



# West of England Partnership

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council



## Local Enterprise Partnership for the West of England

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# The West of England

- A functional economic area:
  - Travel to work patterns
  - Housing market
- Key strengths:
  - PEOPLE - A highly skilled workforce
  - BUSINESSES - A diverse and fast growing business base
  - PLACE - A fantastic strategic location



# Background

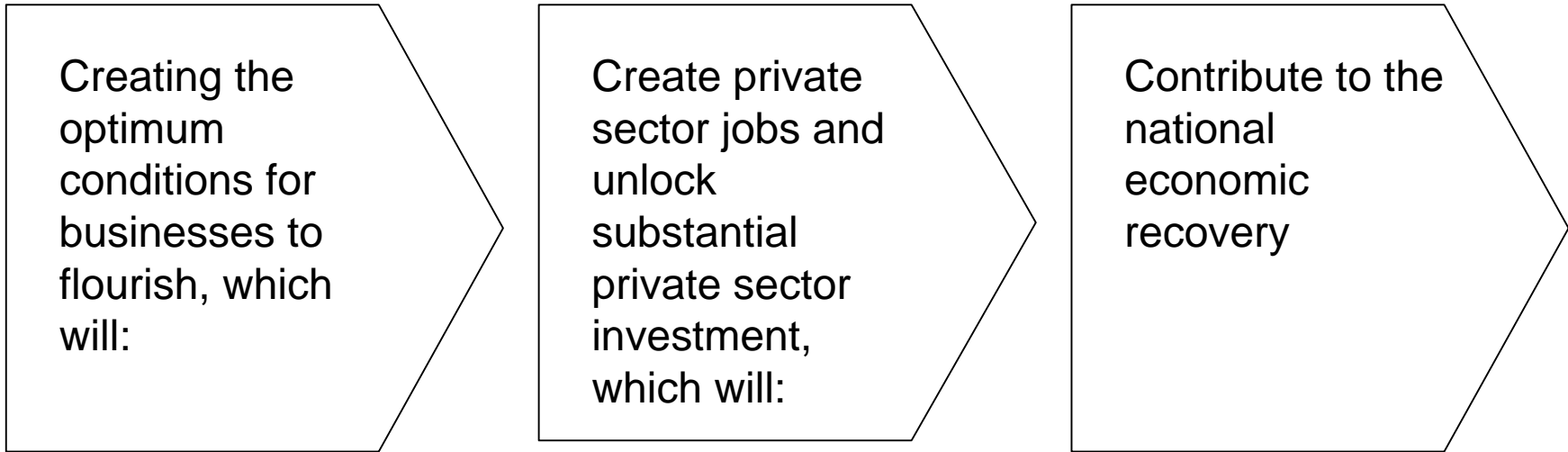
Following the last Board meeting:

- A project team has been established and is working on an outline proposal to be submitted to Government by 6<sup>th</sup> September.
- A range of meetings have taken place with business organisations, individual businesses in key sectors, HE and FE representatives and local authority officers to develop the priorities for the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

