



Devolution

for the Heart of the South West

A Prospectus for Productivity



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The Heart of the South West



Executive Summary

In September 2015 the Heart of the South West (HotSW) submitted its devolution Statement of Intent to Government. After considerable further work during autumn 2015, the partners - 17 local authorities, two National Parks, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the three Clinical Commissioning Groups - are now in a position to commence detailed negotiations with Government on a devolution deal.

Government has challenged local leadership teams to treat productivity as 'the challenge of our time'. They have asked us to do that by 'fixing the foundations' of infrastructure, skills, and science through a devolution revolution delivering long-term public and private investment.

Heart of the South West productivity continues to lag behind national productivity and is currently under 80% of the UK average. To redress this we need more, better jobs, a healthier, higher skilled labour market and new homes for our growing population.

With Government support for our proposition, by 2030 the Heart of the South West can accelerate delivery of 163,000 new jobs, 179,000 new homes and an economy of over £53bn GVA. To put this in context, this is more growth over the next fifteen years than Bristol, Birmingham and Nottingham (the three non-'Powerhouse' core cities) have delivered in the last fifteen.

To do this we will exploit and deliver our Golden Opportunities around investment in nuclear energy at Hinkley, across the peninsula in marine, aerospace, advanced manufacturing and environmental futures. We will connect our rural communities to these transformers and address the challenges of ageing and health-related worklessness with unprecedented

health and care integration.

We will take responsibility for fixing our foundations. We seek Government's support to do this through negotiation and delivery of a far reaching devolution deal for the Heart of the South West.

Our approach to delivering this transformation focuses on a comprehensive Productivity Plan:

- **For people:** we will build on Government's own national reconfiguration of the skills system to supply business with the skills it needs and a labour market able to deliver productivity per job and per hour at 'Greater South East' levels (outside Inner London). Our plans for health and care integration will support a significant proportion of our non-working population into work.
- **For business:** our Growth Hub will enable business growth and internationalisation following closure of the national Business Growth Service. We will augment this with specific policies and initiatives to realise national priorities implicit in our Golden Opportunities.
- **For place:** we will provide the infrastructure and housing required and make the Heart of the South West investment ready. We also recognise that much of our growth will occur in specific sub-regional economic geographies. We will plan and manage change in these sub-regions to ensure their connectivity with each other, with the rest of the country and globally. We will make sure that rural areas access and leverage these opportunities and build on Government's 10 point plan for rural productivity geographies.¹

¹ The Heart of the South West's economic transformational opportunities were identified and agreed in our Strategic Economic Plan, March 2014.

Cohesive, coherent leadership and governance of this transformation is crucial. We propose to establish a Combined Authority to provide leadership, supported by sub-regional delivery mechanisms so powers and resources are deployed on the scale at which our economy functions. These arrangements will develop new ways of working to address priority issues.

Our proposals build upon successful and strong business leadership through our Local Enterprise Partnership: we cannot deliver effective economic interventions without a strong business voice.

If we do not act, the Heart of the South West will not be able to contribute to the Government's ambition to meet the national productivity challenge as set out in Fixing the Foundations.

This document outlines our position and objectives. An early agreement on heads of terms for a devolution deal will trigger the start of our governance review and formulation of our Productivity Plan.



New housing development, Beechfield View, Torquay



Somerset Energy Innovation Centre

Our Vision and Goals

Government recognises that fixing the foundations and devolution are the projects of a generation. Our key challenges are:

- An insufficiently skilled workforce and limited pool of available labour: many young people move away to live and work, rather than stay or move into our area.
- A need for more infrastructure to support our existing businesses and workers and to attract new ones. We need better and more resilient infrastructure: roads, railways, broadband and housing.
- Enabling a more effective, far-reaching support environment for businesses to sustain those we already have and make the area more attractive to inward investment and home-grown entrepreneurs.
- Managing the significant and increasing cost of health and social care, which combined with our ageing population threatens the viability of public services unless radical reforms are completed.

Productivity-led growth in the Heart of the South West will have three dimensions:

- **People:** who are healthy, with the skills they need to access higher value jobs and grow their careers.
- **Business:** more businesses creating new jobs and increasing productivity.
- **Place:** sustainable growth across the geography, supported by modern infrastructure and accelerated housing delivery.

We signalled our intention to meet these challenges with our Statement of Intent. The submission of this more detailed proposition shows how serious our intent is. We believe the proposals we have committed to developing will realise our local ambitions and make decisive, important contributions to Government's national priorities.

With Government support for our proposals we will redress our productivity gap and help us manage demographic challenges more effectively. Key outcomes we will achieve by 2030 include:

- £4bn additional in GVA for the UK economy.
- 163,000 new jobs.
- Infrastructure that supports our ambitious plans.
- 179,000 more homes, and accelerated delivery in major growth points.
- Wage levels higher than the national average.
- Additional tax revenue for the Treasury of £113million per year.
- Apprenticeship starts increased by 400%.
- Every young person in education, employment or training.
- £1bn per year welfare benefits savings as more people enter employment.
- 60% of our workforce qualified to NVQ level 4 or above.
- Faster more reliable rail services with greater capacity.
- Faster and more reliable journey times on our road network, with less congestion.
- 100% superfast broadband coverage.

The Heart of the South West has a strong track record of delivering in partnership for residents and businesses:

- Securing and supporting major national and international investment in the future of the nuclear industry at Hinkley Point.
- Plymouth and South West Peninsula City Deal.
- A total of £195.5m secured through Growth Deals – including the highest Growth Deal 2 settlement of any LEP area in the country – to deliver a comprehensive programme of projects in pursuit of growth.
- Exeter University, Science Park, Innovation Centre and Innovation Zone.
- Connecting Devon and Somerset superfast broadband.
- Three Enterprise Zones: South Yard in Plymouth to support innovation and growth in marine industries, Huntspill Energy Park near Bridgwater to support the growth of a new nuclear cluster catalysed by investment in Hinkley and east of Exeter sites aligned to opportunities in environmental sciences and big data.
- Delivery of Plymouth Science Park by Plymouth City Council and Plymouth University, now entering phase 5, creating the largest science park in the south of England.
- Better, more reliable roads, including major improvements to A303, A358, A30 corridor, M5 Junctions and A361 North Devon Link.
- The Peninsula Rail Task Force.
- Connecting communities in rural areas.
- Exeter and East Devon Growth Point.
- A high quality and thriving Further Education Sector.
- Health and social care initiatives including Somerset Together Vanguard project, Exeter 'ICE', Torbay's Integrated Care Organisation and 'One System One Budget' in Plymouth.

We can scale up and build on these experiences. However, without the comprehensive framework that our governance proposals will deliver, the Heart of the South West and national Government will miss out on the solutions, linkages, and effectiveness that collective leadership can achieve.

