

**The LEP in action and how you can
contribute**

Conference Report



**Conference held on 15 November 2011
at the Assembly Rooms, Bath**

West of England Local Enterprise Partnership

Conference Report

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The Conference was organised for the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership by the West of England Partnership Office.

1. Brief introduction

In September 2010 the local authority and business leaders from the West of England submitted a proposal for the establishment of a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in the area. The government had invited local authority and business leaders to work together with government through LEPs to strengthen local economies, anticipating that LEPs would wish to provide the strategic leadership to set out and support the delivery of local economic priorities in their area.

The government endorsed the West of England submission by including the area in the first round of 24 LEPs in October 2010. An Interim LEP Board, later confirmed, was established in January 2011 and has met monthly since then.

The current Board members are:

- Colin Skellett, Executive Chairman, Wessex Water
- Councillor John Calway, Leader, South Gloucestershire Council
- Councillor Paul Crossley, Leader, Bath and North East Somerset Council
- Councillor Nigel Ashton, Leader, North Somerset Council
- Professor Joe McGeehan, Managing Director, Toshiba Research Europe Ltd
- David Sproxton, Co-Founder of Aardman Animations
- Barbara Janke, Leader, Bristol City Council
- Katherine Bennett OBE, Vice President and Head of Political Affairs, Airbus
- Robert Sinclair, Chief Executive, Bristol Airport
- Professor Glynis Breakwell, Vice Chancellor, University of Bath.

2. Welcome and introduction to LEP so far

Cllr Paul Crossley, Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council and LEP Board member, welcomed delegates to the conference, extending a special welcome to Greg Clark, Minister for Cities and Decentralisation. Cllr Crossley explained that Bath and North East Somerset was not just a world heritage city, but also has two top class universities, and a thriving digital and creative industry.

Colin Skellett, Chair of the LEP, welcomed the 180 delegates, from 102 different organisations to the second LEP conference, 10 months after the first LEP event last January.

Since then over 400 businesses had actively engaged with the LEP on various groups, and more recently over 200 delegates turned out for the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone visioning exercise. None of the LEP's members or stakeholders were being paid for their involvement; rather they contributed with a shared belief that by working together they could make a difference. Partnership working was both good for industry and good for business.

The West of England LEP was based on a natural economic catchment area and was in the fortunate position of building on a strong base of existing partnership working. Mr Skellett outlined the LEP targets: 95,000 new jobs by 2030, 3.4% cumulative GVA by 2020 and £1billion private sector investment in next five years.

He said that the West of England was well placed to meet these challenges. It had a well-motivated and aspirational

workforce, with appropriate skills to meet business needs, and the foundations for long term sustainable economic development, with the universities key to achieving innovation. People and businesses were attracted by the high quality urban, rural and coastal environments and cultural attractions and events. Both the Port of Bristol and Bristol Airport were growing. After London and Manchester, Bristol had the highest GVA of the English Core Cities.

He outlined the Board membership and how they had been appointed. The Board operated at the strategic level and was instrumental in making things happen. There were currently 11 sector groups and a twelfth group, consisting of the banking sector was being established. The Chair of each sector group reported to the Board twice a year.

In addition there were four cross-cutting, thematic groups: the Skills Group (focused on the area's skills requirements, what the upcoming skills needs are and the need to provide skills training for disadvantaged young people), the Infrastructure and Place Group, the SME Business Support Group and the Inward Investment Group.

He then outlined what people had asked for in January and the progress the LEP had made against these requests. This included improving connectivity by the electrification of the Great Western Mainline and approving 5 major transport schemes for submission to the Department for Transport. Board members had worked very hard to get behind these and persuade the government of the benefits they would bring.

The LEP's engagement with the

government had brought the Prime Minister to the area to launch the Bristol Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone in July. The area had had access to and support from Westminster in a way that they had never had before. The LEP had also successfully bid for the Regional Growth Fund and secured other government funding to support business and development.

