

# Heart of the South West Joint Committee (all meetings currently suspended due to Coronavirus) Friday 26 June 2020 12.00 pm Microsoft Teams Online Meeting



To: The Members of the Heart of the South West Joint Committee (all meetings currently suspended due to Coronavirus)

Issued By Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk – 18 June 2020.

For further information about the meeting, please contact Scott Wooldridge, Democratic Services, Somerset County Council or 01823 357628

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on [www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)



**RNID typetalk**

# AGENDA

Item Heart of the South West Joint Committee (all meetings currently suspended due to Coronavirus) - 12.00 pm Friday 26 June 2020

## Guidance Notes

1 **Apologies of Absence**

To be reported and recorded by the Monitoring Officer.

2 **Appointment of Chair of the Joint Committee**

Monitoring Officer to oversee election of a Chair for the municipal year.

3 **Appointment of Vice Chair of the Joint Committee**

Monitoring Officer to oversee appointment of a Vice-Chair for the municipal year.

4 **Declarations of Interest**

Chair to ask for any declarations of interests.

5 **Minutes of Previous HotSW Joint Committee held on 31st January 2020**  
(Pages 5 - 12)

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 as a correct record.

6 **Public Questions**

The Chair will allow members of the public to present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. Questions or statements about any matter on the agenda for this meeting will be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

7 **HotSW Pipeline submission to the Secretary of State for MHCLG**

David Ralph, HotSW LEP Chief Executive to provide an update the Committee.

8 **Draft HotSW Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan "Building Back Better"**  
(Pages 13 - 30)

To consider the Recovery Plan.

9 **Date of next meeting**

To note that the next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

10 **Any Other Business**

## **Guidance notes for the meeting**

### **1. Inspection of Papers**

Any person wishing to inspect Minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the Agenda should contact Carol James on either Tel: 01823 356859 or email

[CDJames@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:CDJames@somerset.gov.uk)

They can also be accessed via the Somerset County council's website on

[www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)

### **2. Public Question Time**

If you wish to speak, please contact Carol James - by 3 clear working days before the meeting.

At the Chair's invitation you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Committee's agenda – providing you have given the required notice. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been signed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the Agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chair. You may not take direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish.

If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to allow views to be expressed more freely. If an item on the Agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

An issue will not be deferred just because you cannot be present for the meeting. Remember that the amount of time you speak will normally be limited to two minutes.

### **3. Exclusion of Press & Public**

If when considering an item on the Agenda, the Committee may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act.

### **4. Recording of meetings.**

The Committee supports the principles of openness and transparency. It allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public - providing this is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings and a designated area will be provided for anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings. No filming or recording may take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film

or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the Committee Administrator so that the relevant Chairman can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Heart of the South West (HotSW) Joint Committee held at County Hall, Exeter at 10.00am on Friday 31 January 2020.**

**Attendance**

**Members:**

Cllr John Hart	Leader - Devon County Council
Cllr David Fothergill	Leader - Somerset County Council (Chair)
Cllr Tudor Evans	Leader - Plymouth City Council
Cllr Steve Darling	Leader - Torbay Council
Cllr Ben Ingham	Leader - East Devon District Council
Cllr Philip Bialyk	Leader - Exeter City Council
Cllr David Worden	Leader - North Devon District Council
Cllr Malcolm Prowse	Deputy Leader - North Devon District Council
Cllr Judy Pearce	Leader - South Hams District Council
Cllr Gordon Hook	Leader - Teignbridge District Council
Cllr Alistair Dewhirst	Deputy Leader - Teignbridge District Council
Cllr Ken James	Leader - Torridge District Council
Cllr Claire Hodson	Deputy Leader - Torridge District Council
Cllr Neil Jory	Leader - West Devon Borough Council
Cllr Ros Wyke	Leader - Mendip District Council
Cllr Gill Slocombe	Deputy Leader - Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Frederica Smith - Roberts	Leader - Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Benet Allen	Deputy Leader - Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Val Keitch	Leader - South Somerset District Council
Andrew Cooper	Dartmoor National Park Authority
Cllr Andrea Davis	Deputy Chairman - Exmoor National Park Authority
Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking	Devon/Somerset Associations of Local Councils

