

Regional Recovery Update

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Director of Business and Skills





WEST OF ENGLAND RECOVERY PLAN

“Build back better by capitalising on our ingenuity, creativity and diversity to create good jobs and a high quality of life for all our residents, whilst achieving sustained emission reductions.



“As we build back our places, we’ll strive to create greener, healthier, more vibrant communities to support those who live and work here, ensuring our region continues to attract visitors, talent and investment from around the world.”

PRINCIPLES FOR RECOVERY

				
<p>Rebuilding business to help new and existing businesses survive and thrive in order to safeguard existing and create new jobs</p>	<p>Getting residents back into jobs which pay above the Real Living Wage and offer security of employment through targeted training and brokerage to available opportunities</p>	<p>Strengthening inclusion to prevent further widening of inequalities and build an inclusive economy where everyone has the opportunity to achieve their potential, reducing inequality gaps</p>	<p>Supporting a green recovery using changes in behaviour brought about by the pandemic to accelerate our transition to net zero carbon</p>	<p>Renewing places to re-think our approach to 'place', creating greener, healthier, more vibrant places to live and work and so continuing to attract people from across the world</p>
<p>CLEAN AND INCLUSIVE</p>				

RECOVERY PLAN ON A PAGE...



Rebuild Business

- Significantly expand the region's **business support offer** to help businesses of all types to adapt and survive, finding sustainable, low carbon pathways to recovery and growth
- Implement a targeted approach to **inward investment, export and trade**, unlocking new growth and job opportunities
- Drive job creation through significant investment in new **regional innovation projects**, to creatively address global challenges such as the climate change, health and equality of opportunity



Get residents back into jobs

- Enhance our **Redundancy Response Initiative**, including a new **B2B Talent Retention Platform** to help re-deploy workers
- Develop a regional **Employment and Skills Opportunities Portal** to help unemployed residents find new jobs, careers support and advice, and training opportunities
- Ramp up **re-training** with new packages developed and deployed in partnership with recruiting employers and aligned with growth areas (health and social care, construction, low carbon and digital)
- Address **youth unemployment** with a regional apprenticeship support service and expansion of sector based approaches



Strengthening Inclusion

- **Strengthen engagement** to help under-represented groups access skills and enterprise support through **community champions and a regional network of outreach facilities**
- Launch a new **Community Grant scheme** to build local capacity and resilience in 'hardest hit' communities, creating pathways to employment and skills
- Creating a **Good Employer Standard** led by anchor institutions across the region to create good accessible jobs, which are paid the Real Living Wage



Green Recovery

- Upscale the **Low Carbon Challenge Fund** through an enhanced Green Business Grant programme and **Local Energy Schemes**, helping existing businesses to transition to low carbon approaches, as well as creating new businesses and jobs
- Make significant investments to **decarbonise our energy and transport systems and enhance our green infrastructure**, building on the positive behaviour changes brought about by lockdown
- Maximise the region's share of **national green stimulus** packages, including retrofit



Renew Places

- Secure investment in **infrastructure and affordable housing** to achieve strategic place making and decarbonisation objectives
- With our communities, re-imagine and re-invigorate our towns and city centres with an **innovative town centre re-structuring programme**, building on the increased need for 'local liveability'
- Help the region's tourism and cultural sectors recover through the development of a **Regional Tourism Zone** and new **Cultural, Creative and Digital Development programme**

By 2025 IT WILL HAVE ACHIEVED...



➤ Over **11,200 businesses supported** to adapt their operations, boost staff skills, and innovate



➤ **£90m investment in innovation** facilities and research and development projects, and a **pipeline of new projects of £300m+**

➤ **1,800+ jobs created, plus 750 construction jobs a year** across our investments



➤ **22,000+ training and skills placements** each year

➤ Deliver **careers advice to 95 schools and colleges**



➤ **10,000 people** taking online mental health at work course

➤ Widen community access to business and skills support



➤ **60 new** low carbon business grants

➤ **£320m+ invested** in the region's transport and housing

DELIVERY UNDERWAY - supporting businesses

New business support through expanded [West of England Growth Hub](#)

- **Trading Better Online** - support to help businesses become digitally enabled, improving resilience and productivity. **WECA and TechSPARK**
- **Financial Resilience** - support which targets the region's accountancy expertise to help SMEs plan for financial resilience. **WECA and ICAEW**
- **Universal Business Support** - additional capacity to increase local outreach and help local areas respond more flexibly to business needs
- **Thrive at Work** - through WECA, the region's local authorities, Public Health England and businesses, will raise awareness, provide advice and guidance on mental health issues
- **Small Grants Programme** - for business adaptation with focussed support available for the tourism and hospitality. **WECA and Business West**
- **Business Innovation Fund** - providing SMEs with tailored support and funding to bring new products, services and processes to market



DELIVERY UNDERWAY - supporting people



- **Future Bright** adapted to help people cope with the impact of Covid-19, with dedicated one-to-one coaching and careers advice [here](#)
- A **Rapid Redundancy Response** including multi-agency group to target support to businesses at risk of, or making, redundancies, and their employees
- The service is accessible through the regional **Growth Hub website/helpline** and available for businesses to use before making redundancies
- We are also developing a **Talent Retention Platform** - a business to business platform to retain and redeploy talent
- **Increased Adult Education Budget** - focus on basic skills support, training unemployed people to access vacancies (**£15m pa investment**)
- **Careers Hub** dedicated advisers now working with all secondary schools in the West of England region
- Launch of phase one of **£8m Workforce for the Future...**

WORKFORCE FOR THE FUTURE

phase 1 now open [here](#), phase 2 in new year...



COMING SOON - Recovery Fund

Circa **£10m** to catalyse activity in Recovery Plan e.g.

- **Digital Skills Investment Programme:** commission innovative skills partnerships to support - 'Basic digital skills & access' and 'medium & higher level digital skills'
- **Future skills forecasting and planning:** including analysis of Post-16 education and skills capacity to determine current and future needs. Feasibility into sector growth opportunities (e.g. Green). Development of business2 business **Talent Retention Platform**
- **Low Carbon Challenge Fund - Phase 2:** Extension of scheme to include more Green Business Grants and a new round of the Local Energy Scheme for new micro-generation from renewable sources, and job creation
- **Small Business Resilience Grant Programme:** further financial support targeting sectors affected by C-19 to drive resilience and adaptation. Bespoke **Culture and Creative industry Business Support Programme**
- **Community Recovery Fund:** to support partnerships of disadvantaged communities and groups to find bespoke solutions to improving access to employment and skills
- **High Streets renewal catalyst fund:** to support the development of a new strategic vision for the role of high streets, town and city centres



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