

**West of England Local Enterprise Partnership
Board meeting**

**Friday 24th February 2017, 10am-12pm
Engine Shed, Temple Meads, Bristol**

Present:	
Cllr Matthew Riddle, South Gloucestershire Council (Chair)	Patricia Greer, WoE LEP
Cllr Nigel Ashton, North Somerset Council	Mike Jackson, North Somerset Council
Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council	Barra Mac Ruairi, Bristol City Council
Cllr Tim Warren, Bath & NE Somerset Council	Amanda Deeks, South Gloucestershire Council
Prof Steve West, UWE	Ashley Ayre, Bath & NE Somerset Council
Nick Horne, Knightstone Housing Group	James Durie, Business West
Robert Sinclair, Bristol International Airport	Kalpna Woolf, LEP Skills Group Chair
In Attendance	
Helen Edelstyn, Bath & NE Somerset Council	James Cooke, South Gloucestershire Council
Jessica Lee, West of England Combined Authority	David Ader, Bristol City Council
Joanna Greenwood, WoE LEP	Charlotte Hopley, WoE LEP
Apologies:	
Anna Klonowski, Bristol City Council	Neil Way, Jeff Way Electrical
Guy Stobart	John Pritchard, GKN Aerospace Services Limited
Esther McMorris, Nine Feet Tall	

Draft Minutes

1.	Welcome and Apologies	Action
	<p>As above.</p> <p>Cllr Riddle chaired the meeting following the resignation of Stephen Robertson in his role of Chair.</p> <p>Cllr Riddle personally thanked Stephen for his contribution to the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership. Especially during such a important time through negotiations with Government and the creation of the Combined Authority. Cllr Riddle has written to Stephen on behalf of the Board and thanked him for all his help and wished him the best for his future endeavours.</p>	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	<p>Members interests are recorded in the published Registers of Interests: http://www.westofenglandlep.co.uk/about-us/board-representatives/</p> <p>None were declared.</p>	
3.	Minutes of the meeting of 30th November 2016	
	<p>It was noted in the minutes at Item 2, the discussion on LEP Governance, two additional notes were made by Steve West and James Durie.</p>	

	<p>Steve West asked that it be noted that he pointed out that when LEPs were set up, Universities were deliberately separate from business and he was concerned that the Universities are missing from this setup.</p> <p>James Durie noted that he had made a general comment on the complexity of the new governance arrangements.</p> <p>With these amendments, the minutes were approved as a true record.</p>	
4.	Appointment of Interim Chair	
	<p>Cllr Riddle noted that it is WoE LEP is requirement, by its Terms of Reference, to have a Chair.</p> <p>It is proposed that the appointment is an interim appointment at this stage.</p> <p>The rationale for this is that the LEP Board at its meeting in November considered a report about the governance of the LEP and as part of this item views were sought on the business representation on the Local Enterprise Partnership Board. The Board agreed to “consider how best to encourage wider involvement within the Local Enterprise Partnership structure to ensure better representation across key sectors”. A process to encourage wider engagement is currently underway and it may result in a change of business membership, as such it is considered appropriate to proceed with the appointment by the Local Enterprise Partnership Board of an interim Chair during this period and until this exercise is complete.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference requires the Business Nominations Committee to nominate one LEP business member for interim chair and for approval by the LEP Board. Recommendation 1 sought approval of the Business Nominations Committee’s nomination for interim chair.</p> <p>Recommendation of the Business Nomination Committee</p> <p>The LEP Board is asked to consider and approve the Business Nominations Committee’s nomination of interim chair, Steve West.</p> <p>Cllr Riddle supported the recommendation, Mayor Rees seconded it and the Board agreed to elect Steve West as Interim Chair of the LEP.</p>	
5.	West of England Strategy	
	<p>Cllr Riddle opened the discussion and explained that this offers the LEP Board the opportunity to consider its regional economic position and its strategy to achieve greater economic success; including how it make sure that the advantages of growth touch every corner of the West of England region.</p> <p>It was noted this is an opportunity, as a public private partnership, to feed in its view and to make sure the strategy for inclusive economic growth is right for the region. Patricia Greer, Helen Edelstyn and Jessica Lee talked through the headline data, the developing strategy and outlined the next steps.</p> <p>They noted that the regional strategy will support the narrative and brand for the region. The aim is to have a strategy ready for review in May by the Regional Mayor prior to public consultation for three months.</p>	

This ongoing work has been used to help write a response to the Government Infrastructure Commission and Industrial Strategy.