**Officers/Local Enterprise Partnership etc:**

Phil Norrey	Chief Executive - Devon County Council
Peter Doyle	Head of External Affairs - Devon County Council
Sue Rose	Policy Lead - Devon County Council
Scott Wooldridge	Strategic Manager, Governance and Democratic Services - Somerset County Council
Michele Cusack	Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure and Climate Change Lead, Somerset County Council
Paula Hewitt	Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner

	for Economic and Community Infrastructure and Somerset County Council
Peter Stiles	Clerk to the Joint Committee - Somerset County Council
Tracey Lee	Chief Executive - Plymouth City Council and Senior Responsible Officer, Heart of the South West Partnership
Alison Ward	Regional Portfolio Manager - Plymouth City Council
Steve Parrock	Chief Executive - Torbay Council
Mark Williams	Chief Executive - East Devon District Council
Karime Hassan	Chief Executive - Exeter City Council
Stephen Walford	Chief Executive - Mid Devon District Council
Ken Miles	Chief Executive - North Devon Council
Sophie Hosking	Chief Executive - South Hams and West Devon Councils
Steve Mullineaux	Deputy Chief Executive - South Hams and West Devon Councils
Phil Shears	Chief Executive - Teignbridge District Council
Jennie Wallace	Chief Executive - Torridge District Council
Doug Bamsey	Corporate Director - Sedgemoor District Council
James Hassett	Chief Executive - Somerset West and Taunton Council
Alex Parmley	Chief Executive - South Somerset District Council
Karl Tucker	Chair - Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
David Ralph	Chief Executive - Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
Philip Clifford	Senior Adviser on Growth, Local Government Association

## **1. Declarations of Interest**

1.01 Details of councillors' appointments to local authorities were displayed in the meeting room and therefore there was no need to verbally declare these as personal interests. There were no other declarations of interest.

## **2. Minutes**

2.01 The Minutes of the Joint Committee meeting held on 27 September 2019 were confirmed and signed as correct.

## **3. Public Question Time**

3.01 There were no public questions.

#### **4. Chair's Update**

4.01 The Chair, Cllr David Fothergill, reported on developments since the last (informal) Joint Committee meeting in November 2019, referring to:

- the General Election and Queen's Speech with the Government setting out its intentions for a Devolution White Paper - we had submitted our letter to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State setting out our key asks and priorities for the Heart of the South West and continued to press for an early meeting
- the national profile of the Joint Committee continuing to grow, and
- ongoing engagement with Government officials and new MPs - the Joint Committee would be asked later in the meeting to consider proposals to take forward conversations with Government to develop a Devolution Deal that delivered our asks and would also receive an update on Brexit
- we were awaiting the impending Cabinet reshuffle to press for Devolution meetings and again for the meeting requested with the Housing Minister
- the continuing work with Government and the Local Enterprise Partnership on the Local Industrial Strategy
- preparing for devolution opportunities in 2020 now being essential and, with the morning's Devolution Workshop led by Philip Clifford from the Local Government Association, this was the main focus of today's meeting, Cllr Fothergill encouraged members to be engaged so that they got the very best out of the day, as it was important that we continued to press and be ready to take the opportunities presented.

#### **5. Heart of the South West Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)**

5.01 Tracey Lee, Chief Executive, Plymouth City Council and Senior Responsible Officer, reported that the Local Industrial Strategy had been finalised and submitted to Government, but was still awaiting formal Government approval. However, it was understood that this was likely to be forthcoming soon. The Strategy would be published when it had been 'signed off'.

5.02 David Ralph, Chief Executive, Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, reported that the final draft differed little from that recently circulated (cosmetic changes only), but was available on request to Joint Committee members/officers.

