

## **Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel LSP Wealthy Theme Group update**

13 September 2010

### **Changes to the Wealthy Theme Group**

Since the appointment of a new Co-ordinator (David Draffan) and a new Chair (Douglas Fletcher from Plymouth Chamber of Commerce and Industry) the WTG has undergone a number of changes to ensure that it is fit for purpose.

The overarching focus for the WTG is the delivery of the Local Economic Strategy which includes an action plan. This document also provides the cornerstone for the work of Plymouth City Councils' Economic Development unit, thereby linking the work of the Economic Development unit in to the WTG and providing the background support.

Emphasis on the delivery of the LES and the changes to the WTG, agreed in consultation with the members of the Group, are now embodied within the Group's Terms of Reference and are outlined below:

### Membership

The membership of the group has become more private sector focused. The WTG will now operate with 12 members (eight private sector members, including the Chair and representatives from regional and local government, the third sector and education (to link in with the Wise Theme Group). Officers from relevant LSP partner organisations will be asked to input into the discussions as required.

The new membership of the Wealthy Theme Group now includes the following people:

- Douglas Fletcher (PCCI) – Chair
- Graham Stirling (ESB/Bardon Corporation)
- Julian Beer (University of Plymouth)
- Nigel Halford (Tamar Science Park)
- Dawn Bebe (Cultural Board Member)
- Roger Pipe (Millfields)
- Paul Glossop (GOSW)
- Cllr. Ted Fry (PCC)
- Richard Thomas (FSB)
- Viv Gillespie (City College)

### Meeting format

Meetings will be held five times a year with each meeting dealing with one of the five LES themes (outlined in Appendix 1). In order to facilitate this the Economic Development unit will co-ordinate the production of background papers circulated prior to the meetings. These will be prepared with representatives from the partner organisations relevant to that theme (e.g. the Skills theme meeting will require reports incorporating the HE/FE institutes, businesses, ESB as well as Council services such as Education etc.). These reports will then be presented to the WTG members at the meeting to facilitate discussion on the pertinent issues.

Each meeting will seek to ensure that the LES Action Plan themes are still correct, amend them and add new ones as necessary. This ensures that the LES Action Plan is being achieved and moved forward and that the right organisations input into and take ownership for delivery of the actions that will lead to the successful delivery of the LES. This will also provide a useful rolling update of the LES Action Plan.

At subsequent meetings actions from previous WTG meetings can be discussed to ensure that work is progressing.

For each of the meetings a brief outline has been created of the issues that could be discussed at them, including an extract from the LES on what the Action Plan contains, as well as identification of the organisations that need to be involved. One for each theme is currently being developed so that work can progress with partners well in advance of the meetings.

### **Forthcoming meetings**

There will be five meetings of the WTG per year. Each will consider one of the five LES themes. The currently proposed dates and themes are:

20 September 2010	Induction
11 October 2010	Leadership
13 December 2010	Centres TBC
28 February 2011	Skills TBC
23 May 2011	Business TBC
18 July 2011	Participation TBC

The order of the themes has been proposed on the basis of work that is taking place around that time which may tie in with the theme.

The group will have its first meeting on 20 September where the members will be introduced to one another and the overview of the workings of the group given. The first formal meeting using the new working arrangements will be held on 11 October 2010. This will discuss the leadership issues affecting Plymouth.

As the City Development Company will soon cease, this first meeting of the WTG will deal with issues such as the emerging Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) (proposals on how sub-regions can work together in the absence of the Regional Development Agencies) and how this has developed. The closing date for submissions of LEP proposals is the 6 September. Related to this, a consultation on the Regional Growth Fund (a fund being established to aid Local Authority areas with high public sector employment which may suffer in forthcoming budget cuts) also closes on 6 September. Responses to both of these consultations are being compiled by officers.

As well as these areas of activity, the first WTG will examine progress in relation to the establishment of Destination Plymouth and appointment of the new Waterfront Manager, as well as how the business community expects further progress on city marketing, work which was started by the City Development Company.

## **Minutes of previous WTG meetings**

Please find attached at Appendix 2 the minutes of the WTG meetings from 29 March 2010 and 24 May 2010. Minutes from the meeting on 26 July are yet to be agreed.

## **Next Steps**

As highlighted above, the first formal meeting of the WTG will take place on 13 October. This will inform how the group operates and be the first test of the new arrangements and membership. As such, future meetings will be amended accordingly to ensure that the group delivers.

A verbal update on the operation of the WTG will be provided at 18 October 2010 meeting to update Members further.

Jeffery Kenyon  
Economic Development Co-ordinator  
23 August 2010

## APPENDIX 1

### **Business Overview**

This theme seeks to increase gross value added by targeting and supporting 6 priority sectors Advanced Engineering; Business Services; Creative Industries; Marine Industries; Medical and Healthcare; Tourism and Leisure to create 42,000 additional jobs and therefore reduce the reliance of the economy on the public sector. The focus is to achieve a diverse and growing business base where a high proportion of employment is knowledge based. The strategy seeks to encourage enterprise and the creation of business clusters building on our strengths e.g the University, Derriford Hospital, Marine Science and the Dockyard.

### **Skills Overview**

To become more competitive Plymouth's sub regional economy must be supported by a dynamic and flexible labour market that can react and adapt to the changing demands of the economy. In particular it is vital that employers can recruit the skills they require to embrace the new knowledge based economy that Plymouth aspires towards. It is also vital that we seek to raise aspirations.

### **Centres Overview**

Plymouth needs to have well connected centres, high quality connectivity and good infrastructure assets to enable economic growth. This theme envisages the creation of a bi-polar economy, as suggested by David Mackay, comprising the regeneration of the City Centre (including Waterfront) and the development of a new district centre at Derriford. This will include developing a meaningful office accommodation offer, enhanced housing offer, and supporting employment sites linked to the priority sectors. The City will also need to ensure New Generation Access digital connectivity is a high priority along with investment Physical infrastructure such as the Eastern Corridor.

### **Partnership Overview**

In order for Plymouth to achieve sustainable economic growth as set out in the LES there needs to be an uplift in economic activity, economic inclusion, income levels and access for all communities. This involves raising the aspirations of deprived communities supporting enterprise, encouraging new business start ups and tackling issues of economic inactivity and Worklessness.

### **Leadership Overview**

The LES needs to be underpinned by a robust delivery and implementation plan. There are 2 distinct elements: Firstly a recognition of the likelihood of a funding gap and a strategy to attract investment from a wider variety of sources and secondly a coherent set of delivery vehicles managed and co-ordinated under the umbrella of the Wealthy Theme Group.