

AGENDA

Public Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, 30 March 2023

Venue: Business Cyber Centre, Unit 7, Greenways Business Park, Chippenham, SN15 1BN OR online

Time: 9.30am – 11.05am Public Board Meeting

Membership		Attendance
Board Directors:	Paddy Bradley (PB) Richard Clewer (RC) Ramona Derbyshire (RD) Doug Gale, MBE (DG) Andrew Gudgeon, OBE (AG) Tom Harrison (TH) Col Gary McDade (GMc) Mark Matthews (MM) Paul Moorby, OBE (PJM) – Chair Carole Kitching (CK) Basit Mohammad (BM) Alison North (AN) – Co-Deputy Chair David Renard (DR) José StClair (JSC) Prof Ian White (IW) Suzanne Wigmore (SW)	✓ Tentative Apologies ✓ ✓ ✓ Apologies ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ Tentative ✓ ✓ ✓
Advisors to the Board:	Terence Herbert (TH) Susie Kemp (SK)	Apologies
Observers to the Board:	Gary Sumner (GS), Swindon Borough Council	Apologies
In Attendance:	SWLEP Tim Burghes (TB) / Phil Clement (PC) / Laura Hutchings (LH) ✓ / Ian Lloyd (IL) ✓ / Tom Marshall (TM) / Debby Skellern (DS) ✓ / Charlotte Skinner (CSk) ✓ / Chris Stevens (CS) ✓ Swindon Borough Council Richard Bell (RB) / David Dewart (DD) Wiltshire Council Rory Bowen (RB) / Parvis Khansari (PK) apologies / Victoria Moloney (VM) ✓ / Alison Robinson (AR) Representatives from Cities & Local Growth Unit Emily Manser (EM) ✓ and Jenna Hunt (JH) ✓	

Chair:	Paul Moorby (PJM)
Minutes:	Deborah House (DKH)

10am		Start of Public meeting			
Item	Timing	Topic	Paper No.	Lead	
1.0	9.30am	Welcome / Apologies / Conflicts of Interest	Verbal	PJM	
2.1	9.32am	Review of Draft Minutes of public Board Meeting of 26 January 2023.	Paper 2.1	PJM	For approval
2.2		Matters Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB to link TB with JSC regarding the Marketing Plan. COMPLETED • GMc and AN to coordinate a proposed visit of The Western Gateway's Director to South Wiltshire. <i>Update: discussions ongoing.</i>	Verbal	PJM	
3.0	9.40am	Submitted questions	Verbal	PJM	
4.0	9.45am	Budget management		CSk	For approval
4.1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated end of year 2022-23 	Paper 4.1		
4.2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Plan Q1 2023-24 	Paper 4.2		
5.0	10am	Government proposal to transfer LEP functions to Local Authorities	Paper 5.0	PB	For approval
6.0	10.20am	Chief Executive's report	Paper 6.0	PB	For discussion
7.0	10.30am	Subgroup updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Environment • Skills & Talent • Ideas, Infrastructure & Place 		AN CK SW	For information
8.0	10.55am	Programme Status Report	Paper 8.0	PB	For information
9.0	11am	AOB	Verbal	PJM	
		Date of next Board meeting: Thursday, 25 May 2023 9am Board Directors only 9.30am Public Board Meeting			



		Future Meeting dates Thursday, 20 July 2023 Thursday, 28 September 2023 Thursday, 23 November 2023 All via video / telephone conference until further notice.		PJM	
	11.05am	Close of Part One of the meeting			
	11.05am	Comfort Break			
		The public are excluded from this part of the meeting under the terms of the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Assurance Framework Appendix C, which describes reasons for exclusion of access by the public to meetings and /or reports. In this case the matters discussed will include a disclosure of confidential information.			
	11.20am	Part Two of meeting – Directors only			
	12.30pm	End of meeting			



