

Membership

Name of Member	Organisation	Attendance
David Andrews (DA)	VisitWiltshire	✓
Anita Bellinger (AB)	InSwindon	
Jo Broom (JP)	Salisbury & District Chamber	✓
Layla Burrows (LB)	Innovate UK	✓
Sally Cook (SC)	DWP	
Kathryn Crosweller (KC)	Chippenham Chamber	Maternity leave
Jim Davison (JD)	MakeUK	✓
Mark Edwards (ME)	Calne Town Council	
Lorna Howarth (LH)	KTN Innovate UK	
Emily Manser (EM) / Jenna Hunt (JH)	Cities & Local Growth Unit Representatives	✓ JH
Ruth Lambert (RL)	Federation of Small Business, FSB	Apologies
Awaiting replacement	DIT	
Robin McGowan (RMcG)	Salisbury BID	
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	✓
Ben Pidgeon (BP)	Trowbridge Chamber	
Dee Temple-Multon (DT-M) OR Ian Larrard	BusinessWest	✓
Beverley Waters (BW)	ICAEW	✓
Ed Humber (EH)	NFU	
SWLEP: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed		



Paddy Bradley (PB)	SWLEP CEO	✓
Alison North (AN)	SWLEP Director and Chair of BING	✓
Amanda Peach (AP)	SWLEP	✓
Chris Stevens (CS)	SWLEP	✓
Swindon Borough Council: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed		
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Wiltshire Council: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed		
Rory Bowen (RB)	Wiltshire Council	✓
Rachel Finlay (RFi)		✓
Russell Frith (RF)		✓
Victoria Moloney (VM)		
David Perrett (DP)		
Mandy Timbrell (MT)		Apologies

Guest(s)	Katie Cross (KC), Wiltshire Council – representing Mandy Timbrell Paul Moorby (PJM) SWLEP Chair Richard Walters (RW), Wiltshire Council
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. AN welcomed attendees to the meeting and apologies were noted.	
2.0	Minutes of meeting on 3 February 2022 and matters arising	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2022 were read and approved. Matters Arising:	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with the Institute of Technology about building entrepreneurship into its courses. PB and LB to discuss outside the meeting. PB advised that there was more to discuss. Date to be advised. <p>Other Matters Arising were completed or on the agenda.</p>	
3.0	Local Economic Assessment (LEA)	
	<p>PB presented to the meeting and outlined the following for the Swindon and Wiltshire area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> output and productivity; business and sectors; socio-economic issues; infrastructure and the environment; and future trends. <p>The presentation can be accessed by the following link:</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/brog/2022/30-june/bing-local-economic-assessment-300622.pdf?sfvrsn=eaa75b9d_4</p> <p>A Local Economic Assessment was carried out every two years, which allowed SWLEP to track any changes in the area. Two years ago, the results of the LEA fed into our Local Industrial Strategy document; this year highlighted what we should do differently.</p> <p>Additional comments made were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swindon and Wiltshire were different in their make-up. Swindon was a largely urban area with a more concentrated population. Wiltshire was a large rural area, requiring very good digital and transport connectivity to make it competitive. Improving broadband coverage and quality for home-based working would help. A question was raised on whether there were any plans to help Ukrainian refugees where the biggest barrier was language. <i>Response: There was help at the voluntary sector level. For example, there was a particular programme in place to provide an English tutor set up for different language needs based in the Salisbury area.</i> <p>Action: PB to share contact with JB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a similar vein, a highly qualified Ukrainian in the area was struggling to find work. What support was available? <i>Response: the Growth Hub website had dedicated two pages about employment written in Ukrainian. Ukraine had a fantastic reputation for chemistry, and a recent discussion with members of iCAST</i> 	July 2022



	<p><i>(Innovation Centre for Applied Sustainable Technologies) indicated that they would be snapped up if available.</i></p> <p>Action: PB to provide the contact details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The question was raised on whether the different types of working from home models was impacting on the figures. For example, some employees were working from home but in businesses within the local economy, whilst other employees were working from home but remotely for businesses based outside the area. <i>Response: businesses with high GVA generally lent themselves more easily to home working. The area's connectivity was both its strength and its weakness, as people could travel in and out of the area and work remotely easily. The more people living and working in our area the better economically it would be for us. The challenge for future would be that if this model continued, there would be more opportunities to work elsewhere – nationally or even internationally.</i> Export numbers were still relatively high. Honda had produced 150,000 cars in 2019 with the majority going for export. The impact of Honda's closure on export figures was yet to be seen, but the difference would be substantial, although change would take a few years to settle down. The question was raised if the small business birth rate of 55 was down to the problem of lack of employment land. <i>Response: this was a factor for business expansion as grow on space was an issue. There was no requirement in Local Plans to set a five-year supply of employment land as there was for housing land. A growing number of businesses in rural areas were becoming more technical. There were more business failures in Swindon because they tended to be involved in riskier sectors. The impact of COVID had knocked tourism businesses in rural areas.</i> 	July 2022
4.0	Skills update	
4.1	<p>Green Skills and Jobs</p> <p>KC advised the meeting that the Skills & Talent Task & Finish Group had already met twice and were due to meet for a third time shortly. An action plan was being drafted which would be presented at the Skills & Talent Subgroup on 14 July and thereafter to the Board detailing SWLEP's response to the potential growth area in green jobs.</p> <p>A green skills survey was in the process of being finalised and would then be issued via all pathways to ascertain what that landscape looked like.</p>	
4.2	<p>Apprenticeship Strategy</p> <p>AP advised the meeting that the aim of the Apprenticeship Strategy was to have 50 new employers with apprentices by the end of the year. A webinar series called "coffee and chat", to break apprenticeship myths, was held every month and was proving very successful, with numbers increasing each time. Eight employers were now on the programme, with a couple in the recruitment stage and a pipeline of</p>	

30+ employers. Some employers were now thinking about their multiple vacancies or upskilling existing staff using their apprenticeship levy.

