

Growth Deal for the Liverpool City Region - Key Questions & Answers

- The summary national press release of Government states £46m, not £230m – why is there a difference?
 - *The £46m is just the figure for 2015/16. Many of our projects spend over a number of years and our largest projects do not ‘kick-in’ until 2016/17 not 2015/17. The 2015/16 figures also reflect ‘pre-committed’ monies to major transport schemes that were announced a number of years ago and there is only one such project in the Liverpool City Region and hence the figure is relatively lower – this is why the Greater Manchester number is high in 2015/16*
- Could the number have been bigger?
 - *We were very clear in putting forward fully scoped, deliverable schemes, to the Local Growth Fund. The Fund extends from now to 2021 and we only specified Local Growth schemes for 2015/16, 2016/17, and 2017/18 because the world will be a different place in 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 and our priorities will have moved on. We indicated this in our Plan so our numbers do not reflect our ask for those later years - we will be going back to Government for funding in those years of up to £100m per annum which means the numbers could have been bigger.*
- There seems to be a lot of transport and skills projects both in the local allocation and the national allocations – why?
 - *The Local Growth Fund is made up from Departmental budgets – it is not (yet) a true ‘Single Pot’ process. £1.1bn of the £2bn commitment to LGF was by the Department for Transport and £800m of skills capital funding was available so these represent the core of every areas Growth Deal settlement. However, both transport and skills are key priorities for our economy so we developed a series of projects that met the funding criteria. As the process develops over years ahead we hope there will be more flexibility and we will be able to source funding for a broader range of schemes.*
- Is this it for Local Growth Funds – or is there more to come?
 - *Government has already said that it will immediately open discussions with LEPs on ‘what next’ with their being some talk of another round being announced by the early spring. We think this may develop to be an annual process so there is definitely more to come?*
- Why are some elements described as not being part of the Local Growth Fund?
 - *We were conscious that not everything we wanted was fundable from Local Growth Fund resources and made direct ‘asks’ of Government Departments where there was some scope to source monies. We successfully obtained funding to continue the skills for growth bank, to establish a business growth hub, and the successful University Enterprise Zone bid was also part of our Growth Plan submission*
- What will we seek funding for next?
 - *What we will seeking funding for next is a complicated question as it depends on what we see as the City Region’s priorities, what our partners tell us is required, and also needs to acknowledge the funding sources and what they can be spent on. The City Region will launch a new Innovation Strategy in the Autumn and our new European Programme will launch in the spring so there is plenty of work underway to get the next set of big ideas prepared.*

- What about the four major transport schemes that are not funded – the A570 Linkway, Wirral Dock Bridges, Silver Jubilee Bridge Improvements and Windle Island?
 - *All four of these schemes are £3m to £3.5m and were considered too small to be part of the national announcement – the City Region however has been allocated £24m of “Devolved Majors” funding which could be used to fund such scheme and still leave room for more schemes to be delivered and the allocation of this will be done over upcoming months*
- And what about the City Region Capital Fund – is that now not going to happen?
 - *The development of a single ‘Fund’ for funding schemes throughout the City Region is well underway and was not dependent on our £15m ask of the Local Growth Fund. Up to £95m of already identified resource could be deployed via the fund so that work continues*
- Who will manage the money and how will the schemes be delivered?
 - *The funding is allocated to the LEP who will need to agree the Deal with Government; the LEP works closely with the Combined Authority (CA) who will act as custodian and accountable body for the City Region allocation with decision making undertaken by the LEP and CA working together. A delivery plan will be drawn up between the LEP and Combined Authority now that the funding has been announced*
- How will the skills capital fund be allocated
 - *The LEP will work with colleges throughout the City Region in designing an application process for funding – a number of key schemes at colleges throughout the City Region have already been identified*
- What about the other asks included in the Growth Deal bid – especially the non-funding asks?
 - *Government has initially focussed on funding asks - there are many other asks made by the LEP and we will be engaged with Government on these over upcoming months*