



Membership

| Name of Member | Organisation | Attendance |
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| David Andrews (DA) | VisitWiltshire | ✓ |
| Anita Bellinger (AB) | InSwindon | |
| Layla Burrows (LB) | Innovate UK | ✓ |
| Sally Cook (SC) | DWP | |
| Kathryn Crosweller (KC) | Chippenham Chamber | Maternity leave |
| Jim Davison (JD) | MakeUK | ✓ |
| Kez Garner | Trowbridge Chamber | ✓ |
| Emily Manser (EM) | Cities & Local Growth Unit 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 | ✓(PM) |
| Paul O'Collins (PO) | Innovate UK Edge (previously EEN) | |
| Mandy Paterson (MP) OR Rob Perks | Inspire by Wessex Chamber | Apologies |
| 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 | |
| SWLEP: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed | | |
| Paddy Bradley (PB) | SWLEP CEO | ✓ |

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|  Swindon & Wiltshire LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP | Minutes of Business Intelligence & Networking Group Meeting (BING) 31 March 2022 |
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| Alison North (AN) | SWLEP Director and Chair of BING | Apologies |
| Amanda Peach (AP) | SWLEP | ✓ |
| Debby Skellern (DS) | SWLEP | ✓ |
| Chris Stevens (CS) | SWLEP | ✓ |
| Swindon Borough Council: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed | | |
| Chris Parsons (CP) | Swindon Borough Council | Apologies |
| Wiltshire Council: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed | | |
| Rory Bowen (RB) | Wiltshire Council | ✓ |
| Rachel Finlay (RFi) | | ✓ |
| Russell Frith (RF) | | Apologies |
| Victoria Moloney (VM) | | |
| David Perrett (DP) | | |
| Mandy Timbrell (MT) | | Apologies |

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| Guest(s) | Katie Cross (KC) Wiltshire Council, representing Mandy Timbrell ✓ Lester Biddle, Elena Magrini and Will Cookson from Emsi Burning Glass ✓✓✓ Mark Edwards, Calne Town Council ✓ Lorna Howarth (LH), KTN Innovate UK ✓ |
| Chair | Paddy Bradley (PB) |
| Minutes | Deborah House (DKH) |
| Venue | Via video / teleconference call |
| Start time | 12.30pm |
| Finish Time | 2pm |

| 1.0 | Welcome and Introductions | Date |
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| | 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. | |
| 2.0 | Minutes of meeting on 10 November 2021 and matters arising | |
| | The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2022 were read and approved. | |



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| | Matters Arising: Matters Arising were completed or on the agenda for discussion. | |
| 3.0 | Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) | |
| | <p>Elena Magrini and Will Cookson Lester 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. There had been a change of personnel with James Tindale leaving the company and this would be the last update directly provided by Emsi.</p> <p>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/2022/31-mar-2022/22-03-01-swlep-march-slidedeck-v0-1.pdf?sfvrsn=7ede64f6_4</p> <p>Headline comments were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> total job postings in the SWLEP area and UK continued to build on the gains made in January 2022, highlighting labour demand remains strong in both areas; apprenticeship job postings rebounded in the SWLEP area, mirroring the UK trend that began one month beforehand; job postings volume continued to grow across most sectors in the SWLEP area, albeit – finance and insurance postings volume remains below the level in July 2019; job postings volume continued to grow across all occupation groups. The rate of growth compared to the UK appears to be lower in the professionals and managers, directors and officials groups; claimant rates continued to decrease in Swindon, Wiltshire and England. Decreases in rates continue to be higher for the 16-24 age group compared to the 16-64 group; the unemployment rate amongst the economically active working age population of Swindon and Wiltshire increased in the year to September 2021 compared with the year to June 2021; the employment rate in Swindon dropped in the year to September 2021, with economic inactivity rising. Wiltshire differed to Swindon, the employment rate increased, and economic inactivity fell. This difference could indicate the data is now starting to become sensitive to the closure of the Honda plant; general skillsets such as basic customer service and the ability to use Microsoft office had remained the most in-demand over the past 14 months. Compared to these skillsets, teaching appears to have more consistent demand; and highly in demand information technology skillsets include software development principles, technical support, system design and implementation and SQL databases and programming. | |



