

 Swindon & Wiltshire LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP	Minutes of Infrastructure, Ideas and Place (IIP) Subgroup Meeting 2 November 2021
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Date: Tuesday, 2 November 2021

Time: 9am – 11am

Venue: via Microsoft Teams call

Name of Member	Organisation	Attendance
Claire Alexander (CA)	SWLEP	✓
Rory Bowen (RB)	Wiltshire Council	✓ - left at 11.10am
Paddy Bradley (PB)	SWLEP CEO	✓
Phil Clement (PC)	SWLEP	✓ - left meeting at 11.02am
David Dewart	Swindon Borough Council	IT issues
Dragana Houston (DH)	SWLEP	✓
Debby Skellern (DS)	SWLEP	✓
Pam Webb (PWe)	SWLEP Director	✓ - left meeting at 10.55am
Suzanne Wigmore (SW)	SWLEP Director	✓
Guest(s)		
Chair	Suzanne Wigmore (SW)	
Minutes	Deborah House (DKH)	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
1.0	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
	The meeting opened at 9.02am. SW welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.	
2.0	Minutes and Matters arising	
2.1	Approval of minutes from 21 September 2021.	
2.2	Matters Arising:	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PB and DS to discuss Business representatives on Subgroup and bring to next meeting. Now that the SWLEP Conference had taken place, the attendees will be reviewed in terms of closer engagement with SWLEP. Another SWLEP Limited membership campaign is also due to take place in the autumn. <p>Other Matters arising were completed.</p> <p>Declaration of interest: SW is in contact with the Trowbridge Town Hall Trust.</p>	
3.0 Ideas		
	No items for this agenda.	
4.0 Infrastructure		
4.1	<p>Hydrogen update</p> <p>DS spoke to the paper and updated the meeting on the work underway to mobilise the hydrogen strategic outline business cases (SOBCs), the NEV M4 LEP Working Group, the Western Gateway and the emerging national policy. The SWLEP's draft green hydrogen strategy had been temporarily suspended pending the Spending Review and the LEP Review</p> <p>Kiwa (Cheltenham) and Pannell Hays (Swindon), had been appointed to undertake the feasibility work at the Wroughton site for hydrogen energy generation. Stakeholder workshops were being organised for 17-18 November and technical feasibility work of the site would follow. The feasibility study was scheduled to be submitted for the January Board.</p> <p>The Government published the UK Hydrogen Strategy in August 2021 and opened three consultations; SWLEP had responded to the Hydrogen Business Model and the Net Zero Hydrogen Fund consultations in relation to its focus on green hydrogen.</p> <p>The NEV M4 LEP collaboration of five LEPs had been established as part of the work to develop the Local Industrial Strategy. Match funding had been sought to help progress the SOBCs on inter-city bus and coach travel and the logistics demonstrator but the delay in the LEP Review had stalled the ability for LEPs, with two exceptions, to commit funding at this time.</p> <p>The Western Gateway Board had met in October and the SWLEP Chair had outlined what SWLEP was trying to achieve with its Green Hydrogen Plan. SWLEP was supporting the Western Gateway to better understand</p>	27 Jan 2022

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	<p>the hydrogen ecosystem work and an inception meeting had been scheduled for 9 November.</p> <p>DS and DH were thanked for their work on mobilising the New Energy Vehicle strategic priority.</p> <p>PB highlighted that the Budget has indicated that BEIS' funds had increased, and it was focusing on energy, in particular nuclear, and R&D. The Western Gateway's bid for a fusion site was progressing and was included in the national shortlist.</p> <p>The Ideas, Infrastructure and Places Subgroup: NOTED the activity which has been undertaken since its last meeting to progress the mobilisation of SWLEP's three hydrogen outline strategic business cases.</p>	
4.2	<p>Rail Strategy Presentation</p> <p>DH presented to the meeting. The presentation can be accessed by using the link below.</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/02-nov-2021/rail-update---iip-2-nov-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=d2a11d2c_4</p> <p>The Working Group heard about the changes to the timetabling with a reduction in services between Bristol and Salisbury which took the area further away from what the SWLEP Rail Strategy was trying to achieve (pre-COVID-19 pandemic). The impact of COVID-19 on working patterns, with more people working from home, was affecting commuter traffic. However, it was felt that there had been an increase in leisure use.</p> <p>The Strategic Business Case for the Devizes Gateway had been submitted to DfT and was progressing. SWLEP had submitted a letter of support and highlighted demand in terms of commuter traffic and increased tourist traffic. SWLEP had set aside a small amount of funding towards the production of a prospectus. The proposed Westbury platform improvement plans 2024/25 and the proposals for Devizes were intrinsically linked.</p> <p>SWLEP had been working with the Western Gateway Subnational Transport Body and the England's Economic Heartland (EEH) in relation to the Rail, Strategy and also the role of hydrogen. SWLEP had an influencing role to play, the Local Authorities were responsible for delivery in association with Network Rail. Corsham station had been mentioned in the budget.</p>	