A Heart of the South West devolution agreement with robust governance structures, accelerated delivery, and more focused use of scarce resources is the optimal way for Government to assure itself that the national Fixing the Foundations plan is being proactively and consistently led and delivered across the Heart of the South West.

In this prospectus we set out our goals for 2016-2030 and how we will deliver the long-term and evolutionary work required to achieve our devolution revolution.



FlyBe Academy

National Context

Government set out its long-term ambitions for the UK economy in 'Fixing the Foundations', its productivity plan for 2015-2020. This framework outlined how long-term investment and a dynamic economy could raise productivity and lift living standards. Government's invitation to areas to propose ways that devolution could contribute to this agenda led to our Statement of Intent being submitted on 4th September 2015.

With policy developments in the autumn, and the Spending Review, Government has firmed up the financial intentions behind the productivity plan. In terms of local contributions leadership teams need to deliver an extensive portfolio of reforms:

- In skills and employment, 2016-20 will see major reforms of the post-16 and adult skills systems (both of colleges and providers on the supply side, and of loans for learners on the demand side). Post-16 Area Reviews and introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy offer opportunities to transform the delivery of local labour market skills, however the demands of transition may be acute.
- Physical investment will need to be managed in the context of higher performance expectations for planning regimes, new approaches to housing supply (especially starter home ownership) and proactive asset management at a public estate as well as local authority level. Local leadership teams will also need to play into the revision of the National Infrastructure Plan with new commitments to flagship schemes like HS2 and nuclear energy.

- As the national Business Growth Service closes by March 2016, new pressures will be placed on emerging local Growth Hubs. For innovation, local and regional Science and Innovation Audits will seek to shape national priorities as Research Councils and Innovate UK come together in Research UK with a range of new products.
- These agendas, and others, need to be delivered without diverting attention from existing commitments. These include City Deals, local Growth Deals, the European Structural and Investment Fund programmes, and other legacy programmes, such as the Regional Growth Fund, Growing Places Fund, existing and newly announced Enterprise Zones.

These agendas sit alongside, and will be enabled by, devolution and fiscal reforms and managed in the context of continued public sector expenditure constraint.

The challenge for the Heart of the South West is to shape these national priorities to our unique circumstances. We have drawn on our Strategic Economic Plan to describe the causes of our productivity challenge, identify our key Golden Opportunities and understand how to build on our track record of success.



Hinkley Point C, Somerset

Local Context

The Heart of the South West covers most of the south west peninsula. Its 1.7 million residents live in a mixture of rural and urban settings served by a stunning natural environment and rich cultural heritage.

Most of our businesses are small and medium sized enterprises (SME) employing fewer than five people, providing excellent potential for growth and innovation. We are also home to cutting edge engineering and manufacturing industries including companies of global significance:

- Aerospace and advanced engineering industries employ more than 23,000 people and contribute over £1billion to the economy. Businesses in the area also have specialisms in advanced electronics/photonics, medical science and wireless and microwave technologies.
- Analysis of the comparative advantages of our local assets has identified that the Exeter City Region can make a unique contribution by becoming a globally recognised centre of excellence in weather and environment-related data analytics. Exeter is home to the Met Office, the city leads Europe in combined environmental science, data and computational infrastructure, hosting 400 researchers in environmental and sustainability science. From 2017, it will also host the most powerful supercomputer in Europe.
- The first of the UK's new generation of nuclear reactors being constructed at Hinkley Point will deliver substantial economic benefits across the south west. It is part of our growing low carbon and energy sector and offers £50billion worth of business opportunity in the nuclear sector within a 75-mile radius of Hinkley Point.
- We are a global centre of excellence for marine science and technology, including Plymouth University's Marine Institute and the Plymouth Marine Laboratory.
- There are 30 working fishing ports across the Heart of the South West, ranging from England's two largest fishery landings at Brixham and Plymouth to smaller traditional operations at locations such as Ilfracombe and Clovelly.
- The South West Marine Energy Park, the country's first, serves the wider south west peninsula, and offers direct access to superb physical assets and resources including the north Devon and north Somerset marine energy coasts for opportunities in wind, tidal and nuclear energy.

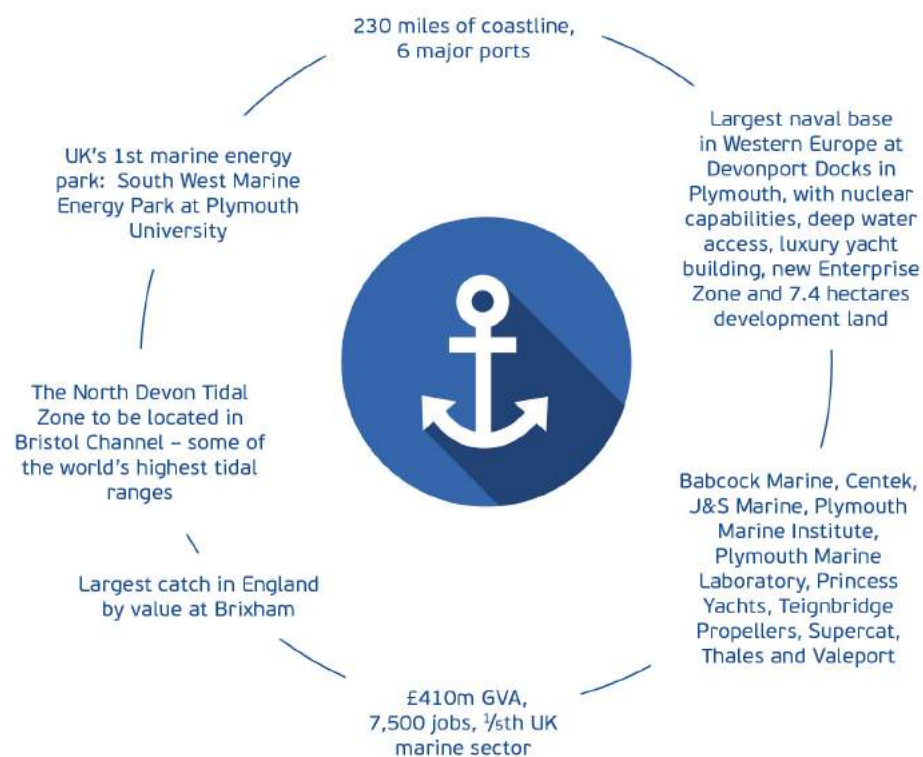
Our mixed economy also serves our traditional strengths. Our tourist and visitor economy attracts millions of visitors per year and our food and drink sector has a significant impact on national GVA (4.2% in 2011).

Whilst our largest employment sectors remain public administration, health and education, our Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan recognises our area as having 'New World' potential if opportunities can be capitalised upon and the right conditions for growth created.

