

**JOINT INVESTMENT PLANNING
'SINGLE CONVERSATION' WITH HCA, RDA AND OTHER REGIONAL AGENCIES**

Purpose of Report

1. To summarise the scope of the 'Single Conversation' with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), South West Regional Development Agency (RDA) and other regional agencies to prepare a sub-regional Joint Investment Plan to support the development of mixed and sustainable communities and growth in jobs, housing, population and competitiveness.
2. To seek the views of Board Partners.

Potential of the 'Conversation'

3. The newly established HCA has successfully promoted with other regional agencies and local authorities its proposal for a 'Single Conversation'. This will support the delivery of local and national ambitions and priorities for building mixed and sustainable communities through growth and regeneration.
4. The Conversation has the potential to:
 - focus on core priorities; support delivery programmes and projects;
 - join-up the contributions of strategic delivery partners;
 - integrate actions and investment by public and private sector partners;
 - 'pool' key skills and experience; share and delegate powers;
 - establish strategic relationships with potential investors and developers;
 - prepare business and investment proposals and plans;
 - secure agreement on the co-financing of investment needs;
 - agree development and delivery capacity and vehicles.

Context

5. Within the scope of Vision 2026, the capacity of the 'Single Conversation' will support the further development and delivery of the sub-regional proposals set out in the:
 - Regional Funding Advice (RFA2) Submission:
 - infrastructure for housing, regeneration and employment locations;
 - other investment to increase business growth and competitiveness;
 - affordable and supported housing;
 - Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) Outcomes:
 - an early economic upturn;

- growth in homes, jobs and mixed and sustainable communities;
- increased growth and competitiveness;
- City Regions Forerunner (Pilot) Bid;
- Individual authorities Local Development Frameworks and emerging Core Strategies.

6. A range of other issues and actions will connect with the Conversation:

- the local authorities' response and possible challenge to the government's final Regional Spatial Strategy, now promised by the end of June 2009;
- the developing role of the Executive Members serving on the West of England Planning, Housing & Communities Board, and the intention to bring forward a proposal for establishing it as a Joint Committee of the authorities to oversee sub-regional prioritisation, to secure and manage essential investment in infrastructure and to assume local powers secured through the MAA and the Sub-National Review;
- the proposal to establish Area Boards of Executive Members of the Planning, Housing & Communities Board, with officers and strategic partners, to oversee major cross-boundary development and regeneration locations;
- the outcome of current sub-regional studies:
 - strategic infrastructure requirements, prioritisation based on technical and market factors, sources of finance and timescales for delivery;
 - priority employment locations and medium to long-term job forecasts;
 - future development and growth prospects for key knowledge-based sectors;
 - green infrastructure;
 - strategic urban design-framework.
- the final outcome of the recent re-affirmation to Communities & Local Government (CLG) of the Growth Point Plan and Investment;
- the emerging Housing Land Availability Assessment by local authorities planning teams;
- the recent further Strategic Housing Market Assessment of affordable and supported housing needs;
- the Regional Economic Strategy; drafting the future Integrated Regional Strategy;
- the Sub-Regional Economic Assessment;
- the roll-out of the arms-length local authority 'Delivery Company' to commission and project manage the delivery of major infrastructure through consultants and contractors;
- the strengthening of Partnership Capacity to match the growing agenda, including consistent project and risk management systems and performance frameworks.

Arrangements for the Conversation to deliver the Joint Investment Plan

7. In conjunction with Colin Molton, the HCA Regional Director, and the RDA, the following steps are taking place and planned to deliver the Joint Investment Plan. A range of other agencies and strategic partners will also participate in the 'Conversation'.

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| March / April | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation meetings with:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Directors of Development- Heads of Planning- Heads of Economic Development- Heads of Housing Strategy• Inception meeting and workshop with Roger Tym & Partners to progress the Strategic Infrastructure Study• Planning, Housing & Communities Board• Joint Planning meeting for the 'single conversation': scope; project inception; organisation; evidence and information requirements; outcomes; timetabling. |
| May | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue Infrastructure Study with Roger Tym & Partners and preparation of other information and proposals to progress the Conversation. |
| June | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Single Conversation' workshop to plan and initiate individual work streams. |
| July | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roger Tym & Partners report the Strategic Infrastructure Study. |
| December | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Target date for Joint Investment Plan. |

Terry Wagstaff
Chief Executive

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