



**Membership**

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
David Andrews (DA)	VisitWiltshire	
Anita Bellinger (AB)	InSwindon	
Layla Burrows (LB)	Innovate UK	✓
Sally Cook (SC)	DWP	
Kathryn Croweller (KC)	Chippenham Chamber	
Jim Davison (JD)	MakeUK	✓
Kez Garner	Trowbridge Chamber	
Emily Manser (EM)	BEIS Representative	✓
Ruth Lambert (RL)	Federation of Small Business, FSB	Apologies
Awaiting replacement	DIT	
Robin McGowan (RMcG)	Salisbury BID	Apologies
Tim Major (TM)	Thames Valley Chamber	✓
Thomas Mason (TMa)	CLA	✓
Phil Mills (PM) / David Purcell (DP)	SWMAS	✓✓
Paul O'Collins (PO)	Innovate UK Edge (previously EEN)	
Mandy Paterson (MP) OR Rob Perks	Inspire by Wessex Chamber	✓
Andy Rhind-Tutt (AR-T)	Salisbury & District Chamber	
Dee Temple-Multon (DT-M) OR Ian Larrard	BusinessWest	✓
Beverley Waters (BW)	ICAEW	✓
Andrea Witcombe (AWi)	NFU	
<b>SWLEP: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed</b>		
Paddy Bradley (PB)	SWLEP CEO	✓



Alison North (AN)	SWLEP Director and Chair of BING	Apologies
Amanda Peach (AP)	SWLEP	✓
Debby Skellern (DS)	SWLEP	✓
Chris Stevens (CS)	SWLEP	✓
<b>Swindon Borough Council: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed</b>		
Chris Parsons (CP)	Swindon Borough Council	✓
<b>Wiltshire Council: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed</b>		
Rory Bowen (RB)	Wiltshire Council	✓
Rachel Finlay (RFi)		Apologies
Russell Frith (RF)		Apologies
Victoria Moloney (VM)		
David Perrett (DP)		
Mandy Timbrell (MT)		Apologies

<b>Guest(s)</b>	Katie Cross (KC) Wiltshire Council, representing Mandy Timbrell Paul Moorby (PJM), SWLEP Chair James Tindale (JT), Emsi Burning Glass
<b>Chair</b>	Paddy Bradley (PB)
<b>Minutes</b>	Deborah House (DKH)
<b>Venue</b>	Via video / teleconference call
<b>Start time</b>	12.30pm
<b>Finish Time</b>	2pm

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>Date</b>
	The meeting opened at 12.33pm. PB welcomed attendees to the meeting and explained that AN was unable to attend today, so he would be acting as Chair for this meeting. Apologies from those not able to attend were noted.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes of meeting on 10 November 2021 and matters arising</b>	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2021 were read and approved.	



	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspire awards – <i>Update: MP advised the meeting that the timeline for the awards had now been extended. The closing date was 19 April, with judging in May and 9 June for the award ceremony. All details were on the website and all categories now had entries.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Green agenda – Skills &amp; Talent Subgroup 12 January 2022</b>	
	<p>PB presented to the meeting using the slide set shown at the Skills &amp; Talent Subgroup meeting on 12 January, which focussed on skills and jobs in the green economy, as these were seen as a significant area of growth for Swindon and Wiltshire. The presentation can be accessed by following the link below.???</p> <p><a href="https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/skills-talent/skills-talent-2022/12-jan-2022/green-skills-and-jobs-paddy-bradley.pdf?sfvrsn=2a9469e4_4">https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/skills-talent/skills-talent-2022/12-jan-2022/green-skills-and-jobs-paddy-bradley.pdf?sfvrsn=2a9469e4_4</a></p> <p>The presentation covered the estimates for job creation in the Green Economy in Swindon and Wiltshire separately and also in comparison with neighbouring areas and England overall. For Swindon and Wiltshire, the sector with the highest estimate of new jobs was the low carbon generation of electricity.</p> <p>PB had been tasked with drafting a summary report of the Skills &amp; Talent Subgroup meeting to take back to the meeting scheduled for 8 March for decisions to be made on agreed activity.</p> <p><b>Action: Circulate the summary also to all BING members.</b></p>	When available
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Labour Market Intelligence (LMI)</b>	
	<p>JT from Emsi Burning Glass presented to the meeting on the current situation in Swindon and Wiltshire for Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) and any changes since the last meeting. The presentation can be accessed by following the link below.</p> <p><a href="https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/brog/2022/03-feb-2022/20220203-february-slidedeck-lmi-v0-2.pdf?sfvrsn=2c092309_4">https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/brog/2022/03-feb-2022/20220203-february-slidedeck-lmi-v0-2.pdf?sfvrsn=2c092309_4</a></p> <p>Comments made were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there was a spike in redundancies in June in manufacturing <i>and logistics</i> and the question was asked whether this were also related to the Honda closure. <i>Response: JT would look into it and also consider the fact that there had been an increase in job postings in logistics, so jobs were still available.</i></li> <li>concern was expressed over the numbers in insurance and finance, as this was the next biggest sector after manufacturing in Swindon and the questions was asked how these numbers had been reached;</li> <li>it was suspected that the job titles had changed and there were more IT-based roles, as Nationwide and Zurich had not stopped recruitment. If</li> </ul>	