5,000 new apprenticeships were being sought across LEP area, with new employers providing work placements for unemployed young people. In particular Mr Skellett announced the West of England LEP '300' Initiative, which promoted a grant of up to £1,000 to senior leaders for training in leadership and management skills. In January 2012 the LEP would be launching a comprehensive guide to support public sector employees moving to new careers in private sector.

Integrated place planning for the area would be co-ordinated through the Infrastructure and Place Group, which had agreed priorities for action, and was linked into local authority structures.

The list of other achievements included the recognition of the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone, where new businesses would benefit from a five year business rate reduction and superfast broadband. Work was underway on the Local Development Order and marketing of the opportunities available. The five Enterprise Areas at:

- Avonmouth/Sevenside
- Bath City Riverside
- Filton
- Junction 21, Weston-super-Mare
- Bristol & Bath Science Park

also provide substantial benefits for new and growing companies. The West of

England area has got many assets; for example, the only place for the Green Investment Bank is Bristol, with all the right ecological and financial credentials.

The next Board meeting would agree a strategic 'forward' plan. Its delivery priorities include transport (supporting local transport schemes and making the case for new and improved infrastructure); inward investment, with a programme of promotional activities; improving skills; and supporting the growth of low carbon and creative economies.

He asked how the West of England could be made a thriving place. The area needed a new stadium, needed an arena and needed an orchestra – and it all had to be sustainable. It also needed proper transport links, re-modelled stations and the area to look first-class. The government didn't create jobs; it was the private sector which created jobs. The LEP would help these jobs get created.

3. Keynote speech

Greg Clark MP, Minister for Cities and Minister for Decentralisation and Planning referred to Colin Skellett's comments on cultivating the environment to create jobs. He echoed the sentiment that this could not be done in Westminster, but he said that powers were available for localities to do it for themselves.

Describing the current economic context, the Minister explained how the euro needed to be stabilised and that the national context was very important. UK interest rates were currently lower than those in most countries in Europe. With growth happening differently in different places, it was important to ensure that

the plan for growth allowed a sense of place, so that localities would be free to identify how the economy could grow in their area. That was what LEPs were about.

Having regions as the basis for local economies was no longer appropriate; rather localities were asked to identify what they considered the basis should be in terms of natural local economies, taking account of the best transport connections and the travel to work area. People asked what the guidelines were and government's response was that there would be no steer; it was up to the localities to decide, based on local knowledge and local need.

Local Enterprise Partnerships were now being established and were beginning to take root across the country. Often they comprised a major city, but also had strong links with surrounding areas. LEPs helped promote a sense of place, both locally and nationally, and through them the country could project its major growth opportunities around the world.

Once the natural local economies were recognised, the differences around the country became apparent. This area, for example, was the most important for finance outside London and also had major creative industries.

The Minister highlighted the calibre of the West of England's universities and identified the importance of higher education to economic growth. He described the 'extraordinary calibre of business representatives' on the LEP Board stating that, in his view, this was 'one of the strongest LEPs'. The Enterprise Zone clearly played to the strengths of Bristol and the Enterprise Zone benefits would be important to the area's economic growth. Government

could offer business rate discount or complete relief to businesses in the Enterprise Zone, but the decision on exactly how this would be done should be made locally. The Minister thought the creation of the five Enterprise Areas was a 'gutsy' decision for the area to take.

The Minister explained that, regarding the powers available to localities, the Localism Act 'encouraged us to go further than ever before'. The first section of the Act granted a general power of competence to localities, allowing local authorities to do whatever they thought appropriate for their area and, more than ever, to 'do what they want without having to check first'. The Minister 'strongly hoped' the West of England LEP would take these powers on.

There was a section in the Localism Act that gave the opportunity for any powers held by government to be devolved to localities. The Minister described how, in the future, government believed that powers would be better used locally, and a much swifter procedure of parliament was now in place to allow this to happen.

