

Multi-Area Agreement

Recommendation

That the Committee gives its views on further developing the current draft

Background

1. Multi-Area Agreement (MAAs) are voluntary agreements between two or more top-tier or unitary local authorities, their partners and Government. The aim of an MAA is to achieve collective outcome-based targets with a view to improving economic prosperity.

Benefits

2. In summary the MAA:
 - Sets out the sub-region's strengths, potential and challenges
 - Focuses on agreed priorities and outcomes, with partners
 - Secures commitment to investment in infrastructure
 - Finds better ways of doing business with partners and increases commitment to joint priorities
 - Concludes specific agreements which join-up the work of public agencies, reduce uncertainty and speed-up delivery
 - Secures more flexibility, powers and resources for the sub-region.
3. It will also assist the sub-region to respond to the recession and help to support growth in the medium term. The MAA identifies the underlying strengths of the sub-regional economy, the challenges we face in the short term and how we can exploit the potential within the sub-region. It enables the sub-region to look to the medium and the long term, sustaining our work towards the achievement of the West of England vision.

Focus

4. The MAA focuses on areas which need to be addressed sub-regionally, rather than at unitary authority level. In the West of England draft MAA focuses on the following outcomes:

- Mitigate the outcome of the current Economic Recession and act to support an early Upturn
- Plan and manage growth in homes, jobs and communities, within environmental limits
- Improve access and reduced traffic congestion to increase competitiveness and quality of life
- Attract and grow business investment to increase economic growth and competitiveness
- Improve skills and reduce worklessness to increase competitiveness, growth and regeneration.

Appendix: Current draft of the West of England Multi-Area Agreement

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