NOTE: Subsequent information provided after the meeting at the request of the Chair.

February Webinars – Available to watch on demand

- How to attract the next generation into your organisation - 17 registrants
- How an apprentice could fill your skills gap - 36 registrants
- Using apprenticeships to motivate and upskill staff - 19 registrants

Coffee and Chat -All things Apprenticeships Sessions

- February - 16 registrants
- April - 5 registrants
- May - 11 registrants
- June - 20 registrants

4.3 Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs)

The DfE had invited employer representative organisations to bid to operate LSIPs in an area according to existing LEP boundaries. LEPs themselves were not permitted to apply. Two organisations in the Swindon & Wiltshire area had submitted Expressions of Interest and the winning organisation would be funded to help develop the LSIP. In addition, the SWLEP had received funding from the DfE and to retain £20,000 from the Autumn to support the winning bidder for the LSIP with data information. These would be operated from April 2023.

Raspberry Pi competition*

PA Consulting sponsored the national Raspberry Pi awards which was aimed at enticing young people to get into programming and coding with entries across age groups from primary to A-level students.

Several SWLEP staff attended the recent awards. There tended to be a mixed record of schools from Swindon and Wiltshire entering and/or being successful at these awards, and overall, there were more from private schools than state schools. Godolphin School, an all-girls private school based in Salisbury, had reached the finals this year.

SWLEP was working with a list of strategic partners to produce a box of tools which state schools could use to get young people ready to be able to apply for the competition. SWLEP's aspiration was for one school to reach the final by 2024. This competition encompassed STEM subjects and was particularly good at encouraging girls to participate. Schools did have to allocate time into the competition outside the normal curriculum.

JD advised the meeting that many of their manufacturing members used Raspberry Pi to test their products and processes and many students cut their teeth with coding on these minicomputers.



	<p>More information can be found via the link below.</p> <p>https://www.paconsulting.com/events/raspberry-pi-competition-uk/</p> <p>*The PA Raspberry Pi Competition challenges 8 to 18-year-olds to design technology that would make the world a better place using their STEM skills and a Raspberry Pi microcomputer.</p>	
5.0	Q2 Outlook Survey from MakeUK	
	<p>JD presented to the meeting on the results of MakeUK's membership survey for Q2 and the presentation can be accessed by following the link below:</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/brog/2022/30-june/manufacturing-outlook-q2-22.pdf?sfvrsn=c1fa5a79_4</p> <p>In conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • output and orders were still positive but exhibited continued decline. New order growth becoming 'pedestrian'; • UK and export order growth slows; • price growth was again record-breaking, but margins were falling sharply; • employment slowed and investment intentions nose-dived; • expectations for Q3 2022 maintained growth expectation regardless; • manufacturing output growth forecast revised down for both 2022 to 2.3%, and 2023 to 1.7%; and • UK GDP growth forecast revised down for both 2022 to 3.6%, and 2023 to 1.4%. <p>Additional comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment was high in both Swindon and Wiltshire; • unemployment figures also reflected those who were economically inactive; • this may be owing to the impact of COVID as people had decided to change the way they approached life, for example, by taking early retirement, so this may also be contributing to a lack of staff availability; • other businesses relied on people coming in from Europe and these were playing catch-up with staff vacancies; and • there was a change to the profile of sectors in the area and SWLEP needed to push harder for the sectors experiencing growth. 	
6.0	Porton Science Park update	
	<p>RW presented to the meeting on the current status of Porton Science Park Phase 2 – Collaboration and Innovation Centre - and planned future developments. The presentation can be accessed by following the link:</p>	



	<p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/brog/2022/30-june/bing---porton-presentation---30-06-22.pdf?sfvrsn=c4bfe3f9_4</p> <p>Wiltshire Council had recognised the need for health & life science businesses to base themselves outside the wire whilst working closely with two government organisations behind the wire. This close collaboration was sought after and demand for space at the Science Park was high, with further build out expected in the future. Wiltshire Council was looking to attract private investors for the remaining large space. The target for 2,000 jobs on this site was achievable.</p>	
7.0	Information from partner organisations	
	<p>KC advised the meeting of a launch event by the strategic development network of the Gatsby Foundation titled Education Landscape, which took place on 28 June. The project was to develop a tool and guide for employers to better understand the education landscape and demonstrate how they could get involved. This was a free resource to employers and comprised a guide, an index, for example, on work experience and placements, and a resources kit, for example, PowerPoint presentations etc. This had been devised in collaboration with several stakeholders, including the Careers & Enterprise Company. Discussions would now be held with both Local Authorities, the Careers Hub and SWLEP to see how this could be used in our area.</p> <p>More details can be found in the link below:</p> <p>Get to know the Education Landscape - Education Landscape</p>	
8.0	Items proposed for future meetings	
	<p>RB proposed an overview of the investment plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from Wiltshire Council for the next meeting.</p> <p>A similar overview from Swindon Borough Council was also suggested.</p> <p>All presenters were thanked for their contributions to the discussions.</p>	
	Date and time of next meeting	
	<p>Next meeting Tuesday, 13 September 2022 – 12.30pm to 2pm</p> <p>Further dates for 2022: Wednesday, 7 December 2022 – 12.30pm to 2pm</p>	
	Meeting closed at 13.52pm	

Paddy Bradley

13 September 2022