

**West of England Partnership  
11 September 2009**

## **Partnership Board Forward Plan**

1. The 2009/10 Forward Plan for the Board is attached at Appendix A for further comment and adoption. It aims to cover the main issues and inevitably will be subject to some change as the year progresses.
2. The Plan is based on the 2009/10 West of England Work Programme, revised in the light of the views expressed at the June meeting and attached at Appendix B.
3. The Partnership Joint Committees and Boards are adopting appropriate Forward Plans in the light of Appendices A and B.

### **Recommendation**

That the Board adopts its 2009/10 Forward Plan and receives regular updates.

Terry Wagstaff  
Chief Executive

## 2009/10 Forward Plan for the Partnership Board

### 22 October 2009:

- Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Final Report
- MAA: Delivery plan
- Major Transport Schemes: Progress with development and implementation

### 3 December 2009:

- Regional Spatial Strategy: Review of government's announcement
- Joint Local Transport Plan 3: Progress with its preparation

### 14 January 2010:

- Single Conversation: Endorsement of Integrated Delivery & Investment Plan
- Employment and Skills Board: Acquisition of Powers to set priorities and direction for delivery of adult (post 19) skills

### 25 February 2010:

- Major Transport Schemes: Progress with development and implementation
- MAA: Progress against the Delivery Plan
- Local Transport Act: Outcome of a review of opportunities for increased powers to improve public transport

### 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010:

- Joint Waste Core Strategy Final Submission Document for endorsement
- Supplementary Planning Document: Strategic plan for housing and employment locations.

## 2009/10 West Of England 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:
  - streamline DfT's major transport schemes approvals process to increase the pace and reduce the costs of delivery; 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;
  - establish formal joint planning with the Highways Agency to influence 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 an assessment of strategic sub-regional infrastructure needs to deliver key housing and employment development locations, and to propose delivery plan to inform Local Development Frameworks, Core Strategies and the preparation through the Single Conversation of the Integrated Delivery & Investment Plan.
- Negotiate an Integrated Delivery & Investment Plan for housing and employment infrastructure, and affordable and supported housing, through the Single Conversation with the HCA, RDA and other agencies, jointly maximising the availability of resources through their own and other sources.
- Ensure the completion of an internal sub-regional study of the potential planning and core business infrastructure needs of key employment sites, to assist prioritisation of investment and marketing and to inform local authority Local Development Frameworks and Core Strategies.
- Ensure sub-regional Housing Land Availability Assessments are completed 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, among other things to provide confidence to developers and discourage inappropriate development;
  - 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 to reflect the evidence of the impact of the Recession;
  - 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.
- Develop proposals for 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.
- 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.

## **Skills, Competitiveness & Economic Growth**

- 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:
  - 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
  - simplify and strengthen business support solutions to enhance indigenous business competitiveness
  - increase business-led innovation and enterprise by further strengthening collaboration and partnership working between Higher Education institutions and business
  - invest 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
    - 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, on individuals and families in the eleven Priority Wards through an enhanced Flexible New Deal package

- 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, as required.

## **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, employment 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 Skills & Competitiveness Board with Section 4 Employment & Skills powers (linking with a shared commissioning service for 14-19 Education & Training)
  - Planning, Infrastructure and Communities Joint Committee
  - MAA with statutory duties on a voluntary basis
  - Economic Prosperity Board.

TW/SH  
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