

ITEM: 11

REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY

DATE: 1st JUNE 2018

REPORT TITLE: BUSINESS PLAN

AUTHOR: PATRICIA GREER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report

- 1 To approve the West of England Combined Authority Business Plan for 2018/19
- 1.1 To note the Forward Plan of key decisions for 2018/19

Issues for Consideration

- 2 A draft version of the WECA Business Plan was shared at the meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee on 18th April at which the following was agreed
 - responsibility for agreeing the business plan was delegated to the West of England Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the constituent authority chief executives.
 - a final version of the business plan would be reported back to the West of England Combined Authority for approval.
- 2.1 A final version of the Business Plan is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The business plan has been used to inform the Forward Plan of key decisions for WECA and Joint Committee during 2018/19 and this is attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.3 As part of the work to complete the business plan an equalities impact assessment has been completed and this is attached at Appendix 3 for information. This identifies the need for individual equalities impact assessments to be undertaken in relation to the individual projects identified in the business plan.

Consultation:

- 3 This report has been discussed by the WECA Chief Executives.

Other Options Considered:

4 None

Risk Management/Assessment:

5 The WECA Senior Management Team have reviewed the risks associated with delivery of the business plan for 2018/2019 and the key risks are summarised below:

Risk	Mitigation
There is a risk that WECA may not have completed recruitment to enable delivery of all the activities in the business plan, potentially impacting delivery timescales, quality of deliverables and budget	Complete recruitment to key posts in the organisation, meanwhile drawing on available capacity in the constituent authorities, with interim and consultancy support engaged where appropriate
There is a risk that national priorities may change over the course of the year, potentially requiring significant alterations and additions to the business plan and impacting onto current delivery plans	Regular discussions at both official and political level. Delivery of business plan monitored by WECA SMT and reported to WECA Chief Executives quarterly
There is a risk that Committee members may be unable to reach agreement on key proposals, meaning that WECA would be unable to realise the opportunities and benefits of the activities set out in the business plan	Strong partnership working arrangements are in place to ensure that proposals are developed to support and complement the priorities and objectives of the constituent councils
There is a risk that the activities identified in the business plan may not achieve the desired balance of economic growth and inclusive growth.	Equalities impact assessments will be carried out for each specific activity to identify potential issues and clear mitigations and these will form part of the organisation's performance management framework
There is a risk that there are dependencies on the Joint Spatial Plan, the outcome of which is in an independent examination process and therefore not yet know.	The process to prepare a statutory development plan document has been followed and robust governance and technical working arrangements are in place to deliver the project

Public Sector Equality Duties:

6 The public sector equality duty created under the Equality Act 2010 means that public authorities must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

6.1 The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimizing disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

- 6.2 The general equality duty therefore requires organisations to consider how they could positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations. It requires equality considerations to be reflected in the design of policies and the delivery of services, including policies, and for these issues to be kept under review.
- 6.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out in respect of the overall business plan and this is attached at Appendix 3.

Finance Implications:

- 7 There are no financial implications arising directly from the Business Plan itself. All of the activities of WECA and LEP must be within approved Budgets, aligned to the Medium Term Financial Plan and in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Advice given by: Tim Richens, Interim Director of Investment and Corporate Services

Legal Implications:

- 8 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report

Advice given by: Gill Sinclair Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

Human Resources Implications:

- 9 The Head of HR will work closely with the WECA Senior Management Team to ensure that the activities in the business plan can be effectively resourced through workforce planning and recruitment.

Advice given by: Alex Holly, Head of HR and Organisational Development

Environmental Implications:

- 10 None arising from this report

Recommendation:

1. To approve the West of England Combined Authority Business Plan for 2018/19.
2. To note the West of England Combined Authority Forward Plan of Key Decisions for 2018/19

Report Author: Patricia Greer, Chief Executive, West of England Combined Authority

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

Any person seeking background information relating to this item should seek the assistance of the Contact Officer for the meeting who is **Lynda** and who is available by telephoning Joanna Greenwood on 0117 426210; writing to West of England Combined Authority, 3 Rivergate, Temple Way, Bristol BS1 6ER; email: democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

BUSINESS PLAN

2018-19

INTRODUCTION

The West of England is one of the UK's most prosperous regions with an economy worth over £33.2 billion a year. A net contributor to the national purse, with a population of over 1 million and over 43,000 businesses, our region competes on a global scale.

We will be a driving force for clean and inclusive economic growth in the West of England. We will ensure that people benefit from more job opportunities, a stronger economy and a high quality of life.

