

STRENGTHENED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Purpose of the report

- 1 To inform Members of the progress with the implementation of the strengthened Governance arrangements summarised at the Appendix to this report.

Joint Committees

- 2 The Joint Working Agreements including the constitutions for the Joint Committees Transport and Waste Management will be considered for formal approval by Cabinets/Leaders of Council in the period 14 - 31 July 2008. These provisions have been developed with the assistance of independent legal advice. In the case of the Joint Transport Committee meetings have taken place with the Department for Transport so that their views could be taken into account; they have welcomed the establishment of the Joint Committee and the proposal for a "Delivery" Vehicle to take responsibility for the delivery of major infrastructure projects.
- 3 Several meetings and workshops have taken place with the Executive Members and officers who will be members and advisers to the Joint Committees. The programme of meetings are included in the Annual Business report which is included on the Partnership's agenda today; the Joint Committees will confirm their programmes of work at their inaugural meetings.

Programme Board, Planning, Housing & Communities

- 4 Discussions have also taken place with the Members and officers who will be members and advisers of this Programme Board and preliminary meetings are planned with both Executive Members: Spatial Planning and Executive Members: Housing Management to agree their priorities and programme of work.

Employment & Skills Board

- 5 Discussions have been held with the Chair of the Board, the Area Director of the Learning & Skills Council and of the South West Regional Development Agency to extend the Board's remit to encompass both economic and employment & skills matters. A further report on these developments will be made to both this Partnership Board and the Employment & Skills Board later this year.

Joint Scrutiny Committee

- 6 The inaugural meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee is planned for 11 July 2008. The main purpose of this meeting will be to complete the Annual Business, including their priorities in the coming year. This discussion will be assisted by a presentation on the scope and priorities of the West of England Partnership. The meeting will also consider several key issues (waste planning, waste management and the Transport Innovation Fund) in more detail where the contribution of the Committee will be required over the remainder of this calendar year.

- 7 Recently the final meeting of the Planning, Transport & Environment Group was held to discuss with them the outcome of the work to strengthen Partnership governance and delivery; this followed their workshop on these issues on 29 February 2008. The meeting provided an opportunity to respond to the questions from Members and the social, economic and environmental partners who have served on the group.

The 'Delivery' Vehicle

- 8 The independent legal and financial advisers appointed to advise on the formation of the 'Delivery' Vehicle for major infrastructure projects will report at the end of July. It is envisaged that the recommendations and resource implications prepared by officers in response to this report will be presented to the Board in October.

Recommendation

- 9 That the Board note progress and the further developments planned.

Terry Wagstaff
26.6.08

WEST OF ENGLAND PARTNERSHIP

GOVERNANCE: DIRECTION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

DELIVERY

1 COUNCILS. CABINETS.			
Bath & NE Somerset	Bristol	N. Somerset	S. Gloucestershire

2 COUNCIL LEADERS	JOINT COMMITTEES	PROGRAMME BOARD
	Transport. Waste Management	Planning, Housing & Communities
	Cabinet Members	Cabinet Members

3 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Leader plus 2 Members for each Council. Strategic Partners & Agencies.

4 JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	SPECIALIST GROUPS
Transport. Waste. Planning, Housing & Communities. Economy & Skills.	Culture & Leisure. Rural.
Cross-party Members. Strategic Partners & Agencies.	Cabinet/Non-Executive Members Strategic Partners & Agencies.

5 SPECIALIST OFFICER GROUPS	PARTNERSHIP OFFICE
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A DELIVERY VEHICLE
Commission delivery of transport, waste & housing infrastructure (accountable to Partnership Board)

B EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS BOARD
and review scope for wider economic role Business-Led. Council Leaders.

C HOMES WEST
RSL Consortium delivering affordable housing.