

COMMENTS TO THE COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE FROM THE LEP CHAIR ON BEHALF OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

We thank the committee for providing an opportunity to address the meeting.

We are not qualified to opine on the specific merits of the issues facing the committee today, however we would like to make a couple of general comments.

We are fully supportive of the work of the Mayoral Combined Authority and their partners. We note that through the work of Grant Thornton earlier this year, however, that there are improvements required in a number of areas, both in terms of organisational capability and capacity, as well as ways of working, collaboration and prioritisation between the partners. We have observed some progress in those areas.

Today's agenda whilst important to resolve, presents a distraction to the important work of the Combined Authority. The LEP have been very pleased to support the ongoing work of officers in the areas of economic strategy, skills, digital, environmental, Temple Quarter, and transportation.

We hope that the Committee can quickly resolve this matter, that we can agree any further improvements to add to those previously agreed at the Committee. We must then continue to focus on the important work that is vital if our region is to succeed in pushing forwards our economy to help address the climate challenge, address the inequalities that exist, create the environment to attract business investment, and improve on the regions overall productivity.