

HS2 Community & Environment Fund (CEF), Business & Local Economy Fund (BLEF), and Road Safety Fund

The CEF will help enhance community facilities, improve access to the countryside and conserve the natural environment along the HS2 Phase One line of route, while the BLEF will support local economies in areas where businesses may experience disruption from the construction of HS2.

The 2 funds will provide £40M, of which £30M is set to be allocated at a regional level:

- £15M for the Central area (Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Buckinghamshire)
- £7.5M for Greater London
- £7.5M for the West Midlands (Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry)

£10M unallocated to allow flexibility to fund cross-region or route wide projects

A separate £30 million Road Safety Fund will be used to make improvements in places along the line of route – for instance to support traffic calming, safer junctions or better pedestrian crossings.

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Government's Announcement – 12 Oct 2016 (continued)

On 12 October 2016, Cathy Elliott, the independent chair of the CEF and BLEF funds, said:

"Allocation of the funds in this way allows communities to have an indication of the level of funding available while maintaining some flexibility to ensure that the overarching objective of the funds are met.

Allocating the funding on a regional level will allow the funding of larger schemes which are likely to deliver a long lasting legacy."

Community groups, charities, non-governmental organisations and business support specialists will be able to bid for grants from the CEF and BLEF funds, which are expected to be rolled out when construction starts in 2017 and will be awarded until the end of HS2's first year of operation in 2026.

Governance & Management of the Funds

HS2 Information Paper C12: The Community & Environment Fund and Business & Local Economy Fund

Paragraph 5.2

The management of the funds will be outsourced to an existing grant-management body, which will be selected through a competitive process. This body will lead on the promotion of the funds, and work with bidders and potential bidders to develop applications. It will finalise the detailed eligibility criteria, which will be agreed by the Secretary of State. It will undertake the assessment of bids against these criteria and will be responsible for making awards under £75,000.

Paragraph 5.3

For decisions on grant awards above £75,000, the grant-making body will receive the applications and put these to an independent panel, appointed by HS2 Ltd. Independent members of the Panel will have experience in delivery of successful community-led environmental projects, a track record in providing advice and support to small and medium size businesses and experience of managing local government or third sector grant programmes. The Panel will make recommendations to the Secretary of State on whether applications should be accepted. The final decision will be made by a senior civil servant in the Department for Transport with delegated authority from the Secretary of State. If the value of the grant request exceeds £250,000 or the senior civil servant disagrees with the Panel's recommendation, then the application will be decided by a Minister.

Further funds related to the Buckinghamshire area

Petitioner/ Stakeholder - assurances given	Sum	Description	Purpose
London Borough of Hillingdon, South Bucks District Council, Chiltern District Council, Three Rivers District Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Natural England, Environment Agency, The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust The Bucks, Berks and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, The London Wildlife Trust, The Colne Valley Regional Park Community Interest Company	£3m	Enhanced mitigation for the Colne Valley Regional Park	Enhanced mitigation
Chiltern District Council; The Chilterns Conservation Board; Buckinghamshire County Council; Chiltern District Council; Aylesbury Vale District Council; Wycombe District Council.	£3m	Chilterns AONB- Funding for environmental integration measures	Enhancement of AONB
Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council	£1m	Enhanced mitigation package for Calvert	Enhanced mitigation