

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



The **West** of **England** Partnership

Joint Scrutiny Committee

23th September 2008

Multi Area Agreement

Vision 2026

- Anticipated and shaped high levels of growth successfully: more and better jobs and homes for local people
- Internationally competitive output & growth and employment levels & skills
- Urban regeneration ensuring everyone is sharing in increased prosperity
- Suburban renaissance & urban extensions built on mixed & balanced communities
- Public transport solutions and action on climate change enhancing quality of life
- Attractive to business & investors; influential nationally and internationally

Economic Strengths

- Most economically competitive city region outside London
- High levels of productivity, economic activity /participation and incomes contribute significantly to regional and national economic performance
- RES and RSS provide for continuing rapid growth of the West of England economy (the impact of the 'credit crunch' allowing)
- Diverse knowledge-based economy; top class universities; high graduate skills; strong creative sectors

New Growth Point

Substantial economic strength and potential

Government's Draft RSS & revised 2004-based population projections	Growth per annum 2006 to 2026
Jobs	6000
People	8300
Homes	5868

The **West of England** Partnership

Economic Strengths and Challenges (1)

Strengths	Challenges
Scale and diversity of knowledge-based economy	Globalisation and rising competitive pressures.
	High Dependence on defence expenditure and aerospace.
Skilled workforce, especially professional, managerial and technical	Poor educational attainment in schools. Significant pockets of low levels of skills and economic activity.
Large and prestigious university sector. High graduate retention.	Some shortages and an aging workforce.
Attractive, relatively low-cost employment sites and premises. Successful strategic business locations.	Emerging shortages

Economic Strengths and Challenges (2)

Strengths	Challenges
Good access to other parts of the UK and internationally	Rising congestion and poor public transport in the sub-region and on key routes
Major airport and seaport	
High quality of life: attractive environment and cultural diversity	Shortage of housing, especially affordable, exacerbated by high levels of growth. Managing growth successfully within environmental limits

Potential benefits of MAA

- Focus the sub-region and its strategic partners regionally and nationally on the delivery of the West of England's key priorities
- Secure commitment well in advance to planned and programmed investment in infrastructure, to match growth in jobs and homes
- Find better ways of doing business with strategic partners regionally and nationally which increases their commitment to the partnership's priorities, increases progress and reduces complexity and bureaucracy
- Conclude specific agreements which join-up the work of the public sector and government, reduce uncertainty about public investment and speed-up delivery
- Ensure more flexibility, powers and resources are devolved to the sub-region, through the Sub-National Review, in return for jointly delivering agreed and measurable outcomes

MAA: Priorities

- Deliver the new homes and jobs targets for the sub-region to 2026.
- Ensuring mixed, sustainable and prosperous communities with a stepped increase in affordable homes and in meeting sustainable construction standards.
- Delivery of “Our Future Transport” vision to 2026, by encouraging less reliance on the car and incentives to use quality public transport, in order to tackle congestion/climate change, improve quality of life and economic performance and support delivery of the RSS.
- Sustain high levels of economic growth and increase competitiveness; ensure everyone is sharing in the prosperity through regeneration.
- Deliver reductions in worklessness and NEET young people. Increase the percentage of adults with a Level 2 qualification.

Key Strategic Development Sites (1)

- **B&NES**
- Bath City Centre
- Western Riverside
- Urban extension- South of Bath (Area of search E)
- Keynsham (Including area of search 1F)
- Urban extension- South east of Bristol (Area of search B)

- **BRISTOL**
- City Centre Stokes Croft to Temple Meads
- St Phillips
- South Bristol
- Lockleaze
- Avonmouth

Key Strategic Development Sites (2)

- **NORTH SOMERSET**

- WSM Town Centre
- Urban extension- South-west Bristol (Area of search A)
- Urban extension- East of WSM (Area of search F)

- **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

- Yate/Chipping Sodbury
- Urban extensions-North of Bristol (Area of search C)
- Urban extensions-North-east of Bristol (Area of search D)
- Cribbs Causeway/Filton
- East of Coldharbour Lane/Harry Stoke
- Wallscourt Farm
- Emersons Green East & Emersons Green Science Park
- Severnside

Delivering More Homes, Jobs & Regeneration: Offer (1)

- Phased development and review of the sub-regional spatial plan committing to the number, location, sequencing and phasing of homes and employment sites to be delivered up to 2026, in collaboration with the H&CA and SWRDA.
- Aligning Core Strategies to support the phasing of delivery and investment in infrastructure.
- Programme for agreeing strategic development standards and policies to ensure the delivery through developers of mixed and sustainable communities.

