

Heart of the South West

Heart of the South West – one step closer to a devolution deal “A Prospectus for Productivity”

The 17 local authorities, two National Parks, Local Enterprise Partnership and the three Clinical Commissioning Groups across the Heart of the South West are moving towards the next stage in their proposals to secure a devolution deal. The focus, through joint working and pooled funding, is to deliver greater prosperity and wellbeing not only to those living across the Heart of the South West but to improve our contribution to the prosperity of the nation.

The partnership has a single, ambitious and compelling **vision for productivity-led growth for the Heart of the South West** delivered through a single productivity strategy and a single investment programme, focused on delivering **£4 billion productivity gain for the UK**.

The developing proposals will:

- Maximise the potential of **our people** – building on best practice to ensure they live healthier, more fulfilling lives and have the opportunity to gain the right skills to access higher value jobs; allowing them to grow careers and prosperity right here in the Heart of the South West.
- Ensure **our businesses** have the tools and support they need to create an additional 80,000 jobs.
- Ensure that our **communities** have a long term plan for sustainable growth supported by accelerated infrastructure projects and housing growth.

Partners have chosen productivity-led growth as the focus of our proposals because the Heart of the South West significantly lags behind the rest of the UK in terms of productivity and this gap grows each year. This means that our workers and their families earn substantially less than workers in other parts of the country and this is holding back our potential.

We want to change this and play our part in enabling the Heart of the South West to capitalise on all its assets and opportunities and become amongst the higher earning, higher skilled and healthier citizens in the UK.

We have identified key opportunities which we must capitalise on for the benefit of people and communities across our area. These include:

- Our Marine Environment.
- Investment in Nuclear.

- Environmental futures with the growth of high tech businesses.
- Aerospace and advance engineering.
- Health and Social Care, with some of the most innovative practice and developments for integration.
- Rural productivity.

The [attached presentation](#) sets out our developing 'asks and offers' around **our people, our businesses** and **our place** and provides an insight into the work being undertaken. A more detailed draft devolution bid is currently being developed for discussion with partners before the end of the year, with a programme of stakeholder engagement to follow.

A submission to Government is now expected in the New Year (2016).