



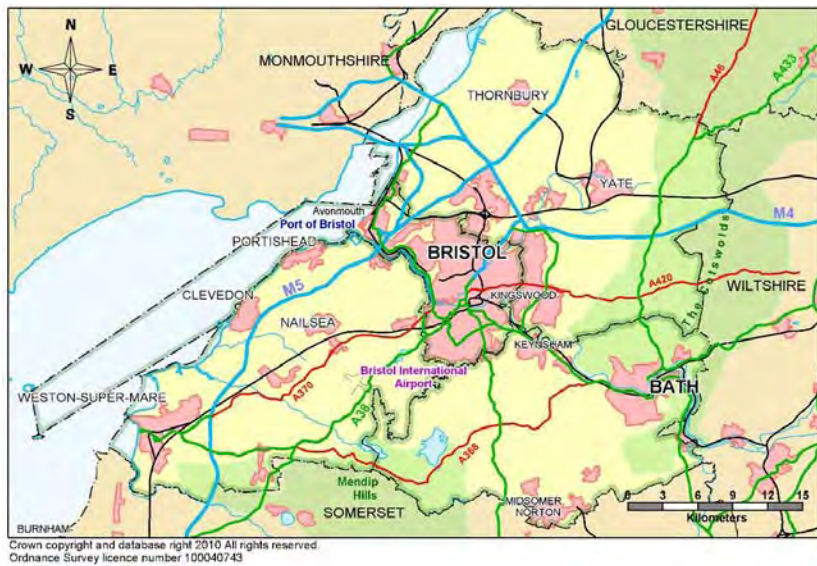
# West of England Local Enterprise Partnership

Proposal to Secretaries of State for BIS  
and CLG

September 2010

## Where we are

- The West of England is a functional economic area, defined by:
  - travel to work patterns (local residents account for about 90% of the jobs in our area)
  - transport infrastructure, traffic flows and transport services focussed on our major settlements and the movement between them.
  - clusters of industries (e.g. aerospace and the largest concentration of creative industries outside London)
  - retail catchments of our major centres



- Home to the cities of Bristol and Bath and the coastal town of Weston-super-Mare.
- Population of a million people expected to increase by 19% to nearly 1.2 million people by 2026.
- 450,000 jobs which we aim to increase by 21% by 2030.

## Who we are

- An existing private / public sector partnership working together on economic development, strategic planning, transport and waste.
- A diverse economy hosting world leading companies from the key high growth sectors which are vital to the national economic recovery:
  - creative and media, (including Aardman Animations, Future Publishing, Touch Productions)
  - advanced engineering, aerospace and defence, (including Airbus, Rolls Royce, BAeS, GKN Aerospace)
  - micro-electronics and silicon design, (including Hewlett Packard Labs, Toshiba and PicoChip)
  - environmental technologies/marine renewable industries (including Vestas, Gerrad Hassans and Sustrans)
  - tourism (including two international visitor destinations and a UK top 10 visitor attraction).
- Four exceptional universities offering world-class teaching and research (with over 50,000 undergraduate places and 17,000 postgraduate places) and five further education colleges.

## What we have to offer

- A track record of partnership working to deliver infrastructure and economic development.
- Most competitive of the Core City areas, with GVA growth outperforming that of the UK since the 1990s.
- One of six nationally designated Science Cities with strength in bio-medicine and potential in bio-technology.
- A new science park which will deliver a world-class environment for businesses in high-technology sectors to really thrive.
- A multi-million pound National Composite Centre which will lead nationally on the research and design of new composites technologies.
- A highly skilled workforce (35% of working age residents hold NVQ4 or above, the highest proportion of all the Core City areas).
- A strategic location at the interchange of the M4/M5, providing the gateway to South Wales and the South West and within 1½ hours of London and Birmingham.
- Bristol Airport - one of the fastest growing regional airports in the UK.
- The Port of Bristol - one of the most productive and technically advanced in Europe.
- An outstanding environment, including the World Heritage City of Bath and two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- A high quality of life, including a cultural offer which is attractive to incoming businesses and workers.

## What we can deliver

- 95,000 new jobs by 2030.
- 3.4% cumulative annual growth in total GVA by 2020.
- Over £1 billion of private sector investment over the next 5 years.
- A well motivated workforce with the skills to meet business need.
- The foundations for a long term sustainable economy.



## Why the West of England is forming a Local Enterprise Partnership

1. The West of England is a functional economic area with one of the fastest growing economies in the UK, and a proven history of resilience against an ever changing global economy. Our local economy is a national leader in a number of key sectors that will be critical to the future of the UK economy.
2. We already have a strong private-public partnership in the West of England with a track record of achievement. We believe that with the right help from Government, our partnership can further strengthen the conditions for sustainable growth in the key, and other, sectors to boost the West of England economy and deliver a large contribution to national economic recovery.
3. We welcome the Government's commitment to localism and decentralisation and these principles have been central to the development of our Local Enterprise Partnership proposals.
4. In the short to medium term, our vision is that the joint actions of Government and the Local Enterprise Partnership will support the creation of substantial numbers of new private sector jobs by supporting business start-ups, growth of small businesses and evolution of high growth sectors. This will contribute to a strong globally competitive economy, resulting in sectoral and geographic rebalancing of the national economy, an increase in tax revenue and will unlock over £1 billion of private sector investment over the next 5 years.
5. These actions will provide the foundations for our longer term vision of sustainable economic growth and prosperity for all; building on the West of England's high quality environment, our high quality businesses, our highly skilled workforce, and opportunities to develop a low carbon economy, whilst at the same time addressing the regeneration and skills needs of our existing disadvantaged communities.

## The focus of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership

6. Our Local Enterprise Partnership will achieve its aim to deliver sustainable economic recovery and growth for the UK by focusing on:

**SUPPORTING OUR KEY GROWTH SECTORS:** The Local Enterprise Partnership will provide particular support to our five priority high growth sectors:

- creative and media
- advanced engineering, aerospace and defence
- micro-electronics and silicon design
- environmental technologies/marine renewables
- tourism

As well as being of national significance, these industries need to be supported locally due to their specific links with local innovation, technology and knowledge transfer activities, our universities, local skills providers and local planning and infrastructure provision.

Due to the high concentration of aerospace and creative and media companies in the area, the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership is ideally placed to act as the national lead for sector support to these industries. As national lead, our Local Enterprise Partnership will provide support to businesses in these sectors that are located in other parts of the country, to enable the UK to remain internationally competitive in these sectors. We will forge links with other Local Enterprise Partnerships for this purpose.

**INNOVATION:** Innovation drives growth, and the West of England has the components to drive innovation and creativity to support new markets, namely; research institutions (including our four world-class universities), networks, creative institutes, skills and business infrastructure.

As a designated Science City, in recognition of the significance of the scientific and technological strengths of our economy, the Science City Board is one of our existing private-public sector partnerships. It has the aim of connecting the innovation activities of our universities and businesses, maximising the investment in new technology coming into our area and raising the profile of science and its contribution to the economy. Key physical assets that are currently under development and will help drive these priorities include the Bristol and Bath Science Park (SPark) and the National Composites Centre.

We are ideally placed to pilot new approaches and promote knowledge transfer and national learning about how to drive innovation in city economies. To achieve this, we would work with the Technology Strategy Board and the Green Investment Bank.

7. To enable us to deliver against these focussed priorities, our Local Enterprise Partnership will need to engage in critical supporting activities to create the optimum conditions for businesses to flourish and to overcome the constraints to further growth. These are:

**PEOPLE:** The West of England already has a well qualified workforce. However we will need to ensure that we continue to match the skills of our workers with the needs of our businesses and achieve a highly motivated and aspirational workforce. We already have a well-established Skills and Competitiveness Board. This has a business Chairman and involves the Higher Education and Further Education sectors, as well as business and the local authorities. We will build on this partnership and our adopted Tackling Worklessness Plan to ensure a coordinated approach to skills and training in the future.

**BUSINESS:** A key feature of the local economy, particularly in some of the high growth sectors such as the creative and media industries, is the high proportion of small and medium sized enterprises. 90% of all creative and media companies nationally employ less than 10 staff. Small businesses and business start ups will become increasingly important in the future, as the local economy rebalances from public to private sector employment. We have identified particular challenges relating to the initial start up of businesses, their growth from single person enterprises and their further growth from owner-managed enterprises to corporately managed companies. The Local Enterprise Partnership will improve access to the most effective sources of advice and finance for businesses to manage these challenges.