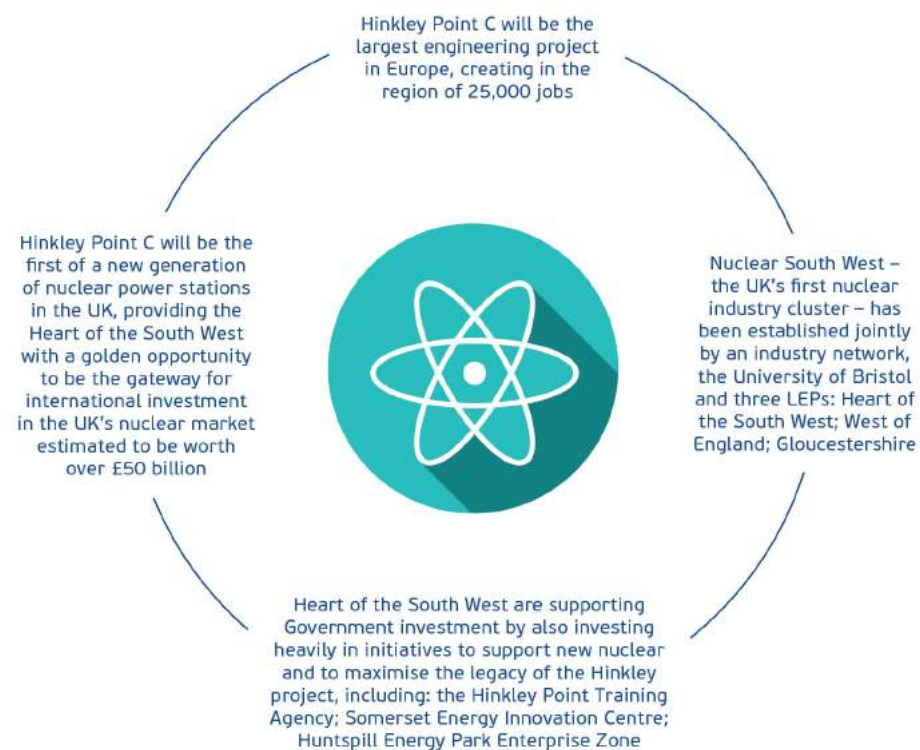
Golden Opportunities

We have identified six Golden Opportunities that we will use to drive productivity and economic growth whilst continuing to support our diverse economy and taking advantage of new opportunities as they emerge.

