

**West of England Local Enterprise Partnership  
Board meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Severn Edge - STEP Fusion Programme**

**Purpose of the report**

At the meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> March, colleagues from Nuclear South West will present an update on the Severn Edge STEP Fusion Programme.

**Recommendation**

To note background ahead of presentation at the LEP Board meeting

**Background**

1. The Western Gateway Partnership is spear-heading a bid to bring the UK's prototype fusion energy plant (STEP) to the Western Edge site in Berkeley and Oldbury. If successful, the bid would create £3.5 billion of economic output and over 30,000 jobs for the area.
2. STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production) is the UKAEA's ambitious programme to deliver a prototype fusion energy plant putting the UK on a path to being able to use this clean, green and safe fuel.
3. Severn Edge is one of 5 shortlisted bids to host the UK's first STEP fusion prototype plant. UK Government is expected to announce the successful bid in December 2022.