

West of England Partnership
25 March 2010

Multi-Area Agreement: Progress against the Delivery Plan

Purpose

1. To update members on the delivery of the Multi-Area Agreement, involving action to: plan and manage growth in homes and jobs; improve access and reduce traffic congestion; attract and grow business investment; and improve skills and reduce worklessness.

Background

2. The Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) was signed in September 2009. The attached schedules summarise progress and future actions.

Recommendation

That the Board consider the progress report and gives its views.

Appendix MAA Delivery Plan

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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				
<p>(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)</p> <p>Accountable Members: Cabinets and Councils Officers: Directors of Development</p> <p>Contact officers Simon de Beer, Bath & North East Somerset Council Sarah O'Driscoll, Bristol City Council Michael Reep, North Somerset Council Barbara Maksymiw, South Gloucestershire Council</p>	Local Authority Core Strategy	B&NES	Bristol CC	North Somerset Council	South Gloucestershire Council
	Publication	10/10 now 11/10	27/11/09	10/10	08/10 agreed 03/10
	Submission Secretary of State	01/11 now 03/11	02/10 now 03/10	05/11	05/11
	Publication (adoption stage)	12/11	12/10 now 01/11	07/12	02/12

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

PROGRESS

(A2)

Through the Single Conversation conclude the high-level, Sub-Regional integrated Delivery & Investment Plan to support Core Strategies and LDFs and the delivery of housing, employment and affordable/supported housing.

Planned Timescale

Preparation: August - October 2009

Negotiation: November – December 2009

Submission to Partnership Board: January 2010

Accountable

Members: Planning, Housing & Community Board

Officers: Chief Executive of the Partnership with Heads of Planning, Transport, Housing Strategy and Economic Development

Contact officer

Tim Lansley, West of England Partnership

Delivery and Infrastructure Investment Plan 2010/11 – 2014/15 endorsed at February Partnership Board and being considered for approval at March Council Cabinets (April 12 in South Gloucestershire)

Programme of “Next Steps” approved and being progressed

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

PROGRESS

(A3)

In March 2010 seek the endorsement of Communities and Local Government to:

- 1 The approach taken to the preparation of the Delivery & Investment Plan
- 2 The adoption of Joint Sub-Regional Development Trajectory in the Plan in 5 year tranches which demonstrate a rolling, deliverable supply of housing. The plan will 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

Accountable

Members: Planning, Housing & Community Board

Officers: Chief Executive of the Partnership with Heads of Planning, Transport, Housing Strategy and Economic Development

Contact officer

- 1 Tim Lansley, West of England Partnership
- 2 Laura Grady, West of England Partnership

GOSW arranging meeting with the appropriate Director at CLG following settlement of Delivery & Infrastructure Investment Plan, and current progress with proposals for the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Document.

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

PROGRESS

(A4)

Embody the high-level Sub-Regional Delivery and Investment Plan in a Joint Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to the RSS, to include it within the planning framework as a material consideration in making planning decisions. By 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)

Accountable

Members: Planning, Housing & Community Board, Cabinets and Councils

Officers: Chief Executive of the Partnership with Directors of Development

Contact officer

Tim Lansley, West of England Partnership

A proposal for the form of an SPD is included on today's Board agenda; the views of the 18 March Planning, Housing & Communities Board meeting on the proposal will be reported to the Board.

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

PROGRESS

(A5)

Conclude by March 2010 the re-negotiation of the national targets:

NI 154 Net additional homes provided

NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)

Accountable

Members: Cabinets

Officers: Directors of Development

Contact Officers

Simon de Beer, Bath & North East Somerset Council

Sarah O'Driscoll, Bristol City Council

Michael Reep, North Somerset Council

Barbara Maksymiw, South Gloucestershire Council

Agreements concluded on target.

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

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

ACTION

PROGRESS

(B1)

Accelerate the delivery and reduce the development costs of major transport schemes through the:

- 1 Adoption of the North Fringe to Hengrove Major Transport Package as a national DfT pilot for testing and selecting effective joint measures
- 2 Examination with DfT of joint measures to increase flexibility in the treatment of development costs and risk sharing

Accountable

Members: Joint Transport Executive Committee

Officers: Head of Joint Transport with Heads of Transport

Contact Officer

Barbara Davies, West of England Partnership

Conclude the Pilot and examination of joint measures by March 2010

Joint commitment and working through the Pilot has streamlined processes and substantially reduced normal timescales for the development of the Programme Entry Bid for such a large and complex cross-boundary scheme. When the scheme is submitted in March work will have been condensed into 10 months. The Pilot is continuing. By agreement deferred to Autumn 2010 to align with a planned major review of treatment of Major Transport Scheme development costs.