**PLACE:** Our Local Enterprise Partnership will identify and influence the delivery of sites and infrastructure required to deliver sustainable economic growth. We will coordinate this through our existing Joint Delivery and Infrastructure Investment Plan which integrates / will integrate:

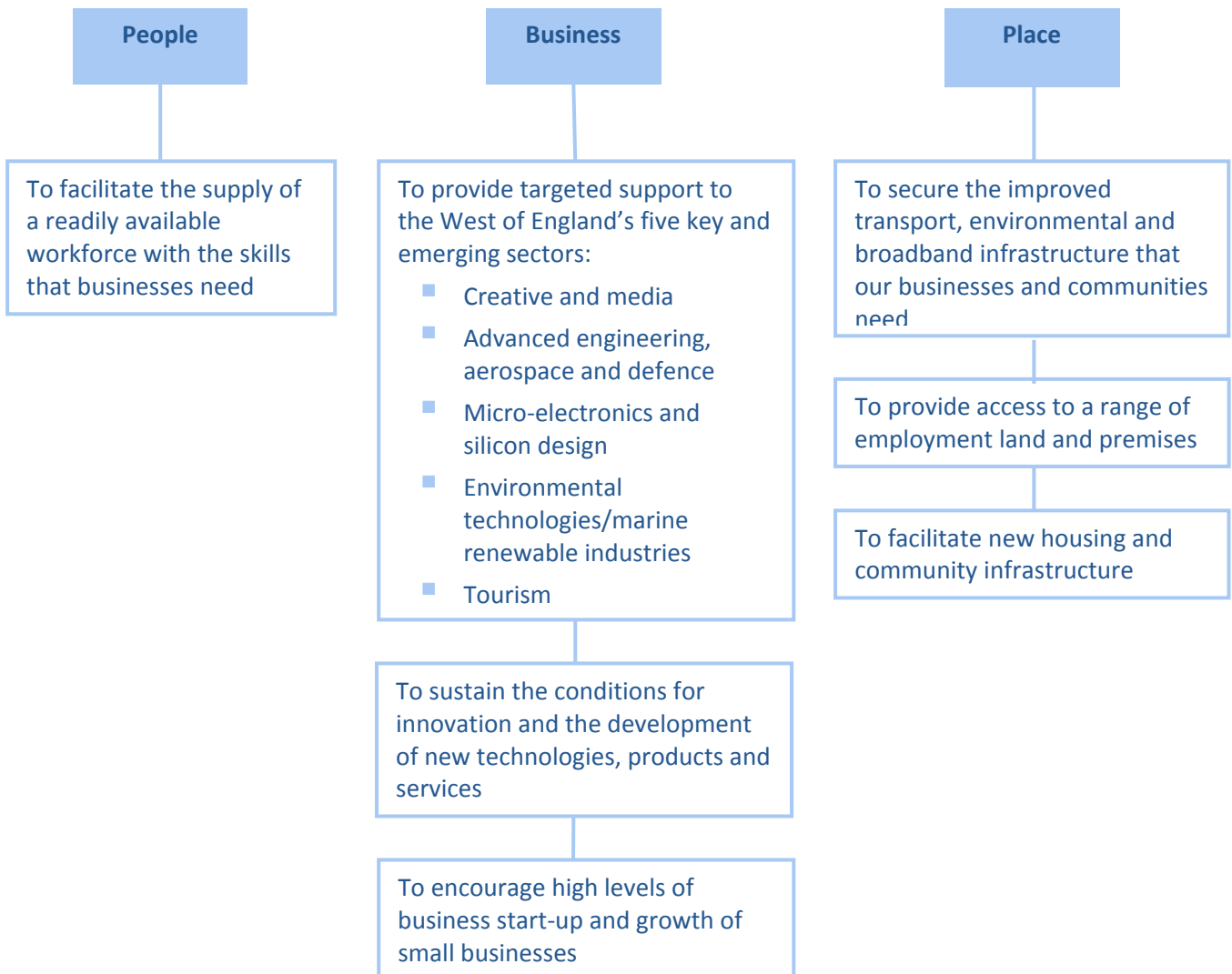
- Relevant assets currently owned by the RDA
- Existing and proposed public sector funding, including the Regional Growth Fund, European funds, New Homes Bonus and Business Growth Incentive, other public funding (e.g. transport investment, housing enabling, skills),
- Private sector investment, including S.106 contributions from major private sector developments.
- A revolving infrastructure fund to pump-prime investment needed to deliver economic growth.

A key priority for business is the delivery of the major transport improvements planned for our area.

8. By delivering through a strong local partnership between the private and public sectors, the Local Enterprise Partnership will assist in decentralisation and localism, and will create the conditions that give the private sector the confidence to invest in growth and job creation. This will lay the foundations for our vision of a long-term sustainable, prosperous and productive economy.

## Our priorities

9. Putting all this together, the priorities of the Local Enterprise Partnership will be:



## What we will deliver

10. Within this set of priorities, we aim to:

- Create the conditions for business to flourish, leading to an increase of about 95,000 jobs by 2030.
- Promote the key growth sectors in the West of England, both nationally and abroad, to contribute to 3.4% cumulative annual growth in total GVA by 2020.
- Leverage in over £1 billion of private sector investment over the next 5 years to support economic development and the provision of infrastructure.
- Foster a well motivated, aspirational workforce with the skills that businesses needs.
- Set the foundations for long term substantial and sustainable economic development, building on the West of England's high quality environment, our high quality businesses, our highly skilled workforce, and opportunities to develop a low carbon economy, whilst at the same time addressing the regeneration and skills needs of our existing disadvantaged communities.

11. Our Local Enterprise Partnership will be the voice of the West of England, influencing and providing the local conduit for Government priorities, to achieve the greatest effect. We would expect our Local Enterprise Partnership to be one of Government's key partners on economic development issues.

## Our local capability and capacity

12. In the West of England we already have a well established private-public sector partnership and a range of connected delivery partnerships, such as our Skills and Competitiveness Board and the Science City Board. There are also strong networks between businesses, such as the West of England Aerospace Forum, and between businesses, the universities and local authorities, such as the Science Park (SPark) Board. Our aim is to build on the strengths of these existing partnerships and networks.
13. In addition to the capacity within the existing partnerships and networks and the support we are seeking from Government, we have the capacity to bring the following resources to bear in delivering our priorities:
  - Staff, skills and other resources from within the four local authorities and the West of England Partnership office.
  - Business and developer led business support.
  - Increased investment by the private sector in the local economy, stimulated by the achievements of the Local Enterprise Partnership.
  - A "private sector dividend" arising from true partnership working, which will provide further support and resource to the Local Enterprise Partnership in the following areas:
    - Providing secondments to the Local Enterprise Partnership.
    - Businessmen/women providing counselling advice/support for embryonic businesses.
    - Involvement of intermediaries (banks, accountants, solicitors) in providing support to growth businesses.
    - Securing the support of local business leaders in promoting the West of England as an area to invest.
    - Using the networks of existing businesses to target their network of contacts to attract further investment in the local economy.
    - Using the networks of existing businesses to provide ongoing low-cost or no-cost support to small businesses.
    - Creating networks of businesses in the same sectors or who have foreign ownership (e.g. Japanese companies) – these networks could be used to promote growth in the West of England.
  - The release of skills and expertise through stimulation and support to the social enterprise sector.

## What we need

14. We have set out above the resources, skills and capacity that the private and public sector partners will bring to bear to deliver our priorities. Our track record shows that this will achieve a great deal. However, focussed assistance from Government in key areas will enable us to deliver the ambitious transformational change for the local and national economy that we have outlined above.

