

**West of England Partnership
Joint Scrutiny Committee
4 September 2009**

2009/10 SCRUTINY THEMES

Purpose of the report

1. To propose 2009/10 Scrutiny Themes, at the request of the Committee.

Proposal

2. Three 'Themes' are proposed as follows:

Increasing Competitiveness

- Improve skills to meet the needs of business
- Ensure the availability of a workforce to match high levels of projected growth in the medium and long term
- Ensure adequate supply of business sites and premises
- Enhance the locational advantages of the sub-region by improving local and strategic access and investing in cultural facilities
- Encourage and support enterprise and innovation
- Support key sectors in the local economy
- Market the sub-region to attract inward investment

Ensuring a high quality, sustainable environment

- Reduce carbon emissions
- Adapt to climate change
- Build mixed and sustainable communities
- Maintain and enhance the natural and built environment
- Reduce congestion and dependence on the car

Tackling disadvantage

- Reduce worklessness by improving access to education, skills & well-paid jobs
- Improve housing affordability
- Reduce unmet housing need
- Invest in disadvantaged areas

Recommendation

That the Committee consider the adoption of the Scrutiny Themes set out above and agree their priorities for future meetings.

Terry Wagstaff
Chief Executive