Delivering More Homes, Jobs & Regeneration: Offer (2)

- Identification, programming and delivery of key strategic development sites in the sub-region, in conjunction with the H&CA, SWRDA, Environment Agency and the Utilities.
- Programming the assessment of development and delivery capacity, strategic infrastructure requirements (including affordable housing) and the preparation of business cases for investment to agreed standards, in conjunction with the H&CA and SWRDA.
- Utilising the strengthened governance and delivery capacity of the West of England Partnership.

Delivering More Homes, Jobs & Regeneration: 'Asks' (1)

- Opportunity to refresh LDFs in response to publication of the RSS by government.
- Further strengthening of the strategic partnership between the West of England local authorities and the H&CA and SWRDA in developing strategic sites by:
 - collaborating in their identification, programming and delivery
 - contributing to building development and delivery capacity
 - engaging in arrangements to assess infrastructure requirements
 - agreeing timely joint infrastructure investment plans in conjunction with other funding sources and bodies, based on agreed business cases.

Delivering More Homes, Jobs & Regeneration: 'Asks'(2)

- Simplified checks and controls and more flexibility in the use of resources based on agreed arrangements for business planning and the approval, programming and management of resources eg:
 - common appraisal systems across government and its agencies, based on HMT Green Book.
 - authority to re-profile the sequencing of individual projects.
 - West of England appraisal of housing/employment projects of less than £5 million.
 - streamlined approach to performance monitoring.

Delivering our transport needs (1)

- Greater integration of spatial and transport priorities, planning and investment
- Reinforce our reputation for effective joint planning, delivery and value for money through: quality of submissions; strengthened collective governance; arms-length delivery vehicle for major schemes - to maintain momentum in securing stepped increases in investment.
- Secure increased local powers, especially to improve existing public transport and to ensure quality and value for money from substantial additional investment through TIF resources.

Delivering our transport needs (2)

- Increase the pace of delivery, avoid inflation and reduce overheads by streamlining checks and controls based on strengthened governance, delivery and programme management to meet the challenge of substantial increases in housing and employment growth.
- Underpinning the 'duty to co-operate' of the Highways Agency, Network Rail and Rail Operators with a framework of formal agreements in joint priorities and investment programmes to successfully meet the high levels of projected growth.
- Securing specific additional investment beyond JLTP and TIF to meet the transport infrastructure requirements of strategic housing and employment sites - key to meeting national housing, GDP and regeneration targets.

Sustain High Levels of Growth and Competitiveness

- Attract sustainable programme of public and private investment to deliver strategic employment sites.
- Enhance and develop sub-regional investor and business infrastructure programme to attract high value-added businesses into the sub-region.
- Enhance entrepreneurial culture, business competitiveness and productivity through responsive support to enable indigenous business survival and growth.
- Support business led innovation, enterprise and collaboration with Higher Education.

Employment and Skills

- Integrated and targeted client and employer outreach to reduced worklessness.
- Coherent 14-19 strategy to address level 2 and 3 deficits and increase numbers of jobs with training.
- Roll-out of targeted jobs and intermediate skills activities for employers and specific wards.
- Joined up Higher Education offer to employers and those seeking work.

WEST OF ENGLAND PARTNERSHIP

GOVERNANCE: DIRECTION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

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 and Agencies	Cabinet Members. Strategic Partners & Agencies.

5 SPECIALIST OFFICER GROUPS	PARTNERSHIP OFFICE
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DELIVERY

A DELIVERY COMPANY
Commission delivery of transport, waste & housing Infrastructure (accountable to Partnership Board)

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

C HOMES WEST
RSL Consortium delivering affordable homes

Current Timetable (1)

19.9	West of England Partnership Report
30.9	Draft to C&LG
Week of 6.10	Pre-meeting with C&LG
Week of 13.10	Whitehall Negotiation Workshop C&LG Director General Visit (16/17)

Current Timetable (2)

24.10	West of England Partnership Approval
Week of 27.10	Minister of Local Government Visit
28.10 to 5.11	UA Cabinets/Executive Approvals (and to Councils later in November)
Week of 24.11	Sign-off by Secretary of State