15. To deliver our ambitions, we will need:

- To be one of Government's key economic development partners, with access and dialogue at the highest levels on issues of particular significance to our Local Enterprise Partnership.
- A compact with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to formalise arrangements for national sector support for the aerospace and creative and media sectors.
- Early approval from the Department for Transport for the major transport schemes that we have already submitted to Government, and the release of funding to enable them to proceed.
- Further simplified Government processes and controls, particularly in relation to the decision making processes for major transport projects and schemes.
- Access to the Regional Growth Fund and other funding streams, to provide core funding for some projects and initiatives, and pump-priming funding to lever in private sector investment for other projects and initiatives e.g. start-up funding for a Local Enterprise Fund (see appendix 1 for details).
- New financial instruments, such as tax incremental funding where it would enable critical initiatives to proceed, and freedoms and flexibilities for public sector capital and revenue investment.
- Transfer of key assets held by government agencies, such as development sites in central Bristol and Weston-super-Mare, to appropriate local authorities and influence over the management of current Regional Development Agency initiatives, such as the Science Park.
- Transfer of critical project funding and appropriate staff resource from the Regional Development Agency to provide capacity and capability for national sector support, inward investment, development and maintenance of transferred Regional Development Agency assets.
- Influence over priorities for the spending of relevant European funding programmes (ERDF/ESF) – see appendix 3.
- Influence with relevant national agencies, such as the Technology Strategy Board, the Green Investment Bank and the Skills Funding Agency.
- Joint commissioning arrangements with national agencies, including the Homes and Communities Agency, Highways Agency and Network Rail. This will build on our existing Memoranda of Understanding with the Highways Agency and the rail industry and our Infrastructure Delivery and Investment Plan developed jointly with the Homes and Communities Agency. These arrangements will enable more effective alignment of the investments made by public sector agencies.

16. We have given early consideration to the specific actions that our Local Enterprise Partnership would need to take to deliver against its priorities and in the context of the resources potentially available to it. A draft action plan, illustrating potential actions under each priority, the difference these actions will make and our specific asks of Government, is attached as appendix 1. We anticipate full dialogue with Government in firming up this action plan to enable the Local Enterprise Partnership to make rapid progress in delivering our ambitions.



## The formation of the Local Enterprise Partnership

17. The detailed governance and delivery arrangements for the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership will be determined once the precise scope of its functions are agreed following this submission to Government and in broader consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.
18. In the meantime, business leaders and the local authorities have agreed that the principles set out below will be applied in determining the appropriate legal structure of the partnership:
  - A separate identifiable body will be created with clearly understood objectives.
  - The Local Enterprise Partnership Board will have equal representation of civic and business leaders.
  - The chair will be elected by the representatives on the Local Enterprise Partnership Board.
19. In applying these principles, we will reflect the need for business to lead, with key partners, on the priorities relating to 'people' and 'business', whilst respecting the local authorities' statutory responsibilities in relation to 'place'.
20. The development of this proposal has involved a significant level of private-public sector engagement. This has included representatives from the aerospace sector, the creative and media sector, the environmental technology sector, Further Education and the universities through our Skills and Competitiveness Board. Members of this board also represent the Federation of Small Businesses, GWE Business West, the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors. In addition, there has been separate dialogue with a number of key businesses, business organisations, Business Link, the Further Education colleges, universities, the voluntary and community sector and the Homes and Communities Agency. This is reflected in the summary propositions in appendix 2 and in a number of letters supporting this proposal.
21. Continuous engagement with other organisations and businesses including Government will be critical to the success of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership. The scope of this networking is shown in the diagram in appendix 4.

## Conclusion

22. The West of England economy is diverse in nature and has proved to be adaptable to the changing global economy. There is a firm belief in the West of England that this can be strengthened by establishing a Local Enterprise Partnership which is committed to facilitating sustainable growth on a local and national scale by supporting the aspects that will have the greatest impact on the economy's growth. Our actions will lay the foundations for a long-term sustained, prosperous and productive West of England and national economy.
23. We look forward to the forthcoming dialogue with Government that will determine how we can make rapid progress to deliver outcomes that will bring significant benefits to both the local and national economies.

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## Appendices

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## Appendix 1 – Draft plan of action

Priority		Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
<b>PEOPLE</b>	To facilitate the supply of a readily available workforce with the skills that businesses need.	<p>Facilitate joint working between business, Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) to identify and deliver the skills needs of businesses.</p> <p>Develop a shared strategy between all Local Enterprise Partnership partners, including FE, to ensure that employers as well as learners shape current and future provision through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Articulating demand from growth sectors and businesses;</li> <li>■ Developing clearer links between 14-19 provision and local employment opportunities in growth sectors and businesses;</li> <li>■ An FE/Local Enterprise Partnership compact delivering clear and specific agreement on skills training supply based on identified current and future demand.</li> </ul> <p>To target skills and employment training on high employment sectors.</p> <p>Employment and Skills Plans agreed between Local Enterprise Partnership and private sector partners for each key development location.</p>	<p>Existing businesses will remain in the area as they will be able to utilise the skills they need from the local workforce.</p> <p>Businesses will be attracted to the area because of the skilled workforce.</p> <p>Employment rates will remain high due to the good match between jobs and skills.</p> <p>A rise in GVA.</p> <p>Reduced risk of skills gap/skills shortage.</p> <p>Safeguarding of key elements of training infrastructure.</p> <p>Longer-term private sector commitment to investment in training.</p> <p>Better match between employment opportunities in key development sites and local people.</p>	Recognise the legitimacy of the Local Enterprise Partnership Skills Strategy in determining skills delivery programmes with providers in the West of England.

Priority		Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
		Help businesses take up national support, such as apprenticeships, and create linkages to national programmes, working with FE and the voluntary and community sector, to support those out of work into jobs.	Provide a first step on the employment ladder and key skills to people entering the job market.	Links to national programmes.
		Target European Social Fund (ESF) funding to remove skills barriers and support employability.	Increase in number of skilled workers available to meet demand.	Local Enterprise Partnership influencing and hosting of ESF.

Priority		Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
<b>BUSINESS</b>	<p>To provide targeted support to the West of England’s five key and emerging sectors on a national scale;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ creative and media</li> <li>■ advanced engineering, aerospace &amp; defence</li> <li>■ micro-electronics and silicon design</li> <li>■ environmental technologies / marine renewable industries</li> <li>■ tourism</li> </ul>	<p>Build on existing sector based, demand led support and move towards commercial viability of sector specialist networks e.g. iNets.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate linkages and efficiency through collaboration and cross-sectoral support of networks.</p> <p>Take national lead and support national economic objectives in aerospace and creative and media sectors, where there are demonstrated and sustained strengths. Provide support to businesses outside the West of England in these key sectors (e.g. AugustaWestland at Yeovil and GE at Gloucester in the aerospace sector).</p>	<p>Sectors remain competitive in the global market and deliver growth to drive national economic recovery.</p>	<p>Formal recognition of West of England Local Enterprise Partnership as the national sector lead in aerospace and creative media.</p> <p>Transfer critical core funding and RDA expertise to the Local Enterprise Partnership.</p>
	<p>To sustain and improve the conditions for innovation and the development of new technologies, products and services.</p>	<p>Draw on the skills and expertise of the West of England’s science, technology and creative base to work with the Technology Strategy Board, the Green Investment Bank and the emerging Creative Technology Institute to further develop our strong local innovation ecosystem. We will use our existing linkages through Science City Bristol Ltd, the Science Cities network and assets such as the National Composites Centre.</p>	<p>Innovation is the driver for growth: Innovation is key to the UK economy as the knowledge-intensive industries on which we increasingly rely thrive on new ideas, products and processes to be successful.</p>	<p>Local prioritisation of Green Investment Bank and Technology Strategy Board programmes, such as the Small Business Research Initiative.</p>

Priority		Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
		Build on the competitive edge that comes from our world class R&D activities by extending existing work with universities and colleges on innovation.	<p>Cutting edge collaboration between industry and academia - as demonstrated in the Bristol Robotics Laboratory.</p> <p>Valuable scientific and engineering talent flows from the world-class universities and publicly funded research base into private sector R&amp;D.</p> <p>Private sector investment in education and public sector research, developing and nurturing highly skilled graduates and technicians in science, technology, engineering and creative industries.</p>	Support for a long-term strategy to make the West of England the most attractive place for companies in our key sectors to conduct R&D.
	To encourage high levels of business start-up, survival and growth of small businesses	Exploit existing 'hard' and 'soft' assets (e.g. science parks, innovation centres, innovation networks).	Successful and sustainable business start-ups.	Transfer of responsibility and residual funding for key capital assets from RDA functions.
		<p>Establish a Local Enterprise Fund, to meet gaps in provision, as a revolving loan fund that can support business start-ups and expansion of small local businesses unable to access mainstream bank finance.</p> <p>Make better use of private sector connections (e.g. banks) to enable response to business needs and access to mainstream funding.</p>	Increase in business start-ups and maximisation of growth potential of existing businesses.	Create a shared plan with pump-priming investment, to replace existing Government funded business support and exploit commercial business support that is locally led, with future profits used to expand, improve and diversify support.



