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|  Swindon & Wiltshire LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP | Minutes of Infrastructure, Ideas and Place (IIP) Subgroup Meeting 3 November 2022 |
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Date: Thursday, 3 November 2022

Time: 10.30am – 12 noon

Venue: via Microsoft Teams call

| Name of Member | Organisation | Attendance |
|--------------------------|---|------------|
| Rory Bowen (RB) | Wiltshire Council | Apologies |
| Paddy Bradley (PB) | SWLEP CEO | Apologies |
| David Dewart | Swindon Borough Council | ✓ |
| Tom Harrison (TH) | SWLEP Director | ✓ |
| Victoria Moloney (VM) | Wiltshire Council | ✓ |
| Prof Maik Schneider (MS) | University of Bath | ✓ |
| Suzanne Wigmore (SW) | SWLEP Director | ✓ |
| Guest(s) | Tim Burghes (TB)✓ and Chris Stevens (CS)✓ - SWLEP Ramona Derbyshire (RD) ✓ – SWLEP Director Parsa Mohammadpour✓ – University of Bath Sam Rackham (SR)✓ – Swindon Borough Council | |
| Chair | Suzanne Wigmore (SW) | |
| Minutes | Deborah House (DKH) | |

| Item | Narrative | Deadline |
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| 1.0 | Welcome, introductions and apologies | |
| | <p>The meeting opened at 10.02am. SW welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies noted. Chris Stevens had been asked to attend this meeting as SWLEP lead because Paddy Bradley was on holiday.</p> <p>The proposal to appoint Tom Harrison as Vice Chair of the Subgroup was discussed out of order at the end of Item 3.1.</p> <p>Decision: the Ideas, Infrastructure & Place Subgroup AGREED the appointment of Tom Harrison to the role of its Vice Chair.</p> | |

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| 2.0 | Minutes and Matters arising | |
| 2.1 | Approval of minutes from 26 September 2022. | |
| 2.2 | Matters Arising would be brought forward for discussion at a future meeting. | |
| 3.0 Ideas | | |
| 3.1 | <p>Natural Capital PhD research at the University of Bath</p> <p>Prof Maik Schneider presented to the meeting on the theory used within the study to give nature a value so that it could be used in decision making. The research was sponsored by SWLEP and the PhD student, Parsa Mohammadpour, was also in attendance.</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/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2022/03-nov/swlep-iip-presentation-nov-2022.pdf?sfvrsn=acd76c55_4</p> <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> values given might change depending on their use. For example, a forest in an urban area could have a higher value as more people could use it and it would take out more pollution; and the question was raised on where this work sits amongst the existing UK natural capital accounts, the Environment Bill, ELMS, Biosphere etc. In response, the project was taking a layered approach using a core ONS value across UK. This was then broken down to a local level. Adding these different layers would give more information for decision making. | |
| 4.0 Infrastructure | | |
| | Rail | |
| 4.1 | <p>Update on Corsham Station business case submission</p> <p>RB advised the meeting that there was no further update. DKH added that a letter of support had been sent to Wiltshire Council for this project.</p> | |
| 4.3 | <p>Western Gateway Freight Forum</p> <p>This item taken out of order.</p> <p>CS spoke to the meeting about the Western Gateway Subnational Transport Body, covering eight local authorities, and its Freight Forum which had been established to be one voice for the area to report into</p> | |

