



Membership

Name of Member	Organisation	Attendance
David Andrews (DA)	VisitWiltshire	✓
Chris Baish (CB)	New College	Apologies
Layla Burrows (LB)	Innovate UK	✓
Kathryn Crosweller (KC)	Chippenham Chamber	
Kez Garner	Trowbridge Chamber	✓
Ruth Lambert (RL)	Federation of Small Business, FSB	✓
Karen Leigh (KL) or Emily Manser (EM)	BEIS Representative	Apologies
Lee McQuade (LMcQ)	DIT	Apologies
Robin McGowan (RMcG)	Salisbury BID	✓ left at 1.25pm
Tim Major (TM)	Thames Valley Chamber	✓
Sue Marchant (SM)	Cool Ventures	✓
Thomas Mason (TMa)	CLA	✓ - arrived at 12.40pm
Phil Mills (PM)	SWMAS	✓
Paul O'Collins (PO)	Innovate UK Edge (previously EEN)	Apologies
Mandy Paterson (MP) OR Rob Perks	Inspire by Wessex Chamber	✓
Andy Rhind-Tutt (AR-T)	Salisbury & District Chamber	
Anita Bellinger (AB)	InSwindon	
Karen Taylor (KT)	DWP	Apologies
Dee Temple-Multon (DT-M) OR Ian Larrard	BusinessWest	✓
Stephen Tulip (ST)	MakeUK	✓ - arrived at 1pm
Beverley Waters (BW)	ICAEW	✓ arrived at 12.45pm
Andrea Witcombe (AWi)	NFU	✓



SWLEP: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed

Claire Alexander (CA)	SWLEP	Apologies
Paddy Bradley (PB)	SWLEP CEO	✓
Phil Clement (PC)	SWLEP	✓ attended for first 30 mins only
Alison North (AN)	SWLEP Director	✓
Amanda Peach (AP)	SWLEP	✓
Debby Skellern (DS)	SWLEP	Apologies
Chris Stevens (CS)	SWLEP	✓
Peter Wragg (PW)	SWLEP Deputy Chair	Apologies

Swindon Borough Council: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed

Chris Parsons (CP)	Swindon Borough Council	✓
Julia Stuckey (JS)		Apologies
Andrew Wells (AW)		

Wiltshire Council: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed

Rory Bowen (RB)	Wiltshire Council	✓
Rachel Finlay (RFi)		✓
Russell Frith (RF)		Apologies
Sam Fox (SF)		Apologies
Victoria Moloney (VM)		
David Perrett (DP)		
Mandy Timbrell (MT)		

 Swindon & Wiltshire LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP	Minutes of Business Intelligence & Networking Group Meeting (BING) 10 March 2021
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Guest(s)	Paul Moorby (PJM), SWLEP Chair – ✓ arrived at 1pm Rob Loveday (RLo) from Department of International Trade (DIT) ✓
Chair	Alison North (AN)
Minutes	Deborah House (DKH)
Venue	Via video / teleconference call
Start time	12.30pm
Finish Time	2pm

1.0	Welcome and Introductions	Date
	The meeting opened at 12.32pm. The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and advised of guest speaker Rob Loveday from the Department of International Trade (DIT) later in the agenda. Apologies were noted.	
2.0	Minutes of meeting on 13 January 2021 and matters arising	
	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021 were read and approved.</p> <p>Matters Arising: Matters Arising from the last meeting were completed or ongoing.</p>	
3.0	Department of International Trade (DIT) – Advanced Engineering	
	<p>RLo presented to the meeting and outlined the work he was undertaking with the DIT and The Western Gateway to highlight key strengths in Advanced Manufacturing for the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three LEPs and Cardiff city region were working as a cluster for cyber, sustainable tech and internationalisation all under the banner of the Western Gateway. A lead contact from each LEP for the DIT had been identified. In the SWLEP area this was Phil Clement, Head of Investment & Export. <p>Action: RLo and LB to establish contact regarding the cyber element and Innovate UK's upcoming event.</p>	asap
4.0	Innovate UK - Business Innovation and Cyber Futures Event update	
	<p>LB presented to the meeting and outlined the detail of the upcoming Innovate UK event on 24 – 25 March.</p> <p>Day One – 24 March Cyber as a focus for Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire: Local networks, infrastructure and regional engagement for your Cyber business.</p> <p>Day TWO – 25 March Support for your business – who can help with business growth, access finance, collaborative partnerships and grant funding.</p>	