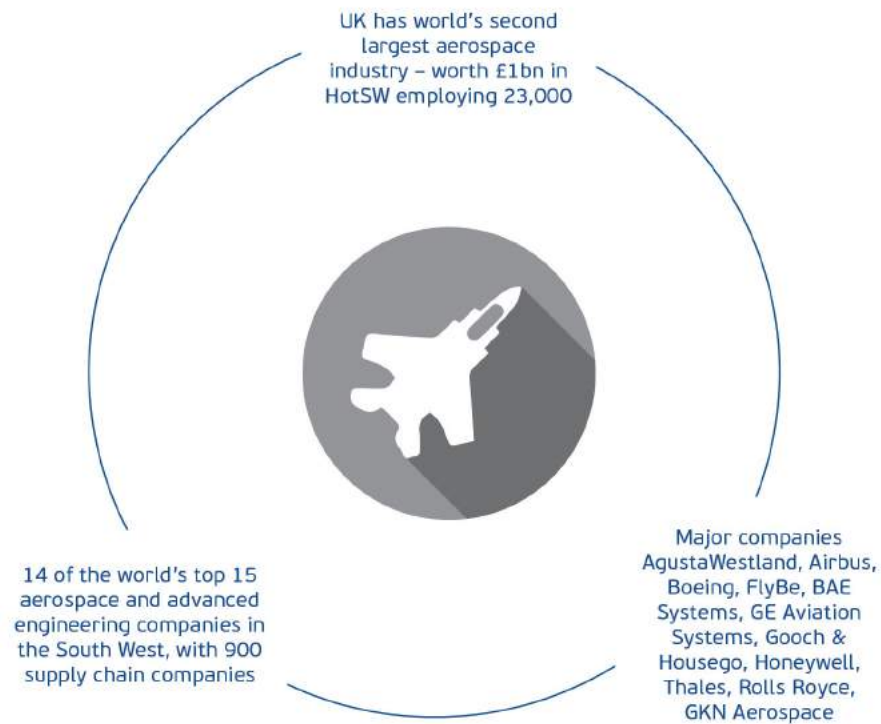
Marine



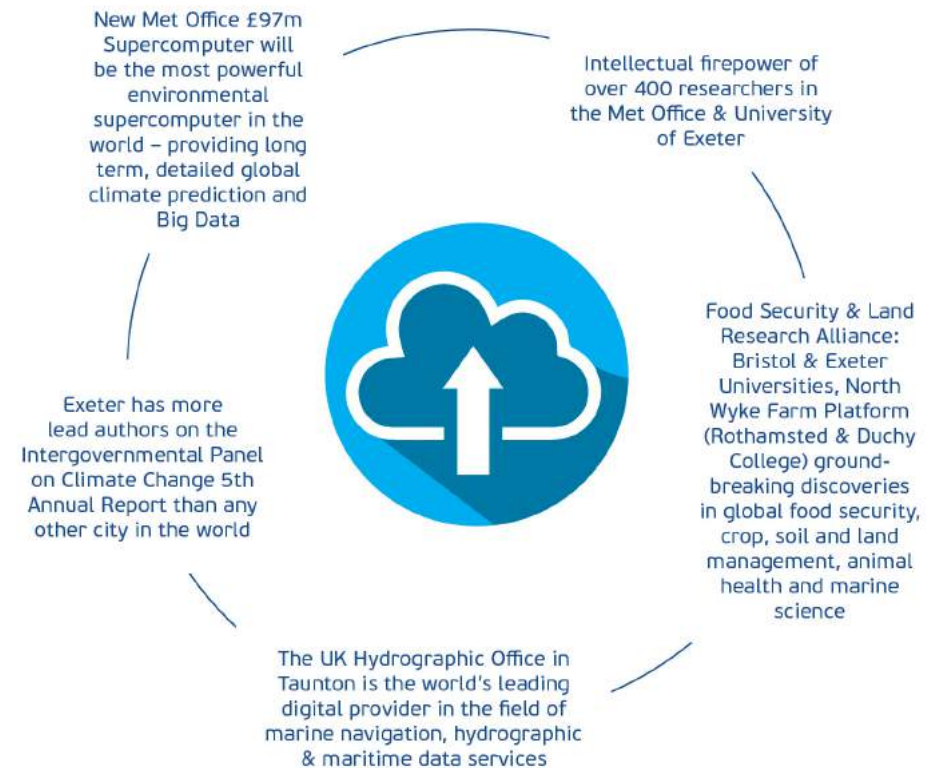
Nuclear



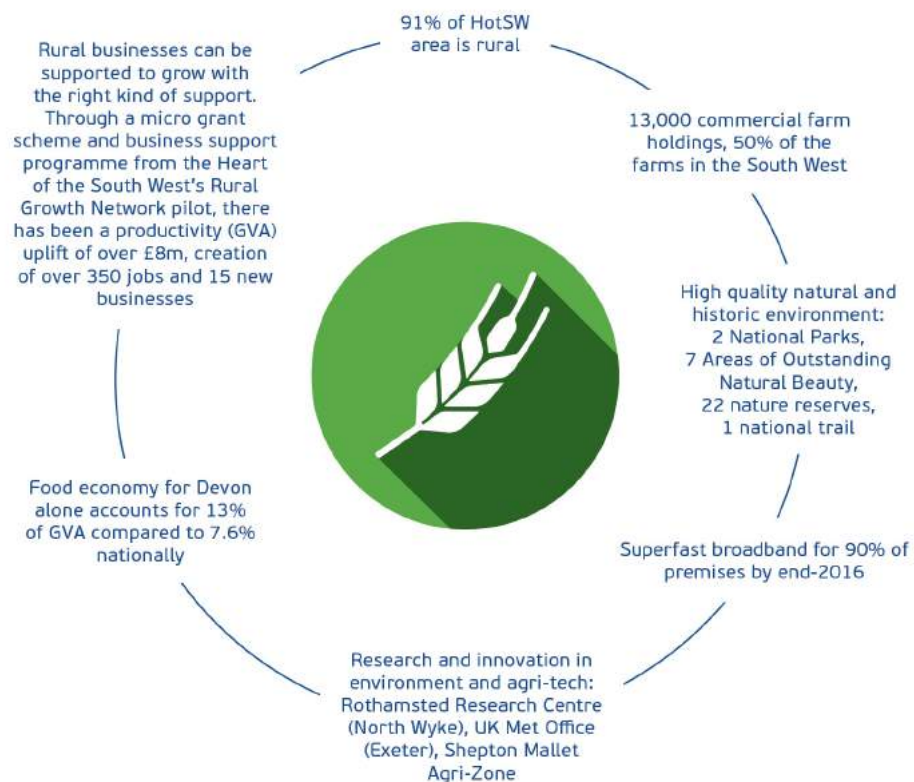
Aerospace and Advanced Engineering



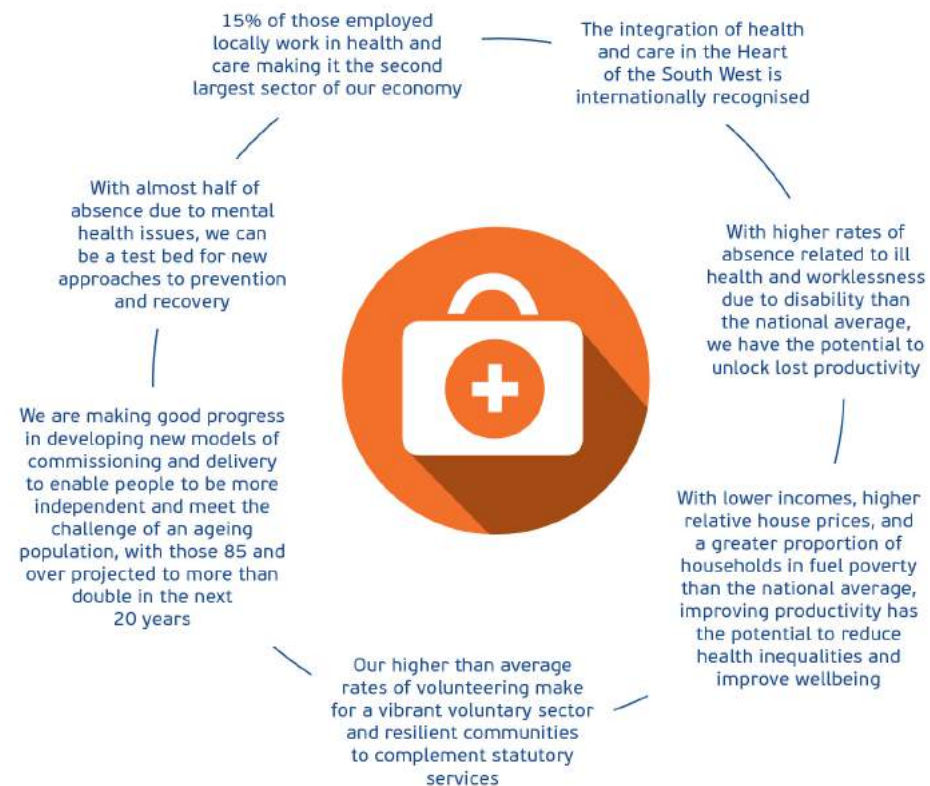
Data Analytics



Rural Productivity



Health and Care



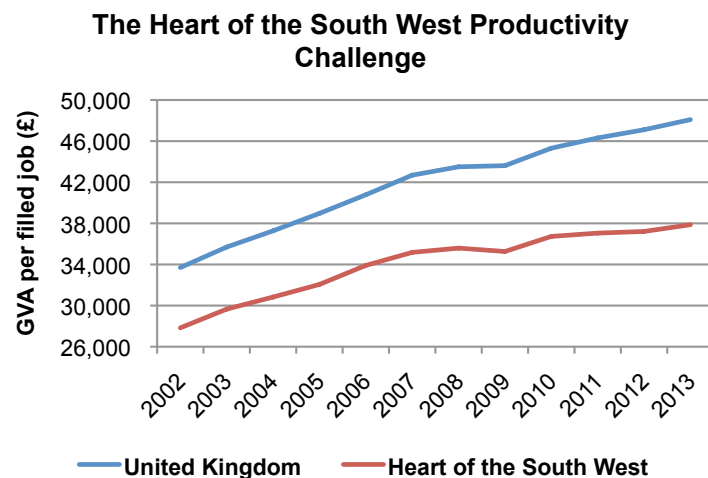
From six Golden Opportunities to six Key Challenges

Realising our vision, goals and targets requires us to address and solve six major, interrelated economic and societal challenges:

1. Our productivity is too low and growing too slowly

Whilst not uniform across the area, in 2013 our productivity per job filled was below 80% of UK averages, a fall of around 3% over the last decade. Our forecasts suggest that unless we unlock our emerging transformational opportunities our productivity will continue to lag behind the rest of the UK.

This performance is a manifestation of poor comparative skills levels, labour market shortages, insufficient infrastructure, and poor connectivity, the human and financial cost of ill-health, a lack of joined-up support for business and need for higher value industrial densities.



