

 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	

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	<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>	

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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 available and to work with private sector partners and Local Authorities. SWLEP would be happy to write letters of support.</p>	

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	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>	

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	<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.	