

Philip White
Deputy Leader
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Dear Business Leader

While the County Council's focus has been on supporting you as businesses throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we have also continued to work with our partners to help create the conditions for growth and long-term stability. Speeding up those projects that will benefit businesses and residents alike has never been more important.

That is why I am delighted about this week's announcement of the multi-million pound Government investment in Staffordshire from the Getting Building Fund.

The majority of the £23.7m secured for our area by the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership will be spent in Staffordshire to accelerate local, shovel-ready infrastructure projects to stimulate jobs and support economic recovery.

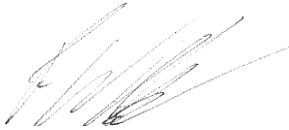
Projects will deliver support for businesses through new innovation and enterprise space, investment in digital skills for young people, and improvements to transport infrastructure which will unlock new housing sites and enable more travelling and commuting without relying on the car.

In Staffordshire this includes a number of projects to support start-up businesses with accommodation, advice and mentoring, the creation of a Digital Skills Academy and facilities to support learning of digital skills in the construction sector, the acceleration of the i54 South Staffordshire Western Extension to bring in more big-business investment and developing Innovation Centre 7 at the Keele Growth Corridor University Enterprise Zone. This will focus on a business transformation programme that can support businesses like yours to use data analytics and related digital technologies to boost your productivity. You can read more about this fantastic [news here](#).

This will be such a boost to business that 2,440 jobs are expected to be created and 110 safeguarded, while also creating 440 construction jobs. Projects will also unlock 115,000 square metres of commercial floorspace, 2,000 square metres of learning space and support 1,150 learners.

The County Council is central to the delivery of many of these projects and I look forward to working with the LEP and our partners to deliver these projects by March 2022. These projects will have a considerable impact for us all. Some great news for this week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P White', written in a cursive style.

Philip White
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