

£56 million announced to transform Portsmouth and South East Hampshire transport network

News story

Transport Minister announces extra funding for local transport infrastructure.



- city region to receive almost £56 million from the Transforming Cities Fund
- money will help overhaul local transport links to boost the local economy, opening up jobs, services and giving residents greater access to the city
- funding will support a number of local transport projects, including moving Gosport bus station and taxi rank

Local transport hubs in the Portsmouth city region will receive almost £56 million to transform how residents use and access the city, Transport Minister Baroness Vere has announced today (28 September 2020).

Funding will go towards a range of key local projects including the much-needed relocation of Gosport bus station and taxi rank and the development of new and upgraded walking and cycling routes.

The Ryde transport hub in the Isle of Wight is also set to benefit from new links for cycling and walking and the realignment of the current bus interchange which will mean both tourists and residents can cut time off their journeys.

Transport Minister, Baroness Vere said:

This money will make a real difference to the everyday lives of Portsmouth and South East Hampshire residents.

The Transforming Cities Fund allows cities across the UK to enhance their local transport networks, opening up access to jobs and services.

We're committed to levelling up transport infrastructure across the country, boosting local economies and enhancing local connectivity. This multi-million-pound investment in Portsmouth and the surrounding area will do just that, helping the area build back better from COVID-19.

Alongside the specific projects already mentioned, Portsmouth City Council has also proposed using the money to build new bus lanes and bus links around Portsmouth itself, enhancing vital connections for those that use the network.

The proposed improvements to local transport are expected to offer greener transport links to local residents and boost employment levels for people in the region through better connectivity, delivering on the government's commitment to 'level up' the entire country, including through more access to opportunity.

The TCF was set up to build on transport links and boost local economies within city regions, and it's hoped the funding package will help Portsmouth and South East Hampshire bounce back from the economic impact of coronavirus.

Today's announcement follows a previous grant of £4 million awarded to Portsmouth City Council last year.

Published 28 September 2020

[£32 million announced to transform Norwich's transport network](#)

News story

Roads Minister announces new investment in Norwich's transport links.



- city to receive £32 million from the Transforming Cities Fund
- money will boost the local economy, opening up jobs, services and giving residents greater access to the city
- funding package is part of the government's wider commitment to levelling up and accelerating transport infrastructure investment across the country

Roads Minister, Baroness Vere has today (25 September 2020) announced just over £32 million of government funding to overhaul local transport links in Norwich, transforming how residents use and access the city.

Funding from the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) will be used to improve and develop important local transport links, including a new bus interchange at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital which will help to improve what has been a congestion hotspot for motorists.

Further projects proposed by Norfolk County Council include improvements to cycle and pedestrian crossing facilities at the Mile Cross Ring Road, and a redesign of the Heartsease Highway Junction, enabling bus operators to provide more efficient and reliable services while also improving cyclist and pedestrian use of the junction.

Changes brought in through the TCF funding will help improve journey times, cut pollution, and boost the local economy by giving residents greater access to jobs and services.

Roads Minister, Baroness Vere said:

The Transforming Cities Fund allows cities across the UK to enhance their local transport networks. This multi-million-pound funding package will make a real difference to the everyday lives of Norwich's residents, helping people access jobs and services.

As a government we're committed to levelling up transport infrastructure across the country, boosting local economies, enhancing local connectivity and enabling regions to build back better from COVID-19. Today's funding will do just that, transforming how Norwich residents get about the city.

The TCF was set up to build on transport links and boost local economies within city regions, and it's hoped the funding package will help Norwich bounce back from the economic impact of coronavirus.

Today's announcement follows a previous grant of £6 million awarded to Norfolk County Council last year.

Published 28 September 2020

A Force for good business

Whether it's a student campus in the centre of Leeds or a military installation in the Middle East, consulting and engineering firm WYG, depends on its teams of experts to develop, design and deliver major projects worldwide. Attracting and retaining skilled staff is a key priority for the Gold Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Award holders.

Director, Anrew Fotherby said:

We don't keep count, but we recruit a higher than usual proportion of our people from the military. For us, it's not only about technical knowledge. It's about broader-based skills – leadership, discipline, the ability to problem-solve and to generate great working relationships both internally and with our clients, and create high performing teams.

WYG has its UK headquarters in Leeds, and has recently become part of the global consulting and engineering firm, Tetra Tech, that has 20,000 people in more than 450 locations around the world.

As well as being one of the companies behind Leeds City College's new city-centre campus and the re-development of the world-famous Headingley Stadium, its recent portfolio includes a new base for the Royal Navy in Bahrain and UK Government aid programmes across sub-Saharan Africa.

