

AGENDA

SWLEP Ideas, Infrastructure and Places Subgroup

Date: 7 March 2022

Time: 11am – 12.45pm

Venue: Teams

Name	Organisation	Attendance
Rory Bowen	Wiltshire Council	
Paddy Bradley	SWLEP CEO	✓
Phil Clement	SWLEP	✓
David Dewart	Swindon Borough Council	
Tom Harrison	PA Consulting	✓
Prof Maik Schneider	University of Bath	✓
Debby Skellern	SWLEP	✓
Pam Webb	SWLEP Board	
Suzanne Wigmore	SWLEP Board	✓
Chair:	Suzanne Wigmore	
Notes:	Deborah House	
Guest(s):	Layla Burrows, Innovate UK ✓	

Item	Timing	Topic	Paper No.	Lead
1.0	11am	Introductions and welcome to Prof Maik Schneider Declaration of conflicts of interest		SW
2.1	11.05am	Approval of minutes from 18 January 2022	Paper 2.1	SW
2.2		Matters Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DS to mention to Prof Maik Schneider academic technical involvement. COMPLETED Future High Streets Fund: RB to return to next Subgroup with an update. ON AGENDA TH to provide link to seminar from HMT on value of carbon. COMPLETED Wiltshire REME project – RB to update at the March meeting. 		SW

Item	Timing	Topic	Paper No.	Lead
3.0 Place				
3.1	11.10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levelling Up White Paper 	Paper 3.1	DS
3.2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levelling Up White Paper Feedback from Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council 	Verbal	DW / RB
3.3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund update 	Presentation	DW / RB
4.0 Infrastructure				
4.1	11.35am	Hydrogen Feasibility Study update and opportunities along the A303	Verbal	DS
5.0 Ideas				
5.1	11.40am	Inward Investment Programme final report	Presentation	PC
5.2	11.50am	Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF) programme update	Presentation	PC
5.3	12 noon	Sustainable Technologies initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation Centre for Applied Sustainable Technologies (iCAST) Innovation Centre for the Circular Economy (ICCE) 	Verbal	PB
5.4	12.15pm	Innovate UK Action Plan	Presentation	LB
6.0 AOB and items for the next meeting				
6.1	12.35pm	Fuel costs discussion	Verbal	SW
6.2	12.45pm	Items for the next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Porton Science Park Draft Plan for Growth update Business Action Plan 		SW
		Next meetings: May, July, September and November dates to be advised		
	12.45pm	Close		

 Swindon & Wiltshire LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP	Minutes of Infrastructure, Ideas and Place (IIP) Subgroup Meeting 18 January 2022
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Date: Tuesday, 18 January 2022