Priority	Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
	Promote high quality business start ups by working with business support agencies, professional advisors and financial institutions.	Higher levels of business survival rates.  Core Enterprise Agency activity in disadvantaged areas working with Single Programme Framework contractors.	Enable the use of business support transitional funding.
	Help SMEs and social enterprises find customers and markets through public sector procurement and by creating connections to major business customers.	Increased economic inclusion in priority neighbourhoods.  Improved levels of SME business growth.	Enable the use of business support transitional funding.
	Build effective business access to local services (private and public) and support utilising the Chamber of Commerce, FSB etc networks and structures.  Move targeted and specific business support to a sustainable financial footing with the mandate and input of the members of the Chambers of Commerce, FSB and other business organisations.  Creation of self-sustaining networks and mentoring schemes to reduce reliance on public sector support (i.e. Business Link).	Businesses will learn from one another to build their capacity to succeed and to improve business performance.  Increase in GVA.  Continuing business growth.  Improved knowledge exchange between HE and business in the area.  Better use of limited public funding.	Leverage of Growth Hub funding and business support transitional funding.

Priority		Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
		<p>Develop a high quality West of England offer for Foreign Direct Investment.</p> <p>Act as local partner to UKTI to support inward investment opportunities and to provide aftercare to inward investors.</p> <p>Integrate public and private sector partners into a single inward investment service.</p>	<p>New investment in jobs and growth.</p> <p>Capacity to attract and retain high value foreign Investment.</p> <p>Shared market intelligence to improve strategies and plans.</p>	<p>Modest core funding to provide a proactive inward investment management and aftercare service to support UKTI and BIS.</p>
		<p>Engage proactively with our largest and fastest growing companies, including inward investors, companies in our key sectors and their supply chains, to understand their issues and make sure that barriers to future growth can be understood and tackled.</p>	<p>Barriers to growth broken down enabling businesses to flourish.</p> <p>Increase in GVA.</p> <p>Shared company and market intelligence.</p>	<p>Core funding to provide a proactive and responsive service.</p>
		<p>Develop model based market scenarios and forward looking business intelligence to anticipate and meet challenges in economic and business delivery through better intelligence.</p> <p>The local authorities to maintain Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment annual monitoring.</p>	<p>Better informed and evidenced local decision making processes.</p>	<p>Transfer of resource to Local Enterprise Partnership from SW Observatory and SWRDA.</p> <p>Better and more consistent provision of economic data collected at national level.</p>

Priority		Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
PLACE	To provide access to a range of employment land and premises.	Create an Accelerated Development Zone, or equivalent, in Avonmouth/Sevenside.	Estimate 7,500 more jobs; 50% increase in NNDR income; 2-3% increase in GVA.	Agree an Accelerated Development Zone, or equivalent, to unlock industrial development at Avonmouth/Sevenside.
		Support initiatives to develop key employment sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bristol City Centre including St Phillips North of the Feeder Road</li> <li>▪ South Bristol including Knowle West, Hengrove (Constellation site) and Hartcliffe Campus</li> <li>▪ Weston Regeneration Area including the Airfield and Locking Parklands</li> <li>▪ Science Park –SPark</li> <li>▪ Weston-super-Mare including gateway sites</li> <li>▪ Bath City Riverside including Bath Western Riverside</li> <li>▪ Bristol Port deep sea terminal</li> <li>▪ Bristol Airport improvements</li> </ul>	19,900 new jobs  9,500 new jobs  8,000 new jobs  6,000 new jobs  6,000 new jobs  5,000 new jobs by 2026 with the potential to deliver further additional employment in the longer term  1,800 new jobs 8,000 jobs protected  900 new direct jobs 3,400 new indirect jobs	Investment in infrastructure, where appropriate, to enable delivery of these sites.

Priority		Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
		<p>Robust monitoring and evaluation of strategic employment and housing land availability and of market need.</p>	<p>Ensure the requirements of business and communities are understood and met.</p> <p>Ensure provision of employment and business premises in the most sustainable locations.</p> <p>Provision of appropriate housing to accommodate population growth and a rapid increase in jobs.</p>	<p>Transfer of relevant agencies' assets, in Bristol, Weston-super-Mare and Bath to the appropriate local authority.</p> <p>Local Enterprise Partnership influence over management of RDA (and other) asset development and maintenance (e.g. National Composites Centre).</p>

Priority		Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
	<p>To secure the improved transport, environmental and broadband infrastructure that our businesses and communities need.</p>	<p>Build on and develop further the collaborative approach we already have with the Highways Agency and Network Rail to help unlock transport infrastructure and service provision.</p> <p>Build on this approach with other infrastructure providers including providers of broadband and digital services.</p> <p>Improve the attractiveness of bus services.</p> <p>Implementation of the major transport schemes for which we have already submitted outline businesses cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bath Transportation Package</li> <li>■ Weston Package</li> <li>■ Ashton Vale to Bristol City Centre rapid transit</li> <li>■ North Fringe to Hengrove rapid transit</li> <li>■ South Bristol Link</li> </ul>	<p>Increase business productivity and profitability by improving the infrastructure which impacts on business (e.g. congestion, transport and digital communication deficiencies resulting in a loss of person hours, increased operating costs, recruitment difficulties, loss of business etc).</p> <p>The £70m Greater Bristol Bus Network will, when completed in 2012, deliver an extra 3.9 million bus journeys per year. Innovative Quality Partnership Schemes with local bus operators will secure greater reliability, higher frequency and more competitive fares.</p> <p>The £45m Bath Transportation Package, which has planning consent, will facilitate the release of strategic employment locations in and on the edge of Bath city centre whilst addressing congestion and air quality issues in the World Heritage Site.</p>	<p>Local Enterprise Partnership to have influence over national infrastructure providers.</p> <p>Provide funding to deliver our major transport programme, which has been developed in consultation with businesses.</p> <p>Approval of business cases and access to funding to enable the schemes that have already been submitted to proceed.</p> <p>Simplified appraisal and decision making processes to enable future schemes to be brought forward more rapidly and more cost effectively.</p>

Priority	Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
	<p>Preparation of outline business cases for future major transport schemes identified in our Joint Local Transport Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ M5 J21 Bypass</li> <li>■ Portishead rail corridor</li> <li>■ Emersons Green to Bristol City Centre rapid transit</li> <li>■ Greater Bristol Metro</li> <li>■ Portishead rail corridor</li> <li>■ Callington Road / Bath Road link</li> </ul>	<p>The £19 million Weston Package will deliver a range of improvements to highway and public transport networks that will support the sustainable development on strategic sites in the town and immediate area. The £51 million M5 Junction 21 Bypass scheme will sustain development in the town and separate local from motorway-bound traffic.</p> <p>The West of England Rapid Transit network will provide high quality, reliable and frequent public transport services to key strategic employment sites such as SPark (Science Park), Bath and Bristol city centres, the new community campus in South Bristol and Bristol Airport. The network will be built up in phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ashton Vale – Bristol City Centre/Temple Meads station, (£43.17m)</li> <li>■ North Fringe to Hengrove Package, (£168.08m)</li> <li>■ South Bristol Link, (£47.27m)</li> <li>■ Emersons Green - Bristol City Centre/Temple Meads (£73.98m).</li> </ul>	

Priority		Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
		<p>Develop a joined up approach to delivering an enhanced strategic Green Infrastructure Network across the West of England, linked to new development opportunities.</p>	<p>Local rail services are essential to the West of England economy and will be improved by two schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Greater Bristol Metro will provide half-hourly clock face services across the West of England (£17.34m)</li> <li>■ The Portishead Rail Corridor will reinstate local passenger services between Portishead and Bristol Temple Meads (£25.26m)</li> </ul> <p>The Callington Road / Bath Road scheme will complete the strategic highway network between the M32 and the A4174 in South Bristol (£69.60m).</p> <p>These planned improvements to the local network will open up new and existing development sites (e.g. Bristol Airport, the South Bristol Link assists the creation of 5,600 jobs, J19 access to the Port, Portishead Rail and J21 to assist growth in Weston-super-Mare).</p> <p>A planned multi-function Green Infrastructure network that contributes to the development of sustainable communities, sustainable economic growth, mitigating the effects of climate change and flooding and promoting health and well-being.</p>	

