

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

**Wednesday 24 January, 2:30pm-4.00pm
3 Rivergate, Temple Quay BS1 6ER**

Present:	
Prof Steve West, University of the West of England (Chair)	Jon Reynolds, BT
Cllr Nigel Ashton, North Somerset Council	David Pester, TLT Solicitors
Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council	David Brown, The Bristol Port Company
Cllr Tim Warren, Bath & NE Somerset Council	Dick Penny, Watershed
Cllr Matthew Riddle, South Gloucestershire Council	Prof Hugh Brady, University of Bristol
Patricia Greer, West of England Combined Authority	Katharine Finn, PwC
Amanda Deeks, South Gloucestershire Council	Neil Douglas, Viper Innovations
Mike Jackson, North Somerset Council	Andrew Hodgson, KPMG
Mohammed Saddiq, Wessex Water	
In Attendance	
Helen Edelstyn, West of England Combined Authority	Jessica Lee, West of England Combined Authority
Chris Hackett, Bristol City Council	Pete Davis, West of England Combined Authority
Ben Woods, Bath & NE Somerset Council	Melissa Houston, West of England Combined Authority
Apologies:	
Mayor Tim Bowles, West of England Combined Authority	Martino Burgess, Gregg Latchams
James Durie, Business West	Ashley Ayre, Bath & NE Somerset Council
Christopher Grier, Airbus	Denise Murray, Bristol City Council

Draft Minutes

1.	Welcome and Apologies	Action
	Steve West welcomed attendees. Apologies were noted.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	All Board members have a responsibility to treat all proposals/projects equally and impartially and must therefore declare whether they or their organisation has either a direct or indirect interest in any of the projects to be considered by the Board. Steve West emphasised it was important to keep this up to date. Members interests are recorded in the published Registers of Interests: http://www.westofenglandlep.co.uk/about-us/board-representatives/ Dick Penny declared that he is currently in receipt of funding for the new VR Lab. This project includes UWE (Steve West) and University of Bristol (Hugh Brady). A "Register of Interest" form will be circulated for all new business board members to complete.	
3.	Minutes of the meeting of 15th December 2017	
	The minutes were approved as a true record.	

<p>4.</p>	<p>Appointment of LEP business board members</p> <p>Steve West introduced the agenda item and noted following due process the Business Nominations Committee would like to nominate Andrew Hodgson, Christopher Greer, David Brown, David Pester, Dick Penny, Prof Hugh Brady, James Durie, Jon Reynolds, Katharine Finn, Martino Burgess, Mohammed Saddiq and Neil Douglas. The nominations were proposed by Cllr Nigel Ashton and seconded by Cllr Tim Warren. The Board agreed to endorse the nominations.</p> <p>Steve West noted that he is keen to set up a wider strategic advisory group to build on the interest and expertise shown by other un-successful candidates. Steve will work alongside the team to bring proposal for this forum forward.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Regional Strategy</p> <p>Steve West introduced the agenda item and invited Jessica Lee to update members on the West of England Strategy.</p> <p>Jessica Lee explained that this is an ongoing working document, focusing on economic growth. During the 9-week engagement programme that took place over the summer of 2017, the 3 pillars of the strategy - business, skills and infrastructure – were well supported, however some concerns were raised around growth being beneficial for all and environmental sustainability. Following feedback, Jessica Lee is now working to refine the narrative, Regional Strategy and business plan.</p> <p>An open conversation developed around ambition, what makes this region unique, and ways to bring the document alive with existing projects to give both business and Government confidence to invest here.</p> <p>The importance of geography and emphasizing place were also discussed. Steve West believes the document should be written for an external audience, adapting where necessary for internal use – but should be used as a source document by all of us to consistently tell the same growth story about the region.</p> <p>Jessica Lee took members through the business plan, identifying key objectives and the “big ideas” - Are there any gaps? What can we do to achieve this? Points raised around the Business pillar included access to finance, performance measurers and indicators and becoming a destination of choice for both UK businesses and foreign investment. This led to a discussion around the importance of “brand” and how the West of England brand needed to be stronger.</p> <p>Points raised around the Skills pillar included provision accessibility, meeting the demands of business and ensuring we do not create an economy just for PhD’s as we also need to consider access routes for those without GCSE’s and/or NEET.</p> <p>A discussion around the Infrastructure pillar included the need for employment space for scale-ups, the expansion of both the port and airport and common issues around housing, transport and congestion.</p> <p>To progress we need to work together to develop a strong, complimentary relationship. Steve West proposed that the business members meet later to focus on this agenda item in more detail.</p>	

6.	Programme Funding	
	<p>Pete Davis introduced the agenda item and confirmed that no decisions were to be made today, this was for information only to provide an overview of the LEP funding streams.</p> <p>Steve West emphasised that this board will have the opportunity to shape future decisions.</p>	
7.	AOB	
	<p>Mayor Marvin Rees provided a brief update on the Bristol Arena project. It was agreed that further information was required – by way of a business case – prior to any further discussion or decision.</p>	
	Next meeting: Monday 19 March, 3-5pm. WECA Offices	

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