#### **6. Devolution - Next Steps**

6.01 The Joint Committee considered a report by Tracey Lee drawing attention to:

- the submission of a letter and brochure to the Prime Minister (and Heart of the South West MPs) after the Election setting out HotSW's priorities in a 'Programme for Action' based on commitments in the draft Local Industrial Strategy, the Productivity Strategy, the Housing Task Force work and other areas which collectively formed its key asks and messages to the new Government
- the new Government's commitment to devolution set out in the Queen's Speech in December 2019 as a mechanism for giving more power to local areas to strengthen local decision-making; for levelling up powers across the country and addressing regional disparities; and as crucial building blocks within the larger economic Powerhouse structures
- the need to develop a response to the emerging Government policy direction on devolution to ensure that the South West was not left behind
- several proposed actions for taking forward devolution in the South West region, including re-engagement with Government on devolution and further exploring the option of creating a Combined Authority.

6.02 During an informal, 'workshop' session before the formal meeting, the Joint Committee had received a presentation from Philip Clifford of the Local Government Association giving an update on Government devolution policy, which covered 'Purpose, process and devolved powers 2014 - 16', 'Brexit, policy hiatus and a new context 2017 - 19', opportunities and challenges for local authorities, LGA activity and the future.

6.03 The following feedback emerged from Joint Committee members, in terms of their responses to two questions put to them following the presentation:

*'What are your biggest hopes for, and concerns about, the Government's devolution agenda?'*

*'What specific aspects would you like to see covered in the report (on the Business Case for a Combined Authority)?'*

Members felt that there was a need for the following:

- devolution to be 'genuine' - scope: a clear, comprehensive deal with wide-ranging powers, rights and responsibilities matched by proper levels of funding to enable delivery of post-Brexit agenda ('taking back control from central Government')
- a stable political and financial local government platform - 'local' taxation for 'local' use (NB. LGA are reviewing local government funding)



- focus on delivery of: environmental objectives/climate change; health and social care; flooding and coastal erosion; housing; tourism; agriculture; fisheries; skills training (NB. Conflicts - 'strategic v parochial; increased centralism of powers for National Parks)
- to tackle inequality both between regions, and within the South West
- recognition of diversity (urban, rural, coastal etc) and that 'one size doesn't fit all'
- a clear role for regional MPs - collective support on basis of clear evidence
- any Combined Authority to reflect the differences between constituent authority areas.

6.04 During discussion of her report, Tracey Lee, supported by the Chair, confirmed that there would be a thorough examination of all the issues involved before any firm proposals for a Combined Authority were developed.

6.05 The Joint Committee **RESOLVED**

(a) to endorse the 'Programme for Action' set out in the proposition for the Heart of the South West brochure that was sent to the Prime Minister in December 2019;

(b) to re-engage with the Government and work with civil servants and others to help shape and inform future policy around devolution, including exploring alternative governance models for large, non-metropolitan areas like the HotSW;

(c) that HotSW officers should develop a Business Case exploring the potential benefits, risks and costs of moving to a Combined Authority, and taking into account the feedback from discussions during the Devolution Workshop set out above, and that this be brought back for consideration at a future meeting.

## **7. Climate Emergency Update**

7.01 The Joint Committee received presentations from Sue Rose, Devon County Council (on behalf of Phil Norrey, Chief Executive) and Michele Cusack, Somerset County Council on the progress being made in both counties on developing Climate Emergency Strategies. The Strategies identified ways in which, in each county, the local authorities and others could work together towards becoming carbon neutral and adapting to predicted climate change impact; they also covered evidence gathering and public consultation processes.

7.02 Discussion points - to which the officers responded - included the need to:

- recognise the holistic nature of the emergency affecting the world's natural environment ie. the threat to eco-systems (through single use plastics in the oceans etc) as well as that specifically from climate change
- invest significantly more in coastal defence in response to rising sea levels

- improve the South West rail network and thereby reduce road use and fossil fuel consumption, and for urgent electrification of the network and a joined-up approach to transport
- look into boosting tourism regionally through climate change initiatives.

