

## News story: Centenary Cities: 100 years of votes for women

Seven areas across England will benefit from a share of £1.2 million to fund projects in 2018 to mark 100 years since women were first allowed to vote, Minister for Women and Equalities Anne Milton has confirmed today (15 December).

To mark this milestone the government's 'Centenary Cities' – Bolton, Bristol, Leeds, Leicester, London, Manchester and Nottingham – will all host a range of exciting projects to celebrate as well as remember those individuals who helped to make this happen.

Every area was chosen for its strong link to the women's suffrage movement, from Manchester's proud history as the home of the Pankhurst's suffragette campaign to lesser known local heroes like Leicester's shoe factory worker Alice Hawkins who was jailed five times in the fight for women's votes.

The 'Centenary Cities' programme forms part of the government's wider plans to promote this pivotal moment in history, including the addition of the first female statue in Parliament Square – Millicent Fawcett – due to be unveiled in 2018.

The initiatives and commemorations that will take place across the country next year also aim to help inspire and educate young people about UK democracy and its importance, as well as encourage more women to get into political and public life.

Minister for Women and Equalities Anne Milton said:

Less than 100 years ago, women could not vote and could not stand as candidates for Parliament. By remembering and celebrating those individuals who fought to get the right to vote we are continuing to push for all our political institutions to reflect women's representation in society.

I want to congratulate all seven of our 'Centenary Cities' that have been recognised for their proud connection to the suffrage movement and look forward to hearing more about the projects they are planning next year.