

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)

Agenda item 9 West of England Joint Spatial Plan

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