Attending:	Board Directors: Paddy Bradley, MBE (PB) Ramona Derbyshire (RD) - online Tom Harrison (TM) Col Gary McDade (GMc) Mark Matthews (MM) - online Basit Mohammed (BM) - online Paul Moorby, OBE (PJM) Alison North (AN) - Deputy Chair José St Clair (JSC) Suzanne Wigmore (SW)	Board Advisers: None Observers: None
Apologies:	SWLEP Directors Richard Clewer (RC) / Doug Gale MBE (DG) / Andrew Gudgeon, OBE (AG) / Carole Kitching (CK) / David Renard (DR) / Prof Ian White (IW) SWLEP Limited Tim Burghes (TB) / Chris Stevens (CS) Wiltshire Council Leanne Sykes / Alison Robinson, Section 151 representatives	
In attendance:	SWLEP Ltd Phil Clement (PC) part / Laura Hutchings (LH) / Ian Lloyd (IL) / Debby Skellern (DS) / Charlotte Skinner (CSk) Swindon Borough Council Richard Bell (RBe) Wiltshire Council Rory Bowen (RB) Representatives from Cities & Local Growth Unit Emily Manser (EM) and Jenna Hunt (JH)	
Guest(s):	Dee Temple-Multon (DTM), Business West – left the meeting at 11am Parsa Mohammadpour (PM) and Prof Maik Schneider – University of Bath	
Chair:	Paul Moorby (PJM)	
Minutes:	Deborah House (DKH)	
Location:	Business Cyber Centre, Unit 7, Greenways Business Park, Chippenham, SN15 1BN	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
1.0	Welcome / Apologies / Conflicts of Interest / Board resignation	
	The meeting opened at 10.05 am and the Chair welcomed attendees to the public meeting of the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd. Apologies were noted. No further conflicts of interest were noted in addition to those already registered by directors.	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
2.0	Review of minutes and matters arising	
2.1	The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 24 November 2022 were reviewed and approved.	
2.2	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWLEP Ltd to communicate to members of SWLEP Ltd the change to deadline dates for the production of the Annual Report and audited accounts. <i>Update: this communication to be given at the AGM. The deadline for the production of the reports was given in the Governance Framework as 31 July. This had now been moved to 30 September.</i> <p>The other Matter Arising was completed.</p> <p>The other matter arising had been completed.</p>	
3.0	Submitted questions	
	No submitted questions had been received for this agenda.	
4.0	Marketing Plan	
	<p>TB was unable to attend the meeting today owing to illness, so PB presented the item in his absence.</p> <p>The presentation can be accessed by following the link below.</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/board-meetings/2023/26-jan/swlep-marketing-plan-2023-24.pdf?sfvrsn=b07cb639_3</p> <p>Key highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consolidate social platforms, and be more active; drop platforms which were not working, but also review the reasons why; analyse the profiles of people who were using which platforms and target for different purposes; and Directors requested to support consistent messaging for SWLEP activity. <p>Once the strategic plan was in place, we would be able to execute the marketing plan.</p> <p>The Plan would be submitted for approval at the March Board meeting and PB requested volunteer Directors to form a small test group to trial the concepts and he would send them the document beforehand. JSC volunteered to assist in the development of the Marketing Plan.</p> <p>Action PB to link TB with JSC.</p>	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board: APPROVED the outline approach to drafting the Marketing Plan 2023-24, its structure, and its direction of development.</p>	<p>Feb 2023</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Chief Executive's report</p>	
	<p>PB spoke to the paper and outlined three key elements from the report.</p> <p>SWLEP Ltd's future EM advised the meeting that it was hoped to have news regarding LEP core funding for the next financial year and pan-regional partnerships, like The Western Gateway, shortly. There was discussion as to the future direction of the SWLEP and this would be influenced by the ability to retain assets such as the Growing Places Infrastructure Fund.</p> <p>The Task & Finish Groups had been established to discuss Commercial Strategy. The three strands were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Business Cyber Centre; • Business Support; and • the next capital programme. <p>The Commercial Strategy would come to the Board Meeting on 30 March.</p> <p>Department for Transport (DfT) PB thanked Director MM for flagging up his involvement in a study with DfT on the long-term impact of road development. This had been passed to the LEP Network and 10/12 LEPs were now interested in joining a discussion group to develop policy suggestions to put to the DfT.</p> <p>Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a year's delay, Our Wilton had repaid its capital loan, but we were still awaiting payment of the interest accrued. The funds would now be recycled to support other businesses. The repayment of the loan had taken a long time to resolve, and thanks were given to Phil Clement for his tenacity. • A further loan application from a different company would be coming for approval in the confidential Part Two of the meeting. <p>As a result of the situation with Our Wilton and Recycling Technologies going into administration, the review of loan applications was focussed on the impact on the cash flow of companies of increased energy costs, inflationary pressures and customer confidence. To manage our costs, we would now charge a set-up fee for the loans. The fact that Our Wilton was a Community Interest Company (CIC) would not prevent SWLEP from reviewing loan applications from other CICs in the future.</p>	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board: DISCUSSED the issues raised in paragraphs 4.10 to 4.17 on the future direction of SWLEP Ltd and defined any necessary next steps; and NOTED the remaining contents of the report.</p>	
6.0	<p>Natural Capital PhD study</p>	
	<p>Parsa Mohammadpour presented to the meeting on the progress made with the Natural Capital PhD study to implement a proper theory base on what impact development has on the natural environment. The presentation can be accessed by following the link below.</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/board-meetings/2023/26-jan/swlep-board-presentation-jan-2023-sharing-verison.pdf?sfvrsn=eb758b5b_3</p> <p>A tool would be developed from the study which could be used in Business Case development and would show what needed to be done to compensate any negative impact on the natural environment.</p> <p>His Majesty's Treasury (HMT) was keen to embed natural capital in the decision-making process. Digital mapping would be available across the country. This study would be helpful in determining the most beneficial place to invest in environmental compensation. Providing some compensatory measures close to a development may not be the best way to gain the maximum positive impact on the environment.</p> <p>PM was thanked for a very informative presentation which generated a good discussion.</p>	
7.0	<p>Subgroup updates</p>	
	<p>The discussion points of the latest Subgroup meetings were presented. The presentation can be accessed using the link below.</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/board-meetings/2023/26-jan/subgroup-updates-26-jan-23-boardmtg-v2.pdf?sfvrsn=5be836a6_3</p> <p>Skills & Talent Subgroup (Slides 2-3) CK was unable to attend the Board Meeting today owing to an Ofsted inspection at New College, Swindon. PB updated the meeting in her absence.</p> <p>Business Environment Subgroup (Slide 4) AN advised the meeting of the discussions at the Subgroup. The meeting was also advised that the company, Hatch, was reworking the Local Economic Assessment (LEA) and this information would also feed into the business environment. The Growth Hub's Business Intelligence Report (BI) was issued to local MPs and other stakeholders and had been used particularly in discussions with Town Partnership Boards.</p>	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>Ideas, Infrastructure & Place Subgroup (Slides 5-6) TH updated the meeting, as he had chaired the last Subgroup meeting owing to SW's absence.</p>	
8.0	Reports for information and noting	
8.1	<p>Delivery Plan 2022/23 Q3 progress report</p> <p>CSk spoke to the paper, confirming the current good progress. Reporting on the 2023-24 Delivery Plan will take a different approach following the Board discussion at the meeting in November 2022.</p> <p>The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board: NOTED the contents of the report.</p>	
8.2	<p>Budget report Q3</p> <p>Overall, the company would make a trading loss in 2022-23 due to money used from reserves to cover the reduction in Government funding for SWLEP and Growth Hub core activities and the loss incurred in the first year of operating the BCC. Our cashflow was affected by delays in transferring funds owed to us from a range of sources from the Accountable Body to our account.</p> <p>The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board: NOTED the financial position of the company up to end of Q3 in the financial year 2022-23.</p>	
8.3	<p>Programme Status Report</p> <p>PB spoke to the paper. The report was much smaller than previously as Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Fund programmes had now closed, and the report now mainly consisted of the loans within the Growing Places Infrastructure Fund.</p> <p>PB highlighted three key loans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling Technologies had gone into administration and was RAG-rated at RED. SWLEP had been advised that it would probably only receive pence in the pound back for the money loaned, so in effect, the monies had been written off; • the capital outstanding on the loan to Our Wilton had been returned to the GPIF pot, but the company was still to pay interest accrued. This was shortly to be settled. Hence, the loan was currently RAG-rated at AMBERRED; and • Advanced Bio Fuels was RAG-rated at AMBERRED as it was still negotiating with investors to support its cashflow. <p>The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board: NOTED the contents of the reports.</p>	
9.0	AOB	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directors' meeting scheduled for 16 March would be an in-depth overview of the Commercial Strategy prior to seeking approval at the March Board. The Western Gateway (WG) had a new Chief Executive who would like to visit our area. WG had realised that it had not visited south of the county and was proposing a tour in the Salisbury area. The aim was for the military to host. The proposed date of w/c 27 March would be difficult for SWLEP as it was the same week as the Board Meeting. Details remained sketchy at present. <p>Action: GMc and AN to coordinate.</p>	<p>Feb 2023</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting</p>	
	<p>Thursday, 30 March 2023</p> <p>Directors to meet at 9am start of the public meeting at 9.30am.</p>	
	<p>Future Meetings for 2023</p> <p>Thursday, 25 May Thursday, 20 July Thursday, 28 September Thursday, 23 November</p> <p>Meetings will be held via video / teleconference unless otherwise advised.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 11.45am</p>	

Intentionally left blank – questions received from members of the public will be circulated ahead of the meeting.

Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>
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Meeting & Date:	SWLEP Board Meeting – Thursday, 30 March 2023		
Subject:	Budget Management: Estimated end of year 2022-23		
Attachments:			
Author:	Charlotte Skinner	Total no of sheets:	4

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. To provide the Board with details of income and expenditure for Q4 to 20 March 2023 in the financial year 2022-23.

2. Summary

- 2.1. This paper provides a summary position of the current income, expenditure and net margin up to 20 March 2023 in the financial year 2022-23. The figures are shown quarterly with a year to date (YTD) summary.
- 2.2. The accounts for Q4 to 20 March show an overall negative trading position of £23,000, taking YTD to a negative overall trading position of £417,870.
- 2.3. In Q4 we received over £530,000 income, including grant payments for Q3 Growth Hub, Q3 SME Competitiveness and Skills and labour market intelligence, and £214,751 in GPIF loan interest.
- 2.4. For this financial year we are still due payments for further GPIF interest and for Q4 SME Competitiveness and Growth Hub grant payments. If they arrive by the end of the year they will have a significant impact on our closing balance, but it is likely that much of the money will not be received until Q1 in 2023-24.
- 2.5. Income from the Business Cyber Centre for Q4 was £72,000, a 26% increase from Q3 of £57,000.
- 2.6. The current end of year forecast for our main business programmes is for a negative trading position of approximately £100,000, which is included in the overall figure shown in para 2.2. This is estimated to be negative £510,000 in BCC, £30,000 in Growth Hub Plus and £70,000 in Growth Hub Core. These are covered by our planned use of reserves to cover these anticipated losses in 2022-23.

2.7. Day to day operations are financed from our healthy bank balance, currently standing at £1.1m, with a reserve of £650,000 for future projects.

2.8. We continue to be financially stable.

3. Recommendations

The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board is recommended to:

3.1. note the financial position of the company up to 20 March 2023 in the financial year 2022-23.

4. Detail

4.1. At the end of Q3 there was a negative trading position of £394,820. In Q4 so far, we have a negative trading position of £23,049, leaving us with a YTD negative trading position of £417,870.

4.2. In Q4 we received £536,948 income including:

4.2.1. Q3 Growth Hub Core (£55,901);

4.2.2. Q3 SME Competitiveness (£88,905);

4.2.3. the final Department for Education grant to support our Skills & Talent work (£55,000); and

4.2.4. GPIF loan interest (£214,751).

4.3. For this financial year we are still awaiting to receive further GPIF interest and Q4 SME competitiveness and Growth Hub grant payments. These are estimated to total circa £310,000. If we received what we are due by the end of 2022-23, this will make a significant difference to our trading position. Q4 would return a positive trading margin of circa £190,000, thereby halving our projected end of year trading loss described in para 4.1. However, some of these payments, possibly all, may not be received until Q1 2023-24, which will improve our Q1 figures, but leave intact the end of year trading loss shown in para 4.1.

4.4. Income from the Business Cyber Centre increased to £72,000 in Q4, up 26% from £57,000 in Q3.

4.5. The Growth Hub commercial offering, Growth Hub Plus, again achieved a small income in Q4. However, Growth Hub Plus portal build costs were also incurred. The portal then launched late in Q4 2022-23 meaning build costs were not off set in this financial year.

4.6. Due to the 50% funding reduction in Growth Hub Core from 2021-22 to 2022-23, we chose to continue to maintain a higher level of business support this financial year, funding £70,000 from our reserves. We are not planning to maintain this into 2023-24 financial year. This is reflected in the end of year forecasts for our programmes summarised in the next paragraph.

- 4.7. The current end of year forecast is for a negative trading position on our programmes of approximately £100,000. This is estimated to be negative £510,000 in BCC, £30,000 in Growth Hub Plus and £70,000 in Growth Hub Core. The BCC loss is covered by the provision of £586,000 retained in our reserves in line with the business plan for the BCC signed off by the Board. The additional £100,000 from Growth Hub Core and Plus is also covered by our reserves.
- 4.8. We do not have a cash flow problem and have £1.1m cash in the bank and £650,000 in reserve for future projects.
- 4.9. The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the figures.

Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd
Quarterly income and expenditure for Q1 to 20th March 2022-23

Account	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 to 20th March	Year to date
Interest Income			£123,843	£214,751	£338,594
Other Revenue	£243,495	£660,894	£208,238	£213,585	£1,326,212
Sales	£607	£71,965	£114,349	£108,612	£295,533
SWLEP Conference & Expo		£11,640			£11,640
Income	£244,102	£744,500	£446,430	£536,948	£1,971,980
Advertising & Marketing	£16,704	£10,385	£6,223	£1,883	£35,195
Audit & Accountancy fees	£17,234	£19,744	£11,577	£5,212	£53,767
Bank & Payment Fees	£332	£323	£457	£350	£1,461
Business Rates		£65,970	£65,976		£131,946
Cleaning	£6,790	£5,848	£6,443	£5,165	£24,246
Consulting		£5,606	£11,794	£9,953	£27,352
Employers National Insurance	£21,783	£29,086	£24,025	£24,244	£99,138
General Expenses	£9,929	£8,857	£28,223	£3,136	£50,146
HR Support	£7,800	£1,209	£1,053	£393	£10,455
Insurance	£1,583	£10,897	£10,796		£23,277
Intangibles			£5,500		£5,500
IT Software and Consumables	£19,296	£30,618	£24,181	£65,173	£139,268
Leasehold Improvements	£1,200	£1,300			£2,500
Legal Expenses	£180	£21,232	£1,800	£4,989	£28,201
Light, Power, Heating	£13,389	£7,939	£7,085	£13,536	£41,949
Office Equipment	£3,191	£517	£10,666		£14,374
Pensions Costs	£16,751	£21,431	£18,218	£18,337	£74,737
Postage, Freight & Courier	£75	£348		£7	£430
Printing & Stationery	£766	£1,212	£153	£34	£2,165
Rent	£59,481	£57,489	£52,676	£54,791	£224,437
Repairs & Maintenance	£321	£927	£639	£20	£1,907
Salaries	£201,150	£243,290	£223,102	£227,965	£895,507
Service Delivery	£158,194	£52,174	£127,254	£120,862	£458,484
Staff Training	£517	£285	£350	£312	£1,464
Subscriptions	£809	£9,548	£648	£994	£11,999
SWLEP Conference and Expo		£1,500	£5,375		£6,875
Telephone & Internet	£2,498	£2,113	£3,789	£1,573	£9,973
Travel – National	£1,622	£612	£9,793*	£1,072*	£13,100
Total Expenses	£561,596	£610,460	£657,796	£559,998	£2,389,850
Difference	-£317,494	£134,040	-£211,366	-£23,049	-£417,870

* Travel costs here include those attributable to staff on secondment, where we are re-claiming the money from the host companies.