	Action: BING members requested to promote the event via their memberships.	asap
5.0	Business Grants	
	<p>RB updated the meeting on the situation within Wiltshire Council. Key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants Team was preparing to be in place until September; • £128m disbursements for the LRSG and ARG had been paid; • £7m would be paid out this week; • the next ARG tranche of payments would be made towards the end of March, although this was still not confirmed; • there was still £4m unallocated which had to last until end of the next financial year; • since November 2020, the Council had paid out £40m in 19,000 individual payments. It was a very resource intensive process; • the Council was awaiting further guidance from Government for the Restart grants, as well as the funding pot for distribution. As soon as something was received from Central Government, it would let people know; and • businesses were encouraged to sign up to the weekly Biz Newsletter to receive information promptly. <p>Further information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council had allocated up to £1m for market towns' recovery over the next four years and was starting to scope out the plans; • the technical update for the Future High Streets Fund was now with MHCLG; • the Council had been allocated 70 % of the original ask and had now refined some of the schemes; • expecting the decision by end of March; • awaiting further guidance on the Levelling Up Fund; and • the Council was developing a local recovery roadmap, which would mirror the Government's dates. Comms for this would be coming out in the next week. <p>CP updated the meeting on the situation with Swindon Borough Council. Key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiple schemes were still open covering the period from 2 December to 15 February; • SBC had implemented a sole trader taxi driver scheme; • 15 February to 31 March period covered the mandatory scheme for closed businesses; • the latest ARG would involve further sole trader and hopefully the hospitality sector; 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the State Aid question was extremely complicated, but it was expecting clear guidance after April announcements; 14 temporary staff were processing 150-200 cases per day; and Julia Stuckey was leaving Swindon Borough Council at the end of the month. Anyone with any questions around the grant schemes should contact CP or AW. 	
6.0	3 March Budget: Implications	
	<p>This was a time of significant change and disruption. The Government was trying to achieve a balance between continuing support and maintaining health vs jobs. The size of Government debt was significant. It was trying to introduce measures to re-balance and bring funding back into the coffers. Fortunately, the cost of borrowing was low at present and projections for growth were reasonable.</p> <p>The budget had highlighted some key areas where Government would be looking to invest. Different parts of the country may be destined to receive more money than SWLEP, so how do we access some funding for Swindon and Wiltshire? One key area was delivering energy storage. What were the other means we could generate renewable energy in our area? This was extremely important with Government, so these are the areas we should be looking into, for example, hydrogen generation and use for freight, buses and trains.</p>	
7.0	Suggested items for future meetings	
	<p>Next meeting on 5 May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Future High Streets Fund and Towns Fund by both Local Authorities Update on Business Cyber Centre <p>Future Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Porton Science Park Presentation by NHS Update from NFU on changes in farming environment since Lockdown and / or Brexit Impact of reduced immigration 	
8.0	AOB	
	<p>PJM explained that he had just returned from a webinar with Lord Heseltine where the future of LEPs was discussed.</p> <p>In documents supporting the budget, the anticipated Government review of the role of LEPs had been confirmed.</p> <p>"We will also be working with local businesses on the future role of Local Enterprise Partnerships. We want to ensure local businesses have clear representation and support in their area, in order to drive the recovery. We will work with Local Enterprise Partnerships</p>	



	<p>over the coming months, with a view to announcing more detailed plans ahead of summer recess. This will also include consideration of Local Enterprise Partnership geographies."</p> <p>Consultation would be coming, and the announcement would be made before the summer recess. There were 30,000 businesses in Swindon and Wiltshire and SWLEP was seeking full and frank views about what SWLEP could do for businesses.</p> <p>Action: businesses to feedback views to Chair or CEO.</p>	On-going
	Date and time of next meeting	
	<p>Next meeting: Wednesday, 5 May - 12.30pm – 2pm</p> <p>Future Dates for 2021: Wednesday, 30 June - 12.30pm – 2pm No meeting scheduled in August Wednesday, 8 September - 12.30pm – 2pm Wednesday, 3 November - 12.30pm – 2pm</p>	
	Meeting closed at 1.35pm	

Paddy Bradley

5 May 2021