

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

FRIDAY 15 MARCH

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## JOINT COMMITTEE:

Government has confirmed that, from April 2024, LEP functions should be integrated into Mayoral Combined Authorities (where they exist) and that an agreed plan for integration should be submitted to Government in order to release core funding to support the costs of integration.

I understand that, in the case of the West of England, the misalignment between the LEP and West of England Mayoral Combined Authority geography has led to differences of opinion on the approach to integration. As a result, no integration plan has yet been submitted and it is anticipated that Government will withhold the £240k funding until progress is made.

I would therefore reinforce that our leaders and mayors have the opportunity to reset and focus on addressing the relationship issues raised in the Best Practice Notice as progress on this will unlock a number of things, not just the constitution and strategy as highlighted in the Government's letter but also the £240K funding and future of the Business Board which remains unresolved.