## **8. Future of the Brexit Resilience and Opportunities Group (BROG)**

8.01 The Joint Committee considered a report presented by Sue Rose giving an update on the work of the Brexit Resilience and Opportunities Group (BROG) and making recommendations on its future role.

8.02 BROG was formed by the Joint Committee following the EU Referendum to provide a strategic overview of impact and opportunity in the period leading to exiting the EU. The group, which was chaired by Phil Norrey, had a wide membership drawn from senior officers, business and community groups and civil servants and had provided a useful conduit to Government.

8.03 At its meeting in November 2018, the Joint Committee authorised BROG to move from its strategic function to an operational role, to provide direct communication with Government on the issues and impacts across Devon and Somerset in the run-up to three potential No Deal milestones.

8.04 With the Government having formally stood down all preparations for a No Deal EU Exit (Operation Yellowhammer) and the passage of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill, the UK would leave the European Union on 31 January 2020 and move into a transition/implementation period ending on 31 December 2020.

8.05 The Government had found local intelligence useful in helping with the formulation and delivery of EU Exit policy and was keen to retain these links as it developed its future economic policy. Working through the regional chief executives and the Local Government Association, Government departments were liaising with local councils, Local Enterprise Partnerships and business organisations to access this local, real-time economic intelligence. This process was already well-developed in the North and the Midlands. The Government had recognised that it was a false distinction to try and identify only those economic impacts that could be attributed to exit from the EU and was keen to understand how local economies were performing irrespective of cause.

8.06 In the circumstances, it was proposed that BROG should revert to its original strategic function providing evidence to inform forthcoming legislation and consultations on the economic future of the Heart of the South West such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

8.07 Discussion points included: the group's role and the need for its work to benefit the South West and local communities as well as Government. It was noted that the group would continue to report to the Leaders/Joint Committee.

8.08 The Joint Committee **RESOLVED**

(a) to approve the Group returning to a strategic role, providing evidence to Whitehall on the HotSW perspective for rebalancing the UK economy

(b) to approve the change of the name of the group from the Brexit Resilience and Opportunities Group (BROG) to Heart of the South West Economic Resilience and Opportunities Group (HEROG) to reflect this wider role.

## **9. Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership Update**

9.01 David Ralph referred to matters including:

- the formal publication of the Great South West prospectus and its submission to Government
- the launch of Maritime UK South West which was designed to build stronger links between the South West marine and maritime sector and the Government
- the establishment of Town Deal Boards for Torquay, Bridgwater and Glastonbury to help develop investment plans and funding bids under the Government's Town Deal initiative
- the forthcoming annual performance assessment of the contribution of LEP activity to wider economic growth across the area
- being on target to deliver Growth Deal projects within the timeframe set by Government
- a major funding bid to Government for digital implementation
- the establishment and valuable contribution of the LEP's Skills Advisory Boards
- dialogue with Government about European Structural and Investment Funds and what would replace them now that the UK had left the EU
- Karl Tucker having now taken over as Chair of HotSW LEP
- business support related activities - notably in relation to Flybe and the welcome outcome
- progress on Productivity Strategy delivery.

## **10. Forward Plan and SRO Update**

10.1 Tracey Lee reported on work in progress and the Joint Committee's forward plan which included: 'deep dive' on the Productivity Plan; delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy; updates on Peninsula Transport and Great South West; 'fit' of HotSW plans/strategies; Inclusive Growth; 'public affairs' work (engagement).

## **11. Chair's Closing Remarks**

11.01 The Chair concluded the meeting by saying that the Joint Committee was continuing to make a difference and our focus for 2020 was securing Government support towards working with us to deliver our priorities. He thanked everyone for their contributions during the meeting which helped to maintain the momentum. The next Joint Committee meeting would be held at County Hall, Exeter on Friday 27 March 2020 (noon).

