

Date: Wednesday, 2 November 2022

Time: 10am – 11.30am

Venue: via Microsoft Teams call

Name of Member	Organisation	Attendance
David Andrews (DA)	VisitWiltshire	✓
Charlotte Boole (CB)	Greenway Training	✓
Rory Bowen (RB)	Wiltshire Council	Apologies
Julian Head (JH)	Wiltshire Council	✓
Ruth Lambert (RL)	FSB	✓ - left at 11.15am
Gary Mantle (GM)	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	✓
Elliott Hutt (EH)	CLA	✓
John Matthews (JM)	Pinkney Park	Apologies
James Miles-Hobbs (JM-H)	JMH Farming and Renewables	✓
Linda Nunn	Cranborne Chase	
Henry Oliver	North Wessex Downs	Apologies
Andy Parsons (AP)	Cotswolds AONB	Apologies
Harry Tipple (HT) / Alex Neale (AN)	Community First	Apologies
Paul Walton (PW)	New Forest NPA	
Caroline Wheatley-Hubbard (CW-H)	Boyton Farm	✓
Katie Davies (KD)	NFU	✓
Claire Wright (CW)	CLA	
SWLEP: attendance will be dependent on topics discussed		
Paddy Bradley (PB)	SWLEP CEO	✓
Tim Burghes (TB)	Head of Marketing & Comms	✓
Chris Stevens (CS)	Head of Business Support	✓

Name of Member	Organisation	Attendance
Melody Thompson (MT)	Business Navigator	✓
Guest(s)	Jenna Hunt (JH) ✓ – BEIS representative Rachel Finlay (RFi) ✓ / Russell Frith (RFr) ✓ / Lynn Trigwell (LT) ✓ – Wiltshire Council	
Chair	Paddy Bradley (PB)	
Notes	Deborah House (DKH)	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
1.0	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
	The meeting opened at 10.02am. PB welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions made. Apologies were noted.	
2.0	Minutes from 20 July 2022	
2.1	<i>The minutes from the meeting on 20 July 2022 were read and approved.</i>	
2.2	<p><i>Matters arising</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A copy of the APPG Rural Productivity report had been provided to the group. Update: EH stated that the report was now with Government, and he would update the meeting with any further information when it became available.</i> <i>Skills & Talent Working Group draft green skills report to be sent to CB for input. IN TRAIN. PB updated the meeting and advised that Business West had been designated by Government as the body to develop the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) for our area, as well as for the West of England and Gloucestershire. PB had passed the green skills action plan to Business West. If it were not included in the LSIP, SWLEP would progress the work.</i> <i>Entrepreneurship - PB and NS to return to the group in July with a proposal having tested with CB. Meeting held on 24 June. IN TRAIN. Update: we were continuing to develop the idea and were looking to start a university approved programme from September 2023 at the earliest. In the meantime, short term models would be operated, and we were looking at venues around the area. The link was with UWE at the moment. When the proposal was firmer, we would bring back to the group.</i> <i>WWT, Biosphere and SWLEP to discuss and bring together for the next meeting on 2 November. IN TRAIN. Update: Wiltshire Wildlife Trust was focussed on Bristol Avon catchment. Approach to private sector finance to support nature's recovery. Net biodiversity gain. All now agreed use metrics in context of market. The initiative was in the early days and waiting for secondary legislation to establish framework on how it would operate. The trading platform was established, and contracts would be issued early in New Year. This was a joint piece of work with Avon Wildlife Trust and Wessex</i> 	



