

West of England

Devolution Deal

SINGLE INVESTMENT FUND
OF UP TO
£1 BILLION



£815
PER HEAD OF POPULATION*
Significantly more than
anywhere else in the UK

OUR OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE SIGNIFICANT NEW FUNDING AND ADDITIONAL POWERS

- To deliver sustainable economic growth
- To tackle the infrastructure deficit

ABOUT WEST OF ENGLAND REGION

Total population
1.1 MILLION

[in 2014]

Economy worth
£30.8 BILLION
a year

572,900 jobs

13.2% GVA growth
2011-14

ABOUT THE DEAL

Single Investment Fund of up to £1 bn over 30 years, comprising £30 m a year from govt plus other funding sources

Combined Authority Board consisting of 4 unitary authority leaders and regional mayor

New strategic planning powers devolved from govt to combined authority

Existing planning controls remain with individual councils

Regional Mayor to be member of LEP Board, to ensure close relationship with business community

Prioritised funding by govt for regions with devolution deals

* Source: Local Government Chronicle

BENEFITS INCLUDE



TRANSPORT

Multi-year budgets to deliver transport projects across the region

Ability to franchise bus services and introduce smart ticketing

Funding for projects such as:

A36/46 link road to improve through traffic in Bath & surrounding areas

Rail electrification to Weston-super-Mare

A new junction on the M4 at J18a

Investment in Bristol Temple Meads Station



SKILLS

Control over Adult Education budget: to match skills with local jobs & boost productivity

Co-design with DWP of new National Work and Health Programme to help long-term unemployed



HOUSING

Stronger strategic planning powers to ensure more housing – and built where it's most needed

Sustainable development – with benefits shared across the region

Thereby helping business to retain and recruit staff



BUSINESS

Joint programme of investment with govt in superfast broadband, particularly in rural areas

Support for SMEs with development of the Growth Hub

Support for Bristol & Bath Science Park

Support for the Food Enterprise Zone, J21 of the M5

Closer working with govt to promote trade & investment in the region

Produced on behalf of the West of England business community