Government wanted to move beyond the situation where there was a standard template across the country. Localities would be urged to 'do a deal with cities' about how they want their area to grow and to work. It was imperative that localities could count on the benefits of any devolution of powers. The Minister wanted and expected Bristol and the West of England to do a series of deals to help local growth. 'This place', he added, 'will be a creator of growth for Britain in the future'. In both the short and long term, he wanted the reputation of Bristol and Bath to be a beacon of strength to promote the West of England.

Questions to the Minister

Q from Professor Martin Biggs, University of the West of England:

This is a major opportunity but businesses need clarity. How much are you planning to back the LEP in reforming the planning process?

A: This is very important. Business around the world will tell you they need confidence in their planning applications. Part of the challenge is to simplify the process and to illustrate a clear path. What is and is not possible should be made clearer to everyone in advance. LEPs are crucial. Local Development Orders already exist. This is an area where some LEPs are ahead of the West of England.

Q from James Durie, Director of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce:

The transport schemes are very important for the local economy. How do you see them in terms of creating jobs and can/do you make that case?

A: The schemes are very important. The history of Bristol and the surrounding areas have transport written though them. Major cities on the continent are well connected with other cities across their country, taking advantage of each other's skills and specialisms. It is vital that we have a state of the art network and very important that people can move in a way that's efficient, reliable and green. The best judge of what's needed is you, not the government. We have had conversations with transport ministers about the devolution of transport powers to localities. I hope that will involve the West of England LEP.

Q from Cllr Barbara Janke, Leader Bristol City Council. Vice Chair of the LEP Board: We have asked our banking group to see what measures need to be

put in place to stimulate the local economy. What are your thoughts on incentivising local investment? Can we have local tax incentives?

A: We've got the Regional Growth Fund that relies on local knowledge. It is important that we have greater local financial decision making on things such as business rates. We want a connection between the success of local businesses and the local council, to ensure that investments made will benefit the taxpayer. The LEP should identify where investment will be able to unlock business rates.

Q from a participant: What is central government's view on the recent rise of social enterprises and what powers are available to support them?

A: Social enterprise has now matured into an established part of the business sector. I see social enterprise as having a particularly important role in regeneration, particularly to bring out local talent, skills and abilities. The sector helps people into work for the first time and also brings buildings that have fallen into dereliction back into use; for example, 'Create' in Leeds is a social enterprise run by top calibre chefs, that takes in the homeless and other similarly disadvantaged individuals. The Localism Act gives communities the power to take on the local authorities and query the way things are done. Local communities will be able to come together and bid to own local assets.

Q from Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council Executive, Chair of the Joint Transport

Executive Committee: The West of England's Major Transport Scheme bids are of great importance to the area, both as individual schemes and collectively, as a package. Does government recognise

their importance and are you able to promote the bids to fellow ministers?

A: The period of deliberation over the Major Schemes is coming to a close. I wish the West of England bids well and understand the importance to the area. In the future, I hope that local areas will know the budgets available and will be able to make these types of decision themselves. I regard transport as very important.

4. Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone

Alun Owen, Service Director, Major Projects, Bristol City Council

described the area covered by the Bristol Enterprise Zone, which included Temple Meads and Paintworks, the old post office building, the currently derelict ground known as 'plots 3 and 6' and the 'diesel depot'.

Some of the key features of the Zone included:

- Creative and technology hub
- Superfast broadband - an absolute requirement if the area was to realise 4,000 new jobs in the next 5 years and 17,000 over the next 25 years
- Up to £275,000 business rate discount, spread over 5 years, for new businesses
- Simplified planning.

The Enterprise Zone was expected to return £250m in business rates over 25 years, which would be retained by the local area to support the Local Enterprise Partnership's priorities. The development of area-based and site-specific Local Development Orders would be completed by April 2012.