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

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

ACTION

PROGRESS

(B2)

Improve Rail Services

- 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 capacity
- 2 Influence DfT's development of future rail operator franchise specifications affecting the sub-region
- 3 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 improvements

- 4 Negotiate a Memoranda of Understanding with Network Rail to ensure engagement in their planning of investment and increased capacity
- 5 Negotiate a Memoranda of Understanding with Rail Operators in the sub-region to ensure formal engagement in their planning of investment and services

Accountable

Members: Joint Transport Executive Committee

Officers: Head of Joint Transport with Heads of Transport

Contact Officer

James White, West of England Partnership

Engage when preparation of future specifications are announced

Engage when preparation of future specifications are announced

DfT Senior Official engaged with current work programmes for the delivery of:
 Bristol Metro from 2017/18
 Portishead Line from 2014/15

Continuing engagement with Network Rail, following recent submission to the Rail Utilisation Study, to secure prioritisation of investment in the sub-region to reflect the impact of growth.

MOU with Rail Industry concluded at March Joint Transport Executive Committee. Action Plan to be agreed at June Joint Committee

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

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

ACTION

PROGRESS

(B3) Complementary working with the Highways Agency.

Negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the Highways Agency (HA) to ensure joint arrangements for:

- 1 Working together strategically and operationally
- 2 Ensuring effective joint communications
- 3 Engagement in the prioritisation of investment
- 4 Agreeing the programme and Phasing of HA and West of England Schemes
- 5 Pricing of Joint Schemes
- 6 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
- 7 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.

Accountable

Members: Joint Transport Executive Committee

Officers: Head of Joint Transport with Heads of Transport

Contact Officer

Pete Davis, West of England Partnership

MOU approved at the Joint Transport Executive Committee in November 2010. 2010/11 Action Plan agreed at March Joint Committee

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

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

ACTION

(C1)

To accelerate, through a programme of public and private investment the development of a set of strategic employment locations in the sub-region

Accountable

Members: Planning, Housing & Community Board

Officers: Chief Executive of the Partnership with Heads of Planning and Economic Development and Partner Organisations

Contact officer

Tim Lansley, West of England Partnership

PROGRESS

The conclusion of the Delivery & Infrastructure Investment Plan 2010/11 – 2014/15 focused primarily on development of homes and mixed use locations. Further work planned with Heads of Economic Development and the RDA aims to identify and prioritise strategic employment locations in the sub-region, supported by actions to:

- Prioritise the phasing of development and public investment in strategic employment locations across the sub-region to meet objectives for business investment and regeneration, and helping to achieve sustainable communities.
- Improve and integrate engagement with private investors and developers to bring forward and promote investment in priority strategic employment locations.
- Prioritise ambitions for business investment across the sub-region to enable the development of sectoral clusters and reinforce the delivery of the spatial strategy.

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

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

ACTION	ACTIONS
<p>(C2) Innovate to improve the marketing of the sub-region to attract high value-added businesses</p> <p>Accountable Governance: Employment & Skills Board Officer: Chief Executive with the Heads Economic Development and Partner Organisations</p> <p>Contact Officer Ruth Thei, West of England Partnership</p>	<p>Review the city-region marketing strategy and initiate new ways of promoting inward investment. By June 2010</p> <p>With business and public sector partners, review and promote the package of integrated support services provided to business investors. By September 2010</p> <p>With strategic partners, develop a strategy to grow West of England as an international benchmark for the location of high growth, knowledge-based, environmentally sustainable businesses. Focus on clusters of HE expertise and sectors that build on the sub-region's competitive advantage, linking with Objective 4 below. By September 2010</p>
ACTION	ACTIONS
<p>(C3) Simplify and strengthen business support solutions to enhance indigenous business competitiveness</p> <p>Accountable Governance: Employment & Skills Board Officer: Director – Employment and Skills with Heads of Economic Development</p> <p>Contact officer Ruth Thei, West of England Partnership</p>	<p>Work with Business Link to ensure the priority needs of local businesses for support are identified and prioritised within the services offered.</p>

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

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

ACTION	PROGRESS
<p>(C4) Increase business-led innovation and enterprise by further strengthening collaboration and partnership working between Higher Education Institutions and Business</p> <p>Accountable Governance: Employment & Skills Board Officer: Chief Executive with Heads of Economic Development and Manager, Science City</p> <p>Contact Officer Terry Wagstaff, West of England Partnership</p>	<p>By June 2010 agree a framework for action in conjunction with The Science City Board and other scientific and creative industry bodies, including options to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximise opportunities for the application of innovation in Science and Technology to business ▪ Engage, support and reinforce connections between knowledge based businesses, the universities and the wider economy to increase the volume and pace of knowledge transfer ▪ Retain and attract talented graduates and post-graduates from universities, to support the needs of the sub-regional economy <p>Enhance the visibility of the new partnerships between business and the scientific and creative industries communities to enhance inward investment</p>
<p>(C5) 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 inclusion</p> <p>Accountable & contact officer: Stephen Hilton, Digital City, Bristol City Council</p>	<p>Realise the commitment to improved digital infrastructure outlined in the West of England MAA by setting a framework of action to maximise investment opportunities and benefits to the economy and to Communities</p>

