

**West of England Partnership
25 June 2009**

2009/10 DRAFT PARTNERSHIP WORK PROGRAMME

Recommendation

1. That the Board consider the 2009/10 draft work programme and give their views, so that the Partnerships Forward Plan can be reported and approved at the next meeting.

Draft Programme

2. The Appendix sets out the 2009/10 draft work programme for consideration under the following headings:
 - Transport
 - Spatial Planning; Infrastructure Investment; Affordable and Supported Housing
 - Economy and Skills
 - Waste Management
 - Partnership Capacity and Governance.
3. Once the Board's views have been taken into account the formal 2009/10 Work Programme will be circulated for formal approval at the next meeting. This will identify:
 - actions
 - outcomes
 - accountabilities
 - timescales.

This will be the basis of the Partnership Boards' and Committees' Forward Plans. It will also inform the work of the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

Terry Wagstaff
Chief Executive

Draft 2009/10 Work Programme

Transport

- Prepare the Joint Local Transport Plan 3 to set out medium and long-term policy and investment priorities to support economic growth and competitiveness, regenerate disadvantaged communities and tackle climate change.
- Progress the development and business case for RFA2 2009/10 – 2018/19 committed and priority major transport schemes to secure DfT approvals and implementation within Regional timescales.
- Approve and procure additional capacity for the development and delivery of the much-increased investment in major transport schemes.
- Monitor and performance manage the implementation of the Joint Local Transport Plan.
- Negotiate and implement the MAA ‘asks’ of government, namely:
 - reduce DfT checks and controls to increase the pace of delivery of major transport schemes, to reduce costs and to create capacity; and
 - increase the sub-region’s formal engagement and influence over: rail network and rail operator policy and investment priorities, to improve connectivity and the quality of services; and the Highways Agency policy and investment priorities to secure a balanced approach to local planning applications and to complement local transport investment.
- Contribute to the sub-regional, strategic infrastructure study and to the Joint Investment Plan through the ‘Single Conversation’ negotiations.
- Progress the Transport Asset Management Plan.
- Consider options for securing government Transport Innovation Funding to reduce congestion and secure investment in complementary transport measures.
- Review the opportunities for increased transport powers and investment provided by the recent Local Transport Act, in particular measures to increase the quality of public bus and train services.

SPATIAL PLANNING; INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT; AFFORDABLE AND SUPPORTED HOUSING

- Ensure the completion by consultants of a costed and phased sub-regional, strategic infrastructure delivery plan to inform Local Development Frameworks, Core Strategies and the preparation through the Single Conversation of the Integrated Joint Delivery & Investment Plan.

- Ensure the completion of the following sub-regional studies to assist prioritisation of investment and to inform local authority Local Development Frameworks and Core Strategies:
 - strategic infrastructure
 - employment land
- Finalise sub-regional Housing Land Availability Assessments to support the planning and delivery of housing.
- Negotiate and implement the MAA 'asks' of government, namely:
 - CLG endorsement of the approach to the preparation of the Integrated Delivery & Investment Plan through the Single Conversation.
 - CLG endorse the adoption of a joint sub-regional development trajectory in the plan based on 5 year tranches as part of a joint Supplementary Planning Document.
 - CLG confirm that targets NI154 and NI155 will be re-negotiated
 - CLG/HCA acknowledge that the West of England are promoting the award of Housing Planning Delivery Grant based on scale of growth being planned and progress against Development Plan Document milestones.
- Determine the location, sequencing and phasing of housing and employment development.
- Conclude and publish the West of England Strategic Housing Market Assessment to inform Local Development Frameworks and Housing Strategies.
- Approve a sub-regional strategy for investment in affordable and supported housing and for the long term future of Homes West.
- Negotiate a Joint Delivery & Investment Plan for housing and employment infrastructure, and affordable and supported housing, through the Single Conversation with the HCA, RDA and other agencies.
- Conclude the final allocation of the Growth Point finance to projects in the sub-region.
- Progress the statutory Joint Waste Core Strategy to submission stage to identify potential sites for waste disposal facilities for municipal, industrial and commercial waste.