Time: 1pm – 3pm

Venue: via Microsoft Teams call

Name of Member	Organisation	Attendance
Rory Bowen (RB)	Wiltshire Council	✓
Paddy Bradley (PB)	SWLEP CEO	✓
Phil Clement (PC)	SWLEP	Apologies
David Dewart	Swindon Borough Council	Apologies
Debby Skellern (DS)	SWLEP	✓
Pam Webb (PWe)	SWLEP Director	✓ arrived 1.10pm
Suzanne Wigmore (SW)	SWLEP Director	✓
Guest(s)	Thomas Harrison (TH), PA Consulting ✓ Rob Murphy and David Philips, Wiltshire Council – joined for rail item only ✓✓	
Chair	Suzanne Wigmore (SW)	
Minutes	Deborah House (DKH)	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
1.0	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
	The meeting opened at 1.02pm. SW welcomed everyone to the meeting and particular welcome was extended to Tom Harrison of PA Consulting who was joining the meeting as an observer. Apologies were noted.	
2.0	Minutes and Matters arising	
2.1	Approval of minutes from 2 November 2021.	
2.2	Matters Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business representation application Tom Harrison's involvement in the meeting was as a response to the matter arising regarding business representation. The Skills & Talent Subgroup and GPIF	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>Working Group was very well supported by business representation. There were sector gaps and academic input would be welcomed.</p> <p>Action: DS to mention to Prof Maik Schneider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. This referred to the Future High Streets Fund projects. Individual projects to be invited to the meeting as appropriate. Trowbridge engagement process was starting with an area board presentation on 20 January and public engagement around some of the proposals would start on 27 January with a pre-recorded presentation and live Q&A session. The survey would be open for couple of weeks. RB to return to next Subgroup with an update. <p>There were no Declarations of interest.</p>	<p>Feb 2022</p> <p>Mar 2022</p>
3.0 LIS mobilisation performance reporting		
	<p>Draft Plan for Growth consultation update DS spoke to the paper and advised the meeting that the Plan for Growth (PfG) Working Group had last met on 13 January.</p> <p>The intention had been to take to the draft PfG to the Board in January, with a consultation in February and formal signoff in March. However, the Working Group decided to revise the timeline in the absence of the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper and LEP Review recommendations.</p> <p>The Plan would build on the Local Industrial Strategy and emerging Government policy and be specific about deliverable projects. An update would go to the January Board.</p> <p>The consultation questions were discussed; DS would return with an iteration to a future Subgroup meeting.</p> <p>The Ideas, Infrastructure and Places Subgroup: REVIEWED and DISCUSSED the draft Swindon and Wiltshire Plan for Growth.</p>	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
4.0 Infrastructure		
4.1	<p>Rail Strategy update RM presented to the meeting with support from DP on the progress of the Corsham and Devizes stations. 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/2022/18-jan-2022/iip-subgroup---ryr-projects---18-jan-22.pdf?sfvrsn=b8bec19f_4</p> <p>How can we be involved? The IIP Subgroup was pleased that the that the Rail Strategy was being used in the decision-making process and SWLEP would like to remain involved for example, with demand for travel. The regeneration work underway in Devizes could support the case for the station, however business travel requirements post COVID-19 were as yet uncertain. Latest DfT green book guidance placed less emphasis on BCR. These projects would ease congestion on roads and reduce CO₂ which would be beneficial.</p> <p>Action: TH to provide link to seminar from HMT on value of carbon.</p> <p>The question was raised about the force of local opinion. A survey was being compiled as part of the engagement work, but the project appeared to have strong backing. Local councils were concerned over traffic movements, as this was in AONB.</p>	Jan 2022
4.2	<p>EV charging plans by local authority Bring forward.</p> <p>Swindon EV charging provision Bring forward.</p> <p>Wiltshire REME project The REME project had secured funding from Innovate UK to better understand EV cold spots in rural areas and the wider rural connectivity piece. The project was already underway in Devon and Wiltshire had been selected as a second area, work would start in late January under Rob Murphy and Ariane Crampton's lead. The initiative would add to the levelling up piece in terms of rural connectivity, skills and training.</p> <p>The REME results would be useful to know where the focus should be and understand what funding streams would be available and to work with private sector partners and Local Authorities. SWLEP would be happy to write letters of support.</p>	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
	Action: Bring back to the March meeting.	Mar 2022
4.3	<p>Draft Green Hydrogen Plan DS spoke to the paper on the draft Green Hydrogen Plan and outlined the areas of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stimulating hydrogen supply – understand where production could be sited; stimulating demand for hydrogen, for example, forklift trucks, buses and coaches, HGVs, rail; and investment and innovation, for example, promoting UKRI competitions to local companies and university engagement. <p>The Ideas, Infrastructure and Places Subgroup: REVIEWED and DISCUSSED the draft Swindon and Wiltshire Green Hydrogen; and AGREED it should be taken to the Board.</p>	
4.5	<p>Western Gateway Hydrogen ecosystem mapping This item taken out of order The Western Gateway had commissioned a mapping exercise to better understand the hydrogen landscape in its wider area. The selection process was underway with a view to the work being completed by March.</p>	
4.4	<p>Hydrogen Feasibility Study DS updated the Subgroup on the feasibility study for green hydrogen production which had commenced with a two-day workshop in November 2021. The technical work was underway to understand whether a demonstrator for green hydrogen could be delivered.</p> <p>The Western Gateway had an ambition to lead on hydrogen given the breadth of activity across the geography. RB felt that SWLEP was ideal in leading on projects of this nature which Local Authorities simply did not have the remit nor bandwidth to undertake. The Western Gateway Conference on 8 March would have a significant focus on the green economy that would increase awareness and communication.</p>	
5.0 Ideas		
5.1	<p>Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF) update PB spoke to the paper and explained how successful GPIF had been in terms of supporting businesses and generating additional income. Four loans were in the pipeline and were expected to lead to a further £2m of loans; £6m was available in total so further projects were sought. SWLEP was looking at how the Growth Hub could generate additional applications. To date</p>	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>there had been no defaults and the loans had given confidence to further investors. Applications had come from a variety of contacts including the local authorities and the Growth Hub. The Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF) was also mentioned at Business West's monthly Business & Economy meetings.</p> <p>SWLEP would refresh the marketing campaign to increase application pipeline. The minimum loan amount on offer was £150,000. The loans generated a reliable and increasing source of income into the budget.</p> <p>The Ideas, Infrastructure and Place Subgroup: NOTED the performance of the GPIF Programme to date.</p>	
6.0 Place		
No items for this meeting.		
7.0	<p>AOB and items for the next meeting</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>The next meeting should be more focussed on Place and on Ideas with innovation around iCAST and ICCE.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council had place-based plans for the other market towns, and it would be good to know the schedule, combatting the inequality of place within the area.</p> <p>Porton Science Park Phase 3 - life sciences activity, combatting health inequality in the area.</p> <p>Action: DS and SW to schedule meeting towards end of February to discuss agenda.</p>	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>Date and time of the next meeting Monday, 7 March 2022 – 11am to 12.45pm</p> <p>Further dates for 2022 Further dates to be advised for May, July, September and November.</p>	
	Meeting closed at 3.05pm.	