(The meeting ended at 12.53pm)

Chair

# Covid-19

## Route Map to Recovery

## Heart of the South West has:

- 7 of the 25 local authority areas in England and Wales with the most jobs at risk (source: RSA)
- 8 local authority areas expected to experience a loss in output greater than the national average of 35% (source: Centre for Progressive Policy).

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Whilst the overall number of cases in Heart of the South West is one of the lowest in the country, the economic impact is amongst the most severe of all places. Evidence indicates that the immediate impact is expected to be around a 35% loss of output, but focused disproportionately on coastal and rural areas where there is a greater reliance on the hardest hit sectors.

The mix of businesses in our area mean that the impact is expected to be deeper and longer here, with catastrophic consequences for jobs and livelihoods. For example, the tourism sector estimates that without a summer season £1.6bn will be lost to the local economy whilst many manufacturing and engineering SMEs are part of hard-hit aerospace supply chains reaching out from Bristol and Yeovil.

With an economy the size of Birmingham or Liverpool (£35bn), there is a strong and urgent case for a nationally funded recovery package.

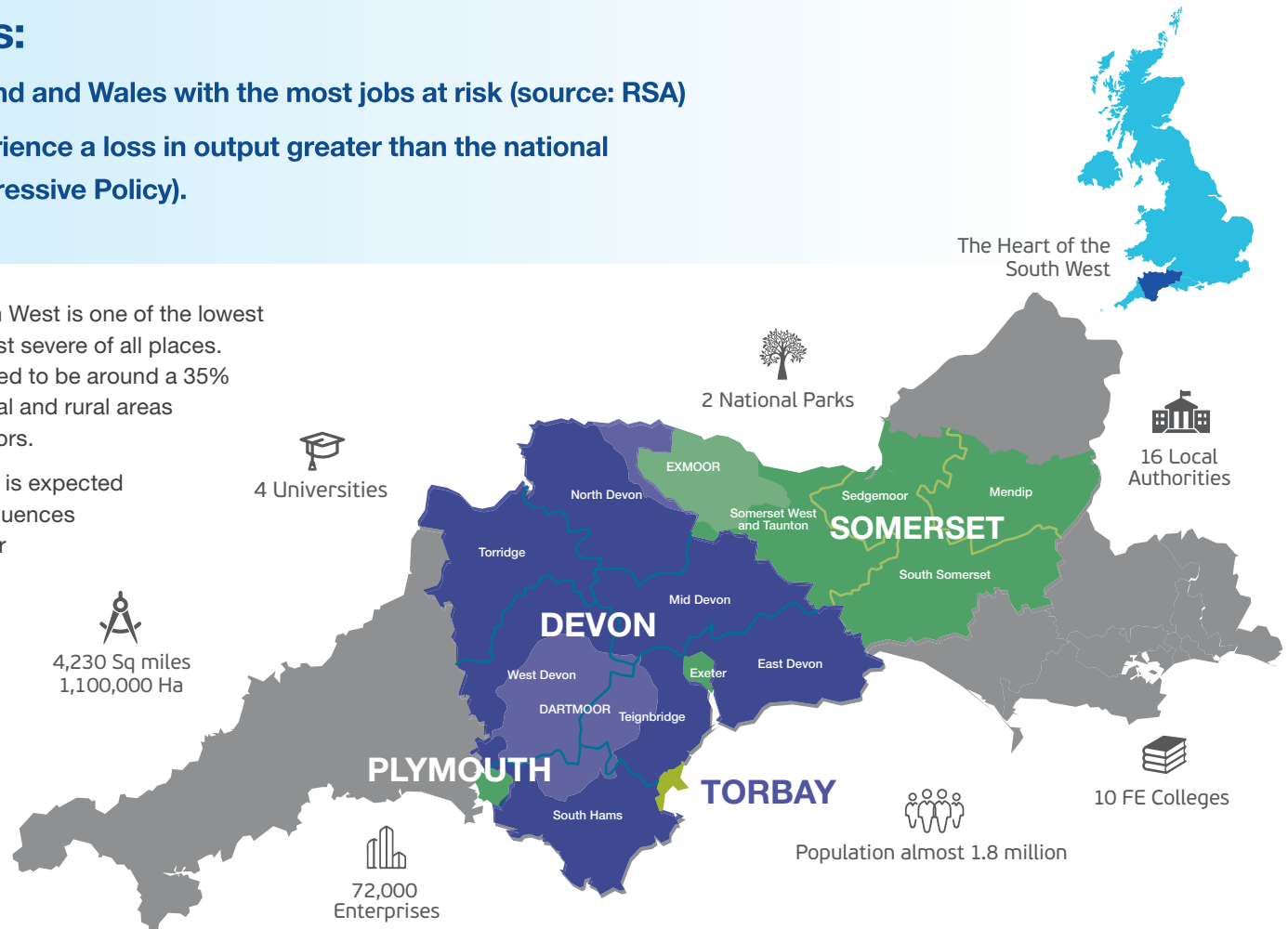


Figure 1: The Heart of the SW geography and key features

**£35 BILLION ECONOMY**  
as big as Birmingham or Liverpool

### Three phases to recovery - Restart, Revitalise and Grow...

...but the boundaries between the phases may not be clear and progress may not be linear. As we are moving out of lockdown, the purpose of the plan will be to enable us to Restart, Revitalise and Grow the Heart of the SW economy within the context of:

- Responding directly to the economic impact of the Covid-19 situation;
- Getting people back into employment and creating new good/high value employment opportunities;
- Stimulating innovation and R&D opportunities; and,

- Securing the right sort of recovery recognising the objectives, priorities and aspirations contained within our Productivity Plan – ‘Stepping Up to the Challenge’, the South West Rural Productivity Commission Report, and the as yet unpublished Local Industrial Strategy with a focus on Clean and Inclusive Growth.