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Meeting & Date:	SWLEP Board Meeting – Thursday, 30 March 2023		
Subject:	Budget Management: Budget Plan Q1 2023-24		
Attachments:			
Author:	Charlotte Skinner	Total no of sheets:	3

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. To provide the Board with budget details for Q1 in the financial year 2023-24.

2. Summary

- 2.1. This paper provides a budget for the company for Q1 in the 2023-24 financial year. The full year budget is currently awaiting confirmation of the 2023-24 Growth Hub Core funding and will be presented at the May Board Meeting.
- 2.2. In Q1 2023-24 we are predicting to receive £125,000 in sales income. The majority of this, £100,000, is predicted from the BCC. Our GPIF interest for Q1 is predicted to be £130,000 and our grant income approximately £190,000.
- 2.3. The net trading position for this quarter is predicted to be negative £84,000. We are expecting sales from our commercial activity to increase over the course of 2023-24 to off-set this initial position.
- 2.4. Further changes within the company will occur in Q2 as our SME Competitiveness Programme comes to an end. Staff levels post this are dependent on the level of Growth Hub Core funding.
- 2.5. Day to day operations are financed from our healthy bank balance, currently standing at £1.1m, with a reserve of £650,000 for future projects.
- 2.6. We continue to be financially stable.

3. Recommendations

The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board is recommended to:

- 3.1. note the financial budget for Q1 2023-24.



4. Detail

- 4.1. This paper provides a budget for the company for Q1 in the 2023-24 financial year. The full year budget is currently awaiting confirmation of the 2023-24 Growth Hub Core funding and will be presented at the May Board Meeting.
- 4.2. In Q1 2022-23 we are predicting to receive £125,000 in sales income. The majority of this, £100,000, is predicted from the BCC, with the remainder being staff secondment fees and Growth Hub Plus income. Our GPIF interest for Q1 is predicted to be £130,000 and our grant income approximately £190,000.
- 4.3. The net trading position for this quarter is predicted to be negative £84,000. We may see some variations in this due to the dates interest and grant payment are received. We are expecting sales from our commercial activity to increase over the course of 2023-24 to offset this initial position, and are looking at ways to reduce our costs, including work underway to re-assess business rates at the BCC which is unlikely to be completed in time for the Q1 2023-24 payment.
- 4.4. Further changes within the company will occur in Q2 as our SME Competitiveness Programme comes to an end. Staff levels post this are dependent on the level of Growth Hub Core funding received.
- 4.5. Day to day operations are financed from our healthy bank balance, currently standing at £1.1m, with a reserve of £650,000 for future projects.
- 4.6. The table below shows the budget for Q1 2023-24 financial year. This budget is subject to amendments once we have received confirmation of our Growth Hub Core funding.
- 4.7. We continue to be financially stable.

Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd

Quarterly income and expenditure budget for Q1 2023-24

Account	Q1
Interest Income	£130,000
Other Revenue	£190,000
Sales	£125,310
Income	£445,310
Advertising & Marketing	£15,000
Audit & Accountancy fees	£14,000
Bank & Payment Fees	£300
Business Rates	£37,120
Cleaning	£10,000
Consulting	£5,000
Employers National Insurance	£22,144
General Expenses	£10,000
HR Support	£500
Insurance	£0
IT Software and Consumables	£20,000
Legal Expenses	£1,000
Light, Power, Heating	£10,000
Pensions Costs	£11,337
Postage, Freight & Courier	£100
Printing & Stationery	£500
Rent	£67,018
Repairs & Maintenance	£1,000
Salaries	£209,965
Service Delivery	£90,000
Staff Training	£300
Subscriptions	£800
Telephone & Internet	£2,500
Travel – National	£600
Total Expenses	£529,183
Difference	-£83,873



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Meeting & Date:	Board Meeting – Thursday, 30 March 2023		
Subject:	The Government’s proposal to transfer LEP functions to Local Authorities		
Attachments:			
Author:	Paddy Bradley	Total no of sheets:	12

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. To inform the Board of the Government’s proposal to transfer Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions to local government.

2. Summary

- 2.1. This paper describes the background events which have culminated in the Government’s proposal to cease funding organisations providing LEP functions and transfer those functions to local government.
- 2.2. If the proposals are implemented by April 2024, the LEP structure will have been in operation for 13 years, the same period of existence attained by the Regional Development Agencies they replaced.
- 2.3. The Government’s proposals have come after a period of five years of constant reviews of the role and function of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). There follows a four-week period of information gathering, with detailed responses expected, but not required, from LEPs, local authorities, mayoral combined authorities and possibly other bodies.
- 2.4. The LEP Network is co-ordinating themed roundtable discussions variously with officials from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Department for Education (DfE).
- 2.5. By the summer, it is reasonable to assume we will have passed through this period of uncertainty so that we hope to be able to hold a fully informed discussion of the future prospects for SWLEP Ltd at the July Board meeting.



- 2.6. In the Part Two section of today's Board meeting, Directors can discuss any initial responses to the possible impact of the Government's proposals on SWLEP Ltd's commercial approach and activity. It is the Part Two section of the meeting which we use to debate commercially sensitive issues.

3. Recommendations

The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board is recommended to:

- 3.1. note for information the Government's proposal to cease funding organisations providing LEP functions and transfer those functions to local government where appropriate;
- 3.2. raise any commercially sensitive issues about the impact of the Government's proposals in Part Two of today's Board meeting; and
- 3.3. authorise the Chair and Deputy Chair to sign off on behalf of the Board the response from SWLEP to questions asked of LEPs in the Government's questionnaire.

