

## Annex 1 – Draft LEP Action Plan Budget

Three-Year Total (2025/26–2027/28)

Programme	Capital (£)	Resource (£)	Total (£)
Global Gateway	50,000	300,000	350,000
Innovate360	900,000	375,000	1,275,000
Thrive Causeway	1,300,000	100,000	1,400,000
FutureProof	600,000	324,000	924,000
Property Scoping & Emerging Challenges	200,000	–	200,000
Council Delivery & Technical Assistance	–	360,000	360,000
Grand Total	3,050,000	1,459,000	4,509,000

*(Includes estimated allocation for Council-led delivery, governance, and technical assistance.)*

The budget has been developed over a 2-year time-period for all 4 programmes with a modest allocation in year 1 details of this are provided in Annex 3 of the documentation. This will cut across multiple elements of the activity proposed.

The split between capital and resource is in line with the 67% to 33% required split. This accounts for how DfE capitalises innovation spend, projected at 68% Capital and 32% resource.

To ensure the Local Economic Partnership remains agile and responsive to emerging priorities, a £200,000 capital funding pot is proposed. This allocation will provide flexibility to address critical challenges identified through recent engagement and strategic analysis, including short-term activation of vacant town centre properties to support business growth, exploratory work on industrial 5G/6G connectivity projects, and a scoping study on property and infrastructure constraints, estimated at a minimum of £50,000. While these examples are not exhaustive, the fund will enable the Council and its partners to seize time-sensitive opportunities, strengthen the enabling environment for investment, and accelerate innovation-led regeneration. This approach maximises impact without diluting the core programme structure and ensures that the LEP can adapt to unforeseen needs while maintaining compliance and value-for-money principles.

### Statement on Year One Spend and Technical Assistance / Delivery Costs

The Partnership intends to begin delivery in Year One (Oct 2025 – Mar 2026) with a focus on mobilisation, procurement, and preparatory activity, alongside a limited number of quick-win interventions that can be defrayed before 31 March 2026. However, given the short timeframe and the need for compliance with CPD and Council approval processes, there is a recognised risk that a significant proportion of Year One spend will be committed rather than fully defrayed. The priority will be to establish frameworks, secure delivery partners, and initiate activity that creates momentum for Year Two, while

maximising impact where feasible. Alternate funding sources will be actively pursued to supplement the Regional Balance Fund and extend programme reach.

The Local Economic Partnership has adopted a pragmatic approach to budget allocation across the four programmes and the overall delivery framework. The three-year envelope is designed to maximise impact while recognising the operational realities of procurement, compliance, and governance. Approximately 7–10% of total funding is reserved for Council-led management and technical assistance to ensure robust delivery, monitoring, and reporting. This allocation supports programme coordination, procurement oversight, governance compliance, and performance evaluation—critical enablers for success and accountability.

While the Partnership intends to initiate activity in Year One, the short timeframe and approval processes present a risk that significant expenditure will be committed rather than fully defrayed before 31 March 2026. The priority will be to establish delivery structures, secure frameworks, and commence preparatory actions that create momentum for Year Two. Quick-win interventions will be pursued where feasible, but the focus remains on building a strong foundation for sustained impact. The Council will actively seek alternative funding streams to supplement the Regional Balance Fund, ensuring that resources are leveraged effectively and outcomes are maximised without compromising realism or compliance.

### **Key Principles for Budget Allocation**

- Maintain realism and deliverability: avoid over-promising in Year One; prioritise actions that can be evidenced.
- Ensure impact and value for money: focus on interventions that reduce costs, build skills, and create market access.
- Allocate technical assistance (7–10%) for Council-led programme management, governance, and compliance.
- Profile major capital and complex interventions into Years Two and Three for effective delivery.