Priority		Delivery action and approach	The difference it will make	What we need from Government
	<p>To facilitate new housing and community infrastructure.</p>	<p>Foster joint work between the local authorities, the development industry and other partners to implement the Joint Delivery and Infrastructure Investment Plan which identifies the actions needed to drive future growth and the investment requirements for unlocking the potential.</p> <p>The local authorities to adopt a Joint Supplementary Planning document, reflecting the emerging core strategies of the West of England Unitary Authorities to give weight to the Joint Delivery and Infrastructure Investment Plan.</p> <p>Agree a Planning Charter with the development Industry and statutory bodies.</p> <p>Joint commissioning arrangements with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), to shape and direct HCA investment and enabling support.</p>	<p>Provide the infrastructure needed to support the growth in jobs.</p> <p>A high quality of life will attract and retain highly qualified individuals.</p> <p>Appropriate sequencing and phasing of strategic development proposals.</p> <p>Greater consistency and certainty in the delivery of jobs and homes.</p>	<p>Support our Joint Delivery and Infrastructure and Investment Plan in directing development to the most sustainable locations and in a manner which is appropriately phased in order to maximise the value of investment in infrastructure to deliver new homes and jobs.</p> <p>A focussed dialogue with government on new financial instruments, such as tax incremental financing, and freedoms and flexibilities for public sector capital and revenue investment.</p> <p>Work with us to establish appropriate joint commissioning arrangements with national agencies such as HCA, Highways Agency and Network Rail to manage the investments and activities of these agencies within the West of England, through the mechanism of the Joint Delivery and Infrastructure Investment Plan.</p> <p>Release the full sum of “growth points funding” to the West of England LEP.</p>



## Appendix 2 – Support from our key sectors



### Advanced engineering, aerospace and defence

With the presence of 10 of the top 12 world aerospace companies having a headquarters or major research and manufacturing facilities within the region, we believe the West of England LEP has an important role to play in the development of national strategy towards aerospace. It is estimated that there are over 43,000 jobs in this sector based in this area. In light of the export, growth and leading edge technology opportunities provided by this sector strength, the West of England Partnership are very committed to working closely with the aerospace and defence companies in the area.

**Katherine Bennett, Airbus**

The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership can provide national leadership and co-ordination for those sectors where we have nationally significant industrial and academic strengths like aerospace and defence.

We can work closely with colleagues in central government departments, providing leadership and co-ordination amongst relevant Local Enterprise Partnerships within the South West and across the country to help this sector deliver strong economic growth that will be of benefit to the whole of the UK.

It is essential that Local Enterprise Partnerships focus on their key areas of strength and have support, buy in and engagement from the businesses in those key sectors. So what would this look like in practice? We have held direct discussions with the major aerospace companies in the South West to develop the proposition below, building on what has worked well and where we have agreed ongoing focus in future.

## Our credentials

The South West and the West of England, in particular, is home to one of the most diverse and capable aerospace regions in the world. It contains the largest cluster group of aerospace and defence companies in the UK, with 10 of the top 12 world aerospace companies having a headquarters or major research and manufacturing facilities within the South West region. The South West and West of England in particular has an important role to play in the development of national strategy towards aerospace. It is estimated that aerospace and defence companies in the South West employ around a third of the total national aerospace employees<sup>1</sup> and they contributed 15% of national aerospace GVQ in 2008.<sup>2</sup> Around 10,000 people are employed by the sector in the Filton area of South Gloucestershire alone.

The aerospace activity undertaken in the South West is divided equally between civil and defence business, with many companies serving both markets. The breadth of capability includes aircraft structures, aero-engines, rotorcraft, unmanned air systems, avionics, landing gear and a wide variety of systems and components. Companies in the region are involved in major global aircraft programmes including – Airbus A350 XWB, A400M, Boeing 787, Joint Strike Fighter, Eurofighter Typhoon and the AW101 helicopter. Also located in the West of England is the MOD's Defence Equipment and Support Organisation which will soon be hosting over 10,000 staff in the Filton area.

The South West also has significant R&D academic expertise and national, collaborative R&D programmes. We have a history of collaboration and project delivery. For example:

- **Universities:** Bath (LIMA Business Technology Centre [BTC] – metrology), Bristol (Advanced Composites Centre for Innovation and Science), Exeter (CALM BTC – additive layer manufacturing) and UWE (Continuous Professional Development in Aerospace Programme).
- **National Composites Centre:** will be an open-access research facility for the design and rapid manufacture of high quality composite products opening in 2011 at the Bristol and Bath Science Park (SPark).
- **CFMS-ASRC:** Part of the national AxRC network this is an advanced simulation research facility being established in Bristol Business Park which will comprise a Capability Lab, IT Lab, and High Performance Computer.
- **Environmentally Friendly Engine:** a large, national collaborative R&D project aimed at the next generation of aero engines with significant reduction in Co<sup>2</sup> and NOx emissions and noise reductions.
- **Integrated Wing/Next Generation Composite Wing:** national collaborative R&D projects to investigate and develop technologies for analysis, design, simulation, manufacturing, assembly and system integration related to advanced composite wing structures to meet the ever more stringent environmental and cost requirements of regulators, and of airlines and their passengers.
- **ASTRAEA 2:** a national collaborative R&D programme aimed at developing the technologies required for the civil application of unmanned autonomous vehicles and systems.

Working with the West of England Aerospace Forum, which represents over 800 aerospace and defence companies in the South West, the West of England LEP team has been involved

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<sup>1</sup> Nation employment figure is around 113,000

<sup>2</sup> SW Regional Accounts 2010

in discussions with the leading aerospace companies in the area including Airbus, AugustaWestland, GE Aviation Systems, GKN Aerospace and Rolls Royce. They have expressed full support for the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership to be the lead Local Enterprise Partnership in the South West for the sector and this has been supported by the other emerging South West Local Enterprise Partnerships.

#### **The opportunities for the sector:**

Over the next 10 years there will be significant changes in the aerospace sector pushed by new technologies such as carbon composite materials, more electric aircraft concepts, component health monitoring and carbon reduction. The primes will need to undertake significant levels of R&D to compete in the global environment and take advantage of future market opportunities. If this R&D cannot be undertaken in the UK, there is a danger that it will migrate overseas.

History has told us that aerospace and space has made significant contributions to the growth in other industries – e.g. fuel cells, computers, materials, power generation. So we must build a partnership which is able to develop and share new / innovative products outside of aerospace.

The market for aircraft with over 100 seats is estimated to be worth over \$3.1 trillion<sup>3</sup> over the next 20 years. As well as pressure from the traditional aerospace economies of the US and Europe, there are inducements for companies to relocate to the middle-east, the BRIC economies, SE Asia, Mexico and even North Africa. The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership will work with industry, central government, academia and other Local Enterprise Partnerships to promote the interests of this vital part of the UK economy in the face of intense competition.

#### **The role of the Local Enterprise Partnership:**

- Foster links between industry (primes, large companies and SMEs), academia and Government to identify and address opportunities.
- Work with other Local Enterprise Partnerships to articulate aerospace and defence issues at a national level.
- Work closely with the local trade association to ensure the whole of the cluster work together for a common need/cause. Ensure that the supply chain is able benefit from major R&D activity and facility (particularly SMEs – through things like SC21 and the soon to be launched i-Net).
- Develop proposals for the Regional Growth Fund
- Work in partnership with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills' Aerospace and Defence Team, Technology Strategy Board, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and EU Framework programmes to secure technical and financial support, maximise private sector investment in R&D and ensure greater collaboration both within and across sectors.
- Attract inward investment in conjunction with UK Trade and Investment and capitalise on the strong industrial base, academic research, MoD procurement at Abbey Wood, the Bristol and Bath Science Park and internationally significant research capabilities of the National Composites Centre (August 2011), CFMS Advanced Simulation Research Centre and the LIMA and CALM BTCs.
- Work closely with Sector Skills Councils and Academies to articulate skills requirements and provide suitable public and private provision.

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<sup>3</sup> Airbus presentation, Global Market Forecast, John Leahy



## Creative and Media

"In the digital media industry the only way to stay competitive is to use the emergent technologies before others adopt them. It's the pioneers, early adopters and risk-takers that succeed." John Manley, HP Labs

Bristol and the West of England is home to a myriad of exciting and innovative creative companies and individuals, from the household names like Aardman and IMDB, cutting edge digital media companies such as Future Publishing and digital agencies like Enable and E3. Bath is home to the Silicon South West sector network, whilst Bristol's silicon sector - the biggest outside of California - consists of over 40 innovative companies - fuelling the growth of the digital technology sector and attracting international companies to carry out cutting-edge research in the city.

The World Economic Forum recently developed a 'heat map index of 100 creative environments combining innovation talent, a culture of collaboration and a willingness to source ideas from outside the usual boundaries. It identified Bristol as a hot spring of innovation, a small but growing hub that has already proved itself on the world stage.