It is also the only commercial company in the whole of West Yorkshire to win a Gold Award in the MOD's Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.

The award recognises the firm's strong, forces-friendly credentials which cover not only its recruitment and selection processes but also the HR policies it has in place to support reservists, employees who also serve in the military.

WYG president, Douglas McCormick said:

Securing the award was a major validation of the support we provide to the Armed Forces, including our reservists.

We recognise the value that service leavers and reservists bring to the company and are committed to supporting them. More importantly, the ERS Gold Award doesn't mark the end of that commitment, but the beginning.

To be a Gold Award winner, organisations must sign the Armed Forces Covenant in which they pledge to treat the military fairly. As well as supporting reservists when they are deployed on active service, they must also give them at least 10 days' fully-paid additional leave to enable them to do annual training.

At WYG, support for the military also includes fund-raising for veterans' and other military charities and a mentoring programme to help service leavers get a foothold in the construction industry.

Phil Walton, head of engagement at the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association for Yorkshire and the Humber, which operates the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme in North and West Yorkshire

Gold Award winners set the standard that the best employers aspire to. Many employers start off by simply signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant which they can do quickly and easily online. From there, they have the option to develop the degree of commitment they show the military, progressing to Bronze and, then, Silver Award level, before aiming for Gold.

Employers sign up to 'do their bit' for the military. But they also recognise the benefits to making themselves more attractive to a loyal and motivated pool of potential recruits that will help their organisations grow and thrive.

Reservist Helen Haigh

Reservist Helen Haigh, aged 37, of Bradford, has worked for WYG as a project manager for 2 years. She combines her civilian role with serving as a captain with the Royal Engineers. Having a supportive employer has allowed Helen to pursue her civilian career while maintaining links to the Armed Forces as a Reservist.

Why did you join the reserves?

After university, I spent 10 years in the regular Army serving in various roles, including in Afghanistan. When I left to get a civilian job, it seemed natural to be part of the reserves.

How much time do you spend as a reservist?

The amount of time you devote to the reserves is up to you. Training is flexible and you can fit it round your life. I tend to do my training in weekend blocks.

What is your role with the reserves?

Currently, I spend quite a bit of time in the Yorkshire area supporting the 4th Infantry Brigade in community engagement.

What support do you get from your employer?

WYG has comprehensive policies in place and we get a standard 10 days paid leave a year for training as well as the possibility of sabbaticals if we choose to go on deployment.

How does being a reserve impact on your job?

Being in the Reserve gives you the opportunity to build a much wider skills base. I encourage colleagues to think about it because of the opportunities it provides. Also it's a great way of making new friends.

[Five top reasons for signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant](#)

Being a Reservist is the best of both worlds

Yeadon-based Danny Railton is an RAF Reservist and an account manager for Speedibake, a food company that produces muffins and doughnuts for supermarkets. Danny spent two years in the Marines in his twenties and after a period as a civilian, he missed the focus that being part of the military brought to his life. Danny's brother James, aged 30, from Hull, also joined up at the same time as Danny and serves with him in 609 Squadron.

Learning so much

I learned so much from my time in the Marines, it not only brought me a whole new skillset, it gave me a focus and commitment that really served me well when I moved into a civilian career.

I joined the RAF because it's a very professional set-up and I wanted to be in an environment which offer lots of new challenges and learning opportunities. I'm massively into physical fitness and the military training gives me an extra outlet for that.

Supportive employer

Danny, who lives with his partner Kate, is full of praise for his employer Bradford-based Speedibake, who have supported his role in the reserves, including offering additional paid leave, allowing Danny to attend annual training camps.

Stuart Allen, Danny's manager at Speedibake recognises the benefits being a Reservist offers;

At Speedibake we are very keen to support our employees in achieving a work/life balance so that they can pursue their passions.

Transferable skills

Stuart Allen from Speedibake says:

We're really proud to be able to support Danny so that he can devote the time he needs to his military training. A lot of skills gained in his training and operations are transferable to our workplace, such as team-work and problem-solving and we are delighted to be in a position to enable Danny's participation with the RAF.

[Academy online seminar: Living our Values](#)

News story

Gerry Nososka, Chair of the British Association for Social Workers shares her experiences and learning from BASW's equality, diversity and inclusion work.



The Academy for Social Justice is a networked community of people focussed on inspiring change to improve public services, civil society and help people thrive

Thursday, 12 November, 2020

featuring

Gerry Nosowska □ Chair □ British Association of Social Workers (BASW)

For details and booking [click here](#)

Published 28 September 2020