



Stevenage **Levelling up** Fund





June 2021

What is the Levelling Up Fund?



Announced at the Spending Review, the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) will invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK. The £4.8 billion fund will support town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets.

LUF investment will support a wide range of local level improvements, including an improved service offer for communities, a more accessible and resilient town core and new capacity for major new development. Each project will help to level up Stevenage by addressing some of the persistent socio-economic challenges facing the town. The Stevenage LUF proposals builds on the momentum being built in the Town arising from the Town Deal funding award and public and private sector investments made in recent times. The LUF projects will give a further boost to the regeneration of the Town and its ambitions to be an exemplar 21st century New Town - a modern, advanced economy which benefits all residents.

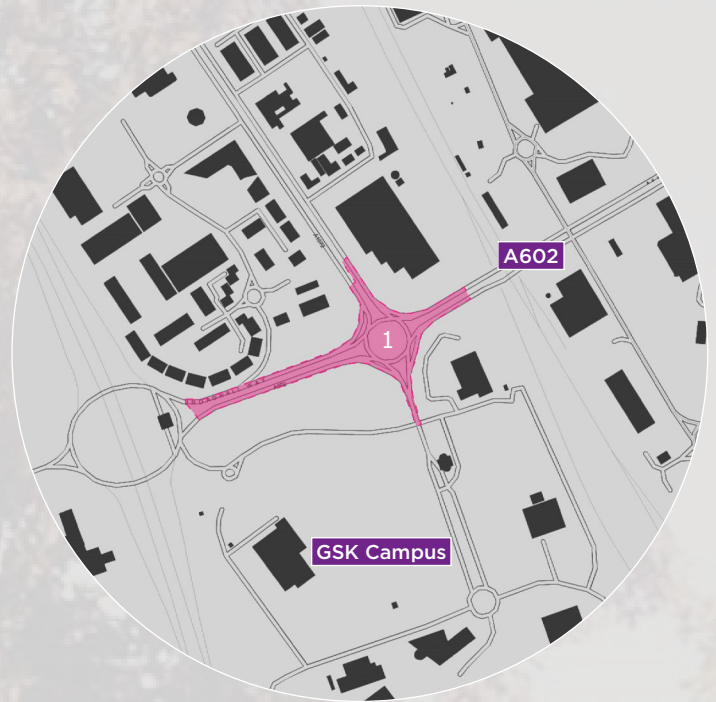
Stevenage Levelling Up Fund Bid has a vision to be an exemplar 21st Century New Town. It aims to be:

-  **national / international UK gateway, Innovation Hub and STEM city**
-  **harnessing its people's potential**
-  **retaining expenditure, building wealth**
-  **reviving sustainable transport**

There are already high aspirations for the town, via the Stevenage Town Investment Plan (STIP), an ambitious yet deliverable plan for:

-  **8,000 new jobs**
-  **leveraging £600m private sector investment and generating £2.5bn net additional GVA benefit by 2035**

LUF investment offers the chance for rapid investment to build on the £37.5m secured through the Town Deal and, support the ambitions of the STIP.



Project 1: Unlocking Sustainable Employment

This project will facilitate the delivery of physical improvements to the key gyratory connecting businesses in Gunnels Wood Road (GWR) Employment Area to address current critical capacity limitations and opening opportunities for travel to these locations through sustainable modes. The project will involve upgrading the existing roundabout junction and widening the A602 between the A1072 and the A1(M). In addition to the junction improvements, the project will enhance pedestrian and cycling facilities together with public transport improvements including a dedicated bus lane complementary to a wider programme of modal shift investment through the Stevenage Town Investment Plan.





Project 2: Healthy Hub

The Healthy Hub project will utilise town centre regeneration, and a planned new Sports & Leisure facility, as a catalyst to address long-standing health and wellbeing issues, tackle socioeconomic deprivation, and start to focus on preventative care rather than treatment, by providing a permanent home for a “healthy hub” within the new Sports and Leisure Hub. This Project will relocate the Stevenage Healthy Hub from its existing location to new permanent and consolidated health and leisure facilities in Stevenage Centre Park and Gardens, with scope to focus on improving the town’s health and well-being for both adults and younger people. In so doing it will help facilitate the redevelopment of the former site and ensure effective integration with the leisure and sport facilities in the town.