We believe the LEP needs to focus on areas of international distinctiveness so that we stand out from the crowd and optimise our assets. There is huge opportunity in the collaboration between the creative/digital sector, the IT/silicon sector and university research. We have a growing reputation in this territory and we believe it is the place to invest for the future.

**Clare Reddington, Director of iShed and The Pervasive Media Studio**

The Creative Industries are widely recognised as a significant growth area for the UK economy moving into the digital age. They contribute an estimated £60 billion a year and represent 7.3% of the UK economy, a figure comparable to the Financial Services sector. The South West and in particular the West of England region, has a strong and vibrant industry and is considered a key national centre outside of London for this activity enjoying the presence of many multi-national (Nokia, Endemol and HP Labs), international (Aardman, Bolex Brothers and McKann Erikson), national (BBC) and regional (ITV West) organisations, not to mention a swathe of local businesses too numerous to mention. It is estimated that the sector employs 144,000 people across the entire South West (contributing approximately £6bn to national GDP annually) and there exists a focus of some 8000+ businesses in the West of England area employing in excess of 40,000 individuals.

Based in Bristol, South West Screen is a leading creative industries support agency of national significance. Through the network of media, design and creative clusters it has set up and continues to support, it has direct contact with the vast majority of these businesses throughout the South West, providing an innovative platform for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, on-the-ground advice and support and organised managed interventions (ranging from training and skills development to financial bursaries, festivals and awards). In many instances it has successfully lobbied on behalf of the West of England creative industries sector to ensure it has an equal voice in matters of national importance. One such incidence was a recent bid for European funding that South West Screen won in order to launch, direct and administer the only Collaborative Innovation Technology Network (iNet) for the Creative Industries in the UK.

In recognition of the organisation's success in areas of convergent creative disciplines, and in keeping with the coalition government's request for national sector leadership with localised delivery mechanisms; along with its sister organisations in the North (Manchester) and Midlands (Birmingham), South West Screen is currently undergoing a period of transformation and presenting itself to Ministers (in DCMS and BIS departments) as a constituent in a tripartite national creative industries business support network. It is envisioned that this network will provide an industry-led cooperative tool for emerging Local Enterprise Partnerships throughout the South of England (out of London) and assist them to direct interventions for economic growth precisely and in response to specific business needs. Working with UKT&I; NESTA and the Design Council these successor organisations will provide core services to assist creative businesses with access to finance; access to skills and access to markets. Due to its management of the Creative Industries iNet, the West of England located entity (which will continue to be a private limited company) will take the national lead in areas of innovation.

**Matt Desmier, SW Screen**



## Environmental technologies/marine renewable industries

We are committed to achieving green economic growth. We are blessed with opportunities and assets that make this achievable, including offshore wind developments (Atlantic Array), potential offshore tidal energy and new nuclear development (Hinckley Point and Oldbury).

We would see a particular opportunity to use the existing strengths arising from local collaboration in this sector, building on strong existing networks, a large base of environmental consultants, a large number of environmental businesses and our four universities.

This would involve putting together and managing commercial projects that are pump-primed through European or national funding programmes, such as those administered by the Technology Strategy Board and the Green Investment Bank.

We have a track record in this respect, through the current energy programme in Bristol, where a relatively small input of European funding has levered in significant levels of commercial funding.

Working with other Local Enterprise Partnerships we will jointly develop a national sector development model that provides support to this critical sector. The benefit of this approach is that it puts expertise close to the customers, has the ability to draw on a range of skills and knowledge so maximising the benefit of previous investment and it provides Government with a single point of contact. This provides Government with a simple route to intelligence to help shape effective policy.



## Tourism

The West of England is well placed to deliver future growth in tourism as it brings together two established visitor destinations of international distinction in Bristol and Bath, a high quality rural hinterland including parts of the Cotswold and Mendip Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and traditional coastal resorts such as Weston-Super-Mare.

In 2008 the West of England attracted over 3.1 million staying visitors and nearly 16 million day visitors spending in excess of £1.3 billion. It accounted for 13% of the south-west's staying visitors, 25% of the region's overseas visitors and 19% of business tourism. In total the industry employed directly and indirectly over 37,000 people, representing 7% of total employment, and contributed 4% of West of England GVA.

The West of England sees the potential to achieve a 15% real terms increase in tourism earnings in the next decade. This tourism generated wealth would create and support over 5,000 new jobs. The emphasis is on growing spend, rather than volume, of visitors by building on the investment in "place". This is represented by projects such as the seafront improvement programme in Weston-Super-Mare, the Harbourside in Bristol, the renewal of the public realm and retail and heritage attractions at the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bath and the development of the area's accommodation and conference provision.

To achieve this growth the Local Enterprise Partnership will work through the West of England's successful and established Destination Management Organisations (DMO's), - Destination Bristol and Bath Tourism Plus, both industry led active public/private sector partnerships - to attract continued investment in developing a sustainable tourism product. Modest support from national funding streams would assist in attracting this private sector investment.

Through these organisations, the West of England has strong links with national tourism networks covering Core Cities, Heritage Destinations and Coastal Resorts and, combined with the strength of the Bristol and Bath brands, positions the area to take a proactive role in joint working with national lead bodies including VisitEngland and VisitBritain.

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## Appendix 3 – Management of European Funds

Both the Cornwall and West of England Local Enterprise Partnerships want to play an active role in helping the Government to manage the transition from existing arrangements for the management of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF). This is in order to maintain the momentum of programme delivery, reduce risks of disallowance and retain essential knowledge and skills, close to the point of delivery. It is essential that a thematic approach is developed to the programme delivery whereby different strands of the ERDF and ESF sub programmes complement each other better.

In the first instance, recognising the limitations on making major mid-programme changes, we are prepared to host ERDF, ESF and programme management staff so that the remaining regional programmes and existing commissioned projects, many of which have regional scope, can be properly managed. We would anticipate taking on responsibility for the Competitiveness and Employment Programme with Cornwall managing the Convergence area. Programme Monitoring Committee arrangements for ERDF and ESF will need to be simplified with a greater focus on local authority and business representation and joined up delivery.

### Building on the current ERDF programme delivery

The Local Enterprise Partnership would take on responsibility as a managing agent for the ERDF programme. We will co-operate with Cornwall County Council to ensure that Convergence and Competitiveness programmes are delivered effectively across the former South West region through:

- Efficiencies in programme management resulting in a greater proportion being spent on projects.
- A more thematic approach to the delivery of the programme taking major investment priorities into consideration would be beneficial to delivery at the local level.
- The availability of match funding, other than that from local government and private sector, to be considered. The Regional Growth Fund could be used to match fund the ERDF programme to ensure greater alignment with local project delivery.
- Programme delivery is more in line with local priorities and strategies.

We would also like to move towards a JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas) based approach in the longer term to allow contributions to be recycled thus creating the potential for further investment in the future. The West of England is keen to develop this approach under the Urban Enterprise strand of the ERDF programme together with Plymouth and Torbay or for the whole of the Competitiveness and Employment programme.

Agreement has been already reached to carry out a feasibility study as soon as possible to determine a possible delivery model and what kind of projects could be supported through a potential revolving fund. The West of England is keen to address environmental issues, especially mitigation and adaptation to climate change with this approach.

## Building on the current ESF programme delivery

As the case for ERDF, the Local Enterprise Partnership would act as managing agent for the ESF Competitiveness and Employment programme ensuring alignment with ERDF in the partnership area. In governance terms the Local Enterprise Partnership would be responsible for:

- Development of strategic and operational priorities reflecting the jobs and business growth targets set out in the Local Enterprise Partnership proposition.
- Effective alignment with key sectors and locations such as South Bristol, Avonmouth/Sevenside and creating a green economy.
- Alignment with ERDF by providing some of the training for businesses to ensure schemes were not hampered by the lack of appropriately trained staff.
- Working with Skills Funding Agency (SFA), Job Centre Plus (JCP) and the Shared Commissioning Service to develop service specifications for contracts.
- Procurement and commissioning.
- Appraisal, selection and performance management.
- Review and evaluation of contracts.

With SFA and JCP agreement the Local Enterprise Partnership would be willing to take on managing agent responsibility for a wider geographical area – either the Northern Arc of the region including Swindon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire or the whole of the South-West region excluding of course Cornwall. Direct discussions have already commenced with the SFA on this proposition.