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	<p><i>Water. Biosphere and Wiltshire Council had already held discussions. WC was waiting to see what opportunities there would be. Connections had been made but it had not progressed at the moment.</i></p> <p>Other matters Arising were completed.</p>	
4.0	Wiltshire Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	
	<p>Taken out of order.</p> <p>LT presented to the meeting on Wiltshire Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy. 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/rural-economy-sector-group-(resg)/2022/02-11/res-lnrs-update-nov-22--reduced-file-size.pdf?sfvrsn=a7d386e8_4</p> <p>LT advised the meeting that we were still awaiting guidance and funding for the strategy as well as the secondary legislation. The government food strategy 2023 made much of the land use framework; a lot of pressure had been put on land use including NetZero, food production and housing.</p> <p>Key comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • certain funding sources would be able to be compatible on certain areas of land, for example, carbon credits and biodiversity credits, but this would not always be the case. • establishing what would be compatible would be the difficult part; • food production areas would be critical. Areas where it would be more appropriate to have higher emphasis on conservation for example, conversation grazing, or maybe wood pasture, rather than open pasture; • landscapes may look different to how they used to, but the aim was to bring back habitats and biodiversity; • identify key corridors for improved species connection. This would feed into the national nature recovery network forming a web and not be in isolation. Isolated pockets of vulnerable species would then open out; • the development of the LNRS was strongly welcomed and a national approach was considered long overdue; • targets for tree planting would include agro forestry schemes and opportunities to support farmers with farming regimes. For example, 80 acres planted with apple trees for fruit and juice production, not only enhanced biodiversity but supported food production; • any tree planting would count towards Wiltshire's overall target, including individual tree planting and hedgerows and street trees in urban areas. Officers would be working with landowners and farmers; 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • another call was made for increase in skills and courses for tree planting, otherwise the opportunity would be wasted; • support the economic opportunities for nature's recovery, stimulating the economic market to sustain these changes in the longer term; • planting fruit trees was a long-term approach. Estates in southern England were looking at apricot and peach trees because of climate change; • Different methods of farming, vertical, etc • Wakelyns Farm in Suffolk had a good model and had recently been selected as a finalist in the BBC Food & Farming Awards; • the meeting was advised of a PhD Study project in natural capital with a student at the University of Bath which SWLEP was part-funding. This would bring knowledge of the value of our natural capital onto a strategic level; and • RF mentioned that he was involved in a scheme for food branding and people should make contact if interested in being involved. <p>Action: a group to include LT, CB, GM, JM-H, KD, RF, and CW-H to meet to plan what would be a worthwhile contribution to this work from the group. Interested parties to get in touch with DKH.</p> <p>SWLEP would offer necessary support.</p>	<p>Jan 2023</p>
3.0	Rural England Prosperity Fund	
	<p>JH presented to the meeting on the funding of over £2.6m allocated to Wiltshire Council from the Rural England Prosperity Fund and advised that he would like to speak separately to some of the groups such as CLA, NFU and FSB etc for their input. This fund would be used to top up the allocation received from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund of £7.8m.</p> <p>Support offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comms plan was being drafted but approval still not received from Government. When appropriate, the SWLEP Comms team would promote; • the Growth Hub could contribute towards support for start-ups and entrepreneurship etc. Make contact when appropriate; • MT offered support with grant applications; and • no suite of documents was being provided by Government but having to be produced locally, which was a significant amount of work. CB offered help with that process. <p>JH was asked to minimise the number of priorities and have a narrower focus as the funding provided was relatively small at £2.6m, but the group was keen and willing to contribute on how the scheme could operate for the overall interest of the area.</p>	

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	Action: JH to send slides to DKH for onward forwarding to group members when more work completed.	When available
5.0	AOB	
	The continuance of LEPs as government-funded bodies was uncertain so the question was raised about the support given by this group. PB advised that owing to the SWLEP's formation as a company limited by guarantee, it would continue as such should LEPs no longer be funded by Government, so support for this group would also continue.	
	<p>Presenters and attendees were thanked for their contributions to the debate.</p> <p>Next meeting: Wednesday, 1 February 2023 – 10am to 11.30am</p> <p>Future dates for 2023 Wednesday, 26 April 2023 - 10am to 11.30am Wednesday, 19 July 2023 - 10am to 11.30am Wednesday 1 November 2023 - 10am to 11.30am</p>	
	Meeting closed at 11.28am	