

West of England Partnership
5 February 2009

Engagement with SEEPs & Strategic Organisations

Recommendation

That the proposed further arrangements for engagement with SEEPS and strategic organisations set out in the report be adopted, to strengthen the capacity, reach and influence of the Partnership.

Proposal adopted by the West of England Partnership Board

1. At its last meeting the Partnership adopted the following arrangements to ensure greater engagement of the SEEPS:
 - Programmed meetings and workshops for the SEEPs' organisations by the Partnership Office
 - Actions to implement their engagement across the Joint Committees, Boards and Groups. This would normally involve attendance for specific items, particularly at the development stage.
 - Further engagement of the Leaders of Council and Executive Members with strategic partner organisations on key developments, submissions and responses important to the sub-region and/or SEEPs' organisations or sectors
 - Closer involvement in communicating and promoting the objectives and outcomes of the Partnership, and the interests of the West of England.

Further actions

2. Following the second officer meeting with the SEEPs, the Board is now recommended to adopt these further actions:
 - The inclusion of the Regional Development Agency (SWRDA), the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) and the Government Office (GOSW) in these arrangements as observers, in addition to the existing SEEPs representing the following: Business; Higher Education; Health; Environment; Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Organisations; and, a Social Partner.
 - The nomination of the seventh SEEP from amongst serving business people in the professional services sector or other sector suggested by the SEEPs.
 - Partnership Officers to identify in advance when SEEPs and Strategic Organisations (SEEPS/SOs) should be engaged with officers and Members at the development and decision-making stages of proposals - especially on

transport, spatial planning, economy and skills issues, including key developments, submissions and responses. This would ensure they are more informed and influential, and be more effective in speaking publicly in support of the Partnership's ambitions, objectives, priorities and programmes. This would not involve additional meetings, but would involve ensuring the SEEPs/Sos are notified well in advance of appropriate meetings.

- On this basis, Partnership Officers to anticipate when SEEPs/SOs should meet relevant officers, Chief Executives, Leaders of Council, Member Joint Committees, Boards and Committees for specific items, and periodically for planning and review.
- Future Joint Investment Planning at times will require particular engagement of Leaders and Executive Members with SWRDA and HCA.
- The need to ensure the Partnership Board agenda includes more opportunities to debate key future and emerging priorities and developments, and policy and investment programmes.
- The importance of ensuring opportunities are to identified and programmed for the involvement of SEEPs/SOs in communicating and promoting the objectives and outcomes of the Partnership, and the interests of the West of England.
- The need to ensure the Partnership's Joint Committees, Boards and Specialist Groups continue to engage with relevant specialist partner organisations and interest groups as appropriate.
- In the immediate future Partnership Officers to arrange for:
 - SEEPs/SOs to meet Leaders to reinforce this joint commitment;
 - Chief Executives to review arrangements for cross-party briefing on Partnership matters; and
 - Arrangements to be made for the Chair to present the Partnerships priorities and programmes to the West of England Initiative.
- The Partnership give its views on the revised chart of the Partnership arrangements at Appendix 1.

3. Appendix 2 lists SEEPs, observers and other partners for information.

Terry Wagstaff
Chief Executive

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West of England Partnership Governance and Delivery

A Councils		Cabinets	
BANES	Bristol	North Somerset	South Gloucestershire

B Strategic Partnership Board
Leaders of Council plus 2 Councillors from each Council; Social, Economic and Environmental Partners, Strategic Organisations/Observers

C Council Leaders	Joint Executive Committees	Boards		Specialist Groups	SEEPs, Partners & Strategic Organisations
	Transport Waste Management	Planning, Homes & Communities Board	Employment & Skills Board	Culture, Leisure & Tourism Rural Strategy	
	Cabinet Members	Cabinet Members	Employers, Economic Partners, & Agencies	Cabinet Members Non-Executive Strategic Partners & Agencies	
Work with Social, Economic and Environmental Partners and Strategic Partners					

Joint Scrutiny Committee
Transport; Waste; Planning, Housing & Communities; Economy & Skills
Cross-Party Members, Strategic Partners and Agencies

E Delivery Vehicle (being developed)	Homes West
Commission delivery of transport, waste & housing infrastructure (accountable to Partnership Board)	RSL Consortium delivering affordable homes

F Specialist Officer Groups	Partnership Office
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**West of England Partnership:
Social, Economic & Environmental Partners, Observers and other Partners**

Engaged and/or to be called upon by the Partnership, its Joint Committees, Boards, Specialist Groups and Joint Scrutiny

Transport

Industry:

Bus and rail operators
Network Rail

Environmental interests:

Campaign for Better Transport (was Transport 2000)
Friends of the Earth
CPRE

Other:

Business West
UWE
SW TUC
Community Action (rural interests)

Observers (government and its agencies):

SWRDA
GOSW
SWRA
Highways Agency
Gloucestershire County Council
Wiltshire County Council
Somerset County Council
Welsh Assembly
Mendip District Council
Cotswold District Council

Waste

Industry/commerce:

Environmental Services Association
Business West

Environmental interests:

Friends of the Earth

Observers:

GOSW
Environment Agency
Natural England

Planning, Housing and Communities

Partners:

Business West
House Builders Federation
National Housing Federation
National Landlords Association: Wessex Branch
Homes West

Industry:

Wessex Water
Bristol Water
Western Power
Bristol Port
Bristol Airport

Other:

Friends of the Earth
CPRE
SW TUC
Shelter
(Housing Associations)
(Universities)
(Consultants with specialist knowledge)

Observers:

GOSW
Homes & Communities Agency
SWRDA
Natural England
Environment Agency

Economy, Employment and Skills

Partners

Business West
Business Link
Federation of Small Businesses
CBI
Universities – knowledge transfer / business engagement
FE sector - knowledge transfer / business engagement
Science City
Social Enterprise Works
South West TUC
Networks: eg Aerospace Forum, SW Screen, BETS (Bristol Environmental Technology Services)

Observers:

SWRDA
Jobcentre Plus

Learning & Skills Council

Culture, Leisure & Tourism

Partners:

Arts Council South West
Culture South West
Museum, Libraries and Archives Council
South West Screen
South West Tourism
Sport England
WESPORT

Observers:

SWRDA
GOSW

Rural

Partners:

Community Action
NFU
Avon Biodiversity Partnership
Forest of Avon
Avon Local Councils Association

Others:

(Parishes in rural areas)

Observers:

GOSW
SWRDA