

Heart of the South West Productivity Plan and the Joint Committee Work Programme

The Partnership has, since its inception, been focused on working together to tackle low productivity as this is seen as the key to future economic growth. The academic research undertaken in the HotSW Green Paper on Productivity - <http://www.torbay.gov.uk/productivity-plan-green-paper/> highlighted that whilst Devon and Somerset have one of the highest employment rates in the country too many of those jobs are part-time and low paid. This means that our area has one of the lowest productivity rates in the Country and this is a major barrier to future prosperity.

The Partnership has continued to lobby Government to work more closely with our area in order to make good on its promise to spread economic growth across the Country and we now need to build on the recent meeting of the Minister and the momentum achieved. This work is urgently needed to ensure that areas such as the Heart of the South West don't get left behind as Government look to focus investment in areas where there are strong, cross boundary strategic partnership arrangements such as the six Mayoral Combined Authorities.

The Productivity Strategy is being developed through an academic evidence base and engagement with stakeholders and the community. The draft plan is currently out to consultation (<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/devolution>). The deadline for response is 30 November 2017 . Members are encouraged to respond to the draft strategy.

In summary the Strategy proposes to deliver prosperity and productivity across the entire HotSW and to do so in an inclusive way. It proposes to build on existing strengths such as aerospace, advanced manufacturing, nuclear energy and agri-tech as well as exploiting new opportunities and releasing untapped potential.

The Strategy is built around three key objectives:

- Developing **leadership and knowledge** within businesses in our area;
- Strengthening the **connectivity and infrastructure** our businesses and people rely on; and
- Developing the ability of people in our area to **work and learn** in a rapidly changing economy.

	Leadership and knowledge	Connectivity and infrastructure	Working and learning
Aspiration	To substantially improve the productivity of businesses in the area.	Improve our physical and natural assets to support wellbeing and economic opportunities.	Meet the potential of every individual within the area to work and contribute to our shared prosperity.
High-level aim	Help develop innovative, ambitious, growing businesses that can compete internationally.	Create vibrant places that are attractive to skilled people and new investment, with infrastructure to support productivity growth.	Develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and adaptable workforce.
Strategic objective	Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management excellence • New markets, new opportunities • Remove barriers to expansion • Attract talent and investment 	Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean energy infrastructure • Connectivity and resilience • Land for business and housing needs • Natural capital to support productivity 	Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills for a knowledge-led economy • Pathways to success • Access to work and opportunities • Skills for our 'golden opportunities'

It is recommended that one of the first tasks of the Joint Committee will be to approve the Productivity Strategy early in the New Year.

The Partnership has been meeting as a Shadow Joint Committee since 22nd September 2017. Its focus is to ensure the Joint Committee can immediately move into action and take advantage of major funding streams, national policy debates and lobbying around the economy. The Partnership will be working with the LEP to deliver the Productivity Strategy and will be supporting a joint work programme which initially will involve:

- Developing and recommending a delivery and investment Framework, to implement the Productivity Strategy and demonstrating our capacity to deliver. This will complement the LEP's Strategic Investment Panel which oversees the LEP's investments;
- Investigating ways to complement existing work to draw out opportunities to attract infrastructure investment in line with the Productivity Strategy aims, building our track record for ambitious and compelling propositions;

- Investigating ways to complement existing work on improving the delivery of skills in line with the Productivity Strategy aims
- Investigating ways to complement existing work on strengthening leadership & knowledge within the area's SMEs in line with the Productivity Strategy aims;

Any Joint Committee expenditure on the joint work programme will be subject to approval by the Administering Authority.