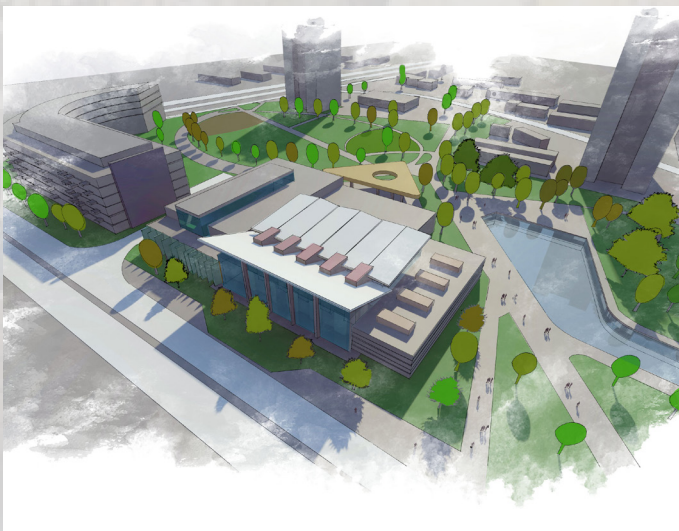
Project 3: Urban Connections

The Urban Connections project will target specific public realm investments to level up connectivity within and to Stevenage Town centre for sustainable modes. The specific locations for investment through the Urban Connections Project are identified on the Plan as shown and are targeted as follows:

Area 1 – Arrival Square House to Tesco – Part of the original Great North Road of significant historical importance to the town and its development as a new town.

Area 2 – Swingate Link to Old Town – the main pedestrian and cycling link between the Stevenage Old Town and the town centre is via a footbridge over the busy Fairlands Way dual carriageway. This links with the Area 1 scheme above since it a continuation of the Great North Road route.

Area 3 – Market Square & Service Yard – Market Square comprises two streets which act as service areas for the Indoor Market and the shops in Queensway.



What's in it for me?

- ✓ Support the economic growth of the town.
- ✓ Unlock private investment.
- ✓ Deliver jobs.
- ✓ Support small businesses.
- ✓ Enhance connectivity.
- ✓ 1.1km of new/ upgraded roads.
- ✓ 1.2km of new/ upgraded cycle and walking paths.
- ✓ Delivery of new and improved public realm.
- ✓ Encourage footfall to the town centre.
- ✓ Improve the town's health and well-being.
- ✓ Reduce congestion and emissions.

“The Stevenage Development Board fully supports this bid and will play an active part in managing the delivery of the projects promoted, as we work towards the “Levelling Up” of opportunity in the Town and the County.”

Adrian Hawkins

Chair of Stevenage Development Board

“We are committed to the sustainable regeneration of Stevenage and fully supportive of this request for funding, which would play a key role in unlocking the town's growth potential. Securing funds to upgrade the Gunnels Wood Road roundabout, for example, would enable economic development in the area bringing jobs and growth. GSK is committed to supporting this upgrade through, subject to contract, an inkind donation of land worth an estimated £2m.”

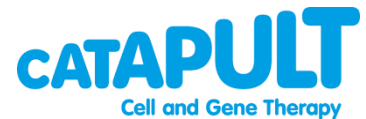
Tony Wood

SVP Medicinal Science and Technology
GSK

“We were greatly encouraged that the Government recognised Stevenage's potential through its award of £37.5m of Town Deal funding. This Levelling Up funding will help consolidate and build on the Government's recognition by securing Stevenage's regeneration and growth for decades to come.”

Sally Forsyth

CEO Catalyst



Hertfordshire
Growth Board

