

West of England Partnership

22 October 2009

Multi-Area Agreement Draft Delivery Plan

Purpose

1. To inform the Board of the draft Delivery Plan and seek its views.

Background

2. The West of England Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) was signed by Ministers, Leaders of Council and Government Agencies in September. The full agreement is available at: <http://www.westofengland.org/media/161027/maa2%20agrt%20themesl%20v8%20140809.pdf>.
3. The Delivery Plan appended to this report is still being developed, particularly for the Growth & Competitiveness and Employment & Skills' priorities contained in the MAA. Discussions are continuing in the Joint Transport Committee, the Planning, Housing & Communities Board and the Employment & Skills Board. The final plan will be reported to the December meeting.

Recommendation

That the Board members note and give their views on the Delivery Plan.

Terry Wagstaff
Chief Executive

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN					
(A) PLAN AND MANAGE THE GROWTH IN HOMES AND JOBS IN ORDER TO BUILD MIXED AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES					
ACTION	TIMESCALE				
(A1) Conclude Core Strategies, as part of Local Development Frameworks (subject to the publication of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), and the outcome of any challenge by the authorities to the government's changes to the RSS)	Local Authority Core Strategy	B&NES	Bristol CC	North Somerset Council	South Gloucestershire Council
	Publication	07/10	09/09	10/09	08/10
	Submission Secretary of State	01/11	02/10	09-10/10	05/11
	Publication (adoption stage)	12/11	12/10	03/11	02/12
(A2) Through the Single Conversation conclude the high-level, integrated Delivery & Investment Plan to support Core Strategies and LDFs and the delivery of housing, employment and affordable/supported housing	Preparation			August - October 2009	
	Negotiation			November – December 2009	
	Submission to Partnership Board			January 2010	
(A3) Seek the endorsement of Communities and Local Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the approach taken to the preparation of the Delivery & Investment Plan ▪ the adoption of Joint Sub-Regional Development Trajectory in the Plan to assist best use of infrastructure, the delivery of mixed and sustainable communities and market recovery, in order to provide confidence to developers and discourage inappropriate development 	March 2010				

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

(B) PLAN AND MANAGE THE GROWTH IN HOMES AND JOBS IN ORDER TO BUILD MIXED AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

ACTION	TIMESCALE
(A4) Embody the Delivery and Investment Plan in a Joint Supplementary Planning Document to the RSS, to include it within the planning framework as a material consideration in making planning decisions	July 2010 (subject to the publication of the RSS) and the outcome of any challenge by the authorities to the government's changes to the RSS)
(A5) Conclude the re-negotiation of the national targets NI 154 NI 155	March 2010

(B) IMPROVE ACCESS AND REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION TO INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS AND QUALITY OF LIFE

ACTION	TIMESCALE
(B1) Accelerate the delivery and reduce the development costs of major transport schemes through the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adoption of the North Fringe to Hengrove Major Transport Package as a national DfT pilot for testing and selecting effective joint measures ▪ Examination with DfT of joint measures to increase flexibility in the treatment of development costs and risk sharing 	Conclude the Pilot and examination of joint measures by March 2010

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

(B) IMPROVE ACCESS AND REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION TO INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS AND QUALITY OF LIFE

ACTION	TIMESCALE
<p>(B2) Improve Rail Services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Influence DfT's investment priorities for the Rail Network in the sub-region through engagement in their development of future High Level Output Specifications, providing evidence of housing and economic growth and other planned transport policy and investment, in order to improve reliability and capacity2. Influence DfT's development of future rail operator franchise specifications affecting the sub-region3. Take up DfT's commitment to work with the Partnership to enable the sub-region to deliver outcome and output objectives for local and regional rail schemes, which may include frequency improvements4. Negotiate a Memoranda of Understanding with Network Rail to ensure engagement in their planning of investment and increased capacity5. Negotiate a Memoranda of Understanding with Rail Operators in the sub-region to ensure formal engagement in their planning of investment and services	<p>Engage when preparation of future specifications are announced</p> <p>Engage when preparation of future specifications are announced</p> <p>Programmes for the delivery of: Bristol Metro from 2017/18 Portishead Line from 2014/15</p> <p>Conclude by March 2010</p> <p>Conclude by March 2010</p>

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

(B) IMPROVE ACCESS AND REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION TO INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS AND QUALITY OF LIFE

ACTION	TIMESCALE
<p>(B3) Complementary working with the Highways Agency.</p> <p>Negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the Highways Agency (HA) to ensure joint arrangements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ working together strategically and operationally▪ ensuring effective joint communications▪ engagement in the prioritisation of investment▪ agreeing the programme and Phasing of HA and West of England Schemes▪ pricing of Joint Schemes▪ achieving a balanced response to the use and development of the trunk road network, and to local planning applications, which deliver economic growth and journey time reliability▪ contributing to the delivery of a sustainable transport system (DASTS) which supports national economic competitiveness and growth by delivering effective transport networks, including the M4 and M5 motorways	<p>February 2010</p>

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

(C) ATTRACT AND GROW BUSINESS INVESTMENT TO INCREASE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

ACTION	TIMESCALE
(C1) To accelerate, through a programme of public and private investment the development of a set of strategic employment locations in the sub-region	By March 2010 through the Single Conversation, identify and prioritise strategic employment locations in the sub-region and develop an Infrastructure Delivery & Investment Plan Further actions and timescales yet to be programmed
(C2) Innovate to improve the marketing of the city-region to attract high value-added businesses (C3) Simplify and strengthen business support solutions to enhance indigenous business competitiveness (C4) Increase business-led innovation and enterprise by further strengthening collaboration and partnership working between Higher Education Institutions and Business (C5) Investing in Digital Infrastructure to support innovation in business and public services)))))) Actions and timescales to be programmed)))))

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

(D) IMPROVE SKILLS AND REDUCE WORKLESSNESS TO INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS, GROWTH AND REGENERATION

ACTION	TIMESCALE
<p>(D1) Increase the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least Level 3 or higher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote, employer support for Level 3+ qualifications by targeting LSC/SFA investment ▪ Gear Further Education and provision more closely to employer need ▪ Facilitate skills progression by young people and adults ▪ Maximise the retention and inflow of individuals qualified to Level 3 or higher to the sub-region 	<p>By April 2010 secure the strategy-setting powers available under the Further Education & Training Act 2007 to enable the preparation of the West of England Employment & Skills Strategy (Post19)</p> <p>Strengthen private sector membership of the Employment & Skills Board and identify business sector champions</p> <p>Through business sector boards, enable business to champion learning, identify priority sector skills and investment, and develop progression pathways</p> <p>Agree advanced apprenticeships targets within Public Service Compacts</p> <p>Examine demand and agree action through the Graduate Retention Group</p>

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

(D) IMPROVE SKILLS AND REDUCE WORKLESSNESS TO INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS, GROWTH AND REGENERATION

ACTION	TIMESCALE
<p>(D2) Increase the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and implement Public Service Compacts with the Unitary Authorities and Health Service organisations ▪ Roll out the ‘Single Jobs and Skills Offer’ to high-employment sectors including retail and hospitality. ▪ Improve employer engagement to increase their demand for clients who have engaged in securing a Level 2 qualification ▪ Develop a clear pathway to accreditation for individuals undertaking learning for employability 	<p>Agree a plan with each Unitary Authority (UA) for the development of the workforce to at least Level 2</p> <p>Assess the nature and volume of demand in each UA for the SFL/FLT learning, for year one.</p> <p>Agree an apprenticeships target with each UA, including advanced apprenticeships.</p> <p>Ensure integration and alignment with European Social Fund (ESF) Programmes</p>