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

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

ACTION

ACTIONS AND PROGRESS

(D1)

Increase the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least Level 3 or higher

- 1 Promote, employer support for Level 3+ qualifications by targeting LSC/SFA investment
- 2 Gear Further Education and provision more closely to employer need

Accountable

Governance: Employment & Skills Board. West of Eng Partnership Board

Officers: Chief Executive and Director Employment & Skills with Heads of Economic Development and partner organisations

Contact officer

David Draycott, West of England Partnership

- 3 Facilitate skills progression by adults and young people.
- 4 Maximise the retention and inflow of individuals qualified to Level 3 or higher to the sub-region

Accountable

Governance: Employment and Skills Board

Officers: Director Employment & Skills with Heads of Economic Development and partner organisations

Contact officer

David Draycott, West of England Partnership

Secure compliance with the criteria for 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). By April 2010. **Progress:** reported to February Board. Targeting acquisition of powers by September 2010.

Complete a sector and site skills analysis as a basis for concluding key skills requirements and a Delivery Plan. By December 2010. Work planned

Strengthen private sector membership of the Employment & Skills Board and identify business sector champions to improve employer engagement and support for skills development and qualification training. By April 2010. **Progress:** recruitment of business people to the Board to be completed in March. Decisions on "Champions" to be made through the new Board and its members

Through business sector boards, enable business to champion learning, identify priority sector skills and investment, and develop progression pathways. By December 2010. Work planned

Agree advanced apprenticeships targets within Public Service Compacts. By March 2010. Delays in recruitment and expenditure constraints necessitate revised date of December 2010

Examine demand and agree action through the Graduate Retention Group. Agree Graduate Retention Strategy. By June 2010. **Progress:** study undertaken: further work underway

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

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

ACTION

ACTION AND PROGRESS

(D2)

Increase the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher

1 Develop and implement Public Service Compacts with the Unitary Authorities and Health Service organisations

- Agree a plan with each Unitary Authority (UA) for the development of the workforce initially up to Level 2, identifying service areas, skills and target numbers. By June 2010. **Progress** Delays in recruitment and expenditure constraints necessitate revised date of December 2010
- Assess the nature and volume of demand in each UA for the Skills For Life (SFL)/ Foundation Learning Tier (FLT), for year one. By January 2011. **Progress:** work planned with support of new staff
- Agree an apprenticeships target with each UA, including advanced apprenticeships. By June 2010. **Progress:** delayed until December 2010

2 Roll out the 'Single Jobs and Skills Offer' to high-employment sectors including retail and hospitality.

Secure agreement with Job Centre Plus and Business Link. By January 2010. **Progress:** Completed

3 Improve employer engagement to increase their demand for clients who have engaged in securing a Level 2 qualification

Work planned with support of new staff

4 Develop a clear pathway to accreditation for individuals undertaking learning for employability

Work planned with support of new staff

Accountable

Governance: Employment & Skills Board

Officers: Director Employment & Skills with Heads of Economic Development and partner organisations

Contact officer

David Draycott, West of England Partnership

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

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

ACTION

PROGRESS

(D3) Reduce worklessness in the sub-region, particularly in the 11 priority wards

- 1 Improve complementary working in support of the worklessness by aligning and/or joining up services offered by the public sector, third sector providers and DWP contractors. By September 2010

Accountable

Governance: Employment & Skills Board & Partnership Board
Officers: Chief Executive and Director Employment and Skills with the Heads of Economic Development and partner organisations

Contact officer

David Draycott, West of England Partnership

- 2 Support individuals to tackle barriers, develop and trial a working model for the 'customer journey' working with specific cohort(s) from the priority wards. By September 2010.
- 3 Prepare submission for 2011-2013 priority 1 ESF, targeting resource on those with most distance to travel/multiple barriers to augment existing provision. By June 2010.
- 4 Ensure that new programmes of support to reduce worklessness are subject to Level 2 co-commissioning and take into consideration the needs of the most deprived. By March 2011.

Accountable

Governance: Employment & Skills Board
Officers: Director Employment & Skills with the Heads of Economic Development and partner organisations

Contact officer

David Draycott, West of England Partnership

On track to complete the "Work & Skills Plan" at the end of April. This will secure a better alignment of the public sector providers, and a better match between need and provision

To be progressed once the "Work & Skills Plan" is concluded at the end of April, with the support of the new ESF and RIEP project staff

Bid will be made once the process and criteria to be followed are published.

WEST OF ENGLAND MAA DELIVERY PLAN

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

ACTION

PROGRESS

(D4)

Reducing the number of Young People in jobs without training. By June 2010

Review the Apprenticeship Offer to secure more flexible entry arrangements by securing agreement to a national pilot with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

Accountable

Governance: Employment & Skills Board

Officers: Director Employment and Skills

Contact officer

David Draycott, West of England Partnership

Pilot agreed with National Apprenticeship Service. Pilot aimed at securing a programme of training at the end of the "2009/10 September Guarantee" year for individuals in jobs without training.