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4.3	<p>EV charging plans across the local authority areas</p> <p>Swindon update DD was suffering IT connection issues so was unable to attend the meeting. For that reason, DS shared DD's presentation with the meeting and it can be accessed by using the link below.</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/02-nov-2021/ev-charging-update---for-dd.pdf?sfvrsn=6954e7ba_4</p> <p>Wiltshire update RB spoke to the meeting and the presentation can be accessed by using the link below.</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/02-nov-2021/ev-charging-strategy---proposed-outcomes.pdf?sfvrsn=f5029c2e_4</p> <p>RB advised that the EV Infrastructure Plan had been submitted to Cabinet on 12 October 2021. There was a three-year plan 2021-24 to improve the current network which comprised 76 charging points. Wiltshire Council had set a pot of £75,000 for town and parish councils to apply for, up to £2,500 grant per site. DS reminded the Subgroup that estimated costs for different community charging solution had been included in the SOBC.</p> <p>SWLEP looked to both of the local authorities to progress the Community Charging SOBC because they were better placed to enable delivery through their planning powers and ability to access to capital funding. SWLEP's Energy Strategy had cited that energy supplied into employment land would be from renewable sources, that there would also be broad band coverage and charging points. Charging point provision would need to be investigated for the Business Cyber Centre and could also be considered as part of Growing Places Infrastructure Fund loans.</p> <p>Action: Both local authorities to regularly update the IIP Subgroup on progress made with the delivery of EV charging points and improvements in broadband delivery and coverage.</p>	Jan 2022
5.0 Place		
5.1	<p>Future High Street Fund (FHSF) bids</p> <p>Swindon In DD's absence, CA spoke to the meeting on Swindon Borough Council's plan to implement the Future High Street Fund projects by June 2024. The Swindon Bus Boulevard project was very much an enabling project which</p>	

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	<p>allowed the development of the public realm, the cultural quarter and Kimmerfields.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £25m Future High Streets Fund from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government • £3m Local Growth Fund from Swindon and Wiltshire Enterprise Partnership • £5m Capital funding from Swindon Borough Council <p>By using the combined purchasing power of the Local Growth Fund and the Future High Street Fund it allowed Swindon to develop projects as a whole and it would be good to see the complete picture and how it fitted together at future meetings. The question was raised about the provision of electric charging points within these projects given the discussion at 4.3.</p> <p>Action: DD to check and advise provision of electric charging points to meeting.</p> <p>Trowbridge RB outlined the plans for the use of the Future High Streets Fund of £16.3m allocated to Trowbridge. Spend had to be completed by March 2024.</p> <p>The Trowbridge FHSF schemes would deliver improvements to the culture and leisure offer centred on the Town Hall improvements as a venue; High Street Grants and development in the River Biss Corridor with the development of the former Bowyers site predominantly for housing with better pedestrian and cycle access to the town centre. An update on progress would be available in January/February 2022.</p> <p>Salisbury RB outlined the projects within the Future High Streets Fund of the £9,355,731 allocated to Salisbury which had been allocated to the station forecourt; Fisherton Gateway; and heritage living. The schemes were part of the delivery of the Central Area Framework.</p> <p>The question was raised on how these projects fitted into that undertaken by the Environment Agency on the River Park development. The meeting would like to see these plans as a whole picture. Work in Wiltshire's town centres would be based on the Institute of Place Management 25 Factors that enhance vitality to ensure the long-term sustainability of the high streets.</p> <p>Action: RB/DD to continue to update the IIP Subgroup as the schemes progress and link in with other funds.</p>	<p>Dec 2021</p> <p>ongoing</p>

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6.0	LIS mobilisation performance reporting	
6.1	<p>Business Action Plan Q2 2021 Report DS spoke to the paper which reflected on the mobilisation of the LIS and demonstrated the good progress made to date. It was noted that the report had presented an update to September 2021 and would be submitted to the SWLEP Board Meeting in November.</p> <p>Queries regarding the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • details on outputs for jobs created to be added in the Getting Building Fund. These would be confirmed for the November Board; and • some items had not been RAG-rated, for example, the Great West Way; this was because work had been proposed for the year but had not commenced due to lack of funding and capacity to deliver. <p>The Ideas, Infrastructure and Places Subgroup: REVIEWED and NOTED the progress made during the quarter for activity which falls under its oversight.</p>	25 Nov 2021
6.2	<p>Plan for Growth update DS gave an update to the meeting. The Plan for Growth Working Group had met on 14 October with Doug Gale, SWLEP Board Director, as the Chair. DG had previously been the Chair of the Local Industrial Strategy Working Group and therefore provided good continuity. RB and DD were also members. PB indicated that the LEP Review recommendations might require a refocussing of plans and strategies to those where SWLEP would add value.</p> <p>The Plan for Growth Working Group would meet every six weeks and an update on it would be a standing item for each Subgroup until it was signed off by the Board. The aim was for a pre-consultation draft to be presented to the January 2022 Board meeting. This would be followed by a period of consultation, with a final draft for sign off coming to the March 2022 Board meeting.</p>	27 Jan 2022 24 Mar 2022
7.0	<p>AOB and items for the next meeting The opportunity for local projects to come to the IIP Subgroup meeting on occasion was discussed and this would involve attendance at IIP meetings by interest groups relevant to the project under discussion.</p> <p>Action: RB to advise regarding the appropriate timescale in relation to Wiltshire Council's consultation exercise for local projects. SW, DS and RB to meet to discuss in December.</p>	Jan 2022

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	<p>Thanks were given to Claire Alexander and Dragana Houston for their work and for their attendance at the IIP Subgroup which would be their last meeting before leaving the SWLEP for other roles.</p> <p>Standing items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF); • Plan for Growth update; and • Business Action Plan. <p>Future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the Wroughton Feasibility Study; • Rail strategy; • Business representation; • Future High Streets Fund scheme updates; and • EV and broadband infrastructure plans of SBC and Wiltshire Council 	
	<p>Date and time of the next meeting Tuesday, 18 January 2022 – 1pm to 3pm</p> <p>Further dates for 2022 Tuesday, 8 March 2022 – 9am to 11am</p> <p>Further dates to be advised</p>	
	Meeting closed at 11.15am.	