4. Detail

Background

- 4.1. LEPs commenced operation in August 2011. They were established as voluntary partnerships between local authorities and business to replace many of the functions of Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), which were eventually abolished in 2012 after operating for 13 years.
- 4.2. Dame Mary Ney carried out an extensive review of the role and function of LEPs in 2017 and one conclusion was that LEPs should have their own legal identity to be clearly business-led and independent of local authorities. This recommendation was accepted by the Government and the expectation was set for LEPs to register as legal entities by April 2019.
- 4.3. Swindon and Wiltshire LEP became a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee in January 2019 and agreed the transfer of business assets from Swindon and Wiltshire Councils to SWLEP Ltd in March 2020.
- 4.4. A further Government-instigated review began in May 2021, culminating in the Levelling-Up White Paper in February 2022. This foresaw the increasing move to local devolution models in which the LEP functions would be absorbed into reformed local government structures. Where such devolution models were not in place, LEPs would remain and be funded if resources allowed before a devolution deal was agreed.

Recent developments

4.5. After five years of constant review of LEPs, the Government announced as part of the 2023 Budget Statement its decision to cease funding the existing bodies providing LEP functions from April 2024 and transfer the functions of LEPs to local democratic leaders where appropriate.

4.6. This decision is described in the red book which contains additional details and always accompanies the Chancellor's Budget Statement.

'The government is committed to empowering democratically elected local leaders at every opportunity. To this end, the government intends for the functions of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to be delivered by local government in the future. Therefore, the government is minded to withdraw central government support for LEPs from April 2024. DLUHC and the Department for Business and Trade will now consult on these proposals, before confirming a decision. The government will publish an updated policy position to confirm next steps by the summer.'

4.7. On 17 March, DLUHC and the Department for Business and Trade opened a four-week period of information gathering which will close at 23:59 on 14 April. The purpose is to gain the views of LEPs, local authorities, mayoral combined authorities and possibly other bodies to inform advice to Ministers, which will culminate in an updated policy position by the summer.

4.8. The process of gathering views is through a questionnaire issued to the organisations mentioned in paragraph 4.7. Each organisation has separate parts of the questionnaire allocated to it. The questions are listed in Appendix I.

4.9. The SWLEP is organising meetings with both Councils and our DLUHC Area Lead and Deputy Area Lead to discuss completion of the questionnaire. The submission of the questionnaire responses from all parties may well also include questions from those parties to Government and so may not be the end point of the information gathering process.

4.10. In addition, the LEP Network is going to hold some roundtable discussions involving DLUHC officials. Suggested themes are:

- Business representation
- Economic planning
- Assets and Legacy Issues (Enterprise Zones, Growing Places Fund, Getting Building Fund, monitoring, etc.)
- Staffing (TUPE)/formal legal wind down/Director liabilities/run off insurance issues
- Skills Functions (Careers Hubs, Skills Bootcamps etc) – to be run with DfE
- Possibly Growth Hubs and Business Support

Future considerations for SWLEP Ltd

- 4.11. Between now and the summer we will be heavily involved in gathering and submitting information and preparing a range of scenarios to plan for how the single LEP's functions can be transferred to two local authorities. This scenario planning will benefit from ongoing discussions with Swindon and Wiltshire Councils and participating in the roundtable discussions mentioned in paragraph 4.10.
- 4.12. Towards the end of July we will have a good draft of our audited accounts for 2022-23 including the initial view from our auditors about whether SWLEP Ltd will be considered a going concern having weighed up our response to potential material concerns which could arise from the transfer of LEP responsibilities to local government. We also hope to know the Government's updated policy position and next steps.
- 4.13. At this stage, providing these products are ready, it is intended to have a detailed discussion about the future direction of SWLEP Ltd at the July Board meeting.
- 4.14. Directors may also wish to discuss any initial responses to the possible impact of the Government's proposals on SWLEP Ltd's commercial approach and activity. There is an opportunity to do so in the Part Two section of today's Board meeting in which we can debate commercially sensitive issues.

5. Appendix

- 5.1. **Information-gathering questionnaire for submission by 23:59 on 14 April 2023.**
LEP Future Funding Questionnaire Questions

Below is the full list of questions provided for information; respondents should complete the online form at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/39Squn7XvQ>

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Introduction Text

Background

On 15 March 2023, the Chancellor announced that Government is minded to end Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) core funding. This forms part of our wider work on delivering devolution across England, and we will work with local areas to determine how the functions currently undertaken by LEPs are best delivered at a local level in future, where appropriate and where they are not already delivered by a Combined Authority.

Over the next four weeks officials at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Department for Business and Trade will be carrying out an information gathering exercise to better understand the impacts that this proposal would have if taken forward, and before a decision is confirmed.

Aim

The aim of this exercise is to fully understand the implications of an end to Government core funding if this were to happen. Core funding is typically used to pay for staff salaries, buildings, marketing, communications, and consultancy.

We have a particular interest in how activities currently carried out by LEPs might change, cease, or be transferred – depending on local plans – in the event of defunding, as well as the potential impact on:

- Economic growth in local areas.
- Decision-making in local authorities, particularly the input of business organisations.
- LEP staff and customers, including those with protected characteristics.
- Legacy projects (i.e. projects that have been funded in previous years through Government or private sector programmes).
- Ongoing separately-funded functions such as Growth Hubs and Careers Hubs.



And an interest in whether the impact would differ between areas with devolution deals and those without, and whether LEPs would continue or cease operations without this funding.

Structure

This questionnaire is split into six sections. The sections marked with an asterisk are mandatory. Respondents should only complete relevant sections.

- Section 1: Core Information.*
- Section 2: Nature of your relationship with Local Enterprise Partnerships.*
- Section 3: Questions for Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- Section 4: Questions for Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs), the Greater London Authority, and areas that have agreed devolution deals.
- Section 5: Questions for Local Authorities.
- Section 6: Public Sector Equality Duty Assessment.*

Data Security

Except where questions are mandatory, you are not required to respond to all of the questions in the section relevant to you, but the information you provide will be used to inform the final decision. Please highlight if any information shared is commercially sensitive. It will not be shared outside of HM Government.

Please direct any questions to lepinformation2023@levellingup.gov.uk.

Section 1: Core Information [mandatory]

1. What is your name?
2. Please provide your email address.
3. What is the name of your organisation?

Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Limited

4. What type of organisation is it?
 - a. LEP
 - b. LA
 - c. MCA, the GLA, future devolved area
 - d. Other
5. Which area(s) of England does your organisation operate in? Please tick all that apply.
 - a. North East
 - b. North West
 - c. Yorkshire & Humber
 - d. Ox-Cam and East Anglia
 - e. West Midlands
 - f. Greater London
 - g. South East
 - h. South West



Section 2: Nature of interaction with Local Enterprise Partnerships [mandatory]

If you represent a LEP, please enter n/a and move to Section 3, where this information is captured in more detail.

