



Attending:	Board Directors: Paddy Bradley (PB) Mandy Clarke (MC) – Co- Deputy Chair – joined at 1.30pm Ramona Derbyshire (RD) Andrew Gudgeon (AG) Tom Harrison (TH) Col Gary McDade (GMc) Mark Matthews (MM) Basit Mohammed (BM) Paul Moorby (PJM) Alison North (AN), Co- Deputy Chair David Renard (DR) – left at 1.55pm José StClair (JSC) Prof Ian White (IW)	Board Advisers: NA Observers: NA
Apologies:	Richard Clewer (RC) / Doug Gale (DG) / Carole Kitching (CK) / Suzanne Wigmore (SW)	
In attendance:	Debby Skellern (DS)	
Guest(s):		
Chair:	Paul J Moorby (PJM)	
Notes:	Deborah House (DKH)	
Location:		

Item	Narrative	Deadline
	Welcome / Apologies	
1.0	<p>The meeting opened at 1.17pm and the Chair welcomed attendees to this extraordinary meeting of the Board.</p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p> <p>No further conflicts of interest were noted in addition to those already registered by Directors.</p>	
2.0	Delivery Plan 2023-24	
	<p>DS spoke to the paper and explained that the Plan was written for the SWLEP's government-funded activity. The Plan assumes funding from Government would remain the same and therefore Business as Usual. Minor amendments had been made to the document since the Board Meeting in September which were highlighted to the group.</p> <p>SWLEP had previously intended obtaining Board approval and submitting the document before the deadline. However, with the budget scheduled to be</p>	



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	<p>announced on 17 November and the recent changes to Government, the advice had been NOT to submit Delivery Plans, but to await further guidance. The Delivery Plan Working Group would continue to meet to draft the commercial plan and a meeting with the whole Board would be scheduled for January to work this through.</p> <p>If the Government were to make changes to the funding for LEPs, both core and Growth Hub, collectively or separately, SWLEP would need to re-work the Plan to reflect the different financial conditions. The re-worked plan would be brought back to the Board for approval.</p> <p>The biggest risk to delivery was the uncertainty about the Government's relationship with LEPs and whether they would continue to be funded. This would lead to a risk of maintaining our reputation with partners if the money were not forthcoming and in turn would hasten our move to commercial activity.</p> <p>The point was made that the document appeared very wordy and would benefit from some more images. The question also was raised on its intended audience. The explanation was that the primary audience was Government, but that SWLEP had suffered in a post-pandemic world as people were not out and about as much as previously and we had had to make more use of stock images in this instance. DR advised to contact Swindon Borough Council's comms team for more up-to-date photography, for example, on the works currently underway on Fleming Way. SWLEP also had two digital marketing apprentices who were able to obtain more photographs.</p> <p>If Directors wanted site visits to any of these projects, arrangements could be made. AN had offered to assist with Western Gateway members if they wanted to come into Swindon and Wiltshire to see projects.</p> <p>Action: DS to check document for errors as mentioned.</p> <p>The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board: APPROVED the Delivery Plan 2023-24 subject to the corrections being made on the Budget Table; and DELAYED submission pending the budget statement and advice from the Cities and Local Growth Unit Team.</p>	
3.0	Update on Recycling Technologies	
	<p>PB updated the meeting on the latest situation regarding Recycling Technologies (RT). RT had been an influential business in the area, and we had loaned it money from the Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF). Unfortunately, the business had gone into administration with a potential loss to SWLEP of £935,000. The Administrators were accepting bids to buy the assets of the company, but a</p>	



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	<p>management buyout, to which SWLEP had shown interest, at this stage looked to have been unsuccessful.</p> <p>It appeared that the business was likely to have been sold. The Innovation Campus for the Circular Economy (ICCE) Ltd would continue its work but would now be coordinating with RT's previous competitors.</p>	
4.0	AOB	
	<p>PB advised of two ongoing business developments.</p> <p>Innovate UK Launchpad Innovate UK had started a fund for SME sector support across wider geographical areas. This had been piloted in Teesside and Liverpool with Teesside operating in three sectors: hydrogen generation, offshore wind and carbon sequestration with Liverpool in advanced manufacturing and digitalisation.</p> <p>SWLEP had contacted the Western Gateway about submitting a bid but had been told that there was no capacity in the organisation at that time to co-ordinate such a bid. SWLEP then convened a meeting including Bristol & Bath Cyber, Cynam, Western Gateway and Plexal and put together a bid which was submitted on Monday, 7 November. This funding would be used to grow the SME cyber cluster to provide cyber security across a greater range of industrial sectors. There were likely to be a range of bids around the country, including a separate bid from WECA.</p> <p>NOTE: DS advised the meeting that the Western Gateway had only 6.5 staff. The new CEO would be in post at the end of November.</p> <p>Thanks were extended to Tom Marshall for his work on this bid.</p> <p>British Business Bank (BBB) BBC had a £200m fund for the South West and was looking for fund managers within its fund management team. SWLEP was in early discussions.</p> <p>There was a wide-ranging discussion, prompted by JSC, covering many relevant points contributing to the thinking required as the SWLEP develops its future commercial strategy. Whilst Government funding was in place, then the business would need to fulfil LEP functions in return for the grant from Government. In addition, it was increasing its commercial activity. Directors were clear about developing a clear definition of the purpose of the SWLEP as we work to achieve a self-sustaining commercial operation.</p> <p>PB thanked Directors for their engagement in the discussion and proposed setting up two task and finish working groups involving Directors and focussing on future strategy for the BCC, commercial business support and the next capital project.</p>	



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	<p>AN invited JSC to join the Business Environment Subgroup at the January meeting to add his thoughts.</p> <p>Action: DKH to issue invitations to Subgroups to all Directors.</p> <p>Action: PB to make arrangements for task and finish working groups on the BCC, commercial business support and the next capital project.</p>	
	<p>Date of next Board meeting:</p> <p>Thursday, 24 November 2022</p> <p>9am Board Directors only 9.30am Public Board Meeting</p>	
	<p>Meeting dates for 2023:</p> <p>Thursday, 26 January Thursday, 30 March Thursday, 25 May Thursday, 20 July Thursday, 28 September Thursday, 23 November</p> <p>All via video / telephone conference unless otherwise stated.</p>	
	The extraordinary meeting of the Board closed at 1.55pm	

28 November 2022