**WECA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT TO:**
**WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 24th October 2017**

This update report provides members of the West of England Joint Committee with the views of the West of England Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to agenda item 9 (West of England Joint Spatial Plan)

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The views of WECA Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) are:

WECA O&S commended officers for the work, time and effort that has gone into developing the West of England Joint Spatial Plan. WECA O&S was pleased that comments previously made relating to place making had been considered as part of the published Plan. WECA O&S called for the quick and appropriate adoption of the Plan, but with regard to the following points:

- **Climate change** should be strengthened as an integral part of the Plan. This should include how it will ensure long term resilience and climate change mitigation action; action on air pollution should be an important part of this and must be considered as an integral part of any planned development.

- **Plans for transport** should consider:
  - the use of Park and Rides as genuine transport hubs linking multiple modes of transport e.g. bus and rail for example a query was raised as to why First Bus were to be allowed access to the Long Ashton Park and Ride, which limited its use as a nodal transport hub
  - orbital routes, and not just radial
  - rail infrastructure for example Henbury Loop
  - future transport modes including electric cars / autonomous vehicles

- **Approach to Greenbelt development** should be appropriate and sound. Greenbelt land should only be utilised in exceptional circumstances and after appropriate local consultation.

- **Greater clarity requested on the definition of ‘affordable housing’**; this should include truly affordable housing for the regions key workers. The Plan should also consider the housing needs of older people and students.

- **Development of the Joint Local Transport Plan** should run in parallel and support the delivery of the Joint Spatial Plan

- **Digital connectivity** should be integral to the Plan
• The Plan should plan for and enable future technological change e.g. driverless cars

• A step change will be required across the region to ensure the deliverability of the Plan. WECA will need to maximise all possible funding pots, including new Government initiatives

• O&S considered it important that all public consultation on the Plan from this point was noted carefully and where appropriate changes were made to the Plan to reflect public views.

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Background Papers: None