Given the rapidly changing nature of the situation, this route-map will be a live document and updated on a quarterly basis for the foreseeable future. As part of that process we will also ensure that it aligns with emerging national and local recovery plans, including cross-LEP.

Figure 2: The Phases of Recovery



## Issues and Priorities – From Evidence to Actions

The Heart of the SW has a number of underlying structural weaknesses and fragilities that contribute to its relatively low levels of productivity and these are being exposed by the Covid-19 crisis. The emerging evidence (which is continually being updated) points to four particular issues as follows:

### ▶ CHALLENGE 1: Rural and coastal areas, which are more dependent on tourism and retail, will be hardest hit

Economic performance varies significantly across the Heart of the SW and the crisis has the potential to deepen the divide between the best and worst performing areas. Rural areas and coastal towns where the economy is largely geared towards hospitality and retail will be most at risk of high job losses. Similarly high streets and town centres face an existential challenge, which will require a rapid transformation. Renewal will require a reimagining of the role and function of our urban area as well as investment.

**Our Priority: Deliver investment to the hardest hit places**

### ▶ CHALLENGE 2: The negative impact on some sectors will be profound

Whilst activities in some sectors such as Human Health and Social (i.e. caring) have grown as a result of increased demand, the negative impact on others is profound. Nationally, research shows that the most affected sectors where businesses have either temporarily closed or paused trading; or have a substantially lower turnover than normal are Accommodation and Food Service (98%); Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (95%); Construction (79%); and, Wholesale & Retail Trade, Repair of Vehicles (77%).

Locally, the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector, with its links to farming, food and fishing and the creative and cultural sectors should not be underestimated. It is estimated that we have already lost 20% of annual visitor spend up to the end of May, but by the end of July this jumps to 42%. If the summer season is lost altogether, the area will lose £1.6bn in revenue and 70% of tourism businesses believe they will close – reflecting the 3 winters effect.