The Zone would become attractive to

world-leading brands and would be a centre of global connectivity; however, currently poor connectivity within the site was a key issue and the provision of superfast broadband was essential for ongoing development.

One of the primary objectives of the Enterprise Zone was to help businesses grow. Displacement of business activity already in the area would be avoided wherever possible and every effort would be made to ensure that businesses within the Zone were 'sustainable in the broadest sense'.

Two very significant sites were owned by the Homes and Communities Agency. It was hoped to 'bring them forward very quickly'.

Through a targeted marketing campaign, the aim was to 'announce to the world what's going on'.

Paul Appleby: Director, VID Communications & Chair, Bristol Media CIC stated that 'the Enterprise Zone is visionary', before describing the 'foundation of trust' that came from working in the creative industry. Creative and media companies relied on quality communication mechanisms and connectivity required the appropriate technology. Both upload and download speeds within the Zone were of equal importance.

Paul described Bristol as an 'unorthodox but collaborative' city, especially in terms of its thriving creative sector. Co-location was key to the success of creative groups within the Zone, as traditionally these types of businesses preferred to be based close to one another in order to share knowledge and skills.

Around 200 people had engaged in the Enterprise Zone visioning event and one of the key messages was for organisers to 'keep it complex'. Planning needed simplifying, but the issues involved in creating the right environment for business growth was necessarily complicated and needed to be treated as such.

A broad range of core values underpinned every element of the Enterprise Zone and it needed: to be genuinely sustainable, 'not greenwashed'; to reflect the cultural and economic diversity of the city; to be innovative and promote a sense of place; to be free thinking and integrated; and to embrace design, whilst respecting heritage.

One of the site's core purposes was perception: it was the front door to Bristol and should stand as 'a beacon for future cities'.

The project would be completed by 2026, but in the short term - by 2016 - redevelopment would have started. Also by then support and capacity building for SMEs would be in place and the site would host an Expo in 2016.

Alun Owen closed the session by outlining the key pieces of work that would be completed by April 2012, including:

- Content and shape of area wide Local Development Order agreed
- A draft Urban Design Framework produced
- Transportation Strategy complete
- Marketing Strategy complete
- Interim uses of a number of the key sites identified and implemented
- Meetings held with existing developers who have planning permission in the Zone

- Sector engagement plans developed
- The Enterprise Zone offer developed with the Creative Industry Leads
- Two significant and strategic sites acquired
- Feasibility studies on Superfast Broadband completed.

There was a lot to do, but the Enterprise Zone was on its way.

5. Plenary

Q from Paul Baker, Jones Lang LaSalle: The Enterprise Zone includes strategic sites which require significant investment. What can be done to create quick wins? What funding will be available?

A: Colin Skellett

This is challenging. We are working on the Local Development Order and want something on site in the Enterprise Zone as quickly as possible; we aim to start in April. To get quick wins we are talking to companies interested in the sites, eg the old post office, and to Network Rail. There is no magic pot of money but the preparatory work is underway. BT has guaranteed there will be superfast broadband in the Zone. We are looking at pop-ups from 1 April, so do get in touch if you have any ideas.

A: Robert Sinclair

We are streamlining the inward investment effort. We want to attract national and international companies and are working closely with the BBC, which could relocate there.

A: Cllr Barbara Janke

We have visited Shoreditch to see how they have developed their creative hub. We may develop the sites in phases; it is not going to be perfect at the beginning. Infrastructure providers are keen to help. We are looking at the governance of the group, but the work will not focus on writing plans, but on getting going.



Q from Nigel Costley, SW TUC:
Are there levers to stop the wrong sort of development? Who vets the companies, eg deciding if the focus is on creative industries that a company is not creative enough?

A: Cllr Barbara Janke

We are refining the system of business relief so that development will be seen as an opportunity, rather than constraint. Good ideas would be welcomed. We are looking at the potential for facilities for social enterprise and want it to be a centre for growth.