# Aims and objectives

# The ambition

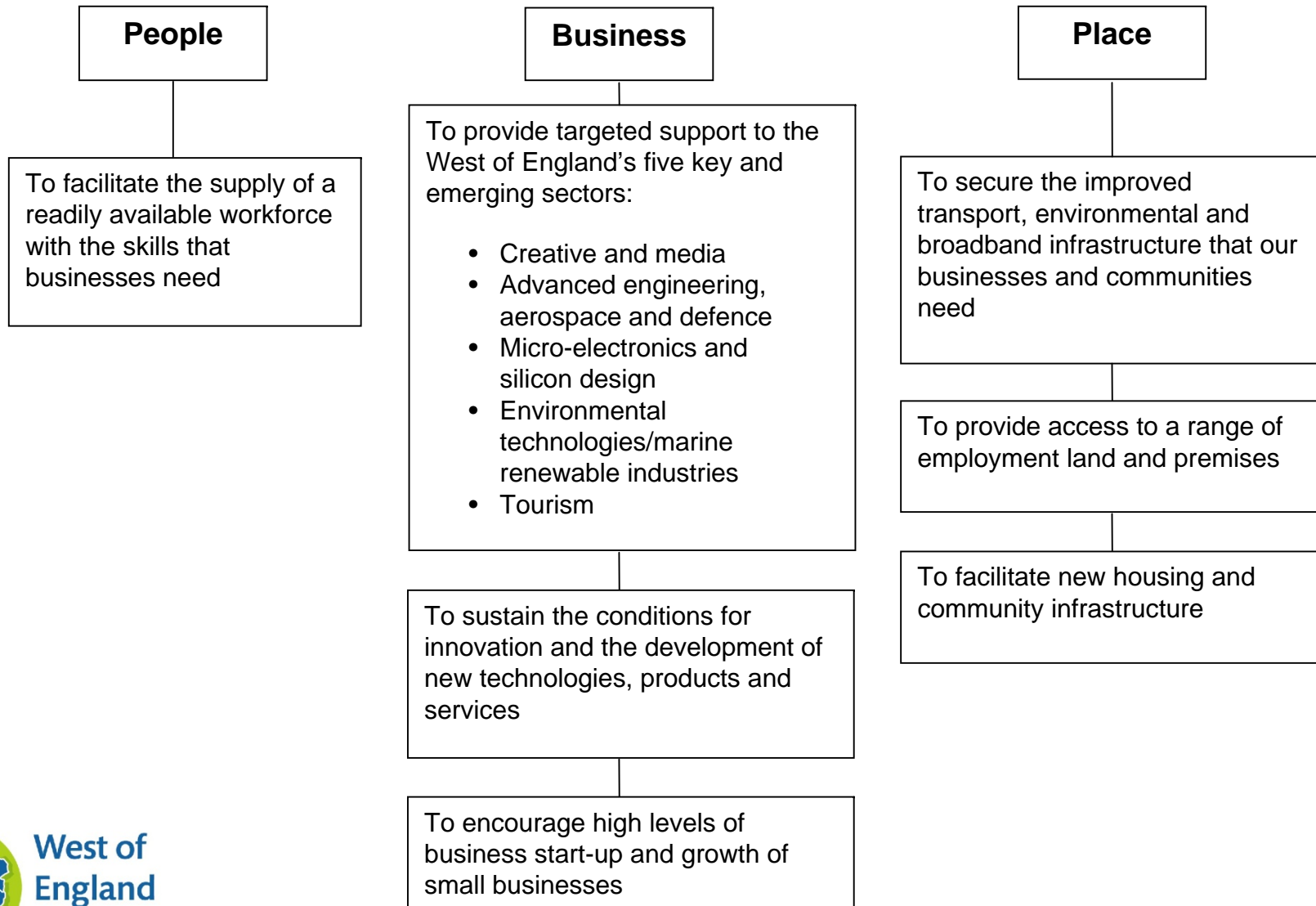
Building on the West of England's strengths, the LEP will deliver what businesses and communities agree is needed for sustainable economic growth:



Delivering sustainable economic growth

# Priorities

# Proposed priorities



# Delivering the priorities

To deliver the priorities, it is proposed that the LEP will function in two ways:

1. As the driver for efficient and effective action across the West of England
2. As the partner of government in facilitating, commissioning or delivering national programmes

# As the driver for efficient and effective action

## PEOPLE

- Facilitate joint working between business, higher education and further education to identify and deliver the skills needs of businesses.
- Help businesses take up national support, such as apprenticeships, and create linkages to national programmes to support those out of work into jobs.
- Target European Social Fund funding to remove skills barriers and support employability.