Draft



Swindon & Wiltshire
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

**Ideas, Infrastructure &
Place Subgroup Meeting
7 March 2022**

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Meeting & Date:	Ideas, Infrastructure and Places Subgroup – Monday, 7 March 2022		
Subject:	Levelling Up White Paper: Swindon and Wiltshire		
Attachments:	Appendix 1: Levelling Up White Paper: Pillars, Capitals, Catalysts and Medium-Term Missions		
Author:	Debby Skellern	Total no of sheets:	8

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information <input type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. To update the Ideas, Infrastructure and Places Subgroup on the Levelling Up White Paper.

2. Summary

- 2.1. This paper reviews the Levelling Up (LU) White Paper to identify opportunities for SWLEP Limited to deliver sustainable economic growth. The paper looks at:

- 2.1.1. devolution proposals;
- 2.1.2. opportunities for service delivery in Swindon and Wiltshire;
- 2.1.3. the future funding landscape; and
- 2.1.4. SWLEP's role 2022-2024.

- 2.2. The Plan for Growth Working Group met on 24 February to discuss options and actions over the next 12-24 months for inclusion in SWLEP's Business Action Plan.

3. Recommendations

The Ideas, Infrastructure and Place Subgroup is recommended to:

- 3.1. discuss the Levelling Up White Paper in relation to SWLEP's work over the next 12-24 months to support innovation, infrastructure and place-based activity.

4. Introduction

- 4.1. The Levelling Up White Paper was published on 2 February and presents the Government's approach to tackling geographic inequalities across the UK. It identifies five pillars for levelling up, 12 missions to be achieved by 2030 and six 'capitals' (Appendix 1). The

document itself is extensive totalling more than 300 pages of policy information and funding mechanisms, some of which are already in place and operational and others which are proposed. As such, it is a useful compendium of government thinking.

- 4.2. The impact of levelling up activity will be monitored by government departments using a set of metrics which will be published in Spring 2022 and no doubt will cascade to local areas.
- 4.3. The White Paper is structured as follows:
 - 4.3.1. executive summary, which is a useful overview, but lacks the geographic detail for most local areas;
 - 4.3.2. chapter 1 presents the evidence base used to underpin the interventions proposed; the maps are a helpful visualisation of local authority performance set within the UK although the key is not always very clear;
 - 4.3.3. chapter 2 sets out proposals for the transformation of the government system and spatial policy which is underpinned by five pillars:
 - 4.3.4. chapter 3 presents detailed information about how and where interventions will be targeted and who is expected to lead on delivery and as such is recommended for reading; and
 - 4.3.5. chapter 4 presents a summary of existing investment by region
- 4.4. Important areas for SWLEP to consider are: devolution proposals; opportunities for service delivery in Swindon and Wiltshire; and the future funding landscape and SWLEP's potential role 2022-2024.

