



# West of England Partnership

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**



**North  
Somerset  
COUNCIL**

**South Gloucestershire  
Council**

**Minutes of meeting of the**

## **West of England Partnership Board**

**Monday 14 June 2010, 2pm, BAWA Filton, BS34 7RG**

### **Present**

#### **Bath & North East Somerset Council**

Cllr John Bull  
Cllr Francine Haerberling  
Cllr Paul Crossley

#### **Bristol City Council**

Cllr Helen Holland  
Cllr Geoff Gollop  
Cllr Barbara Janke

#### **North Somerset Council**

Cllr Nigel Ashton  
Cllr Elfan Ap Rees  
Cllr Nan Kirsan

#### **South Gloucestershire Council**

Cllr John Calway  
Cllr Ruth Davis  
Cllr Roger Hutchinson

### **Social, Economic & Environmental Partners**

Stephen Harrison, Price Waterhouse Cooper, Chair Employment & Skills Board  
John Savage, Business West  
Steve Grainger, Avon Biodiversity Partnership

### **Observers**

Hilary Neal, Government Office for the South West  
Tony Bray, South West Regional Development Agency

### **In attendance**

John Everitt, Bath & North East Somerset Council  
Jan Ormondroyd, Bristol City Council  
Graham Turner, North Somerset Council  
Amanda Deeks, South Gloucestershire Council  
Peter Jackson, South Gloucestershire Council  
Terry Wagstaff, West of England Partnership  
Daniel Moore, West of England Partnership  
Pete Davis, West of England Partnership  
David Draycott, West of England Partnership

## **1. Annual Business**

Election of Chair for the Partnership Board:

### **Resolved**

That Cllr John Callway (Bath & North East Somerset Council) be elected as Chair for 2010/11.

Election of Vice Chair for the Partnership Board:

### **Resolved**

That Stephen Harrison (Chair, Skills & Competitiveness Board) be elected as Vice Chair for 2010/11.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

David Warburton, Homes & Communities Agency  
Stuart Todd, South West Councils  
Peter Brown, South West Councils

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **4. Member and Public Forum - Statements**

Linda Patterson presented a statement relating to changes to the 6 – 7 buses in Bath. The presentation culminated in four demands that were laid out in the tabled statement. Cllr Haeberling responded that these were matters for Bath & North East Somerset Council, and that a response would be provided through the appropriate channels.

David Redgwell presented a statement on behalf of the Transport South West Network.

## **5. Minutes of meeting held on 25 March 2010**

### **Resolved:**

That with corrections to two councillor names, the minutes be agreed as a true record.

## **6. Matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda**

Local Transport Powers: the paper would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Climate change: 5 workshops run by Jonathon Porritt, Founding Director of Forums for the Future, have been provisionally booked and added to Board and Joint Committee forward plans as appropriate.

Joint Core Waste Strategy: there would be another report following the current further consultation on the landfill policy.

Disadvantaged People: relevant reports on the Board's Forward Plan would address the needs of disadvantaged communities, e.g. Work & Skills Plan.

## **7. 2010/11 Partnership Board Forward Plan**

Terry Wagstaff presented the Forward Plan. At this stage it did not anticipate all the developments under consideration by the new government.

Cllr Janke requested that the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) item scheduled for 31 August be brought forward to the Board meeting on 13 July.

Graham Turner asked for the Chief Executives with Terry Wagstaff to be marked as the responsible officers for the LEP items and requested that 'based on the Skills and Competitiveness Board' be removed from the wording of the purpose of the report.

**Agreed:**

In principle that the Partnership should form a LEP and the matter be further considered on 13 July.

**8. Agenda for Skills & Competitiveness Board (S&CB) and Forward Plan**

David Draycott presented an introduction to the Skills & Competitiveness Board (S&CB), highlighting its function and main objectives. Terry Wagstaff said that Science City was in the process of forming a company and Bath & North East Somerset were undertaking the due diligence work on behalf of the Partnership. Stephen Harrison explained that there had been a high quality of applicants to the S&CB, and that they were preparing themselves to ensure the knowledge and skills of the Regional Development Agency (RDA) are not lost.

Cllr Janke queried whether some of the S&CB's priorities seemed to duplicate existing work and what the lines of accountability and the precise details of the S&CB's budget were.

David Draycott responded that the budget came from a variety of sources. He explained that the S&CB was accountable through the Partnership Board and that it currently had powers to combine agendas and work collaboratively with other partners. Additionally it was seeking powers to determine the skills priorities for the sub-region.

Terry Wagstaff said the presentation reflected the functions of the S&CB approved at the Partnership Board in January; the constitution distinguished its role on competitiveness issues as advisory. The agenda itself had been prepared in conjunction with the councils' Heads of Economic Development, other economic partners and the S&CB itself. It addressed joint work that was planned; this would be complemented by the work of the councils and the economic partners.

Cllr Janke wanted to know in detail what the Board's priorities were and how it planned to deliver such a broad programme.

Cllr Calway reminded the Board that today's presentation was a broad vision of what the Skills and Competitiveness Board hoped to achieve and that more work would need to be done as funding schemes alter.

Cllr Bull requested a report on the implications of the loss of the RDA and what exactly the role for the sub-region will be. This would be part of future reports considering the opportunity to establish a Local Enterprise Partnership.

**9. Major Transport Schemes**

Pete Davis presented the report. It reviewed the progress with the Major Schemes Programme. The Department for Transport had put work on bid assessment on hold. As a result paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report had been overtaken by events. Work that continued would be at the authorities' own risk and the position in relation to funding for the West of England's Major Schemes would not become clearer until the Autumn.

Terry Wagstaff explained that the chair of the Joint Transport Executive Committee had written to the Transport Minister to emphasise that the sub-region would support early economic recovery and a return to high levels of economic growth and substantial housing development. The other purpose was to try and instigate a conversation about how the authorities' current plans are taken forward. An electronic copy of the letter would be circulated to the Board.

Cllr Ap Rees said the Board needed to demonstrate the confidence it had in the Major Schemes programme.

Peter Jackson stressed that the Smartcard project was crucial to the sub-region and that the contract for the project's back-office system had already been signed before the change of government and would be fully functional later in the year. Other elements of the wider Smartcard programme such as the card readers for vehicles were also being pursued.

Jan Ormondroyd reminded the Board that the Partnership and partners would be lobbying Westminster on 12 July. Terry Wagstaff also highlighted the upcoming West of England Joint Transport Forum on 6 July.

Hilary Neal queried whether there was value in considering changes to the scale and nature of schemes.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board note the progress made with the West of England Transport Major Schemes Programme.

**10. Next Meeting**

Tuesday 13 July 2010, 10am at Council House, Bristol

**The meeting closed at 3.40pm.**

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