

**West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee
4 March 2016**

West of England Strategic Leaders Board Annual Review 2015-16

Purpose

1. To present the 2015-16 annual report of the Strategic Leaders Board.

Background

1. The 2015-16 annual review of the activities of the Strategic Leaders Board will be reported to their meeting on 18 March 2016. The report is shown in Appendix 1.

Recommendation

That Members give views on the annual report.

Appendices

Appendix 1: West of England Strategic Leaders Board Annual Review 2015-16

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Background Papers:

None

**West of England
Strategic Leaders Board
18 March 2016**

West of England Strategic Leaders Board Annual Review 2015-16

Purpose

1. To review the activities and achievements of the Strategic Leaders Board during its second year of operation in 2015-16.

Recommendation

1. That Members note the report.

Background

West of England Governance and Decision Making

2. Created as part of the LEP Strategic Economic Plan (submitted to government in March 2014), the Strategic Leaders Board (SLB) provides the formal and accountable forum for decision making relating to all relevant LEP or West of England funding streams with recommendations coming from the Investment Board via the LEP Board. It sits at the head of the West of England's 'One Front Door' approach to investment, which underpins the governance arrangements for the Growth Deal, providing timely and binding decisions, with due clarity, transparency and accountability.
3. A condition of the Growth Deal was the adoption of a local assurance framework, which details the 'One Front Door' approach and describes harmonised governance, assurance and reporting arrangements across a number of funding streams (including the Local Growth Fund). These arrangements provide the flexibility to match the most suitable funding stream to a particular scheme, and also allow overview, consistency and rigour.

SLB Objective

4. The Strategic Leaders Board comprises the Mayor and the 3 Leaders of the West of England Councils, is formally constituted under the Local Government Act 1972, and is the ultimate joint decision making body for the Growth Deal in terms of public accountability.
5. The overall objective of the Board is to focus on strategic economic issues and to unlock barriers to growth in support of delivering the Strategic Economic Plan.
6. Reports to the SLB are also subject to full scrutiny by the West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee.

Notable Achievements 2015-16

7. Since its establishment in July 2014 the Strategic Leaders Board has provided a real example of collaborative working between the four West of England Councils, making joint decisions in the interests of local economic growth. The SLB continued to demonstrate this during its second year of operation in 2015-16, and in doing so:

Joint Spatial Plan and Transport Study(JSPTS)

- Endorsed the preparation of a Joint Spatial Plan and Transport Study by the four West of England unitary authorities, and subsequently endorsed the Issues and Options document and associated consultation and engagement approach. The SLB received regular JSPTS progress updates throughout 2015-16.

Invest Bristol and Bath

- Approved the Invest Bristol & Bath business plan and five year strategy, which set out a programme of spend for investment promotion activities across the West of England utilising ongoing funding from the Economic Development Fund of £5m over five years.

West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee

- Received and considered the views of the Joint Scrutiny Committee at each meeting.
- Confirmed that the creation of a formally constituted Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be explored, with terms of reference spanning local authority joint working and the activities of the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Approved additional resource requirements to support the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

West of England Governance and Devolution

- During 2015-16 the Leaders and Mayor of the four West of England authorities jointly presided over the process of securing a devolution deal for the West of England. In support of this:
 - On the 10th July 2015 the SLB agreed to undertake a review of governance to strengthen their joint working as four unitary authorities, with a view to obtaining further devolved powers from the government for the benefit of all West of England residents.
 - On the 22nd January 2016, Cllr Tim Warren stated on behalf of the SLB that “the devolution deal will be subject to final consent of the combined authority, the constituent councils, agreement of ministers, the enactment of the necessary primary legislation (the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill), and to parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of the agreement.”

West of England Investment Board (One Front Door)

- Oversaw the £700m One Front Door investment programme comprising more than 50 schemes. In doing so in 2015-16, the SLB:

Local Growth Fund (LGF)

- Provided the final approval for the 5 schemes listed below through the LGF totalling some £32m for which grant offer letters have been signed or are in progress.

- Expansion of the Open Programmable City Region
- MetroWest Phase 1 Development Costs
- MetroWest Phase 2 Development Costs
- Bristol Aerospace Centre
- Advanced Engineering Centre Extension, Parkway

- Provided provisional or Outline Business Case approval for a further 3 schemes totalling over £5m.

- Superfast Broadband
- Bristol and Bath Cultural Destinations Media Bank
- Engine Shed Phase 2

- Oversaw the implementation of 8 previously approved or provisionally approved schemes totalling some £30m.

- Future Technology Centre, Weston
- Law and Professional Services Academy, Weston
- Sustainable Transport Package 15/16
- Robotics Laboratory - BRL Institute of Technology and UEZ
- Advanced Composites for Transport Infrastructure – Bridge Construction
- Aztec West Roundabout
- Bath & North East Somerset Construction Skills Centre
- S&B Automotive Virtual Reality Training in Skills

- Considered the LGF pipeline projects from Growth Deal Round 2.

Economic Development Fund (EDF)

- Provided the final or provisional approval for the 3 schemes listed below through the EDF totalling some £6m.

- Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone Programme Team
- Aztec West Roundabout
- Bristol Aerospace Centre

- Oversaw progress with 4 previously approved schemes totalling some £12m

- North Somerset Enterprise Technical College (NSETC)
- Costs for developing the Avonmouth/Sevenside Flood Mitigation and Ecology Full Business Case
- Invest in Bristol and Bath
- Innovation Quay Phase 1

Revolving Infrastructure Fund (RIF)

- Provided final approval for the Sawclose, Bath scheme for which an offer letter is in progress.

Appendices

None.

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Background Papers:

None