## Appendix 4 – Engagement with stakeholders



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## Letters of support

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WEST OF ENGLAND  
AEROSPACE FORUM

Councillor John Calway  
Chairman  
West of England Partnership  
38 Shellard Road  
Longwell Green  
South Gloucestershire  
BS30 9DU

27 August 2010

Dear Councillor Calway,

**Re: The West of England LEP proposal**

The West of England Aerospace Forum ([www.weaf.co.uk](http://www.weaf.co.uk)) represents over 800 companies in the South West in the high value, design, manufacturing and services sectors of Aerospace and Defence. The UK is the largest aerospace sector in the Europe and is second only to the United States. The South West being the largest aerospace UK region with 10 of the 12 world Primes and employs an estimated 43,000 jobs both directly and within its supply chains, including a large number of designers, engineers and highly skilled workers. Our large South West companies typically have double-digit world market shares, which is 3-4 times larger than Britain's normal world ranking.

WEAF has been having discussions with its leading companies, Airbus, Rolls Royce, GKN, GE and AgustaWestland about the proposed LEP's and in particular the development of an LEP submission by the West of England. The result of that discussion is to express our full support for the strategy being undertaken by the West of England LEP and its proposal of being the Aerospace and Defence lead for all the relevant LEPs' in the region within whose area the sector is prominent. It also agrees with the offer to be a mechanism for inputting into a much wider national sector strategy. What is also important for supporting the sector is the LEP's ability and willingness to take on management of EU funding opportunities, which can directly benefit the sector and its supply chains. However, we must emphasise the wish of industry to have strong voice within the LEP structure and that we are able to play an important role in driving forward the LEP by providing tangible support in determining future strategy and direction.

It is hoped that through WEAF and its members, the West of England LEP will be able to drive forward the important agenda that directly affects the sector.

WEAF and its primary members which include the companies listed above are committed to work closely with the West of England LEP to ensure it is successful in gaining official LEP status and will support it into the future in terms of determining and gaining funding for the sector for a much wider grouping than those that would fall within its boundary.

We look forward to working closely on this with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Warburton  
Chief Executive

Mr P. Jackson  
Chair of LEP Project Team  
West of England Partnership  
Wilder House  
Wilder Street  
Bristol  
BS2 8PH

2nd September 2010

Dear Peter,

I would like to thank you, and Stephen Harrison, for asking me to look over the LEP proposal that the West of England will be submitting to the Government by the 6<sup>th</sup> of September. As Chairman of the UK's largest environmental technology and business trade association, it is with great pleasure that I support this fantastic bid. Low Carbon South West CIC, based in Bristol, has over 2,000 members and website subscribers. Over 60% are located in the West of England location that the LEP would cover.

An LEP for the West of England will help to make sure that the work done to date, to enable us to be a UK leading hub of green industries, will be continued and taken further with this, more business led, focus. The West of England has exceptional resources, both natural and man-made, and is a truly innovative, creative and dynamic area that has often lacked leadership and governance.

I believe that the LEP, which is innovative in its own right, will, through strong leadership and governance, allow businesses and commercial organisations in the West of England area to advance quickly from the financial crisis we have seen. Economically, the West of England is of national importance and has the ability to help the UK continue to play a leading role on the world stage in many business sectors. Low Carbon South West and I support this bid and look forward to enabling our membership to take an active role in this partnership.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Bailey  
Chairman  
Low Carbon South West CIC



Councillor John Calway  
Chairman  
**West of England Partnership**  
38 Shellard Road  
Longwell Green  
BS30 9DU

2 September 2010

Dear Councillor Calway,

**RE: West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Proposal**

Science City Bristol is a partnership organisation (soon to be a limited company) focussed on using the West of England's science and innovation assets to deliver sustainable economic and social benefit by:

- Bringing business, academia and government together
- Creating a more connected scientific community
- Promoting the area's scientific achievements to help us attract even more world-leading scientific enterprise and research
- Creating a culture for all which understands and celebrates science and technology

Partners in Science City Bristol include the four universities in the West of England, the West of England Partnership, the RDA, the new science park (SPark) and key technology based private sector businesses.

We are excited to be engaged with the West of England LEP proposal, which recognises the importance of the existing science and innovation assets to our future growth and prosperity. We see ourselves as a key partner in supporting the delivery of the economic growth aspirations of the West of England. This provides us with an opportunity to build upon the previous work we have done with the West of England Partnership on their MAA activities.

Through specific activities such as VentureFest and BEN (Bristol and Bath Enterprise Network) we are helping businesses tap into the innovation ecosystem to support business expansion and growth and encouraging a climate of open innovation. Through the national science cities network and our wider linkages we can help the partnership engage with other LEPs and national organisations to maximize the opportunities for our local businesses.

Yours sincerely,



Lorelei Hunt  
Director, Science City Bristol  
[lorelei.hunt@sciencecitybristol.com](mailto:lorelei.hunt@sciencecitybristol.com)



**Professor Kevin Edge** FREng, BSc, PhD, DSc, CEng, FIMechE  
*Deputy Vice-Chancellor*

**Vice-Chancellor's Office**  
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Mr J Betty  
Strategic Director  
Development and Major Projects  
Bath & North East Somerset Council  
10 Palace Yard Mews  
Bath  
BA1 2NH

3 September 2010

Dear Mr Betty,

**Re: West of England Local Enterprise Partnership**

I am writing on behalf of the University of Bath to lend our fullest support to the proposed establishment of a West of England Local Enterprise Partnership. The proposal offers a clear vision of how to build on the increasing momentum of our economic region, and it is a vision that we can enthusiastically endorse.

Our economic region has a wealth of assets, including universities that are enterprising and engaged with economic development. Between us, our world class research centres and academic portfolios offer innovation and technology transfer opportunities that clearly underpin the five priority high growth sectors outlined in the proposal:

- creative and media
- advanced engineering, aerospace and defence
- micro-electronics and silicon design
- environmental technologies/marine renewable industries
- tourism

The University of Bath itself has a growing reputation for supporting economic development within the City of Bath (e.g. its recently expanded Innovation Centre), and the natural economic region described by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership proposal (e.g. its support for the SPark development and its leadership of the Western Vocational Lifelong Learning Network).

We look forward to contributing to the success of the new West of England Local Economic Partnership and offer our best wishes for a positive response to the bid.

Yours sincerely,

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor**

Please reply to Newton Park



**Bath Spa  
University**

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Vice Chancellor  
Professor Frank Morgan  
BA MSc CPFA

2 September 2010

Mr J Betty  
Strategic Director  
Developments and Major Projects  
Bath & North East Somerset Council  
10 Palace Yard Mews  
Bath BA1 2NH

Dear John

I write in support of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership bid.

I do not think the importance of the goals of the bid can be overestimated. Not only are we concerned here with improving the economic health of our region, but we have a once in a generation opportunity radically to redesign the mechanisms for so doing. This can in turn have massive benefits to the social wellbeing of the region, its cultural health and its contribution to the sustainability agenda.

I am pleased to associate myself with an initiative which will:

- encourage ideas from the business community and enable the implementation of the best, most focused and most practicable of them
- improve the arrangements for stimulating the local economy
- provide leadership for businesses and other relevant organisations in order that the greatest possible number of them can contribute to the strategic goals
- place emphasis on private sector success in partnership with lean, purposeful and supportive publicly funded initiatives

The agenda of this University is already aligned to relevant goals such as serving the local area, contributing to planning and transport objectives, helping cultural, creative and other SMIs (goals of particular significance in the South West of England), delivering a skilled workforce and meeting sustainability/low carbon goals.

I wish the bid success.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Morgan'.

**Professor Frank Morgan**  
Vice-Chancellor

Mr J Betty  
Strategic Director  
Development & Major Projects  
Bath and North East Somerset Council  
(By e-mail only:  
Katharine\_westcar@bathnes.gov.uk)

Professor Eric Thomas  
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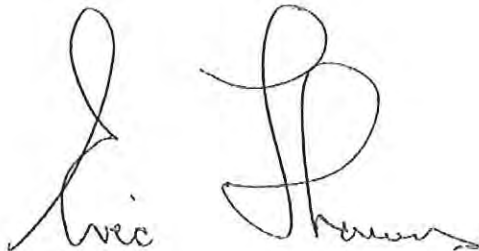
Ref: EJT/pl/betty/020910

Dear Mr Betty

I am writing to give my strongest support to the proposal for a Local Enterprise Partnership in the West of England and, as you mention in your letter to the Secretary of State, the West of England is a natural economic area with a highly skilled workforce and a significant centre for Aerospace, Environmental Technologies, Creative Industries and Microelectronics. It contains four Universities who are all highly placed in their peer group and probably represent the best concentration of high quality teaching and research in all parts of the sector outside of London. The University of Bristol, in particular, takes its responsibilities to assist in the economic development of the City very seriously and would give every assistance possible to the successful development of this partnership.

