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Gloucestershire is “growing” places

Millions of pounds has been awarded to Gloucestershire’s Local Enterprise Partnership to help drive local economic growth.

The LEP, driven by economic development company GFirst, will be awarded £5.6million from the Department for Communities and Local Government’s Growing Places Fund to help drive local economic growth and create much-needed jobs.

The money, which is subject to Ministerial approval, will be used to deliver key infrastructure which is needed to unlock developments in the county.

This could be used to deliver sites where development has been stalled, build strategic link roads or roundabouts, deliver employment and retail space or reduce congestion through highways interventions. The money would be a sustainable revolving fund which can then be re-invested into other projects.

Chair of Gloucestershire’s Local Enterprise Partnership Diane Savory said: “This grant is a great opportunity to kick start some developments which have stalled. We are looking at potential sites where this grant could be used and will be working with our partners to decide on those that are most in need. But rest assured we will be investing the cash wisely so that we see a return on the money invested as it goes back into the economy to promote future growth in Gloucestershire.”

The bid was driven by Gloucestershire’s Local Enterprise Partnership with its business-led Construction and Infrastructure Sector Group, in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council, the Homes and Communities Agency, the local authorities and the private sector.

Councillor Mark Hawthorne, Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, said: “This money is great news for Gloucestershire. Working together we can ensure that this money helps us to drive growth, create much-needed jobs and really make the most of our county’s economic potential.”

The Government will distribute £500 million between LEPs from the Growing Places Fund to make capital investments in activity that will drive local economic growth. The grant will be administered to the county council, as the accountable body, before the projects are delivered by the LEP. Final decisions will be made within the next few weeks.

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For more information and interviews please contact Sarah Webb at GFirst on 01452 328315 or 07921514467.