2. Our labour market is limited in size and skills levels

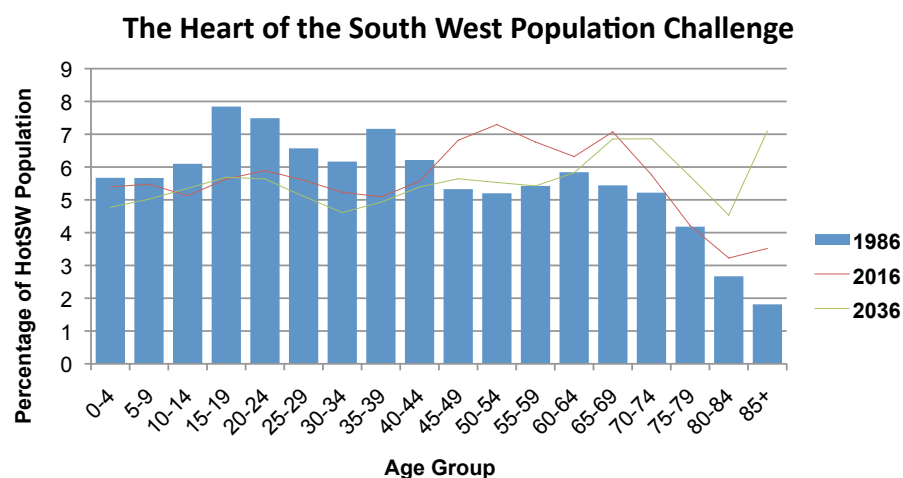
A key factor in our low productivity is a shortage of workers and a shortage of skills. Low unemployment means businesses have a limited labour pool from which to draw recruits. Higher level skills attainment is below national averages and out-migration of our talent to London and other metropolitan centres means that employers regularly report labour shortages and recruitment difficulties.

3. Our enterprise and innovation performance is inconsistent and needs to improve

Evidence shows that businesses that take up support do better than those who don't. However, the business support landscape is complex and confusing and short-term Government funding for programmes creates uncertainty. The Heart of the South West ranks 38th out of 39 LEP areas on many measures of innovation including patent registrations and Innovate UK funding. We cannot resolve these science and innovation issues without more highly skilled workers and a stronger innovation environment, particularly around our Golden Opportunities.

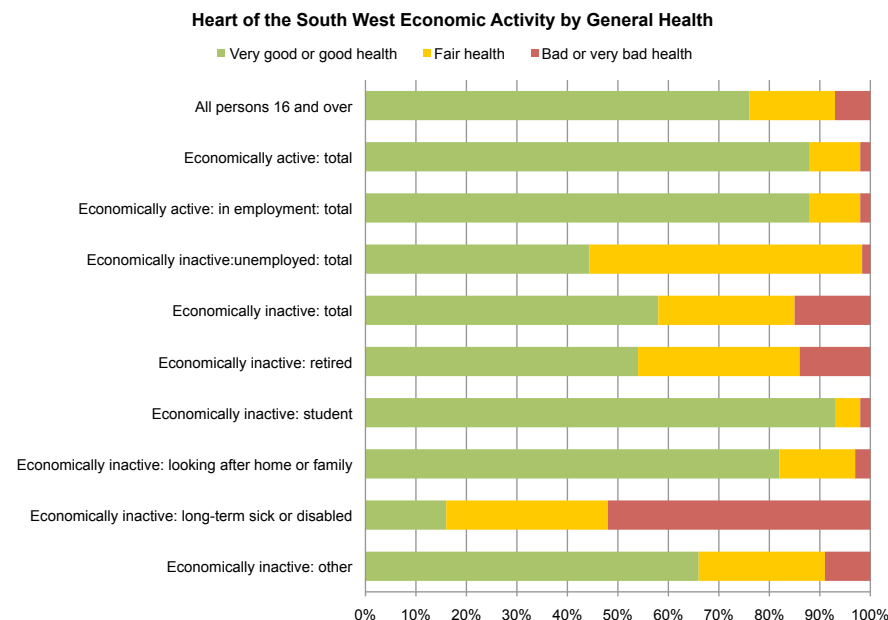
4. We are a leader in facing the challenges of an ageing population

Our population profile shows a significant increase in the proportion of our residents aged 65 or over and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of working age people under 45. By 2036, 17% of our population – more than 327,000 people – will be over 75 years of age.



5. We are a leader in facing the challenges of health and care integration

Particularly related to our demography, our health and care system needs to be reshaped to meet social, economic and financial pressures. Our area performs poorly for mental health outcomes when compared to national figures, making this a key priority.



A healthier population means lower public sector costs and increased economic activity. To fill 163,000 more jobs we must engage the non-working population in the labour market which will require a significant health and care contribution.

Employment of people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, mental health issues and other long-term conditions is strongly correlated with their achieving better outcomes and being less dependent on publicly funded health and care services. This represents considerable productive potential.

6. Our infrastructure and connectivity needs to be modernised and more resilient

More infrastructure especially housing, transport links, broadband, mobile connectivity and energy grid improvements are required to make our area more attractive to investors and viable for the future. Improving these conditions are key to giving businesses in our area the tools they need to compete in global markets, attract future entrepreneurs and secure investment. We must overcome these barriers if we are to capitalise on our transformational opportunities.

Fixing the Heart of the South West and our contribution to fixing the national foundations

The current landscape of funding and decision-making has only taken us so far. Despite our achievements to date we need freedom to act more decisively. A devolution agreement means we can take responsibility for our unique challenges and capitalise on our Golden Opportunities.

The dividend for the National Productivity Plan is considerable. Besides the specific metrics identified in our goals, the UK will benefit from global and national energy investments and security, environmental futures and big data capabilities, an at-scale set of solutions to health and care integration and public service reforms.

This negotiating prospectus lays out the heads of terms of an agreement to create the foundations for a transformational jump in productivity. It will deliver quick wins this decade whilst planning for the medium and long-term.

Fingle Bridge, Devon



Improvements by Rail



Met Office, Exeter

Our negotiating prospectus

We wish to agree with Government a shared commitment to building three pillars of a devolution deal for the Heart of the South West.

Foundation 1: The Productivity Plan

The Productivity Plan will be our instrument for fixing our foundations. It will incorporate the refresh of our Strategic Economic Plan and scale up local growth agendas for 2016-20 incorporating Spending Review and public service reform priorities. It will include proposals for our Strategic Labour Market Plan and Strategic Infrastructure Plan. It will also reflect our ambitions for integration of health and social care where they link to our devolution deal.