**Our Priority: Deliver investment to the hardest hit sectors**

### ▶ CHALLENGE 3: A high proportion of jobs are at risk, particularly affecting young people

A high proportion of jobs are at risk in the Heart of the SW (including apprentices) due to the sectoral make-up of the area. Younger workers are at particular risk with 16 to 19 year-olds nearly twice as likely to be furloughed as middle-aged workers. Getting people back into employment and creating new good/high value employment opportunities will be essential to the area's recovery. However there has historically been a disconnect between the supply and demand for labour and the expected redundancy pattern is expected to exacerbate this. At the same time, provision of careers, education and guidance services are currently at risk and there is mounting financial pressure on universities, colleges and other providers as a result of the pandemic.

**Our Priority: Deliver investment to nurture, develop and retain talent in the area**

### ▶ CHALLENGE 4: Targeted support is needed to build back better

Prior to Covid-19 new jobs and investment were being drawn into the economy on the back of a range of unique sectoral strengths, aligned with the LEP's commitment to grow the economy by becoming a test-bed for new and emerging technologies that offer opportunities for clean and inclusive growth. These include high tech engineering, energy, digital and data sectors which remain crucial for our recovery. However, they have been affected in different ways and to varying extents by the crisis. These sectors require targeted support to mitigate the immediate impacts of the crisis as well as creating the infrastructure and conditions for innovation and R&D to support and our vision of transformational clean and inclusive growth.

**Our Priority: Deliver investment to help us build a better future**



## Vision

The pace of the recovery will be uncertain. It is likely to stop and start and differ by area and sector. Whilst it is impossible to predict the future with any certainty, many commentators suggest that a rapid acceleration of pre-Covid trends seems highly likely.

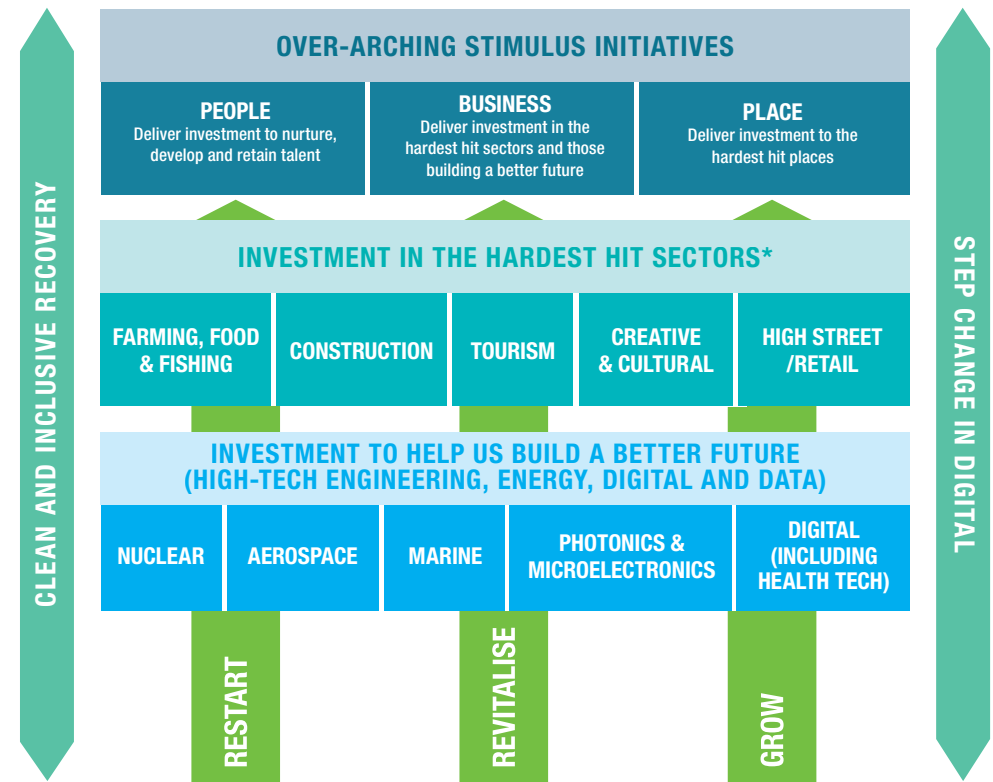
Trends such as digitisation, automation and remote working have all been fast-forwarded and investment in high streets and office premises may continue to decline and at a faster pace than before. Equally, other trends will transpire in the coming months and years. There is increasing momentum around using the global impact of Covid to make a step change to clean energy and Heart of the SW has strategically important assets which mean the area is exceptionally well-placed to capitalise on this.