General discussion on the role and involvement of the Board on the developing Strategy. Some members of the Board raised concerns about a lack of involvement with the data review. It was noted that the Board had received and consider the data on a number of occasions dating back to November 2016.

Helen Edelstyn gave a presentation and asked for the Board's comments and feedback on each slide. The following points were made:

- *Disparity of Wealth* – This slide showed the difference between earnings in the region. However, it was noted that this is just one aspect of inequality data needs to show the broader issue. Questioned whether there was a simpler way to explain this to stakeholders as the table is too complicated for evidence. Health life expectancy could be a suggested term.
- *Educational Attainment* – It was suggested it might be an alternative way to show education attainment other than NVQ4 qualifications as this is a simple snap shot and does not give a full picture.
- *Challenge of Carbon Targets* – this slide should include air quality.
- Some members were concerned with the data used in the high level snap shot and wanted the fuller picture to include school results across the region.

Patricia Greer explained that from this data, it will allow the region to understand the issues and where it should focus shaping the regional strategy.

Nick Horne stated that the region needs to take ownership for the four big challenges that it face, to use it to create burning bridges for change and help focus on the next steps.

This Strategy will set out the challenges and priorities for the region, and link with the other 4 UAs. This allows the region to be telling the same story and uniting the region.

Steve West commented that each UAs will have their own plan to deliver their own strategic plans to tackle issues that face them. Some of these issues will be cross boundaries and too large to solve individually. The WECA Mayor will have a view of terms of reference as to what is possible and what will be challenged. The LEP needs to keep focused on the larger picture and not interfere with what is happening at a local level, rather a high level to pull together as a collective to attract large investors or the Government for pots of money. Noted the General Elections are to take place on the 8th June as this may be a shift in politics that could change everything.

	<p>Jessica Lee gave the second part of the presentation to discuss the next steps.</p> <p>The following points were discussed and made by the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Draft Version of the West of England</i>: Noted this should reflect health in the vision. • Mike Jackson noted that vision was much better than the previous version and it was heading in the right direction. Robert Sinclair agreed, noting that it may have been useful to start with identifying key themes and then selecting the words. • Agreed that this should be the region 'selling pitch'. Need to convince ourselves that Region has something worth selling that is different from any other region in the UK. This should be kept simple, once this is created this can be crafted and edited for different audiences. Good examples of this are Dublin, Sheffield and Manchester. <p>Following this discussion, the Board discussed the next steps:</p> <p>Action: It was agreed that the presentation from today's strategy session will be shared with the Board for comments. The deadline for comments will be 4th May 2017.</p>	
6.	AOB	
	<p>Steve West took this opportunity make the following statement in his new interim role as Chair of the LEP Board.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am undertaking the Interim Chair role in the interest of the West of England during a period of significant change. The combination of a Metro-Mayoral election, the establishment of a Combined Authority and a General Election on the 8th June means that we have a significant amount of work to be done to ensure we are in the best shape we can be to take forward the ambition and plans for the West of England over the coming 12 months. 2. In order to achieve this; the role of the LEP and Governance structures must be clearly articulated, considered and determined. <p>Action: Steve West Agreed to work in partnership with Patricia to consider the role of the LEP Board. Steve West agreed to report back at the next LEP Board meeting.</p>	Patricia Greer
	Next meeting: 24 May 2017, 2.00pm-4.30pm	