Devolution proposals

- 4.5. The devolution proposal, which affects the future role of LEPs, is one of the key policies in terms of empowering local decision making; with every area which wants devolved powers, to have them in place by 2030. Eight Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) have been created since 2014 and a further 10-12 devolution deals are proposed in the White Paper either as MCAs or County Deals. These are predominantly located in the north and east of England as well as Devon and Cornwall. The aim is for negotiations to be concluded by the autumn of 2022. Additional areas are invited to indicate their interest in having devolved powers.
- 4.6. Where new devolution deals are agreed or existing ones extended, the Local Enterprise Partnership for the area will be integrated into the new structure and cease as a separate entity. In areas which do not seek devolved powers, the LEPs will continue to have a role; the exact nature of this role has not been shared and notification of the funding settlement for 2022/23 has not been confirmed; a letter is awaited. It is not clear how an independently incorporated company such as a LEP will be integrated into a new local government structure if it does not want to take this action.

‘the UK Government is encouraging the integration of LEPs and their business boards into MCAs, the GLA and County Deals, where these exist. Where a devolution deal does not yet exist, LEPs will continue to play their vital role in supporting local businesses and the local economy. Where devolution deals cover part of a LEP, this will be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Further detail on this transition will be provided in writing to LEPs as soon as possible.’ (Page 146).

- 4.7. Re-organisation seeks to empower local decision making for areas which have a recognisable functional economic area and a population more than 500,000. Powers proposed include the ability for combined authorities to raise their own funding through business rates, devolved responsibility for the adult education budget and the development of Local Skills Improvement Plans. Where a mayor is in place, a wider remit covering public health, safety and housing can be assumed.
- 4.8. At present, there does not appear to be the appetite for Swindon and Wiltshire to co-operate and seek a County Deal or a Mayoral Combined Authority indicating that SWLEP will have a continued role to support economic development over the short to medium term. It is possible that pressure to negotiate a deal will increase towards the end of this parliament or early into the next if the policy continues.
- 4.9. The Western Gateway is specifically referenced once within the White Paper and is recognised as a useful structure. Although not yet on a par with the Northern Powerhouse or the Midlands Engine, it is likely that its role and recognition will increase. Katherine Bennett, the Chair of the Western Gateway, has been invited to join the new Levelling Up Council which should assist with maintaining the profile of the Western Gateway nationally:

‘Initiatives such as the Western Gateway, an economic partnership of local authorities, city regions, LEPs and governments in the West of England and Wales, have demonstrated the benefits that can be achieved through effective cross-border collaboration.’ Page 146.

Opportunities for future service delivery in Swindon and Wiltshire

- 4.10. The White Paper is predominantly focussed on addressing significant spatial inequalities and Chapter 1 highlights the relative performance of the Northern Powerhouse and a narrow definition of the West Midlands, comparing them to London.
- 4.11. Opportunities to secure additional new investment for Swindon and Wiltshire are limited; the following opportunities have been pulled out of the White Paper:
 - Swindon is identified as an Educational Improvement Area (EIA). EIAs will deliver targeted support to eliminate illiteracy and innumeracy through the establishment of additional Multi Academy Trusts;