Even with a high element of uncertainty, a vision for the future of the Heart of the SW starts to emerge, one which helps people and businesses to adapt and grow in the 'new normal'. Broadly this means:

-  **A step change in digital infrastructure, digital usage and digital skills across the area, supporting sectors, businesses and people to make the transition**
-  **Clean and inclusive growth and the long-term areas of comparative advantage (high tech engineering, energy, digital and data) being the basis for developing prosperity and resilience for the Heart of the SW. This will enable places and people to benefit from a new kind of growth, with inclusive recovery being a central tenet of our approach**
-  **Implementing short term measures to revive sectors which are very hard hit whilst also enabling those sectors to move into the future**

The LEP will be working with partners to develop and refine this vision in the coming weeks as recovery planning accelerates, but crucially investments targeted at the 'grow' phase of recovery will be strongly aligned with achieving this vision. The approach to our recovery is illustrated below.

Figure 3: Approach to recovery



\*The list of hardest hit sectors may change as more evidence becomes available

## Working in Partnership with Government to Unlock Recovery

Our locally led response, based on the evidence and partner commitments, will ensure the most efficient and fiscally responsible recovery for the Heart of the SW.

We ask that Government supports our approach by:

### 1. Unlocking existing funds to support immediate investment into our area - as a series of 'quick wins' this includes:

- Approving the pipeline Strength in Places bids
- Contracting the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund projects at the second stage of application
- Implementing sector deals by
  - announcing a tourism zone for the area as per the sector deal to improve productivity through broadening the season, real-time data and skills and training to improve resilience
  - finalising the £10m supply chain support for the nuclear sector.

### 2. Committing to the delivery of nationally significant infrastructure – including digital infrastructure as well as road and rail (such as the A303, the sea wall at Dawlish and increasing the capacity of the grid) which will support key industries such as construction whilst enabling us to have the right infrastructure for our recovery.

### 3. Facilitating a local Covid-19 Recovery Fund – to support all three stages of recovery. A locally managed capital and revenue Fund will drive recovery in key opportunities.

### 4. Aligning national skills funding and activity with local priorities – allowing freedom and flexibilities in funding streams such as the Adult Education Budget and National Retraining Scheme to enable us to deliver effective local responses.

### 5. Greater furlough flexibilities for hardest hit sectors – recognising that some sectors are likely to be hit deeper and for longer.

### 6. Working to secure a SW Rural Productivity Plan and Coastal Communities Plan – recognising that those areas have a higher concentration of hardest hit sectors and need specific actions.

### 7. Publication of the area's Local Industrial Strategy – built on a substantial evidence base and with strong local support, the Strategy sets out the local and national work needed to deliver clean and inclusive growth for the area.

### 8. Recognising the Great South West – a partnership with Government outlined in the Great South West prospectus created by the Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly, Dorset and Heart of the SW LEPs.

## Next Steps and Milestones

Our next steps are to:

- Use evidence effectively – including commissioned studies such as the SW Economic Impact Assessment and embedding data-driven decision making. DATE: ON-GOING
- Develop our investment pipeline – including both capital and revenue projects aligned with the priorities above to support recovery and growth. DATE: END OF JUNE
- Respond to challenges – using the LEP area's task force to review each challenge and ensure that we have a coherent local response. DATE: END OF JULY
- Consolidate local strategies - bringing together the Heart of the South West's Productivity Plan, Rural Productivity work, Local Industrial Strategy and Covid-19 response into a single, overarching delivery plan with clear outcomes to guide our actions for the next 3 years. DATE: END OF SEPTEMBER