6. How do you currently work with your local LEP? What are the key activities for your organisation that the LEP currently delivers? Please give details.
7. Without core funding, it is possible that LEPs will reduce or cease their operations. What impact would that have on the following:
 - a) Your own operations
 - b) Your stakeholders
 - c) Your customers
 - d) Your future plans
 - e) Any programmes or activities carried out in partnership or via the LEP.
8. What (if any) impact would you envisage transferring responsibility of LEP functions to local authorities, where they are not already being delivered by a Combined Authority, having?

Section 3: Questions for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

Please only respond to this section if you represent a Local Enterprise Partnership.

We recognise that for some LEPs in prospective devolution deal areas, some of your answers may depend on what happens with devolution in your area. Where this is the case, please flag any uncertainties in your answers if appropriate.

9. If you do not continue to receive core funding, would you be likely to:
 - a. continue operating
 - b. transfer functions where appropriate and cease operations?
10. If you would be likely to continue operations, what functions would you cease to deliver in the absence of core funding?
11. If you would be likely to cease operations, please specify any significant liabilities such as ongoing MoUs and contracts with government, local authorities, or private businesses, including any subsidiaries owned by the LEP.

Please also specify any plans for joint ventures and special purpose vehicles with local and national partners, and any plans for handling public money (e.g. retained business rates).

12. How many people (FTE) do you have working for you and what functions do they deliver?
 - a) Directly employed
 - b) Under contract to provide services (contractors)
 - c) Temporary staff



d) Secondees

13. How many staff (FTE) are funded solely or partially by core funding?
14. If core funding were to end in April 2024, would you expect to have to make any staff redundant? How many (FTE)? What are your estimated redundancy costs?
15. If required, how would you propose to handle resourcing questions such as return of secondees to parent bodies, TUPE of staff, etc.?
16. What proportion of your overall income in 2022-23 is core funding?
17. What private sector income in 2022-23 do you receive, e.g. funding for Careers Hubs, match funding from local partners?
18. Which local authority acts as your accountable body?
19. Do you have financial reserves? How much? What would be the actual and planned use of these?
20. What contractual agreements (commercial, employment, etc.) do you have beyond April 2024 and what costs are associated with these? What is the duration of these contractual agreements?
21. Do you have any Local Growth Fund (LGF), Getting Building Fund (GBF), or Growing Places Fund (GPF) money remaining to spend? If so, how much do you expect to have unspent by fund (£m) by April 2024? If you plan to cease operations should core funding end in 24/25, how do you propose to deal with any unspent funding?
22. Has the LEP been a Grant Recipient for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)? If so, what arrangements will be made to retain the project audit trail in an accessible format until December 2033 in line with the contractual agreement?
23. What implications would there be if hosting arrangements for Careers Hubs sat outside of LEPs? e.g. Local Authorities.
24. Do you currently oversee the operations of an Enterprise Zone? *The following four questions relate to the operations of Enterprise Zones. If you do not currently oversee the operations of an Enterprise Zone, please skip ahead to question 29.*

Not applicable



25. If yes, what local arrangements (i.e. MoUs/contracts) are in place to determine how the growth in retained business rates generated by an Enterprise Zone site are distributed?

Not applicable

26. Are there any other MoUs or contracts pertaining to the management of the Enterprise Zone that we should be aware of (including where borrowing has taken place against the future receipt of retained rates)?

Not applicable

27. What are your receipts/income from property/land, including 'evergreen' investments?

Not applicable

28. Do you have any liabilities that are being funded using Enterprise Zone income to borrow money, for example, to fund infrastructure development over several years? If so, can you please provide details?

Not applicable

29. What major assets do you own or have a financial or contractual interest in (e.g. land, buildings, data and knowledge assets, etc.)?

30. What local agreements are in place to determine how assets are managed and appropriately transferred or disposed of?

31. Are there any other impacts in the event of LEPs no longer receiving core funding, or the transfer of LEP functions, that you would like to make us aware of?

Section 4: Questions for MCAs, the GLA, and Areas with new deals

Not applicable

Please only complete this section if you represent a Mayoral Combined Authority, the Greater London Authority, or an area that has agreed a devolution deal.

32. Were the cessation of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) core funding from 2024/25 to apply to MCAs, the GLA and Devolution Deal areas how would this affect your plans for integration?

33. How would the cessation of LEP core funding affect your subsequent delivery of remaining functions (e.g. Careers Hubs, Growth Hubs)?

34. How would it affect your provision of a business voice to influence key economic decisions?



35. Do you currently oversee the operations of an Enterprise Zone? *The following two questions relate to the operations of Enterprise Zones. If you do not currently oversee the operations of an Enterprise Zone, please skip ahead to question 38.*
36. If yes, what local arrangements (i.e. MoUs/contracts) are in place to determine how the growth in retained business rates, generated by an Enterprise Zone site, are distributed?
37. Are there any other MoUs or contracts pertaining to the management of the Enterprise Zone that we should be aware of? (including where borrowing has taken place against the future receipt of retained rates).
38. What local agreements are in place to determine how any LEP-owned assets are managed and appropriately disposed of?
- 39. What have been your key lessons learned from the integration process to date, which would be helpful for others to consider if transferring functions?**

Section 5: Questions for Local Authorities (LAs)

Please only respond to this section if you represent a Local Authority.

40. Are you an accountable body for a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)? If so, which?
41. How would you plan to incorporate the voice of private sector leaders in support and growth of local economies and highlighting economic opportunities? Would you be minded to continue a relationship with the LEP (if they continued) or put in place a new arrangement?
42. Would your authority be able to take on the remaining LEP functions (Careers Hub, separately funded Growth Hub, ongoing monitoring of the Local Growth Fund, Getting Building Fund, ERDF etc)? If your whole county geography or functional economic area covers more than one upper tier local authority, would you be able to do it on behalf of other local authorities? What governance would you need e.g. joint committee?
43. Were your LEP seeking to continue as a separate organisation what would be the implications of this for your area?
44. Were your local LEP to cease operations, what successor arrangements would you need to consider putting in place in supporting HMG activity in driving co-investment in site development, business growth, and innovation, as well as providing a local focus in responding to economic shocks?
45. How would you ensure that co-operation is maintained in adjoining and economically linked local authority areas?