In 2016, three councils in the West of England – Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire - signed a devolution deal worth £1 billion. As a result, significant powers and funding have been transferred to the region through the new West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and West of England Mayor.

WECA also provides support to the activities of West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which includes North Somerset Council.



an economy worth over
£33.2bn
a year



OPERATING FRAMEWORK

The operating framework sets out our priorities and forms the basis of WECA's annual business plan for 2018/19. It will inform our regional response to the Government's Industrial Strategy.

The operating framework identifies three priority areas for this year: Infrastructure fit for the future, World class skills and Business that succeed.



BUSINESS PLAN

The business plan on the following pages sets out the key activities that WECA will deliver over the 2018 – 2019 period. It includes plans to bring further investment into transport, homes and skills to ensure the West of England is at the forefront of growth and innovation, where economic, cultural and environmental diversity is celebrated and forms the foundations of prosperity for all.

It is structured around the three strategic aims identified in the operating framework. The plan is focused on next year, however it contains some reference to activity that we are already committed to in the coming years.

High-level aspirations have been identified for each of the three priority areas; more detailed metrics will be developed as part of project development.



WORKING TOWARDS A LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

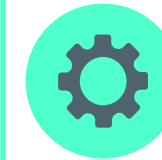
WECA has started discussions with the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on developing a Local Industrial Strategy for the West of England. This is an important opportunity for the region, as the intention is that funding and further devolution discussions will follow the priorities identified in this process. WECA will work closely with BEIS and across Government to develop this Local Industrial Strategy.

The business plan will be updated as the Local Industrial Strategy is developed and as policy evolves.



FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The medium term financial plan, available on our website, summarises the financial considerations for WECA over the next three years. It covers funding sustainability and aligns investment proposals with the operating framework and our key financial challenges and opportunities.



WORKFORCE AND ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN

WECA is built around the principle of operating as efficiently as possible, maximising opportunities for collaboration with our constituent councils and other partners. A workforce strategy will underpin the business plan, ensuring that WECA has the skills and resources it needs to deliver now, and into the future.

Our four key areas of responsibility are:

- Infrastructure – delivering our ambitions around housing, planning, digital infrastructure and transport.
- Business and skills – attracting inward investment, supporting businesses and developing an ambitious skills agenda.
- Chief executive's office - policy and strategy, legal, democratic services and communications.
- Investment and corporate services – finance, human resources, investment and procurement.

INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

We need joined-up and reliable transport, to reduce congestion and help people move around the region. This includes suburban rail services, road schemes, improved public transport, as well as better connections for motorbikes, cyclists and pedestrians. This will support the delivery of new homes, as set out in the Joint Spatial Plan. Improved transport will also improve access to jobs, by linking new homes with employment areas.

We will continue to work closely with Government to develop an ambitious Housing Deal, to secure extra investment to accelerate the delivery of new homes, including affordable homes, particularly over the early years of the Joint Spatial Plan.

Activities below are aligned with five objectives:

1. Better links to reduce congestion and connect people
2. Improve national and international connections
3. More affordable homes with a range of housing types
4. Employment spaces to meet the needs of all businesses
5. World-leading digital connections across the region



INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

OBJECTIVE 1
Better links to reduce congestion and connect people

- WHERE WE WANT TO BE**
- Reduced level and cost of congestion
 - More people travelling to work using sustainable methods (eg walking, cycling, train, bus)
 - More reliable services

TITLE	SUMMARY
Suburban rail and MetroWest	Develop plan, with Department for Transport, Network Rail and Great Western Railway, to significantly increase rail usage, reducing congestion and improving air quality.
Bristol Temple Meads	Continue to work with Network Rail, Bristol City Council, Homes England and the University of Bristol to produce a master plan for the redevelopment of Bristol Temple Meads station and surrounding Temple Quarter to create a new, improved gateway to the region.
Roads	<div>Identify a new Key Route Network (KRN) to improve existingtransport routes to support new homes and access to employment.</div> <div>Complete business cases looking at:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bath & Somer Valley Enterprise Zone• Hengrove• Lockleaze• Hicks Gate• Cribbs/Patchway New Neighbourhood Cycling package• Great Stoke roundabout</div> <div>Complete feasibility studies into:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temple Meads Masterplan• Mass transit options• South Bristol Orbital route• East of Bath link• Freezing Hill Lane• Wraxall Road roundabout</div>
Bus strategy	<div>Identify activities to increase bus usage, and reduce use of cars.</div> <div>To include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interim report assessing performance of existing and potential supported services, setting out principles, objectives and funding options.• Review existing network routes, frequencies, stops and interchanges, looking at potential changes and their impact.• Report on future delivery options, including franchising and funding options• Develop bus information strategy.• Report identifying further smart and integrated ticketing opportunities.• Consultation on preferred operating framework.</div>
Cycling and walking routes	Promote active travel, developing a cycling and walking scheme as part of new Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP).
Integrated Transport Authority functions	<div>As the responsible body, WECA will review and develop arrangements for the following:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bus information including real time information• Concessionary travel• Community transport• Supported bus services (joint power with the constituent councils)

INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

TITLE	SUMMARY
Transport to support Joint Spatial Plan	<p>Co-ordinate, commission and support business case development for transport schemes required to support the Joint Spatial Plan. This includes completing feasibility studies funded by WECA, incorporating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• South East Bristol and Whitchurch• A4-A37 orbital route (including Hicks Gate roundabout improvements)• A37-Bristol Link• A4 MetroBus (Bristol to Keynsham MetroBus) and Callington Road Link• Orbital Metrobus• Park and ride provision• A4 Bristol – east Keynsham• Avon Mill Lane to A4 link• Keynsham rail station improvements• Yate strategic corridor• A432 MetroBus and strategic cycle route.• A432 park and ride• Yate station enhancements• Winterbourne / Frampton Cottrell bypass• A38 (J16, Almondsbury to Falfield)• MetroBus and strategic cycle route to Thornbury (and Buckover), including A38 park and ride• Charfield rail station• M5 J14 improvements• Park and rides around Bristol• M32 park and ride• A4018 park and ride• A38(S) park and ride• Bristol urban living package• Walking and cycling package including strategic cycling routes• Greater Bristol Bus Network 2• City centre movement
Joint Local Transport Plan	<p>Consult on, and complete, the Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP).</p> <p>Build on this to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New programme of transport schemes to tackle existing and future transport issues, and support the Joint Spatial Plan.• Bus strategy to increase passenger numbers.• Ways of improving air quality and promoting active travel.• Innovative approaches and new technology, eg driverless cars.• Strategic Environmental Assessment to minimise the impact of the JLTP.
Clean Air Zones	Continue work with Bath & North East Somerset Council and Bristol City Council on emerging Clean Air Plans.
Sub National Transport Board	Work with partners in the south west to establish a Sub National Transport Body/Board in shadow form based around existing West of England governance.
Highways England	Agree a Memorandum of Understanding with Highways England to enable greater collaboration and maximise benefits to the travelling public.
Network Rail	Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with Network Rail to enable greater collaboration.

INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

OBJECTIVE 2 Improve national and international connections		WHERE WE WANT TO BE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced average travel times to major UK cities• More reliable services• More passengers travelling to and from Bristol Airport by public transport
TITLE	SUMMARY	
Bristol Airport expansion	Complete WECA-commissioned feasibility study on mass transit links to airport.	
Mass transit	Study into mass transit routes to serve South Bristol and the airport, A4 corridor to Bath, Bristol East Fringe and Bristol North Fringe. Consider options and next steps.	
OBJECTIVE 3 More affordable homes with a range of housing types		WHERE WE WANT TO BE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 105,500 new homes by 2036• 30,065 affordable homes by 2036
TITLE	SUMMARY	
Delivering the Housing Package	Develop joint working programme with Homes England and registered providers on new ways of delivering affordable homes. Develop joint working with Homes England on acquiring land and infrastructure to help secure new homes.	
Housing Infrastructure Fund	Develop business case to secure full £250m for Bristol Temple Meads to Keynsham A4 corridor and A38-M5 corridor schemes.	
Delivery and infrastructure investment plan	Prepare delivery and infrastructure investment plan with partners including MHCLG, Homes England, DfT, Network Rail, Highways England, Natural England, Environment Agency. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish project management and governance arrangements to develop the plan.• Agree brief and scope and procure any necessary specialist support.• Business case development to target funding streams and investors.	
Development industry panel	Establish a WECA and Joint Committee Panel to look at quality and design of homes, and explore partnership approaches to delivery.	
Innovation in building new homes	Explore opportunities for innovative ways of delivering new homes, eg off-site manufacturing techniques. Form joint partnerships with new investors, registered providers and Homes England.	
Joint Assets Board	Establish project management and governance arrangements to develop options for a Joint Assets Board. Agree the approach to implement.	
Joint Spatial Plan	Submit to Secretary of State. Programme manage and support the Examination in Public.	
Mayoral Spatial Plan	Develop a Mayoral Spatial Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree scope and approach to development of Mayoral Spatial Plan.• Agree approach to implementation of associated planning powers.	

INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

OBJECTIVE 4 Employment spaces to meet the needs of all businesses		WHERE WE WANT TO BE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More successful businesses starting up and growing in the region• More businesses in our Enterprise Zones / Areas and other key employment locations
TITLE	SUMMARY	
Employment space	Develop portfolio of employment space that meets business demand, supporting growth aspirations set out in JSP and JLTP. Close working with development industry and businesses to identify new opportunities for employment sites, including Enterprise Zones and Areas. To include opportunities for scale-up businesses.	

OBJECTIVE 5 World-leading digital connections across the region		WHERE WE WANT TO BE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved broadband coverage• Improved download and upload speeds• Improved mobile coverage• Leaders in 5G technology
TITLE	SUMMARY	
Digital Strategy	Complete evidence base to support the development of a West of England Digital Strategy. Agree ambitions for regional digital connectivity and identify priority areas for action. Lead bid for Local Full Fibre Network Challenge Fund Wave 3. Lead bid for 5G Connected Cities funding.	

WORLD CLASS SKILLS

We have high employment and a skilled workforce in the region, but there is more to be done. We need to continue work to better align workforce skills with the skills that business in our region need, not only now, but for the future. We have to develop an evidence base and plans that will enable us to do this effectively.

We will help residents progress their careers with better access to training, practical advice and support, which will boost their career aspirations and help them fulfil their potential.

We must also take advantage of the opportunities that joint working presents, through better planning of the education, employment and skills system -for example, developing a regional approach to the new technical reforms being implemented by Government.

We will also begin to take advantage of the benefits of devolution as we move closer to taking control of the Adult Education Budget for the WECA area, enabling us to direct resources in a way that best meet the needs of learners and our economy.

Activities below are aligned with three objectives:

- 1.Improving skills and knowledge supply to meet existing and future demands
- 2.A joined-up education, employment and skills system that meets the region's business needs
- 3.Provide residents with support, information, advice and guidance to unlock their career potential



WORLD CLASS SKILLS		
OBJECTIVE 1 Improving skills and knowledge supply to meet existing and future demands		WHERE WE WANT TO BE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased educational attainment (including STEM and vocational training) across all communities. More apprenticeship starts / completions / timely completions 3,000 individuals supported through the skills innovation pilot, Future Bright
TITLE	SUMMARY	
Future Bright	Deliver Future Bright, a project to improve the job prospects of 3,000 people in low paid, low skilled employment.	
Partnerships	Build and maintain partnerships with national associations and Government, to attract funding Build on regional partnerships with universities, colleges, further education providers, multi-academy trusts and schools to help us better plan our education, employment and skills system – to benefit residents and employers.	
Sector skills development	Develop proposal to improve digital skills, working with Institute of Coding and other partners. Develop proposals for a local Digital Skills Partnership, working with Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport. Work with Construction Industry Training Board on regional action plan to improve construction skills and availability of workforce.	
Skills capital plan	Allocate remaining funds for skills from the Local Growth Fund and develop a long-term skills capital investment plan (aligned with post 16 plan).	
Skills Innovation Fund	Develop proposals for a Skills Innovation Fund to support innovative ways to improve skills, linked to key business need.	
Apprenticeships and technical education	Develop plan to increase numbers of apprentices in key sectors from all communities, particularly at higher levels (level 4 and above). Develop a regional proposal to maximise the potential of the apprenticeship levy. Develop co-ordinated approach to technical education reforms, including support for a regional Institute of Technology bid. Develop new project to support apprenticeships, working with Careers and Enterprise Company. Work with Apprenticeship Ambassador Network including youth network, and Bristol Black and Ethnic Minority Apprenticeship pilot. Complete Apprenticeship Grant for Employers project.	
Adult Education Budget	Develop implementation plan for AEB devolution for 19/20.	
OBJECTIVE 2 A joined-up education, employment and skills system that meets the region's business needs		WHERE WE WANT TO BE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased proportion of students from the region studying here Higher graduate retention Improved educational attainment across all communities More apprenticeship starts / completions / timely completions More employers providing in-work skills and training
TITLE	SUMMARY	
West of England skills plan	Develop a long-term plan for employment and skills, including a specific post 16 plan.	
Graduate retention	Develop proposals to increase graduate retention, working with universities and business.	