	<p>recruiting was now location agnostic this could have ramifications for Swindon Borough Council;</p> <p><b>Action: PB to link up JT with CP to discuss.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apprenticeship numbers were dropping as the £3,000 incentive for employers was falling away;</li> <li>• different sectors had suffered different COVID restrictions so the redundancies had reflected this; arts etc, had taken longer to open up;</li> <li>• although this was having an immediate impact, the knock-on effect could last for years and was worrying;</li> <li>• AP advised of the Growth Hub webinars on 9 and 10 February about apprenticeships with guest employers and apprentices and the link was added to the chat function;</li> <li>• the claimant count for 16–24-year-olds was dropping. This was having a significant impact on Kickstart placements, as young people were opting for full-time employment instead; and</li> <li>• we still needed to find out how the newly launched Way to Work scheme was going to operate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: JT to analyse the numbers of people who were not economically active for the next meeting.</b></p>	<p><b>Feb 2022</b></p> <p><b>Mar 2022</b></p>
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Information from partner organisations</b></p>	
	<p>Despite their absence, RF and RFi had provided email updates to the meeting.</p> <p>Porton Science Park Building 2 was due to be ready for handover by end of July 2022 and Wiltshire Council was negotiating terms with a number of interested parties.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council had recently issued Request for Quote opportunities for High Street recovery projects to be funded through the Reopening the High Streets Safely/Welcome Back Fund. Details of the opportunities including Digital Skills for the High Street, a Marketing &amp; Communications campaign, Footfall Data collection, Deep Cleaning, Action Planning and City Dressing, can be seen on the portal <a href="#">Supplying the South West Portal</a>. (Look at ‘latest opportunities’ – ‘Wiltshire’). BING members may have membership businesses or contacts that would appreciate a flag around these opportunities, and it would be good to see local providers responding to the calls.</p> <p><b>Action: BING members to pass on the link accordingly.</b></p> <p><b>ICAEW</b></p> <p>BW advised that the latest ICAEW Business Confidence Monitor was due out towards the end of February with results for the Southwest with specific sector information. Significant numbers of businesses were quoting difficulties with recruitment at present, with counteroffers being accepted from existing employers,</p>	<p><b>Feb 2022</b></p>



With the increase in working from home, geography was now not such an issue and businesses were forced to recruit outside the area to get the skills needed. This was a large problem within the accountancy sector.

MP added that this situation was across all sectors and that there was a big issue around employees accepting a role and moving on very quickly into other roles a little after starting. With working from homes, onboarding new employers could be weak. There was no need now for recruitment to be geography specific and could be national and even global. Inspire had some non-standard, exceptional solutions to this type of situation and was happy to share.

**Action: MP and BW to link up to discuss.**

**Feb  
2022**

**Action: PB requested BW to present to the next meeting about the Business Confidence Monitor.**

**Mar  
2022**

#### **Business West**

DT-M commented that people's expectations were now higher.

BusinessWest continued to work with Innovate UK, and the organisation was happy to work with innovative companies should attendees wish to share contacts.

#### **Thames Valley Chamber**

TM advised the meeting that TV Chamber had carried out a Swindon-specific. Survey via I:Is which saw 40% of businesses with an increase of the workforce and 45% still recruiting, but conditions were challenging.

**Action: TM to bring the information to next meeting for discussion.**

**Mar  
2022**

The Thames Valley Business Awards were being launched on 11 March in Swindon and a digital event around video strategy was being held with the Growth Hub's Letitia Wright in April.

#### **Wiltshire Council**

RB updated the meeting on three business support schemes in operation.

- Rates relief– CARF
- The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grants (OHLG) and
- the Additional Restrictions Grant, also known as the Omicron Discretionary Grant (ODG) scheme were both live.

The schemes were intended to help businesses impacted by the Omicron wave from early December 2021. Full details and an extensive set of FAQs regarding the schemes can be found on the website [Coronavirus business support grants - Wiltshire Council](#). This included information about eligibility and the application process (invitation and online applications). Enquirers should be directed to the website in the first instance



<p>The links to Swindon Borough Council’s grant schemes and rate relief are given below.</p> <p><a href="#">COVID-19 - Government support for businesses   Swindon Borough Council</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20041/business_rates/1238/covid-19_-_additional_rate_relief_202122">https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20041/business_rates/1238/covid-19_-_additional_rate_relief_202122</a></p> <p><b>Action: BING members to pass on the links to grant schemes to their membership accordingly.</b></p> <p>The Levelling Up White Paper had been published and a summary can be accessed by following the link below.</p> <p><a href="https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/brog/2022/03-feb-2022/levelling-up-white-paper-summary.pdf?sfvrsn=396a54dd_4">https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/brog/2022/03-feb-2022/levelling-up-white-paper-summary.pdf?sfvrsn=396a54dd_4</a></p> <p><b>Action: summary of Levelling Up White Paper to be circulated with the presentations.</b></p>	<p><b>Feb 2022</b></p> <p><b>Feb 2022</b></p>
<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p>	
<p><b>Next meeting</b> Thursday, 31 March 2022 - 12.30pm to 2pm</p> <p><b>Further dates for 2022:</b> Thursday, 30 June 2022 - 12.30pm to 2pm September 2022 – to be advised December 2022 – to be advised</p>	
<p><b>Meeting closed at 1.55pm</b></p>	

*Paddy Bradley*

**31 March 2022**