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| 4.0 | Green agenda and skills | |
| | <p>PB spoke to the paper and explained the priority the Skills & Talent Subgroup had placed on the emerging role of green skills within the Swindon and Wiltshire economy. A Task & Finish Group would be established to draft the plan of action over the next three years. It was hoped that the draft plan would be available to take to the July Board.</p> <p>Action: PB to update the BING meeting on progress.</p> | On-going |
| 5.0 | Innovate UK Action Plan | |
| | <p>LB presented to the meeting. The presentation can be accessed by using the following link:</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/brog/2022/31-mar-2022/innovate-uk-plan-for-action-march-2022-v2.pdf?sfvrsn=d4689cdd_4</p> <p>The Plan for Action was working with five strategic themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future economy • Growth at scale • Global opportunities • Innovation ecosystem • Government levers <p>and the document can be accessed using the link below:</p> <p>https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-action-plan-for-business-innovation-2021-to-2025/</p> <p>It was hoped that the Delivery Plan would be available in May.</p> <p>Swindon and Wiltshire could do better in applying and receiving Innovate UK funding. The area had significantly underperformed in this arena. Innovate UK was looking to actively promote in the area to turn this situation around and was looking for volunteers to work with them to drill down into the cluster mapping. Rory Bowen and Rachel Finlay from Wiltshire Council and Debby Skellern from SWLEP volunteered.</p> <p>Action: PB to check with Swindon Borough Council for prospective volunteers.</p> <p>Lorna Howarth introduced herself to the meeting and explained her role to deliver the knowledge transfer partnership programme and would be involved in the discussions as an extra pair of hands. LB would send an email out to everyone to detail her plans.</p> | April 2022 |



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| | <p>PB mentioned the discussions with the Institute of Technology about building entrepreneurship into its courses.</p> <p>Action: PB and LB to discuss outside the meeting.</p> | April 2022 |
| 6.0 | ICAEW Business Confidence Monitor | |
| | <p>BW spoke to the meeting and outlined the background to the ICAEW's Business Confidence Monitor. The survey had been running for 15 years and asked businesses to access their confidence levels over the next three months against a set of tracking criteria.</p> <p>The presentation can be accessed by using the following link:</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/brog/2022/31-mar-2022/bcm-for-meeting-310322.pdf?sfvrsn=2a6d8c4d_4</p> <p>LB commented that where business identified themselves was important and could have very different experiences depending on their business model and where their customers were based.</p> <p>In response to the question as to why South West domestic sales were so pessimistic, BW stated that although tourism and hospitality had quite a good year in the South West last year, only certain types of accommodation were getting re-booking rates; hotels were still not doing well, whereas Bed and Breakfast accommodation, that is the self-catering market, was still really buoyant. Cottages.com could not get enough self-catering accommodation on its books. ICAEW had a sector group for the tourism industry and was being told that larger hotels were still not getting high occupancy. In addition, DA commented that domestic tourism in the South West was at 75%-80% of pre-pandemic levels, so many tourism businesses were still really struggling. Hotels were down as had been mentioned, but many attractions were hugely down too. That was just for domestic tourism, without including the huge drop in international visitors.</p> <p>Growth was being hampered in the South West by poor internet connections and unreliable transport. After the report information was collated, ICAEW held round tables to verify the findings. These examples were then passed back up to Government.</p> <p>The sample used was of 500 large businesses which was not representative of the makeup of businesses around the county. Unfortunately, small businesses could ill afford to give the time to this survey.</p> | |
| 7.0 | Thames Valley Chamber Survey | |
| | <p>TM presented the latest Thames Valley Chamber Business Sentiment Survey which was a summary of Q4 of last year. The survey covered the whole of the Thames</p> | |



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| | <p>Valley area, not just Swindon and Wiltshire, and was carried out on a 1:1 basis. The presentation can be found by following the link below:</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/brog/2022/31-mar-2022/qes-q4-report-final-spread-wp.pdf?sfvrsn=afd09f66_4</p> <p>This survey ended just as the Omicron variant had started, but in a week's time, the new survey would be published which covered post-Omicron and the first week of the Russian invasion into Ukraine. The results now therefore may be very different.</p> <p>Although the format and size of the surveys were very different, both emphasised the lack of stability in the business environment at present.</p> <p>All presenters were thanked for their contributions to the discussions.</p> | |
| 8.0 | Information from partner organisations and items proposed for future meetings | |
| | <p>JD advised of companies trading with far east and were not experiencing the same level of inflation in supply costs.</p> <p>TM advised the meeting that there was still one place remaining on the course "Develop your online business strategy" which was being undertaken with SWLEP's Letitia Wright.</p> <p>Topics for the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Economic Assessment (LEA) - DS • Q1 Outlook Survey from MakeUK - JD • Porton Science Park update – RB | |
| | Date and time of next meeting | |
| | <p>Next meeting Thursday, 30 June 2022 - 12.30pm to 2pm</p> <p>Further dates for 2022:</p> <p>September 2022 – to be advised December 2022 – to be advised</p> | |
| | Meeting closed at 1.59pm | |

Atison Norton

1 July 2022