

## Building Back Better

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1. In January, the Joint Committee considered the draft Build Back Better document. Since then the narrative has been re-worked to more tightly focus on the transformational opportunities in the area. These relate to the structural challenges and opportunities identified in the Local Industrial Strategy and which in many cases the pandemic has exaggerated.
- 1.2. Whilst the Budget announced several new funding streams such as the Levelling-Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund, details on others, such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, are still to be confirmed and given the severity of the pandemic there may be other opportunities for the area which are yet to emerge. The Budget also saw publication of Government's own Build Back Better plan which focusses on infrastructure, skills, innovation, levelling up, net zero and Global Britain.
- 1.3. With this context Heart of the SW Build Back Better offers a compelling proposition for the area and a way to open a discussion with Government on how this part of the UK can play its part.
- 1.4. In developing the revised draft, detailed comments from partners have also been logged and fed in and these are also attached.

### 2. Recommendations

#### 2.1. It is recommended that:

- a) **The Joint Committee endorses the publication of the Build Back Better plan as a tool to open a conversation with Government on the transformational opportunities in the area**
- b) **Noting that the plan is still draft, that the Joint Committee delegate final sign off to the Chair**

### 3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 The HotSW Build Back Better proposition sets out the transformational opportunities in the area and enables a discussion to be opened with

Government on how this area can play its part.

#### **4. Background**

**4.1** As set out above

**4.2** Some parts of the document require finalising, for example at the time of writing a photonics workshop is being held with businesses which will shape the final content of the photonics programme. It is therefore recommended that final Joint Committee sign-off of Build Back Better is delegated to the Chair.

#### **5. Equalities Implications**

**5.1** The HotSW Scrutiny Committee recommended an equalities impact assessment be carried out and this is being done for the final version

#### **6. Other Implications**

**6.1** Legal:  
None

**6.2** Financial:  
There are no immediate financial implications. Programmes within Build Back Better require a mix of funding that would be determined as and when it becomes available.

**6.3** HR  
None

**6.4** Risk  
The key risk is that delivery fails to materialise as quickly as hoped due to a lack of Government support for the area's priorities.

**6.5** Other Implications: Health and Well-being; Health and Safety; Sustainability; Community Safety; Privacy  
No implications.

#### **7. Background papers: none**