46. Do you agree that, where a devolution deal is not agreed or in negotiation, the Growth and Careers Hub geographies should be based on a sensible geography as defined by the Levelling Up White Paper i.e. over a sensible functional economic area and/or a whole county geography, even if this involves more than one upper tier local authority working together?
47. Do you currently oversee the operations of an Enterprise Zone? *The following two questions relate to the operations of Enterprise Zones. If you do not currently oversee the operations of an Enterprise Zone, please skip ahead to question 50.*
48. If yes, what local arrangements (i.e. MoUs/ contracts) are in place to determine how the growth in retained business rates, generated by an Enterprise site, are distributed?
49. Are there any other MoUs or contracts pertaining to the management of the Enterprise Zone that we should be aware of (including where borrowing has taken place against the future receipt of retained rates)? How would you propose to handle retained rates in the event of the LEP ceasing operations?
50. In the event of a LEP ceasing its operations, what are your plans for any LA staff who are currently based in the LEP or any of its subsidiaries?
51. In the event of a LEP ceasing its operations, will this have any impact on plans for any joint ventures with the LEP?
52. Should your local LEP choose to continue as a separate organisation, would you have any plans to fund it?
53. Are there any other impacts in the event of LEPs no longer receiving core funding that you would like to make us aware of?

Section 6: Public Sector Equality Duty Assessment [mandatory]

The following questions have been drafted to review how this potential policy decision meets the Government's legal duty under the Equalities Act 2010 to:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct prohibited by the Act.
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a particular protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
3. Foster good relations between people who share a particular protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

The Duty covers the protected characteristics of **age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.**

54. If LEP core funding were to end in 2024/25, what impact might this have on the three elements of the public sector equality duty (numbered points above)?



55. If LEP core funding were to end in 2024/25, how could the impacts on the three elements of the public sector equality duty (numbered points above) be mitigated for those with protected characteristics?
56. Are there any programmes or initiatives that you think are noteworthy in terms of servicing users (both beneficiaries of programmes and activities and LEP employees) with protected characteristics (in **bold** above)? How would these be impacted by the end of core funding?



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Report Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>
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Meeting & Date:	SWLEP Board Meeting – Thursday, 30 March 2023		
Subject:	Chief Executive’s Report		
Attachments:	None		
Author:	Paddy Bradley	Total no of sheets:	3

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

1.1. The report enables Board Directors to view a range of issues in one paper, raising items for approval, discussion or noting.

2. Summary

2.1. The paper updates the Board on:

- 2.1.1. SWLEP’s annual performance review 2022/23 with the CGLU;
- 2.1.2. Government’s core funding settlement for LEPs and Growth Hubs;
- 2.1.3. Local Economic Assessment 2022/23 progress update;
- 2.1.4. Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF); and
- 2.1.5. staff secondments.

3. Recommendations

3.1. The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board is asked to:
3.1.1. note the contents of the report.

4. Detail

Annual Performance Review

- 4.1. The Annual Performance Review meeting took place on 1 February and confirmation has been received that SWLEP has met requirements. There are two possible outcomes: met or not met requirements.
- 4.2. The SI51 assurance and compliance statements have been submitted to government and are posted on the SWLEP website along with the governance statement.
- 4.3. Feedback is awaited on the SI51 sign-off of the Governance Framework which was reviewed in November 2022.

Government financial support for LEPs

- 4.4. In February, written confirmation of SWLEP's core funding settlement of £250,000 was received which represents a further £125,000 reduction in funding for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23. As in previous years, LEPs (or the MCA into which LEP functions have been integrated) will be required to submit a core funding application form outlining proposed spend for financial year 2023-24. It is presumed this will include a requirement to demonstrate match-funding, which in our case comes from our commercial income, excluding GPIF interest.
- 4.5. The national funding for Growth Hubs is to be up to £12m in 2023-24, an increase of £1m on the figure from 2022-23. At the time of writing, we await notification of the SWLEP's individual allocation.
- 4.6. The draft delivery plan for 2023/24, which was approved by the Board in November 2022, was based on maintaining the same level of funding as received in 2022/23 (£375,000 for LEP core activities and £231,000 for Growth Hub core work). A review of SWLEP's publicly funded activity will be undertaken and brought to the May board meeting. It is anticipated there will be a reduction in planned delivery of no-charge services for the year.

Local Economic Assessment

- 4.7. Hatch has been appointed to refresh the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Assessment (LEA) 2022/23 replicating the format which was successfully developed for the previous assessment. The cost of its production was covered by the Department for Education's SAP funding which comes to an end this financial year.
- 4.8. One of the core activities the Government expects LEPs to undertake is economic planning. The Local Industrial Strategy is a good example of a robust strategy based on an extremely strong evidence base. Since then, we restricted ourselves to in-depth analysis of the economy of the area, which both local authorities have made use of to differing degrees.
- 4.9. As 2023-24 is likely to be the last year the Government funds LEP functions outside of local government, the current local economic assessment may well be the last one we produce. Paper 5.0 on today's agenda covers the issue of funding and future location of LEP functions.
- 4.10. A workshop with SWLEP staff and officers from both local authorities was held on 28 February to discuss some of the headline findings. Given the time lag in the publication of official statistics, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is starting to show through in the data. This includes a fall in GVA of c. £1bn for the area.
- 4.11. The LEA will be completed by the end of the financial year and Hatch will give a presentation on key findings and policy recommendations to the Board at its meeting in May.

Staff secondments

- 4.12. The secondment arrangement of Debby Skellern to the Western Gateway as its Hydrogen Lead has been extended to the end of June. Her time will be fully allocated to



the Western Gateway during the quarter in order to finalise the Western Gateway Hydrogen Strategy and Delivery Pathway 2050 as well as organise the Hydrogen Gateway Conference which is being jointly branded and promoted as a national event with Hydrogen South West, the South Wales Industrial Cluster and GW4 Alliance.

- 4.13. The secondment of Phil Clement to GFirst will end on 31 March 2023 due to GFirst's response to the reduced funding allocation described in paragraph 4.4. The way we continue to manage the Growing Places Infrastructure Fund is under review.



Subgroup updates:

- **Business Environment**
- **Skills & Talent**
- **Ideas, Infrastructure & Place**

Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>
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Meeting & Date:	SWLEP Board Meeting – Thursday, 30 March 2023		
Subject:	Programme Status Report		
Attachments:	None		
Author:	Paddy Bradley based on analysis by Claire Alexander	Total no of sheets: (inc cover sheet)	6

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 Highlight reports are presented to the SWLEP Board to communicate the status of live projects and to demonstrate that projects are being managed in line with the LEP Assurance Framework, and for the Growing Places Infrastructure Fund, that loans are being managed and risks understood.