A: Colin Skellett

We are not looking at attracting big corporates, but trying to create a business community with creative businesses, a kind of 'Paintworks writ large'. We have to go through the government to find out what the rules are.

Q from Elaine Flint, Social Enterprise Works:
With the background of the closure of business support and a loss of capacity, what role will the LEP play in supporting SMEs, including social enterprises?

A: Michael Bothamley

The banks are enthusiastic about helping SMEs articulate their ask and developing a range of services. The government's web-based solution is only one aspect of support.

A: Cllr Barbara Janke

We are very keen to see social enterprises supported and will be extremely receptive to ideas.

A: Robert Sinclair

This issue is broader than just social enterprises and SMEs. However, the LEP has no budget, although it is accessing funding through the Regional Growth Fund, etc. SMEs need to be in touch with us so that we can lobby on their behalf.

A: Colin Skellett

Do feed your ideas in. We need to find match funding to access European money.



Q from Cllr Elfan Ap Rees, North Somerset Council: Not enough has been said about the Enterprise Areas. In Weston we have a local workforce looking for local jobs, although many local people currently have to commute to work. We need assurance that the LEP is just as focused on the Enterprise Areas as the Enterprise Zone.

A: Colin Skellett

The Enterprise Areas are just as important. They are being developed at different rates in different places. The LEP Board will be looking at the Weston Enterprise Area after Christmas. The LEP gets 25 years of business rate growth from the Enterprise Zone and it can borrow against this. The benefit will be spread across both the Enterprise Zone and Areas.

A: Robert Sinclair

The Minister was supportive of our Enterprise Zone/Enterprise Areas arrangement, with the fiscal benefits spread across the West of England, which he said was very innovative. We are focused on how they fit with the five major transport schemes, joining up the Enterprise Zone and five Enterprise Areas as a networked package.

A: Cllr Barbara Janke

The existence of the Enterprise Areas illustrates the medium to long term thinking of the LEP Board. As the Enterprise Zone becomes established, the momentum and energy focused on the Enterprise Areas will grow. The LEP's success depends on the Enterprise Areas, as well as the Enterprise Zone and this is part of the core work of the Board.

Q from Robert Butcher, Princes Trust: What is the LEP doing for young people? We would welcome working together for young people, to make sure they have skills and support. We also have funding which could match European funds.

A: Cllr Barbara Janke

We highlighted the difficulties of skills funding to the Minister this morning. We need a long term approach so that young people have the right skills to be able to set up businesses, including a more stimulating curriculum in schools, giving them a full range of opportunities. Greg Clark has agreed to forward a letter from us about this to Michael Gove. It's important that we use the LEP's expertise, because collectively we have influence.

A: Colin Skellett

The sector groups are talking to schools, FE colleges, etc about the skills their sectors need, particularly from 16 to 19 year olds. It's important that business can articulate what they need. Please let us have any ideas about this.

Q from Cllr John Bull, Bath & North East Somerset Council: What can the LEP do for areas like the examining area I represent, in need of regeneration, but not part of an Enterprise Area?

A: Colin Skellett

The LEP itself can only help and facilitate. Businesses in your area need to engage with the sector groups. The Board hopes to create economic activity that will spill out across the whole area. Bath & North East Somerset Council needs to match the broadband funding available from the government, so the whole council area will benefit. We do not have a magic wand or large pot of money. We rely on businesses to say 'This is what you can do for us'. We will try to take on board the proposal that we help to link Bath up along the A4 to Keynsham and Temple Quay.

Q from Linda Taylor, 3G Communications: Have you any thoughts on what the Minister said about the Localism Act and what we'd like to see local authorities doing to take us forward?

A: Michael Bothamley

The authorities should take responsibility for using their assets and powers to become quasi-development corporations. Things won't happen if the private sector is left on its own. There needs to be a real commitment to doing something radical on housing to unlock the land.