Foundation 2: The Single Investment Framework

The Single Investment Framework will set the financial parameters of our agreement and encompass devolved funds and locally aligned resources. It is likely to include:

1. A single infrastructure fund to provide the physical investment for backbone, nationally-significant infrastructure.
2. A housing delivery instrument to accelerate housing delivery by unlocking key sites and stimulating market activity.
3. Skills and employment allocations to enable remodelling of the skills and employment landscape.
4. Devolved health and care budgets delivering agreed business cases with NHS England and other partners.

We believe agreement to formulate these two foundations will enable early delivery of accelerated housing development, skills reform, and improved business support, with health and social care reform and infrastructure development taking place in parallel.

These two foundations will be overseen and assured by a Combined Authority arrangement. This will, once established, provide the Heart of the South West counterpart to Government for planning and management of our devolution deal. It will take responsibility for the powers, resources and deliverables outlined below.

People

A highly skilled, high productivity labour market meeting businesses' employment priorities

We are clear that without proactive leadership and intervention our skills profile will remain a chronic block to fixing our foundations and delivering our vision.

We intend to use national reforms, led and shaped locally, to deliver a labour market capable of achieving productivity at Greater South East levels (excluding the distorting effect of Inner London).

Government's expectations of local leadership teams for 2016-20 as laid out in existing devolution agreements, the 2015 Spending Review and other policies include:

- Planning and management of phased devolution of post-19 public sector adult skills budgets, leading to full commissioning and funding of providers from 2018-19.
- Chairing and facilitation of successful Area Reviews of post-16 education and training, implementation of review recommendations including reshaping provision where required.
- Co-design of apprenticeship reforms including introduction of the levy and deployment of Apprenticeship Grant for Employers.

- Co-design of future employment support programmes with DWP and performance management regimes.

The Combined Authority will take responsibility for delivering these agendas, augmented by specific asks around:

- Specification and delivery management of Careers, Education Information, Advice and Guidance in schools and colleges.
- Support from Government to deliver a wider Higher Education offer for Somerset, including a new university.

Our Offer	Our ask of Government
Responsibility for reshaping the skills and employment system. Delivered through formulation, agreement, resourcing and delivery management of a business-led Strategic Labour Market Plan .	Full devolution of powers to the Combined Authority, phased over a number of years, with relevant skills, education and employment budgets into the Single Investment Framework. Government departments and agencies to co-design and co-deliver the Strategic Labour Market Plan.

Why is this important?

Our analysis has shown:

- Young people are not getting the independent, quality careers and education advice and guidance to help them make informed decisions on their education and training.
- Employer productivity improvements are held back by shortages and lack of skills in local labour markets.
- The national provider system is poor at anticipating and securing future skills needs.
- Support for the workless is ineffective for those furthest from the labour market. Our evidence shows a distinct lack of progress for those in receipt of Employment Support Allowance despite significant investment and reform.

Key outcomes

With the powers and funding outlined above we believe a devolution deal will allow us to deliver the skilled workforce our productivity ambition requires. We will work with Government to design system reforms that deliver:

- 40,000 people helped to move from benefits into paid work.

- Benefit bill savings to Government of £1bn per year.
- Additional money earnings locally per year of £800m.
- Additional tax income for Government of £113m per year.
- All young people in employment, education or training.
- Apprenticeship starts increased by 400% and aligned to our six Golden Opportunities.
- Parity of esteem between vocational and academic pathways.
- Maximised links between Golden Opportunities and skills development to encourage young people into our area's high tech industries.
- A university for Somerset.



Babcock Training

A national demonstrator of effective health and care integration for improved wellbeing

The Heart of the South West already has well established and innovative local approaches to health and care integration, however our system continues to be under demographic pressure. We now have an opportunity to bring together resources across the public sector to deliver the systemic reform needed by the health and care system and through strong local leadership can engage communities and voluntary sector in that enterprise. We want to create a system where prevention and early intervention are an integral part and which rethinks its approach to mental health and wellbeing. In summary:

Our Key Offer	Our ask of government
Building on the NHS 5-Year Forward View, we will deliver a 'whole system' approach to health and care based on the existing footprints for integration activity.	Devolution of 5 year place based budgets for health to the level of our existing health and care economies.
This will include:	
Devolved commissioning of primary and associated specialist care services including mental health.	
Flexibility in regulation and budgeting, including freedom for partners to pool resources.	
Greater emphasis on public health and the link between health and housing.	
Capitation-based payments.	
Support to address skills shortages.	

Why is this important?

We want people to lead longer, healthier, more productive and fulfilling lives while ensuring the sustainability of our health and care services.

Health outcomes are generally good and life expectancy is high, but too many people develop avoidable long-term multiple conditions which affect both the quality of their lives and their ability to work. People with mental health conditions are in too many cases poorly served by a fragmented system in which there is no effective link between preventive, primary care and acute services.

Health and care is the second largest sector in our economy but productivity lags behind other areas and there are workforce and skills shortages which affect both the quality and cost of provision. These issues can only be tackled through whole-system reform and a closer matching of strategy and resources to local need.

Our ageing population demography is ahead of many other areas meaning we have an opportunity to lead the way in tackling the associated health, care and economic challenges.

Key outcomes

Devolution will help us create a health and care system that supports a healthier population, greater personal independence and wellbeing, and improved workforce productivity:

- Better physical and mental health outcomes.
- A system that is integrated and financially sustainable, offering a whole system approach, and is a test-bed for Government innovation.
- People of all ages encouraged and supported to make healthy lifestyle choices and manage their own care, therefore diverting or delaying dependency.

Devolution offers the potential for us to go further, faster, and bring reform initiatives together at a scale and with a scope that can provide a demonstrator (given our advanced demographic profiles) to health and care reforms in other parts of the country:

- The NHS 5-year Forward View and the requirement on areas to develop transformation plans for local areas.
- The financial settlement for local government, including the requirement to submit integration plans by 2017.
- Changing Better Care Fund guidance and the option to work across local authority areas to plan and deliver it.
- The Success Regime applying to NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, other local integration projects, their impact on and learning for other health and care economies.



Improved health care and wellbeing.

Business growth and innovation

Government expectations of local leadership teams for 2016-20 includes sustaining and developing support for business growth after closure of the Business Growth Service, as well as enabling distinctive contributions to national research and innovation-led growth priorities. For us this means scaling up the reach and impact of our Growth Hub and realising the full potential of our Golden Opportunities.

To deliver this Heart of the South West partners already have primary responsibilities for:

- Operation and performance management of the Growth Hub and shaping of national agency (eg UKTI) access and support to Heart of the South West business.
- Strengthening the coherence and effectiveness of local innovation eco-systems around our Golden Opportunities - notably the marine cluster anchored by Plymouth, the environmental futures cluster anchored by Met Office investments in Exeter, the UK Hydrographic Office's long-term commitment to Taunton, the nuclear cluster catalysed by Hinkley Point C, and the broader South West aerospace cluster with its major growth node in South Somerset.