- Local Skills Improvement Plans will have a statutory footing and a Unit for Future Skills will be established to provide a single source of Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) for government, local authority and public use;
- Institutes of Technology can apply for a Royal Charter which will put them on a footing with universities. Higher Education is recognised as important to achieve levelling up with a focus on increasing access and participation;
- existing national programmes to support lifelong learning through the Lifetime Skills Guarantee and Lifetime Loan Guarantee, in-work progression support by Job Centre Plus and employment support for the disabled and those with health conditions through the National Disability Strategy;
- the British Business Bank has £200m to administer as the South-West Investment Fund and early discussions commenced in January following the announcement of this scheme in the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review in November 2021;
- The Innovation Strategy looks to help grow SMEs through the adoption of technology, especially to level up. Creative industries, manufacturing, life sciences, defence and security, food are identified sectors within the paper. The R&D Roadmap and Innovation Strategy will set out more detail;
- the Net Zero piece includes a focus on hydrogen, green public transport, decarbonising buildings and the automotive sector as well as road freight decarbonisation trials;
- Regional Defence Clusters and the DASA Regional Partnership Fund are referenced as successful across the South West;
- Natural Capital is not included as one of the six capitals. It is however included in terms of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessments and the Farming Innovation Programme;
- the ZEBRA fund for zero emission buses will see £440m invested outside of London. Swindon Borough Council has a ZEBRA bid in progress, for which the SWLEP has provided a letter of support;
- regeneration investment is centred on existing programmes: Towns Fund, Future High Street Fund and Heritage Action Zones, Transforming Places and Cultural Recovery. There is no new money here, but further calls may be announced;
- Building Better: Beautiful Homes Commission and continued support for Neighbourhood Planning is referenced alongside the review of Local Plans to make them shorter, simpler and enabling communities to have a greater say. There is the aspiration for local authorities to capture greater value from developments to improve local housing and infrastructure;
- Project Gigabit and 5G support is included, Swindon and Wiltshire are due to benefit from these initiatives;
- public-private sector partnerships are sought to tackle market failure and encourage the clustering of business activity; and
- forthcoming policy documents include: The Schools White Paper; Wireless Infrastructure Strategy 2022 and Health Disparities White Paper.

The future funding landscape

- The Levelling Up Fund: Swindon and Wiltshire are not priority areas on the Index of Priority Places. The fund offers capital investment to support town centre regeneration and high street improvements, cultural and heritage assets, local transport.
- Towns Fund: Swindon is already in receipt of funding.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund: this is a mixture of capital and revenue funding which will go to those areas with strong institutions with established collaboration arrangements in place and capable of developing cross border bids. All areas will have a conditional allocation skewed towards need. The UKSPF is focussed on improving life chances, communities and place, people and skills and local businesses through supporting:
 - community led projects;
 - local economies and job creation through supporting businesses to start up, innovate and grow, supporting business networks and programmes such as energy efficiency; and
 - adult skills and employment support under the 'Multiply Programme' for those furthest from work and disadvantaged.
- Overall, the Levelling-Up White Paper does not propose the use of new money. All programmes use funds previously identified.

SWLEP's Role

- 4.12. The White Paper is predominantly focussed on addressing significant spatial inequalities and as such Swindon and Wiltshire does not feature strongly, as was expected. Chapter 1 highlights the relative performance of the Northern Powerhouse and a narrow definition of the West Midlands compared to London. Opportunities to secure additional funding is therefore limited and much of what is on offer, has already been secured. SWLEP's role in support of government policy has yet to be clarified but is expected in March 2022.

5. Appendices

- 5.1. Appendix 1: Levelling Up White Paper: Pillars, Capitals, Catalysts and Medium-Term Missions

Appendix 1: Levelling Up White Paper: Pillars, Capitals, Catalysts and Medium-Term Missions

Levelling Up Pillars

The five pillars to support levelling up activity are:

1. a mission-oriented approach to setting policy;
2. a reorientation of central government decision-making;
3. greater empowerment of local government decision-making;
4. a revolution in data and transparency at the subnational level; and
5. enhanced transparency and accountability of this new regime.

Capitals

The six capitals that will help drive levelling up spatially are:

1. Physical capital – infrastructure, machines and housing;
2. Human capital – the skills, health and experience of the workforce;
3. Intangible capital – innovation, ideas and patents;
4. Financial capital – resources supporting the financing of companies;
5. Social capital – the strength of communities, relationships and trust; and
6. Institutional capital – local leadership, capacity and capability.

NB: Natural Capital was not included in the Whiter Paper as a capital in of itself. It is however referenced in relation to land based activity within the main body of the text.

Interventions

The four interventions to act as catalysts for levelling up are to:

1. boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging;
2. spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest;
3. restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost; and
4. empower local leadership.

Levelling Up medium term missions

Focus	Mission
Intervention 1: Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging	
1. Living standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, and the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
2. Research and Development	By 2030, domestic public investment in R&D outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
3. Transport Infrastructure	By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
4. Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
Intervention 2: Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest	
5. Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
6. Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
7. Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.
8. Well-being	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

Intervention 3: Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost

9. Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
10. Housing	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
11. Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst affected areas.

Intervention 4: Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

12. Local Leadership	By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding
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