If there is anything else that I may be able to help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With very best wishes



Vice-Chancellor



University of the  
West of England

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Cllr John Calway  
WEP Board Chairman  
West of England Partnership  
Floor 1, Wilder House  
Wilder Street  
Bristol  
BS2 8PH

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010

Dear John

### **The West of England Proposal for a Local Enterprise Partnership**

I am pleased to confirm the support and participation of the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) in this consortium bid to host a Local Enterprise Partnership for the West of England region.

UWE is one of Britain's most popular universities and is the largest provider of Higher Education in the South West of England. The University is at the hub of some truly dynamic and engaging collaborations and interacts with thousands of business and community organisations to strengthen local enterprise and innovation through provision of cutting edge support to business. UWE also has a strong record in working with Local Authorities, public sector organisations and sector networks to drive the South West Economy forward.

Universities are key agents of innovation and change. UWE supports a new approach that reflects key business and community drivers and has already submitted evidence to the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee on Local Enterprise Partnerships. This submission underlined the many ways in which the West of England region can add additional value to the local economy. It also highlighted the role of universities and the need to maximise connectivity between companies and the knowledge base, as universities are economic generators in their own right, and operate in national and international markets which bring innovation, growth and inward investment to local economies.

Examples of UWE's strategic partnerships which provide a potential focus for LEP engagement include the Pervasive Media Studio, Bristol BBC Anchor Project, and Bloodhound SSC project. Collaborations with the University of Bristol include the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement, Bristol Robotics Laboratory, BRIG-H, Science City and Bristol and Bath Science Park (with University of Bath).

The Bristol economy has been relatively resilient during the recession and will return to growth quickly as a centre for sectors of the economy such as creative industries, microelectronics, biomedicine, advanced engineering and aerospace, and environmental technologies, which are set to blossom in coming years. UWE has significant strengths in each of these priority sectors and invests heavily in long term strategic engagements to enhance local, national and international collaboration and bring industry and Higher Education together. Indeed, UWE is developing a suite of sector focused Innovation Networks (iNets) in order to provide and develop a world-class innovation and knowledge

**bettertogether**

University of the West of England, Bristol  
Vice-Chancellor Professor Steven West

exchange resource for business and industry in the South West. The three UWE led iNets (microelectronics, biomedicine, and environmental technologies), will create a focal point for sectors, directly supporting businesses, facilitating the linkages between ideas, technology, expertise and commercialisation, and improving international connectivity.

Furthermore, large universities like the University of the West of England are able to support the whole range of higher skills required and to deliver flexibly in the workplace. UWE has bucked the national trend amongst UK universities on improving the prospects for unemployed graduates by instituting a basket of options through its Solutions4Recession Programme which can be customised to individual and company requirements. UWE also manages a Federation of partners FE Colleges enabling a seamless progression from intermediate to higher level skills.

UWE fully support the West of England Proposal for a Local Enterprise Partnership and look forward to being part of a Local Enterprise Partnership that leads to significant local and national benefit, sustainable private sector growth and job creation.

Yours sincerely



Professor Steve West  
Vice-Chancellor

cc: Paul Gough,  
Martin Boddy

Our Ref: PP/dh

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010

Stephen Harrison &  
Councillor John Calway  
c/o West of England Partnership Office  
Wilder House  
Wilder Street  
Bristol  
BS2 8PH

Dear Stephen and John

Local Enterprise Partnership - Bristol and the West of England

Further to our recent meeting, I am writing on behalf of the five colleges of further education in the West of England to offer our strong support to the proposal for a local enterprise partnership, which you are submitting to the secretaries of state. We welcome the acknowledgement of skills and training as central to the economic growth that the Partnership is looking to deliver - for this area and the wider South-West.

The colleges are keen to make a full contribution to the LEP delivery plan. The new flexibilities in funding provided by government will help us in meeting the challenge and delivering training driven by the needs of the learner. Our direct involvement with the Local Enterprise Partnership will give us an accountability to the wider employer community (particularly the private sector) and the ability to connect directly to the long term sectoral and spatial priorities of this area. We look forward to positive consideration of the proposal and an early implementation of the LEP plans.

Yours sincerely



Dr Paul Phillips  
Secretary of the Western Principals' Group  
On behalf of :

- City of Bath College
- City of Bristol College
- Filton College
- Norton Radstock College
- Weston College

.cc FE Members of the Western Principals Group

Peter Jackson, Director of Planning, Transportation and Strategic Environment,  
South Gloucestershire Council

Principal and Chief Executive Dr Paul Phillips  
Weston College, Knightstone Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2AL

Tel: 01934 411 411 Fax: 01934 411 410

[www.weston.ac.uk](http://www.weston.ac.uk)

Councillor John Calway  
Chair West of England Partnership

Stephen Harrison  
Vice Chair West of England Partnership

C/o West of England Partnership Office  
Wilder House  
Wilder Street  
Bristol BS2 8PH

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010

Dear John and Stephen

**Local Enterprise Partnership – the West of England**

I am writing on behalf of the local and specialist VCS support organisations to support the submission regarding the development of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership.

The local and specialist VCS support organisations which together provide the infrastructure for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors (VCS) in Bristol and the West of England (further details attached), have been working to champion VCS involvement in the LEP and we welcome the recognition which has been given to the contribution that the VCS could make to the development of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership

The voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors in Bristol and the West of England have a key part to play to support economic, social and environmental developments in the sub region; developing social and community enterprise: promoting and supporting equalities; as an employer; a provider of volunteering opportunities and as enabler across a whole range of activities including skills training, community and social care, and by supporting employability.

The development of the LEP provides a great opportunity to forge a strong local alliance between business, local authorities, VCS and other partners to drive the growth of local economies and to link the Big Society agenda. We are currently working together to develop a paper which aims to provide further details regarding the VCS in the sub region which we hope will support the next stage of VCS engagement with the LEP.

We are keen to have the opportunity to meet with you and/or Officers to discuss the next stage of the development of the West of England LEP and look forward to working with you to facilitate comprehensive involvement and engagement of the VCS in this new development.

Yours sincerely

Helen Black  
Chief Officer CVS South Gloucestershire



### **CVS South Gloucestershire**

We are a Council for Voluntary Service, a type of organisation which exists all over the country to help those who work with charities, community groups and voluntary organisations of all sorts. We are here to Support, Develop and Represent the voluntary sector in South Gloucestershire. To do this we offer a range of projects and services and work in partnership with both voluntary and statutory organisations.

[www.cvs-sg.org.uk](http://www.cvs-sg.org.uk)

### **VOSCUR**

We are a Council for Voluntary Service, an infrastructure, local support organisation and a development agency for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Bristol. [www.voscur.org](http://www.voscur.org)

### **The Care Forum**

Health and Social Care specialist infrastructure organisation operating across four unitary authority areas in West of England [www.thecareforum.org](http://www.thecareforum.org)

### **The Black Development Agency**

Empowers Black and Minority Ethnic communities by building up the skills, ability and capacity to enable a sustainable Black Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector. [www.blackdeva.org.uk](http://www.blackdeva.org.uk)

### **Social Enterprise Works**

Social Enterprise Works aims 'to support, develop and promote the social economy by maximising the positive benefits of enterprise'. [www.socialenterpriseworks.org](http://www.socialenterpriseworks.org)

### **Voluntary Action North Somerset**

We provide development, advice, support and training for voluntary and community organisations across North Somerset. [www.vansweb.org.uk](http://www.vansweb.org.uk)

### **DEVELOP**

We offer a range of services to voluntary organisations and community groups in Bath and North East Somerset and Wiltshire to support the development of their organisations, help them deliver their services more effectively and ensure their long term viability and sustainability. . [www.developeps.org.uk](http://www.developeps.org.uk)

### **West of England Consortium**

West of England Consortium is a partnership of local support organisations from the three unitary authority areas of Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. The consortium aims to improve delivery of support services to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors by providing accountable, representative and well resourced infrastructure for the West of England. [www.changeupwestofengland.org.uk](http://www.changeupwestofengland.org.uk)