# As the driver for efficient and effective action

## **BUSINESS**

- Promote high quality business start-ups and growth of small businesses.
- Consider establishing a Local Enterprise Fund to support business start-ups and expansion of small local businesses.
- Encourage the establishment of business networks and support those that already exist.
- Engage with our largest and fastest growing companies to understand their issues and make sure that barriers to future growth can be understood and tackled.
- Provide a business intelligence service so that policy and support can be best targeted to new opportunities and threats.
- Build on the competitive edge that comes from our world class R&D activities.

# As the driver for efficient and effective action

## PLACE

- Bring forward the sites and infrastructure required to deliver economic growth.
- We will coordinate this through our Joint Delivery and Infrastructure Investment Plan which integrates / will integrate:
  - Relevant assets currently owned by the RDA
  - Existing and proposed public sector funding, including the Regional Growth Fund, European Regional Development funds, New Homes Bonus and Business Growth Incentive, other public funding (e.g. transport investment, housing enabling, skills),
  - Private sector investment, including S.106 contributions from major private sector developments.
  - A revolving infrastructure fund to help support investment needed to support economic growth.

# As the partner of government in facilitating, commissioning or delivering national programmes

**SUPPORTING KEY GROWTH SECTORS:** To the five priority high growth sectors:

- creative and media
- advanced engineering, aerospace and defence
- micro-electronics and silicon design
- environmental technologies/marine renewable industries
- tourism

**INNOVATION:** The West of England has the components to drive innovation and creativity to support new markets, namely; research, institutions, networks, skills and business infrastructure.

# Asks of Government

# A partner with Government

To achieve our aspirations, to grow private sector jobs and to unlock investment we need:

- Simplified government processes and controls
- Access to the Regional Growth Fund and other funding streams
- Transfer of relevant RDA assets and management of European Funding Programmes
- Funding to provide national capacity for sector support, inward investment, development and maintenance of transferred RDA assets
- Joint commissioning arrangements with national agencies, including HCA, HA and Network Rail
- Influence with relevant national agencies, such as the Technology Strategy Board and the Green Investment Bank



# Making things happen

# Extract from the letter from Eric Pickles and Vince Cable, dated 29 June 2010

*“To be effective partnerships, it is vital that business and civic leaders work together. We believe this would normally mean an equal representation on the boards of these partnerships and that a prominent business leader should chair the board. We would, however, be willing to consider variants from this, such as where there is an elected mayor responsible for the area. The governance structures will need to be sufficient, robust and clear to ensure proper accountability for delivery by partnerships.”*

# Making things happen

To be effective, the LEP will need to:

- Deliver against its challenging agenda
- Provide a network to engage effectively with stakeholders
- Support local businesses
- Invest in structural and sectoral change

# Proposed organisational principles

- A separate identifiable body to be created with clearly understood objectives
- The LEP Board to have equal representation of civic and business leaders
- The chair to be chosen by the representatives on the LEP Board

These principles to be applied in determining the appropriate legal structure of the LEP. The detail to be finalised when the responsibilities of the LEP are determined and following broader consultation with stakeholders.