A: Cllr Barbara Janke

I agree. We are looking at how we can kick start housing development. We have strongly based community organisations. There needs to be much more local decision-making, with the councils deciding strategic issues, eg broadband, tourism, business improvement districts, revenue raising and transport. The Act involves devolving powers to local communities, not just giving freedom from central government.

A: Robert Sinclair

It is an exciting new environment from the LEP perspective, enabling us to set our own agenda and we need a list of aspirational goals. The devolution of power coming, eg rate retention, is extraordinary. The possible devolution of transport budgets is very encouraging.

A: Colin Skellett

It would be helpful to consolidate the money into a single fund. Central government seems to be willing to listen.

Q from Martin Bigg, University of the West of England: Although we have lost Business Link and Regional Development Agency (RDA) support, there is other support available across the area. The LEP is in a unique position to help. The big challenge is to get civil servants to recognise its strengths and that we are ready to go.

A: Cllr Barbara Janke

That's right. A consolidated funding regime would release the funding. We need to let the government know we have a can-do approach and the government seems receptive. We need to show we have the talent, enthusiasm and energy to be a forerunner. We all need to repeat the message to government to get it through.

A: Robert Sinclair

We have shown that we are more competitive than other regions and the government welcomes that because they need to invest in an area that can deliver. Work with the local authorities, including joint lobbying of ministers, is powerful and when business and local authorities say the same thing, the message gets through.

A: Michael Bothamley

Business' view is that success is down to the combination of leadership, such as having a city-region mayor.

A: Colin Skellett

We need to look to competitors across Europe, not just the UK, and be one of the best city regions in Europe.

Q from Tony McNiff, First Group: Transportation is best devolved from central government and I wish you luck.

A: Robert Sinclair

The decision on transport investment is expected on 8 December. We have been active lobbying at Westminster and met last week with local MPs to ask for their support. We had over 130 letters of support from local businesses. However, we are asking for 20% of the entire pool of funding available, so if we get it all, we will be lucky.

A: Cllr Barbara Janke

One of the problems of centralised funding is that we have to take our place in the queue and this contrasts with European cities. The Department for Transport has a very bureaucratic system of allocating and spending money and we told the Minister that.

Q from Ned Cussen, Jones Lang LaSalle: There is a need to deliver a large number of houses and job opportunities in this period; however, it won't be popular with electors. How will you manage this?

A: Robert Sinclair

The Board has recognised that enabling use of land for housing and employment is a key issue for the local authorities. It has been put to the Board to encourage the local authorities to free up land and review their core strategies. You are right that this could be difficult and we will have to work through the issue; there are no easy solutions or quick wins. The Infrastructure & Place Board needs to work on this and we want to end up with a seamless process.

A: Cllr Barbara Janke

I have sympathy on this issue, but the Regional Spatial Strategy required regeneration to focus on existing areas, rather than to expand into the green belt, and there are plenty of areas which could supply expanding housing opportunities. We need housing available to keep graduates in the area and we need to look at more advantageous ways of financing housing which provide incentives. There are huge opportunities, for example to improve sub-standard housing, without expanding into the green belt.

A: Michael Bothamley

The system has changed utterly from being target driven to being incentive led, but this is not enough. Providing the necessary housing is fundamental to what the LEP is trying to do. At present there are no opportunities for first time buyers, as the banks won't lend to them.

A: Colin Skellett

We need to unlock sites and make them available.

6. Closing remarks

Colin Skellett asked people to respond to the business survey which would be circulated shortly by Business West and sought to identify barriers to growth.

Cllr Barbara Janke said that it had been good to see how eager people were to link creativity into action. The Minister was most impressed and had gone to

visit Bath Riverside. She said there was a lot of work to do on the City Deal and wanted to secure a strong deal with the Minister. He could see our huge experience, record of success and enthusiasm, which impacts not just on this area, but the whole of the south west.

