

# **DRAFT**

## **Minutes of the West of England Joint Committee , Friday, 6 October 2023**

Members:

Cllr Mike Bell, North Somerset Council  
Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Claire Young, South Gloucestershire Council

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>MEMBERSHIP &amp; APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>The meeting commenced at 5:17pm.</p> <p>The Chair, Cllr Mike Bell, Leader of North Somerset Council, opened the meeting. The following additional persons were present:</p> <p>Cllr Claire Young, Leader, South Gloucestershire Council  Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Kevin Guy, Leader, Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council.</p> <p>The following persons were also present:  Richard Bonner, Chair of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership Board  Cllr Ed Plowden, Chair of the West of England Combined Authority Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee  Cllr Geoff Gollop, Chair of the West of England Audit Committee.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT 2011</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest declared under the Localism Act 2011.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record,</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>There were no Chair’s announcements.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS &amp; PETITIONS)</b></p> <p>There were six questions received from members of the public. The responses to these questions had been circulated to Members of the Committee and published on the Authority’s website.</p> <p>In addition seven statements had been received from members of the public. These statements had been circulated to the members of the Committee and published on the Authority’s website in advance of the meeting. The following members of the public attended the meeting and were invited to address the Committee for up to three minutes on the topic of their statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robbie Bentley;</li> <li>• Dave Redgewell.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>COMMENTS FROM CHAIR OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP</b></p> <p>The Chair of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board, Richard Bonner, was invited to address the meeting and made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He welcomed the mid-term review undertaken and welcomed the feedback from stakeholders for the quality of the service from Invest Bristol &amp; Bath (IBB) and hoped</li> </ul>

	<p>that the recommendation to set more ambitious plans and targets for the future would be agreed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He hoped that the links between the UAs and the MCA would be strengthened even further through the work of the IBB;</li> <li>• He welcomed the investment and activities in the region such as Bristol Temple Quarter, QTIC, the opening of IAAPS and urged continual work in attracting inward investment in the region;</li> <li>• In respect to the report on the LEP and IBB forecast and change requests he stated that it was vital that it was recognised that the combined authority was changing and growing, and that to deliver the work programme it was vital to continue to collaborate with the LEP Board and other partner organisations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY'S OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>The Chair of the West of England Combined Authority's Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Ed Plowden, was invited to address the meeting. The comments received on behalf of the Committee had been circulated and published in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>In respect to Agenda Item 9, the Committee had welcomed the review of Invest in Bristol and Bath and noted the successes to date, especially the high level of local employees benefitting. The Committee agreed that the targets had been easily met and that more ambitious targets would be in order.</p> <p>The pressures on the budgets and the work under way to resolve this had been noted.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY'S AUDIT COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>The Chair of the Authority's Audit Committee, Cllr Geoff Gollop, was invited to address the meeting and raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He stated that he thought it would be useful to receive an update on the progress of the integration of the Local Enterprise Partnership Board;</li> <li>• The Authority operating two meetings (main Committee and Joint Committee) and with North Somerset Council not being part of the West of England Combined Authority led to constitutional difficulties;</li> <li>• Additionally the function of the Joint Committee without an elected member of the Combined Authority present meant that procedures and protocols needed to be carefully established and asked for a report to be brought to a future meeting to outline the decision-making arrangements for the Joint Committee,</li> </ul>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>INVEST BRISTOL &amp; BATH REVIEW</b></p> <p>The Joint Committee received a report which presented the Committee with the outcome of the mid-term review of the West of England Inward Investment Service 'Invest Bristol and Bath', and which set out the findings and consultants proposed recommendations.</p> <p>The Joint Committee was asked to endorse the detailed recommendations of the review, including proposed changes to the current programme over its last 18 months of delivery, and to inform the development of a case for future delivery post March 2025.</p> <p>Cllr Young asked that in respect to recommendation (2) that there be effective rigour</p>

introduced in the governance process with the implementation of an advisory panel and in respect to recommendation (3) that all the options be fully considered and evaluated, including the implementation of a 'hub and spoke' model delivered by the unitary authorities.

Mayor Rees stated that there was a lot of outreach work carried out by the Unitary Authorities with a lot of climate work evolving around finance and the importance of keeping these communication channels open to get as much alignment as possible and to become more than the sum of the constituent parts of the region.

The recommendations were moved by Cllr Mike Bell and seconded by Cllr Claire Young.

[voting arrangements: Decision required majority agreement of Committee Members in attendance, or their substitutes (one vote representing each Authority)].

It was unanimously

Resolved:

- (1) That the findings of the Gateley mid-term IBB service review as discussed in this report and outlined in the Executive Summary attached as appendix 1, be noted
- (2) That the proposed short-term high-level plan through to the end of the current funding ending March 2025, as summarised in the proposal section below and attached as appendix 2, be agreed. Detailed delivery activity to be worked on between the Head of Enterprise, Investment and Trade at the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) and the Unitary Authority (UA) Economic Development Managers and reported to the Business and Skills Directors and Chief Executive Officers.
- (3) That the planned approach to developing a model for future delivery as summarised in the proposal section below and recognising the long-term recommendations set out in appendix 2, be agreed. This would consider evidence set out in the mid-term review and draw on other factors such as the emerging regional strategy and on UA strategic ambition. The outcome of this work would be a business case for inward investment activity in the region from April 2025 to 2030. This work to deliver a business case to Committee for decision by mid-2024.

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## LEP AND IBB FORECAST AND CHANGE REQUESTS

The Joint Committee received a report representing the revenue and capital forecast to the West of England Joint Committee for the financial year 2023/24 based on data from the period April 2023 to July 2023. The report covered the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Invest Bristol and Bath (IBB) revenue budgets. Change request approvals had also been included as part of this reporting process.

The recommendations were moved by Cllr Mike Bell and seconded by Mayor Rees.

[Voting Arrangements:

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| Item 1:     | None required – Recommendations were for noting purposes.  |
| Item 2:     | Decision required majority agreement of Committee Members in attendance, or their substitutes (one vote representing each Authority)   |
| Item 3 & 4: | Decision required majority agreement of Committee Members in attendance, or their substitutes (one vote representing each Authority) ] |

It was unanimously

Resolved:

- (1) That the Committee notes the Revised Analysis of LEP External Grants as at the end of July 2023 as set out in Figure 1; The LEP Revenue Forecast as set out in Appendix 1 and the LEP Capital Forecast as set out in Appendix 2;
- (2) That the change requests for schemes in the Local Growth and Getting Building Fund programmes as set out in Appendix 3 be approved;
- (3) That the change requests for schemes in the Economic Development Fund programme as set out in Appendix 4
- (4) That approval be given for the project change request and the award of an additional £20.21m from the Economic Development Fund for the design and construction of North Filton Station and detailed design of Henbury Station, subject to the approval of the updated Full Business Case, delegated to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Directors of Infrastructure of the constituent Councils

**Signed:**

**Date:**