Our skills and infrastructure proposals provide a number of interventions to address these challenges. These will feed into and through the Growth Hub so our business growth and innovation strand, in summary, will:

Our Key Offer	Our ask of Government
Scale up and assure a Growth Hub providing a seamless approach to business growth support. Strengthen a network and cluster of 'innovation eco-systems' anchored by each of our Golden Opportunities	An increased devolved revenue pot for at least 5 years which can draw if required on the Single Investment Framework. Co-commissioning of all remaining national business growth and internationalisation services. Commitment to bespoke agreements with national agencies to realise the UK and local growth dividends of each of the Golden Opportunities - underpinned by an early Science and Innovation Audit undertaken by a consortium of south west LEPs and universities.
This strand will include: Collaboration with neighbouring LEPs on a cluster approach to inward investment.	

Why is this important?

Discharge of these primary responsibilities is impeded by national pressures which manifest themselves locally. Analysis shows:

- SMEs and early stage entrepreneurs find national and local systems fragmented, opaque and bureaucratic. This leads to low rates of business growth support take-up and entrepreneurial/start-up activity.
- Inward investment, internationalisation and trade, and our visitor economy are held back because the South West is perceived to be a distant periphery. Offers are poorly joined-up and we have a low national profile, and are a low priority for UKTI, VisitEngland and other agencies.
- National science and innovation products and services are not accessed consistently by existing business. Furthermore our national offer is not investment-ready so cannot easily take advantage of the potential of our Golden Opportunities.

We need more certainty of investment and freedom from national funding cycles so we can operate our proposed Single Investment Framework and ensure the right interventions are made at the right time to support our economic opportunities.

Key outcomes

Our Golden Opportunities and distinctive assets have the potential to

release major productivity gains for us and for the national economy. Business support devolution will drive productivity through:

- More businesses taking up the support they need.
 - 20% of business stock informed about business support
 - 3,000 businesses supported
 - 750 business accounts managed
 - 10 Operational Level Agreements signed between business support delivery partners
 - 360 businesses receiving intensive support
 - 36 events to co-ordinate network businesses support delivering with the aim to simplify business support customer journey
- Significantly increased levels of inward investment.
- Heart of the South West businesses competing strongly in the global economy.
- Better engagement with business and an entrepreneurial culture.
- Double the number of international tourists to the Heart of the South West and more national tourists.
- Greater levels of science and innovation in our economy: double the uptake of Innovate UK support, and increased research and development.

Place

Government expectations of local leadership teams over 2016-20 include:

- Adoption and implementation of Local Plans with demonstrable collaboration across functional economic areas to drive physical investment.
- A performance regime that accelerates housing and employment growth.
- Devolved local transport budgets and plans including both development and regulatory functions, to improve system performance locally and add value to national infrastructure investments and programmes.
- Contributions to specific national and pan-regional infrastructure priorities, including Hinkley energy agreements and recommendations of the Peninsula Rail Task Group.
- Proactive delivery management of Starter Homes, housing investment pots and local authority contributions to new housing.
- Completion of backbone superfast broadband infrastructure and increasing take-up to support the digital economy and wellbeing.
- Local authority and other public sector land disposal, development and rationalisation strategies.

Our proposals will enable us to take responsibility for delivering these agendas, including, in summary:

Our Key Offer	Our ask of Government
Establishment of an Infrastructure Commission to formulate a new Strategic Infrastructure Plan with implementation overseen by the Combined Authority.	Support to develop, fund and deliver the Strategic Infrastructure Plan. A commitment to create a flexible funding model to support accelerated housing delivery, targeting locally identified growth areas.

This will include Government commitments to:

- Existing and new infrastructure development, including the A361 North Devon Link, A303/A358/A30 improvements and Peninsula Rail Task Force 20-year plan.
- Match funding and co-production to deliver 100% superfast broadband coverage
- Use the two National Parks as test beds for integrated land management and rural productivity.
- Inclusion of Plymouth on the Strategic National Corridor network.

This will include Government commitments to:

- Devolved Air Passenger Duty from Exeter Airport.
- Support to develop and sustain new energy initiatives including wind, sub-sea and grid improvements.
- A National Policy Statement for renewable energy generation in the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary.

Why is this important?

Long-term investment in our infrastructure is critical to unlocking growth and delivering our productivity targets. Our Strategic Infrastructure Plan will set out where and when investment is required. We need to accelerate housing and employment land allocations, electronic communications for our businesses, more housing for our workers, and improved transport links to allow faster movement of our workforce, goods and services. This infrastructure underpins growth and is the key to our future productivity.

Despite recent successes we are underfunded compared to other areas. Long-term investment is vital to provide confidence for developers and to drive productivity through faster, more reliable transport and digital connectivity. Investment in resilience is essential to minimise disruption and financial loss during a crisis. There is considerable untapped resource and market opportunity for the Heart of the South West to contribute more to the energy supply of the nation. We have the potential to become a leader in low carbon energy and renewables, however current grid infrastructure is limiting deployment.

Key outcomes

To support productivity growth, infrastructure devolution will deliver:

- 179,000 new homes, and a new Garden Town in Somerset.
- Accelerated housing and employment growth in the identified growth areas of Greater Exeter, Hinkley Growth Zone, Plymouth, Taunton, and Torbay.
- Faster rail connections to London, the South East, and Midlands.
- 100% superfast broadband availability and reliable mobile phone connectivity.
- Prioritised and sequenced infrastructure projects to maximise the value of investments.
- Innovation in energy development and supply to support the national energy strategy.
- Greater resilience of our infrastructure.
- Innovative approach to environmental management, increasing productivity, improving resilience, and growing our rural economy.

Foundation 3: Towards a Combined Authority

The partners to this proposal recognise that leadership and governance of delivery of our deal will require transparent, robust, and efficient structures and processes commanding the confidence and support of Government, local communities, and business.

We also recognise Government's preferred model of choice for this vehicle is the Combined Authority (CA), with Mayoral leadership in the case of Core City Regions.

We will create a Combined Authority with appropriate strong leadership and accountabilities. We will carry out a Governance Review to identify the most effective structure and processes for putting this commitment into effect, ideally with an inception date of either April 2017 or April 2018.

The Governance Review shall draw on the principles outlined in our Statement of Intent as a starting point. The review will proceed in tandem with both the enactment of the Cities and Local Government Bill, and the progress of our devolution agreement negotiations and requirements of its effective implementation.

The Governance Review will set out the powers, roles, functions, and operational arrangements for the Combined Authority - and propose its relationships with and to key delivery partners nationally, locally and with neighbours.