2. Summary

- 2.1 There are 26 live projects as summarised below.

Green	Amber Green	Amber Red	Red
23	0	2	1

3. Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF)

- 3.1 The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board is asked to note:
- 3.1.1 No new loans were issues during the period.
- 3.1.2 Two loans are marked RED, one where the company has gone into administration, owing SWLEP £935,433 and the other where an interest payment remains overdue, Our Wilton.
- 3.1.3 Two organisations now have three separate loans each via GPIF funding. Totals are Potts Partnership £950,500 and Clinical Partners, £1.7m. The total amounts in each case do not exceed our upper limit of £2m, but concentration of loans in two companies does increase our exposure to risk. It is a matter which is under constant review from the GPIF Working Group through to the Business Environment Subgroup.

- 3.1.4 In this last year, we have increased our monitoring of the financial health of all companies we loan money to through the license we have purchased to the Red Flag Alert system. This allocates a financial health status to all companies registered or trading in the UK. The assessments rank Gold, Silver, Bronze, Amber, one red flag, two red flags and finally, three red flags. More than half the companies with three red flags status close within days.
- 3.1.5 The current assessment for the 21 companies in receipt of a GPIF loan is:
- 3.1.5.1 Gold: 1 company
 - 3.1.5.2 Silver: 3 companies
 - 3.1.5.3 Bronze: 8 companies
 - 3.1.5.4 Amber: 1 company
 - 3.1.5.5 One Red Flag: 6 companies.
- 3.1.6 We have no companies on our list rated below One Red Flag. We focus the loan fund on medium to high-risk businesses which are developing products in the priority sectors we have identified through our Local Industrial Strategy and subsequent delivery plans. The Red Flag analysis is commensurate with that risk profile.

Skills & Enterprise Projects

Project Ref	Project Name	Lead	Previous	Current	Notes
LEP/GEN/001/CEC	Enterprise Advisor Network & Careers Hub	Shona Taylor	G	G	Continued progress has been made during the period.
LEP/GEN/002/GH	Growth Hub	Rob Creer	G	G	Continued progress has been made during the period.

Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF)

Project Ref	Project Name	Lead	Previous	Current	Notes
LEP/GPIF/003/RT	Recycling Technologies	Phil Clement	R	R	A loan for £1,035,433 was made in February 2019 and in October 2022 the company went into Administration owing SWLEP £935,433.
LEP/GPIF/004/OW	Our Wilton	Phil Clement	AR	AR	The capital amount has been repaid, however an interest payment, of £17,201.28 remains outstanding and is overdue.
LEP/GPIF/005/PRP	PRP Optoelectronics	Phil Clement	G	G	£1,140,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by December 2023.
LEP/GPIF/006/FL	Four Legs Are Better Than Two	Phil Clement	G	G	£150,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by January 2024.
LEP/GPIF/007/AE	Autoguide Equipment	Phil Clement	G	G	£150,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by December 2024.

LEP/GPIF/008/ABS	Advanced Biofuel Solutions Ltd	Phil Clement	AR	AR	£1,250,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by December 2024. The company has sought further funding from investors to support cashflow.
LEP/GPIF/009/PP	Potts Partnership Ltd (No 1)	Phil Clement	G	G	£276,500.00 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by June 2024. This loan has been extended by four months.
LEP/GPIF/010/CP	Clinical Partners Ltd (No 1)	Phil Clement	G	G	£250,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by June 2024.
LEP/GPIF/011/CI	Connected ID Ltd	Phil Clement	G	G	£150,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by October 2023.
LEP/GPIF/012/BF	The Black Farmer Ltd	Phil Clement	G	G	£156,340 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by April 2026.
LEP/GPIF/013/PP2	Potts Partnership Ltd (No 2)	Phil Clement	G	G	£472,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by August 2026.
LEP/GPIF/014/SPL	Simpson-Partners Ltd	Phil Clement	G	G	£354,450 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by September 2025.
LEP/GPIF/015/NEG	Nationwide Engineering Group Ltd	Phil Clement	G	G	£2,000,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by October 2026.
LEP/GPIF/016/CP2	Clinical Partners (No 2)	Phil Clement	G	G	£1,050,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by December 2025.
LEP/GPIF/017/SL	Seamach Ltd	Phil Clement	G	G	£150,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by September 2026.

LEP/GPIF/018/WD	Wylye Distillery	Phil Clement	G	G	£500,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by May 2027.
LEP/GPIF/019/CT	Carbon ThreeSixty	Phil Clement	G	G	£1,054,500 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by April 2027.
LEP/GPIF/020/MB	Moulton Bikes	Phil Clement	G	G	£350,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by April 2027.
LEP/GPIF/021/WH	Westwire Harnessing	Phil Clement	G	G	£150,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by March 2026.
LEP/GPIF/022/CT	Consolite Technology	Phil Clement	G	G	£300,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by August 2027.
LEP/GPIF/023/GM C	Green Machine Computers	Phil Clement	G	G	£200,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by August 2027.
LEP/GPIF/024/PP3	Potts Partnership Ltd (No 3)	Phil Clement	G	G	£202,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by January 2024. This third loan has been extended from 18 months (June 2024) to five years.
LEP/GPIF/025/CP3	Clinical Partners (No 3)	Phil Clement	G	G	£400,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by April 2027.
LEP/GPIF/026/GTL	Gold Traders (UK) Ltd	Phil Clement	G	G	£1m loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by October 2026 via forty-eight instalments.

Key

Project Status

	Red	Amber Red	Amber Green	Green
	R	AR	AG	G

See below for RAG rating methodology.

Milestones

BLUE – complete, **GREEN** - on track, **AMBER** - at risk, **RED** – will be late/is late.

RAG Rating

		Impact			
		1 (Low)	2	3	4 (High)
	4 (Likely)	AG	AR	AR	R
	3	AG	AG	AR	AR
	2	G	AG	AG	AR
	1 (Unlikely)	G	G	AG	AG

The RAG reporting is based on the composite elements of probability and impact (see chart to the left) and splits into the following categories:

- **GREEN:** Project considered being on track, to time, quality, and cost.
- **AMBER, GREEN:** Project considered at risk of minor to medium impacts on time, scope and/or cost – requires small mitigating action.
- **AMBER, RED:** Project considered at risk of medium to major impacts on time, scope and/or cost – requires mitigating action.
- **RED:** Project considered at serious risk of significant impact on time, scope and/or cost. Immediate mitigating action required.