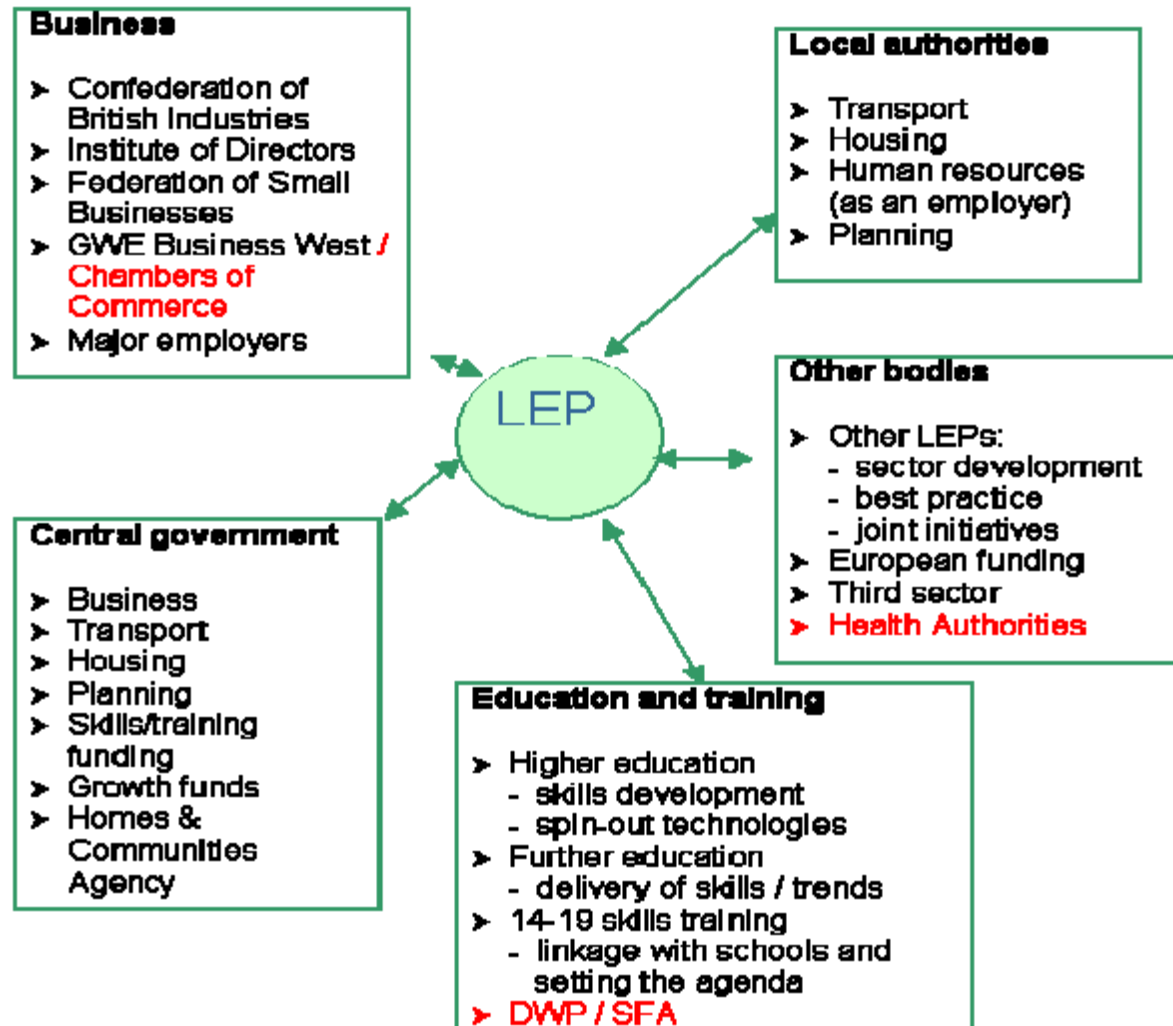
# Potential resource for the LEP

- Transfer of some Regional Development Agency resource (funding and/or staff capacity)
- Regional Growth Fund and other national funding programmes
- Local authorities and West of England Partnership office
- Business and developer led business support (potential joint venture with GWE Business West)
- Investment by business
- ERDF, ESF, RDPE

# Potential private sector resource

- Secondments to the LEP
- Businessmen/women providing counselling advice/support for embryonic businesses
- Involvement of intermediaries (banks, accountants, solicitors)
- Support of local business leaders in promoting the West of England
- Networks of existing businesses to target their network of contacts to attract further investment in the local economy
- Ongoing low-cost or no-cost support to small businesses
- Networks of businesses in the same sectors and across sectors to promote growth in the West of England

# Networking



# Conclusion and next steps

- An outline proposal based on the above principles to be submitted to the government by 6 September deadline
- Board have delegated authority to the Chair and Vice Chair, in consultation with Council Leaders to agree the outline proposal
- An update will be provided to the Board in November