At a minimum, the Heart of the South West LEP, CCGs and others as appropriate will become full non-constituent members of the emerging

Combined Authority, playing leadership roles where appropriate in its sub-structures, for example to build on the LEP's business credentials.

In addition, we consider there will be a number of collaborative arrangements that we shall wish to progress with variable consortia of South West neighbours. These may include a 'Transport South West' proposition, the in-train Science and Innovation Audit consortium with neighbouring LEPs and national clusters in areas such as nuclear, renewables energy,

Similarly, our prospectus recognises that specific sub-regional geographies will accommodate significant shares of the growth to be delivered. Bespoke arrangements to plan and manage these changes will build on or adapt existing arrangements including The Greater Exeter Group, The Plymouth and South West Peninsula City Deal, the emergent Hinkley, Taunton and Bridgwater triangle. Options for strengthening and adapting these arrangements (or elaborating new place-based governance) may include Development Corporations, Special Economic Zones, Accelerated Development Zones, or other models.

Next Steps

Delivering devolution requires careful sequencing. A high level roadmap for developing and delivering our deal is outlined below.

A Heart of the South West partners group will launch shadow Combined Authority arrangements and a formal Programme Management Office (PMO) upon agreement from Government of serious intent to progress towards a devolution agreement. The PMO will be resourced to support devolution agreement workstreams with business case and financial management capacity, including assuring fiscal neutrality.

The shadow Combined Authority and PMO will work with Government to deliver six co-produced workstreams by early 2017:

1. The Governance Review will apply the processes required under legislation to specify, agree and launch the form of Combined Authority eventually determined. This work will include the role and voice of business and sub-regional geographical arrangements.
2. The Productivity Plan will elaborate the evidence base, strategies and performance management required to deliver the vision and goals of the devolution agreement.
3. We are seeking Government agreement to establish a Joint Skills Commission to oversee national policy requirements and the process of localising these under the terms of our devolution deal.
4. The local leadership team will work with our successful health integration exemplars, NHS England, and other local, regional and

national partners to identify wider opportunities to contribute to the Productivity Plan and national health and care integration priorities.

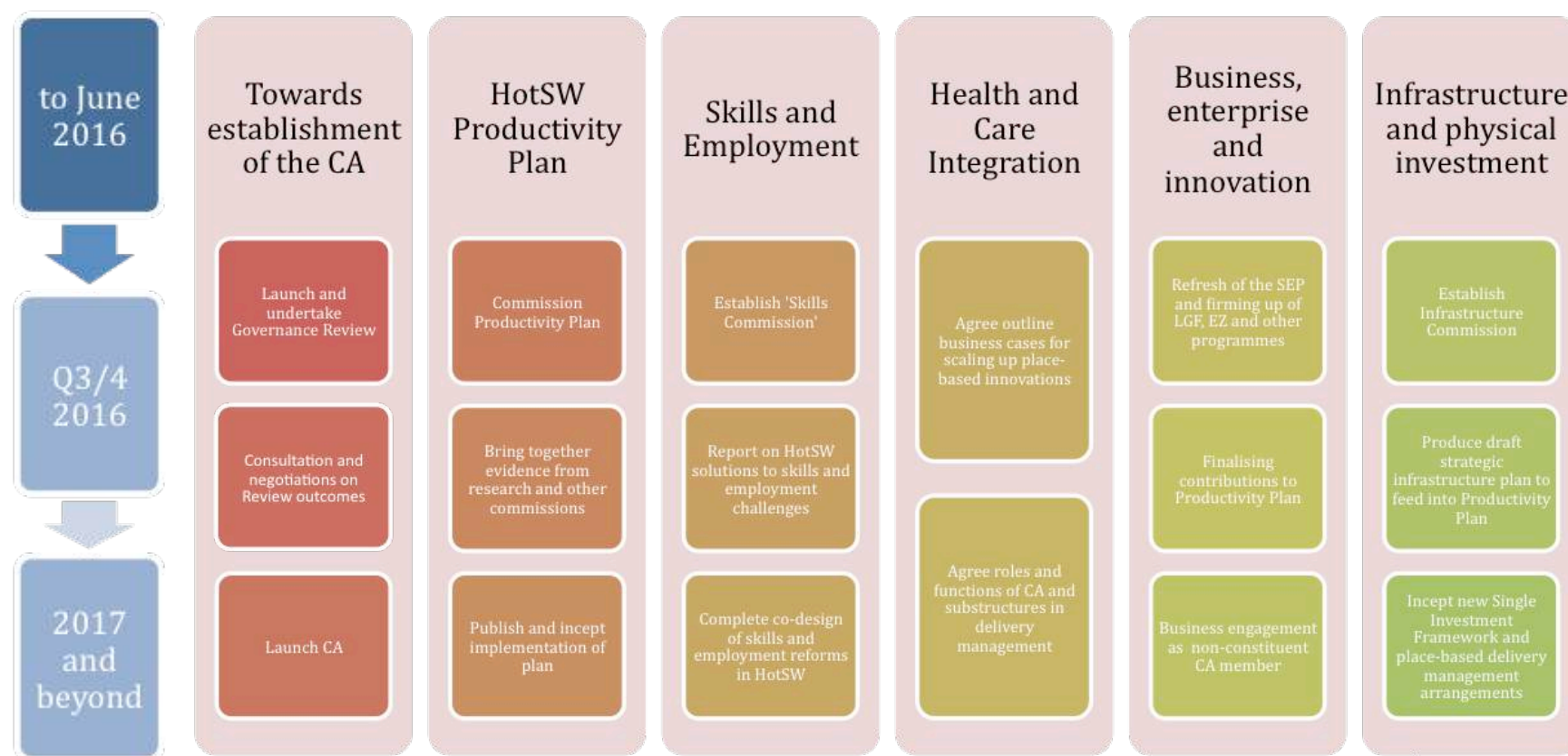
5. The LEP will ensure existing local growth commitments are delivered effectively, that the refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan feeds into the wider Productivity Plan and that business engagement in the establishment and operation of the Combined Authority and its priorities is strong.
6. We are seeking Government commitment to establish a Joint Infrastructure Commission to firm up the physical investment needs identified in national and Heart of the South West priorities and how the Single Investment Framework will resource these.

This process will allow early wins to be made, including accelerated housing development and initial skills and business support reform, whilst specifying and agreeing the structures needed to deliver the medium and long-term outcomes of our devolution agreement.

In anticipation of a positive outcome from negotiations on our deal we seek early agreement from Government on a match-funded budgetary contribution to co-deliver these workstreams.

We invite Government to begin formal negotiation with us on our proposals and the detail behind them with a view to signing a deal during the first half of 2016.

Outline Roadmap





Third Way Bridge, Taunton



NHS
Northern, Eastern and Western Devon
Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS
South Devon and Torbay
Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS
Somerset
Clinical Commissioning Group