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| 4.2 | <p>government. Its aim was to enable clean growth and improve the profile and use of sustainable transport and was broadly aligned with the three main themes of decarbonisation, improved infrastructure, and connectivity. The three subgroups in the Freight Forum were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • road; • rail; and • aviation and maritime. <p>Interventions for the road and rail networks were of more interest for SWLEP, but CS had joined the other meetings. The Western Gateway Subnational Transport Body website can be accessed by following the link below:</p> <p>https://westerngatewaystb.org.uk/</p> <p>A meeting of the full group would take place on 17 November.</p> <p>All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Freight and Logistics</p> <p>TM spoke to the meeting and advised about the APPG set up to discuss the future of UK's freight and logistics sector. The meeting was attended by stakeholders within the industry throughout the country both private organisations, such as transport companies, and government facilitators, such as customs and excise, to air their concerns and issues. The meeting was Chaired by Viscount Waverley and the LEP Network had made a statement around the importance of the group for future growth in the UK.</p> <p>Jo Pick from Wincanton had attended the meeting and highlighted skills development in the company, trying to combat the aging workforce, and to encourage young people into the sector, particularly women, with a programme called Generation Logistics.</p> <p>The APPG was formed around regions and TH was representing the South region, that is, all LEPs in the Western Gateway area. It was proposed to Viscount Waverley and accepted that an additional representative would be sought from the Great South West covering the three LEPs in that area. He was expecting a call with Lord Waverley but was uncertain when this would take place owing to the current political uncertainty.</p> <p>The group was looking at a series of short, medium and long-term challenges, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a shortage of HGV drivers (not shortage of drivers, but they had chosen to work in small white vans); • cost of fuel and moving goods was increasing (and 50% of the price of goods was transport costs); | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving technology in ports to get goods off ships, out of storage and on to the road as companies needed to order quickly through their supply chains; improving tracking technology for deliveries; combating the lack of skills and diversity in the workforce; big logistics companies in Middle East were putting the most money into hyperloop; and sustainability – there were ambitions targets for carbon neutral fleets as soon as possible but needed demand from the haulage companies for alternative fuels. <p>A further point made was whether more general technology innovation, such as drones delivering items to the door or AI robots, would lead to a declining or increasing labour force. The appropriate skills would be needed to future proof this evolution to design, build and operate these drones. Amazon was investing money in this technology, but government control was needed for sky space etc.</p> <p>The recommendation of the Group to DfT or BEIS would be new policy and laws to take account of this emerging technology.</p> <p>Action: the meeting would be updated in January with progress.</p> | Jan 2023 |
| 5.0 Place | | |
| 5.1 | <p>Regeneration projects in Swindon town centre</p> <p>SR presented to the meeting on the progress of Swindon Town Centre projects, including Kimmerfields, the health hydro and the Carriageworks. The presentation can be accessed by following the link below.</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2022/03-nov/town-centre-projects.pdf?sfvrsn=10ebfce9_4</p> <p>Items for consideration were debated.</p> <p>The attendees appreciated the ambitious projects taking place in Swindon, but the question was raised about the impact increasing land values would have on people living in deprivation close to the area. If land value increased, rents would increase leading to potential unintentional displacement of housing tenants and independent shops. How could this effect be mitigated? Enhancing green spaces improved well-being of the town centre, but there was a balance to be had between improving the town centre and everyone receiving the benefit.</p> | |

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| | <p>The question was raised as to whether there was already interest shown in a knowledge economy and residential area for the centre, or whether SBC had firstly created the spaces and hoped they would be filled. In response, SR advised that an anchor institution like the University of Bath at the Carriageworks drew people in towards forming a cluster and Swindon was actively marketing the town centre as a knowledge economy sector, for example, with life sciences and pharma.</p> <p>The question was raised as to whether there was a risk to the whole programme if there were any holes in funding, but the meeting was advised that everything in the presentation was fully funded, except for a significant gap for the cultural quarter. Swindon Borough Council was trying to produce a commercially resilient model and was currently working with the Arts Council to support access to productions within the cultural quarter.</p> <p>An additional question was on the makeup of the housing stock within the town centre. For example, was any of this affordable housing or shared ownership? In response, SR stated that housing was build-to-rent and there were some early adopters.</p> | |
| 6.0 | <p>AOB and Items for the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salisbury River Park • All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) update • Westbury Site Development <p>The Chair thanked all presenters and attendees for their contributions.</p> | |
| | <p>Next meeting: Wednesday, 18 January – 10am to 12noon</p> <p>Further dates for 2023: Wednesday, 8 March - 10am to 12noon Wednesday, 10 May - 10am to 12noon Wednesday, 5 July - 10am to 12noon Wednesday, 13 September - 10am to 12noon Wednesday, 8 November - 10am to 12noon</p> | |
| | Meeting closed at 11.58am. | |