WORLD CLASS SKILLS

<div><div>OBJECTIVE 3</div><div>Provide residents with support, information, advice and guidance to unlock their career potential.</div></div> <div><div>WHERE WE WANT TO BE</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved student perception of careers guidance (HE/FE surveys)Maintain our below average unemployment rate3,000 individuals supported through the skills innovation pilot, Future Bright</div></div>	
TITLE	SUMMARY
Careers initiative	Review careers advice and guidance and develop proposals to improve this in our region, working closely with partners.
Labour market intelligence	Work with business and other partners to identify future workforce needs to help inform local people’s learning and career choices.
Careers Enterprise Company	Host Enterprise Co-ordinators, working for Careers Enterprise Company. Develop regional proposal for a Careers Hub.
Work & Health Programme	Work with Department for Work and Pensions and local providers to ensure local people can access support through the Work and Health Programme. Explore opportunities to develop closer links with health and wellbeing activities, working with key partners including councils and NHS.
Overcoming barriers to employment	Develop proposals to support local people facing barriers to employment. Produce proposals to support those further from the labour market, and develop further bids to European Social Fund.

BUSINESSES THAT SUCCEED

We are an economically successful region and one where businesses start, grow and thrive in high numbers. We have a good business support system in place - but there is more we can do. We want to find better ways to support existing businesses to achieve their potential as well as attracting more businesses to our region. We need to build on our strengths, supporting our key sectors including aerospace, creative and digital, and professional services. We also need to build on the diversity and collaboration between sectors that makes us unique. Increasing productivity and exports are key areas of focus along with continuing to find new ways to support innovation, which is at the heart of so much of our success.

Activities are aligned with four objectives:

1. Helping businesses to start-up, grow and flourish
2. Supporting businesses to make the most of export opportunities
3. Supporting an innovative economy
4. Protecting and promoting our region's culture



BUSINESSES THAT SUCCEED

OBJECTIVE 1

Helping businesses to start-up, grow and flourish

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

- More businesses starting and growing
- Increased productivity
- Increased investment into regional businesses

TITLE	SUMMARY
Growth Hub	Develop and implement improved ways of working for the Growth Hub.
Investment promotion	Work with current and new businesses to support job creation and economic growth in line with regional objectives. Promoting the region at a series of events, including trade fairs and expos. Promoting the region to potential investors. Commission review of Invest Bristol and Bath.
Supporting scale-up	Develop options to provide suitable employment space for growing businesses. Explore options for a business grant scheme to support scale-up companies, to complement ongoing Growth Hub activity. Develop and implement a business engagement programme for strategically-important businesses.

OBJECTIVE 2

Supporting businesses to make the most of export opportunities

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

- Increased exports (goods and services)
- More trade visits and delegations

TITLE	SUMMARY
Business support	Ensure Growth Hub supports business seeking to export and grow.
Increasing export	Investigate options to improve export/trade support activity.
Overseas promotion	Investigate opportunities to jointly promote export for business in the region.

BUSINESSES THAT SUCCEED

OBJECTIVE 3 Supporting an innovative economy		WHERE WE WANT TO BE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased investment in research and development• More patents registered by companies in the region	
TITLE	SUMMARY		
Enable investment and innovation	Support the expansion of facilities that enable innovation and collaboration eg, Science Park 2, National Composite Centre. Encourage research and development and innovation to industrialise here through greater partnership with the universities. Support sectors to develop proposals that will help drive growth in and into the region.		
5G Test Bed and Trial	To deliver the Smart Tourism 5G test bed project		
Energy strategy	To develop and agree an Energy Strategy to set priorities for a resilient, low carbon and affordable local energy system.		
OBJECTIVE 4 Protecting and promoting our region’s culture		WHERE WE WANT TO BE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong cultural offering in the region	
TITLE	SUMMARY		
Cultural Strategy	Agree an approach to supporting cultural development in the West of England that will support economic growth and benefit everyone in the region.		