ECONOMY & SKILLS

- Prioritise infrastructure and business support investment across key sub-regional employment locations.
- Contribute to the sub-regional, strategic infrastructure study and to the Joint Investment Plan through the 'Single Conversation' negotiations with the HCA and RDA.

- Take action on the other economic MAA priorities, namely:
 - to accelerate, through a programme of public and private investment, the development of a set of strategic employment locations in the sub-region
 - innovate to improve the marketing of the city-region to attract high value-added businesses
 - to simplify and strengthen business support solutions to enhance indigenous business competitiveness
 - to increase business-led innovation and enterprise by further strengthening collaboration and partnership working between Higher Education institutions and business
 - investing in Digital Infrastructure to support innovation in business and public services to underpin greener working and living, to develop digital skills and to tackle digital exclusion.

- Negotiate and implement the MAA 'ask' of government, namely:
 - agreement from DBIS to recognise the Employment and Skills Board as the local employer-led body and to work with the Board to meet the criteria for securing by 1 April 2010 the strategy-setting powers available through Section 4 of the 2007 Further Education and Training Act. These powers will enable the Board to:
 - join up and focus LSC (and its successor bodies) spending in the West of England
 - set the priorities and overall direction for the delivery of adult (Post 19) skills
 - identify strategic skills needs and priorities
 - actively engage with employers to raise demand for, and investment in, skills provision;
 - agreement from DWP to work with the Employment & Skills Board with the aim of securing, by 2010/11, a Level 2 co-commissioning role in DWP contracts to support the delivery of the new Integrated Service. The Board would work with partners to integrate the offer of local authority, Skills Funding Agency and the Voluntary and Community Sector, to focus essential specialist support and services, through an enhanced Flexible New Deal package, on individuals and families in the eleven Priority Wards. This would enable resources and local capacity to be used more effectively to meet the needs of workless people in the eleven Priority Wards, and employers' employment and skills needs;
 - agreement from LSC (and its successor bodies) to work with the Employment & Skills Board to develop a relevant Apprenticeship Entry/Foundation Offer for use in businesses employing 16-18 year olds in jobs without training. The Employment & Skills Board will support the piloting of the new offer.

- Further develop the Sub-Regional Economic Assessment, in conjunction with the individual local authorities, economic agencies and business to identify and respond to further opportunities and challenges to increases in economic growth and competitiveness.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Award of the interim waste management contract (Phase 2 of the Joint Strategy).
- Act as client during the Contractor's preparation of the waste facilities and services for the Phase 2 operational date of April 2011.
- Act on Phase 3 of the Joint Waste Management Strategy for long-term waste management arrangements.

PARTNERSHIP CAPACITY AND GOVERNANCE

Strengthen Partnership capacity to match the growing agenda:

- Strengthen arrangements for public and stakeholder engagement and communications
- Transplant, with modifications, the B&NES programme, project and risk management systems and an agreed performance framework
- Plan capacity for the development, delivery and project management of the much-increased investment in major transport schemes
- Assess partnership performance against CAA criteria and take appropriate action in response to strengthen and develop
- Roll out the arms-length, local authority 'Delivery Company' to commission and project manage the delivery of major transport, housing and waste management infrastructure through consultants and contractors
- Service the requirements of Joint Scrutiny's work programme
- Organise the West of England Conference for 27 November 2009
- Strengthen Partnership Governance to ensure it remains proportionate to the breadth of its agenda and to the sub-regional powers and resources it seeks from government to deliver its priorities effectively. The following may be considered, having maximised the benefits of existing governance arrangements:
 - Business-led Economy & Skills Board with Section 4 powers (in connection with any 14-19 company)
 - Planning, Infrastructure and Communities Joint Committee
 - Area Boards of the Planning, Infrastructure and Communities Joint Committee (for planning very major developments)
 - MAA with statutory duties on a voluntary basis
 - Economic Prosperity Board.

TW/SH June 2009