7. Organisations represented

3G Communications
Abbey Manor
AECOM
African & Caribbean Chambers of Commerce
Alder King
Alliance Homes
Arcadia Housing
Baker Associates
Barrett Development
Barton Willmore
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Bath & North East Somerset Learning & Skills Partnership
Bath & North East Somerset PCT
Bath Chamber of Commerce
Bath Spa University
Bond Pearce
Bristol Airport
Bristol City Council
Bristol Community Housing Federation
Bristol Green Capital Partnership
Bristol Media
Bristol University
Bristol Zoo
Business West
Cadbury House
Capita Symonds
Centre for Sustainable Energy
CITB Construction & Skills
City of Bath College
City of Bristol College
Clancy Group
Clark Willmott
Country Land & Business Association
Creative Bath
CVS South Gloucestershire
DAC Beachcroft LLP
Davis Langdon
Department of Business, Innovation & Skills
Design Programme
Destination Bristol
Diversified Farmer (Rural Economy Group)
DTZ
EC Harris LLP
Environment Agency
Faithfull & Gould
Filton College
First Group
Forum for the Future
Future Bath Plus
GVA Grimley
Hays
Highways Agency
Homes and Communities Agency
Initiative in Bath & North East Somerset
Jackson Civil Engineering
JBP Communications
Job Centre Plus
Jones Lang LaSalle
Kier Western
Knight Frank
Knightstone Housing Association
Knowle West Media Centre
Learn
Lloyds TSB
Low Carbon SW
Media Clash
National Apprenticeship Service
Natural England
Network Rail
North Somerset Council
North Somerset Enterprise Agency
Parsons Brinckerhoff
Princes Trust
Quidos Ltd
Re:work
Savills
Science City
Set Squared/loD
Skanska RDUK
Skills Funding Agency
Social Enterprise Works
Solar Sense
Somerset Housing Association
South Gloucestershire Council
South West Highways Ltd
South West Regional Development Agency
St Modwen
Summerfield Developments (SW) Ltd
Sustrans
SW TUC
Transport for Greater Bristol Alliance
UKTI South West
University of the West of England
WEAF
Wessex Water
West of England Design Forum
West of England Office
West of England Sports Trust
Weston College
White Design
Wildscreen

8. Conference programme

The LEP in action and how you can contribute

Conference Programme

15 November 2011

The Assembly Rooms, Bennett Street, Bath, Avon, BA1 2QH

- 9.00am Registration and coffee, including an opportunity for informal interaction with representatives from the Sector and Thematic Groups* (see next page)
- 9.30am **Welcome:** Cllr Paul Crossley, Leader of Bath & NE Somerset Council
- Introduction and the LEP so far:** Colin Skellett, Chair, Board of the Local Enterprise Partnership & Executive Chairman, Wessex Water Ltd
- 10.00am **Keynote Speaker:** Greg Clark MP, Minister for Cities and Minister for Decentralisation and Planning
- 10.45am **Coffee/Interactive** including an opportunity for informal interaction with representatives from the Sector and Thematic Groups* (see next page)
- 11.15am **Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone**
The story so far, and the way forward
- 11.45am **Discussion/Plenary: Q&A with panel**
Panel: Colin Skellett; Cllr Barbara Janke, Vice Chair, LEP Board and Leader, Bristol City Council; Cllr Nigel Ashton, Leader, North Somerset Council; and Michael Bothamley, Beachcroft LLP
- 12.30pm **Closing remarks**
Cllr Barbara Janke

A light lunch will be provided, including an opportunity for informal interaction with representatives from the Sector and Thematic Groups* (See next page)

* The Sector Groups cover the following business sectors:

- Advanced engineering, aerospace and defence
- Creative and media
- Micro-electronics
- Low carbon activities
- Tourism
- Financial, insurance and professional services
- Retail and distribution
- Construction and development
- Social enterprise
- Rural economy

The Thematic Groups cover:

- Skills
- Promotion, Inward Investment and Trade
- SME/Business Support
- Place and Infrastructure

