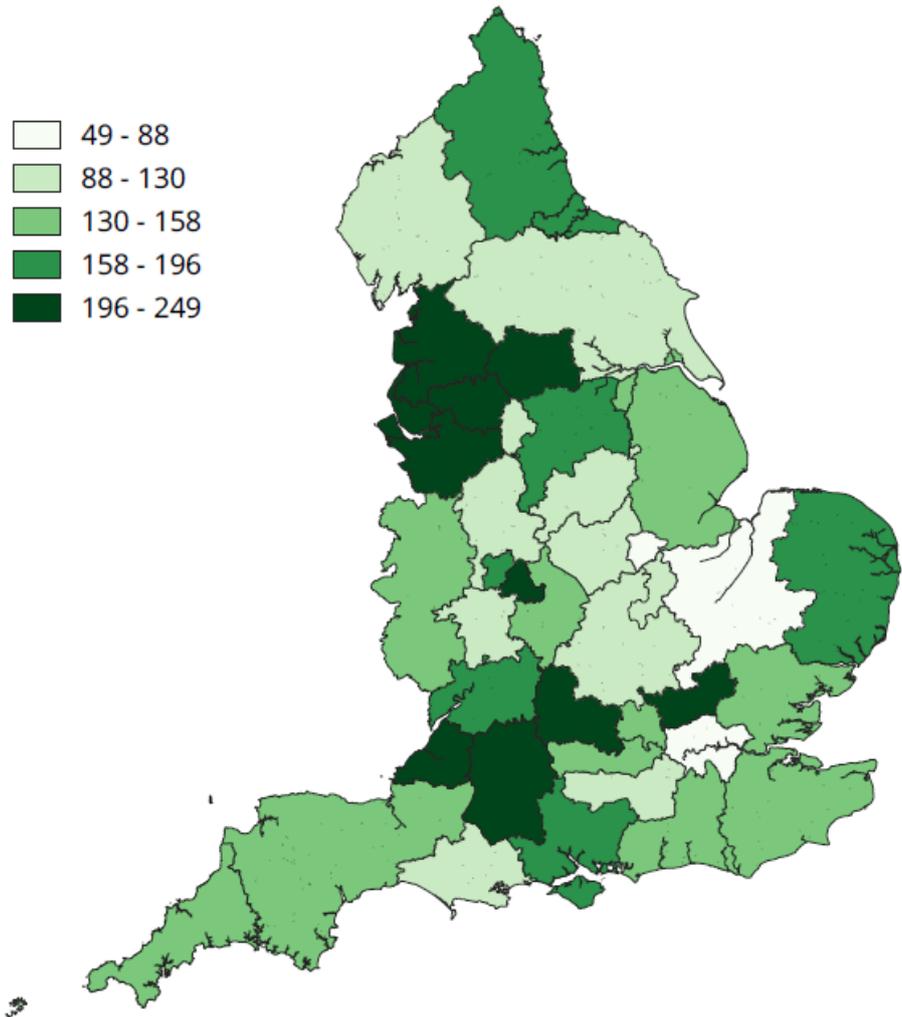
8 Funding by Local Enterprise Partnership - maps

Total Growth Deal funding by LEP (£ millions)



Source: [Cabinet Office](#)

Growth Deal funding by LEP per head (£)



Source: [Cabinet Office](#)

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