



West of England Partnership

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



**North
Somerset
COUNCIL**

**South Gloucestershire
Council**

Rt. Hon. Dr Vince Cable MP
Secretary of State for Business,
Innovation & Skills and President of the
Board of Trade

Enquiries to: Peter Jackson
E mail: Peter.Jackson@southglos.gov.uk
Telephone: 01454 863400
Date: 06 September 2010

Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP
Secretary of State
Communities and Local Government

Dear Secretaries of State

WEST OF ENGLAND LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

We have previously written to you on 15 June and 13 July, setting out our commitment to working with you to develop a Local Enterprise Partnership for the West of England.

The West of England covers the unitary authority areas of Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. It is a functional economic area with a population of about a million and with a diverse and resilient economy.

We have a strong track record of partnership working between business and the four local authorities through our well established West of England Partnership. This brings together civic leaders, business leaders and social and environmental partners.

Together, we have achieved a great deal, but the Local Enterprise Partnership provides an opportunity for us to step up a gear, by taking advantage of the dynamism that a new body will generate. We would aim to forge a new consensus between business and civic leaders, with a new range of powers and functions, to deliver substantial and sustainable economic growth for the benefit of the local area and the country as a whole.

Wilder House
Wilder Street
Bristol
BS2 8PH

0117 903 6868
www.westofengland.org

We attach our proposal for a West of England Local Enterprise Partnership. This sets out our vision, our priorities, the outcomes we intend to achieve and how we will achieve them.

The development of this proposal has involved substantial engagement with key businesses, the Higher Education and Further Education sectors and the voluntary and community sectors, as well as the business representatives and local authorities that have direct involvement in the West of England Partnership. This is illustrated by the business propositions in appendix 2 of the proposal and evidenced by the letters of support attached to the submission. Our ability to mobilise this response, in such a short time period, reflects the already close working of the stakeholders in the West of England.

We consider that it would be a significant missed opportunity for the national economy should a Local Enterprise Partnership not be established for this area. Although we would continue with our close private and public sector partnership working, we would not be able to make the step change to which we aspire. The West of England and the country would be missing out on the additional jobs and wealth, less rebalancing, a weaker potential for national growth sector hubs and a weaker national economy than would be the case with the Local Enterprise Partnership.

We believe that our proposal overcomes this challenge and sets out a strong case for a West of England Local Enterprise Partnership that will bring significant benefits to the local and national economies.

We would, therefore, urge you to support our proposal for a West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and we look forward to working closely with you to secure the beneficial outcomes to which we aspire.

Yours sincerely



John Calway,
Chair, West of England Partnership Board
Leader of South Gloucestershire Council



Stephen Harrison
Vice- Chair, West of England Partnership
Chair, West of England Skills and
Competitiveness Board
Former Chair, Wales and South West,
PriceWaterhouseCoopers