CORPORATE SERVICES

OBJECTIVE 1

To support the organisation to deliver its business plan

TITLE	SUMMARY
Industrial Strategy	Co-produce and agree a Local Industrial Strategy for the West of England, working with regional partners and Government. This will enable us to build on our region's strengths to deliver our ambition for clean and inclusive economic growth.
Business Plan	Track progress and manage performance.
Committee Support	Administer the West of England Combined Authority and Joint Committee meetings, Audit Committee, Scrutiny Committee and Advisory Boards.
LEP Board Support	Administer the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership Board.
Regional Partnership Board	Establish a Regional Partnership Board to provide a regular forum for public organisations responsible for the delivery of strategic infrastructure schemes in the West of England.
Public Enquiries	Manage all enquiries from the public, including Freedom of Information requests, complaints and subject access requests. Annual report to WECA Committee.
ICT and Workplace	Ensure that technology and office space meets the ongoing requirements of the organisation.
Information and Records Management	Ensure that information is managed appropriately and that key records are identified and retained in accordance with legislation.
Risk Management	Manage corporate risk framework to ensure that key risks are identified, mitigations agreed and activity monitored.
Communications	Communications and engagement activity to support the business plan
Human Resources	Developing a workforce plan to ensure that WECA has the right resources and skills to deliver now and into the future. Build the organisation through successful recruitment to key posts. Develop a robust staff performance management framework linked to overall objectives, with supporting staff policies and procedures.
Finance	Effectively manage budgets and investment. Continue to develop internal corporate governance processes. Incorporating new powers, funding streams and opportunities with appropriate financial governance arrangements.

OPERATING FRAMEWORK

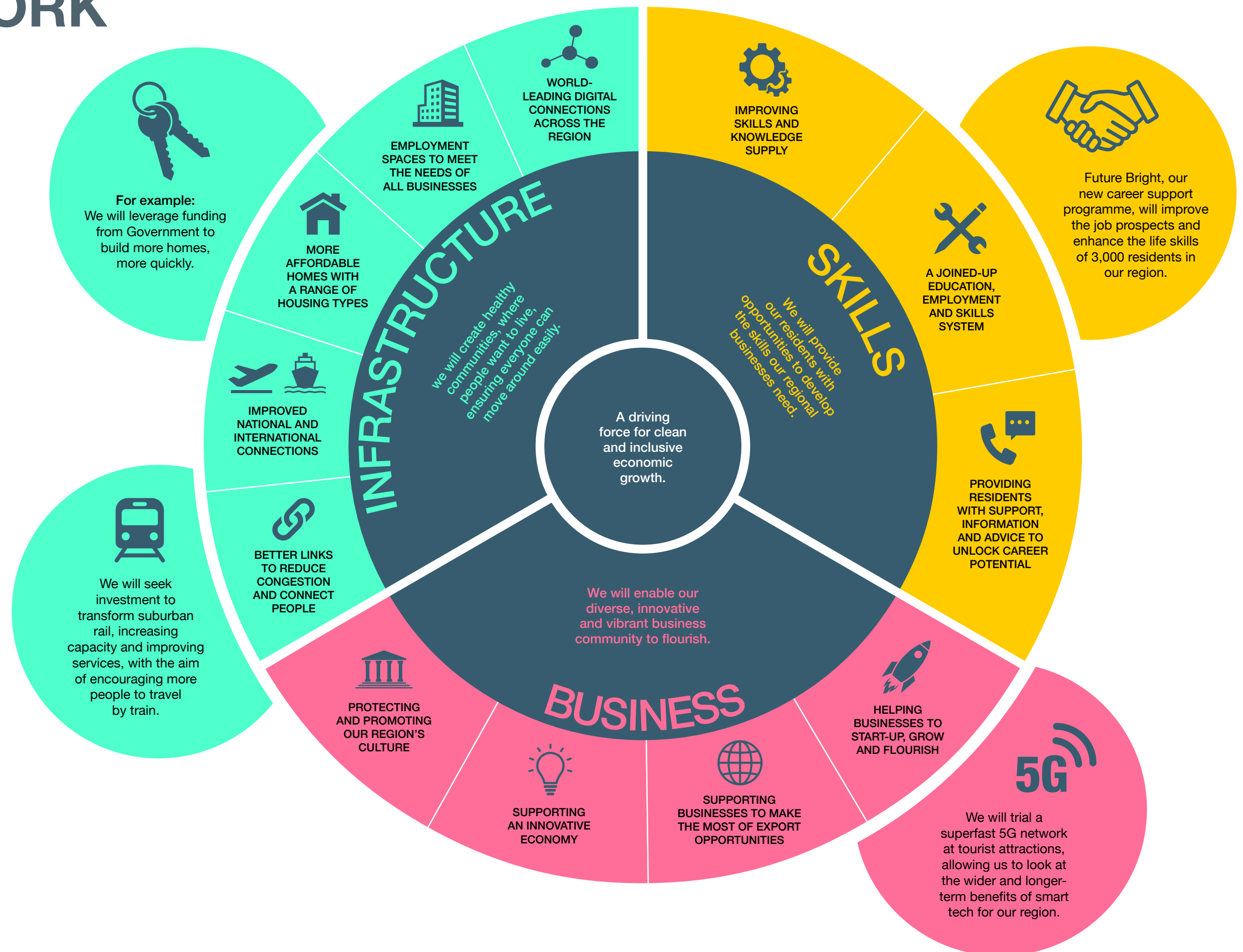
This document sets out our priorities for clean and inclusive economic growth in the West of England for 2018/19. It will form the basis of the West of England Combined Authority's business plan and inform our regional response to the Government's Industrial Strategy.

OUR AMBITIONS

The West of England is a place of growth and innovation, where economic, cultural and environmental diversity is celebrated and forms the foundation of prosperity for all.

We are investing in people and places – including jobs, skills, transport, homes, and digital connections – to ensure we are creating healthy communities where people want to live, work and visit.

We will achieve our ambitions by investing in three priority areas: infrastructure, skills and business.



West of England Combined Authority and Joint Committee Forward Plan 2018 - 2019

The Forward Plan seeks to anticipate all the decisions to be made by the West of England Combined Authority (and occasionally key decisions by officers) over the next year. Government guidance recognises that the plan is a best assessment, at the time of publication, of anticipated decision making. The Forward Plan is updated regularly and can be seen on the West of England Combined Authority Website.

The Forward Plan goes beyond the minimum legal requirement for only key decisions to be published over the coming 28 days, and demonstrates the West of England Combined Authority's commitment to openness and participation in decision making. It also assists the West of England Combined Authority's Scrutiny Committee in planning their input to policy formulation and development, and in reviewing the work of the Combined Authority.

Should you wish to make representations to the decision taker please contact the democratic services team at democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk or by calling 0117 420 6210.

For Committee meeting items, a formal agenda will be issued 5 clear working days before the meeting.

FRIDAY 27 th JULY 2018 WECA COMMITTEE		
Budget Outturn	Tim Richens, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, WECA	Tim.Richens@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Treasury Management Outturn	Tim Richens, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, WECA	Tim.Richens@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Annual Governance Statement	Tim Richens, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, WECA	Tim.Richens@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Transport Update: Bus strategy proposals	David Carter, Head of Infrastructure, WECA	David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Agree Terms of Reference for Development Industry Panel	Laura Ambler, Head of Regional Housing and Planning, WECA	Laura.Ambler@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Agree scope and timetable for development of options for a Joint Assets Board	Laura Ambler, Head of Regional Housing and Planning, WECA	Laura.Ambler@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Agree allocation of Apprenticeship Grant for Employer funding	Jon Hunt, Director of Business and Skills, WECA	Jon.Hunt@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

FRIDAY 27 th JULY 2018 JOINT COMMITTEE		
One Front Door Funding Programme	Pete Davis, Investment and Performance Manager, WECA	Pete.Davis@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Transport update: MetroWest Programme Gateway Decision	Head of Infrastructure, North Somerset Council	
Update on Energy Strategy for West of England	Jessica Lee, Head of Strategy and Policy, WECA	Jessica.Lee@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2018 WECA COMMITTEE		
Budget Outturn	Tim Richens, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, WECA	Tim.Richens@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Transport Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree proposal for Key Route Network - Agree future (19/20) approach to delivery of ITA functions 	David Carter, Director of Infrastructure, WECA	David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Joint Assets Board – Update on options	Laura Ambler, Head of Regional Housing and Planning, WECA	Laura.Ambler@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Approve digital skills proposal	Jon Hunt, Director of Business and Skills, WECA	Jon.Hunt@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2018 JOINT COMMITTEE		
One Front Door Funding Programme	Pete Davis, Investment and Performance Manager, WECA	Pete.Davis@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Transport Update: Agree draft Joint Local Transport Plan for public consultation	David Carter, Director of Infrastructure, WECA	David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

FRIDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2018 WECA COMMITTEE

Transport Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Endorse Proposals for Clean Air Zones- Sign off feasibility studies / business cases for West of England Investment Fund transport schemes- Agree Key Route Network funding, management, operational and maintenance agreements	David Carter, Director of Infrastructure, WECA	David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Housing: Delivery and Infrastructure Investment Plan	Laura Ambler, Head of Regional Housing and Planning, WECA	Laura.Ambler@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Budget Outturn	Tim Richens, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, WECA	Tim.Richens@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Treasury Management Outturn	Tim Richens, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, WECA	Tim.Richens@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Sign off Terms of Reference for Joint Assets Board	Laura Ambler, Head of Regional Housing and Planning, WECA	Laura.Ambler@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

FRIDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2018 JOINT COMMITTEE

One Front Door Funding Programme	Pete Davis, Investment and Performance Manager, WECA	Pete.Davis@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Transport Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- MetroWest Phase Two gateway decision (timescale to be confirmed dependent on GRIP stage 4 report)- Agree Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan	David Carter, Director of Infrastructure, WECA	David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Joint Spatial Plan update	Laura Ambler, Head of Regional Housing and Planning, WECA	Laura.Ambler@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

Housing: Delivery and Infrastructure Investment Plan	Laura Ambler, Head of Regional Housing and Planning, WECA	Laura.Ambler@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Approve Skills funding allocation from Local Growth Fund	Jon Hunt, Director of Business and Skills, WECA	Jon.Hunt@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Report on review of Invest in Bristol and Bath	Jon Hunt, Director of Business and Skills, WECA	Jon.Hunt@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

FRIDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2019 WECA COMMITTEE

Budget meeting	Tim Richens, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, WECA	Tim.Richens@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
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FRIDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2019 JOINT COMMITTEE

One Front Door Funding Programme	Tim Richens, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, WECA	Tim.Richens@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Budget Meeting	Tim Richens, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, WECA	Tim.Richens@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Transport Update: Sign off Joint Local Transport Plan Agree Strategic Environmental Assessment for JLTP	David Carter, Director of Infrastructure, WECA	David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
West of England Cultural Strategy Sign Off	Patricia Greer, Chief Executive, WECA	Patricia.Greer@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

FRIDAY 5th APRIL 2019 WECA COMMITTEE

Items to be agreed		
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FRIDAY 5th APRIL 2019 JOINT COMMITTEE

One Front Door Funding Programme	Tim Richens, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, WECA	Tim.Richens@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Transport Update Approve Bus Strategy	David Carter, Director of Infrastructure, WECA	David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Approve long term skills capital plan	Jon Hunt, Director of Business and Skills, WECA	Jon.Hunt@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Approve West of England Employment and Skills Plan	Jon Hunt, Director of Business and Skills, WECA	Jon.Hunt@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

FRIDAY 31st MAY 2019 WECA COMMITTEE (AGM)

Items to be agreed		
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FRIDAY 31st MAY 2019 JOINT COMMITTEE

One Front Door Funding Programme	Tim Richens, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, WECA	Tim.Richens@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Transport Update	David Carter, Director of Infrastructure, WECA	David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY AND THE WECA BUSINESS PLAN 2018-19

WECA - a driving force for clean and inclusive economic growth, more job opportunities, a stronger economy and a high quality of life.



Cross-Cutting Theme: INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Inclusive growth is a cross-cutting theme which we have identified as being at the heart of our three priority areas that our business plan will deliver against.



Priority Area	Business Plan Objectives	Equality & Diversity Principles
INFRASTRUCTURE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Better links to reduce congestion and connect people. Improve national and international connections. More affordable homes with a range of housing types. Employment spaces to meet the needs of all businesses. World-leading digital connections across the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in April 2018. The JSP has undergone Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) which accompanies the submission. The EqIA sets out a detailed analysis of the Plan priorities and policies and identifies that a range of positive impacts have been identified. ➤ The new Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) will be subject to a comprehensive EqIA, and planning for this is already underway. ➤ On a project-by-project basis, EqIAs will be conducted to ensure delivery of our cross-cutting theme of 'Inclusive Growth'.
SKILLS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improving skills and knowledge supply to meet existing and future demands. A joined-up education, employment and skills system that meets the region's business needs. Provide residents with support, information, advice and guidance to unlock their career potential. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To use reasonable endeavours to ensure that robust Equality Impact Assessments are in place in respect of strategic, project and action plans including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regional Employment and Skills Plan. – Work and Health Programme. – Future Bright employment and skills programme.
BUSINESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Helping businesses to start-up, grow and flourish. Supporting businesses to make the most of export opportunities. Supporting an innovative economy. Protecting and promoting our region's culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To use reasonable endeavours to ensure that robust Equality Impact Assessments are in place for activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invest in Bristol and Bath - West of England Growth Hub
CORPORATE SERVICES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support the organisation to deliver its business plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Delivery of information across the organisation to ensure full understanding of key equalities-related principles and objectives, as well as EqIA requirements. ➤ Implementation of monitoring and reporting structure against each key activity.