

	<b>Minutes of Ideas, Infrastructure, &amp; Place (IIP) Subgroup Meeting 10 May 2023</b>
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**Date:**            **Wednesday, 10 May 2023**  
**Time:**           **10.30am – 12.30pm**  
**Venue:**          **via Microsoft Teams call**

Name of Member	Organisation	Attendance
Rory Bowen (RB)	Wiltshire Council	✓
Paddy Bradley (PB)	SWLEP CEO	✓
David Dewart	Swindon Borough Council	✓ -left at 11.30am
Tom Harrison (TH)	SWLEP Director	✓ - left at 11.30am
Victoria Moloney (VM)	Wiltshire Council	
Prof Maik Schneider (MS)	University of Bath	Apologies
Suzanne Wigmore (SW)	SWLEP Director	✓
<b>Guest(s)</b>	<b>SWLEP Ltd</b> Tim Burghes ✓ <b>Cities &amp; Local Growth Unit</b> Jenna Hunt (JH) ✓	
<b>Chair</b>	Suzanne Wigmore (SW)	
<b>Minutes</b>	Deborah House (DKH)	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b>	
	The meeting opened at 10.34am. SW welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made, and apologies noted.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes and Matters arising</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	Approval of minutes from 18 March 2023.	
<b>2.2</b>	Matters Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formalise into ESG statement and make a strong case in order that money could be set aside within the budget for the Board to approve for FY 2023/24. <i>Update.</i> SW also to discuss Office of Veterans' Affairs (OVA).</li> </ul>	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>OVA was funding a report looking into the issues surrounding veterans, two of which were debt and relationship breakdown. SW would share with the group when evidence was received.</p> <p>PB advised of a recent Rural Economy Sector Group (RESG) meeting where Service Leavers and the Careers Transition Partnership (CTP) were discussed in relation to training and jobs within the agricultural sector.</p> <p>The ESG matter was left over for a future meeting.</p> <p>Other Matters Arising were completed, or on the agenda.</p>	
<b>3.0 Infrastructure</b>		
3.1	<p><b>The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Freight &amp; Logistics update</b></p> <p>TH presented to the meeting highlighting the aim and aspirations of the Steering Group to 2050. The presentation can be accessed by following the link below.</p> <p><a href="https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/10-05-2023/appg---steering-group-intro.pdf?sfvrsn=4dbad719_3">https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/10-05-2023/appg---steering-group-intro.pdf?sfvrsn=4dbad719_3</a></p> <p>By their nature, All Party Parliamentary Groups were not tied to the views of the Government of the day. They take evidence and make recommendations for action which then may be adopted by the Government, all or in part, or rejected.</p> <p>There was a large proportion of SMEs within Swindon and Wiltshire, and it would be challenging to hear their voices.</p> <p>The question was raised as to how this work aligned with that of the current work being carried out by Ipsos for DfT. Were roads people might want to build genuinely improving the economic impact? See Item 3.3.</p> <p>Road and rail networks did not work together and share information which often led to congestion and disruption on major routes. There was a mix of public and private companies, and it would be difficult to get them to share data without a government directive.</p>	

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	<p>It was stated that the Welsh Government had put a stop to further road building as it aligned with its policy of climate change considerations. But how did this align with economic growth? Nobody from Welsh Government had attended these meetings.</p> <p>The Western Gateway had developed a Rail Strategy, which outlined good thinking on passenger routes but was light touch with regard to freight.</p>	
3.2	<p><b>Sub National Transport Bodies (SNTBs) update</b> PB spoke to the meeting.</p> <p><b>England's Economic Heartland</b> Included Swindon and areas to the east, Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. SWLEP's Chair, Paul Moorby, attended these meetings.</p> <p><b>The Western Gateway Sub National Transport Body</b> Included West of England Combined Authority, Dorset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. Chris Stevens, SWLEP's head of Business Support, attended the meetings of the Freight Forum for Western Gateway STNB.</p> <p>Local Authorities were strong and active members of both.</p> <p>Both SNTBs referenced the connectivity between the two bodies, particularly around rail, although emphasis was on passenger transport and not freight. Westbury had a major freight terminal, and this was a significant point of discussion for the Hills Group if it were to transport hydrogen production off site. The SNTBs did not have the same statutory powers as Transport for London (TfL) to impose change such as regulating fares.</p> <p>The pan regional partnership of The Western Gateway crossed different political boundaries, but covered the significant trading route of the M4, the route to the north and to the southern ports. Approval had recently been given to extend the size of lorries by two metres, meaning they could carry more and would make fewer journeys. The first point of call was still via the road network and not enough thought had gone into expanding rail freight. Multi modal transport was not working together effectively.</p> <p>Transport for Wales (TfW) was at potential conflict as it had a foot in both camps. A change in administration in England could make a difference, but there was currently tension with central government policies as they did not align with Wales and worked only up to the border.</p>	
3.3	<p><b>Economic impact of road improvements report for DfT</b></p>	

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	<p>PB spoke to the meeting and gave an update on the progress of the study which Ipsos was working on for DfT on how to access effectively the economic impact of road improvements and their environmental impact. Did the value to the economy outweigh some of the other issues?</p> <p>A questionnaire had been constructed and was being finalised to ensure relevance of the terminology for the different audiences. SWLEP was trialling with a set of different sized business in the area, such as logistics and manufacturers in the supply chain. The questionnaire was divided into sections which would also be appropriate for Local Authorities and LEPs to get an overall rounded view.</p> <p><b>Action: Circulate the final version of the questionnaire.</b></p>	<p><b>As appropriate</b></p>
<p><b>4.0 Place</b></p>		
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Labour market and general economic outlook</b></p> <p>PB spoke to the meeting and outlined the key points of the economy within Swindon and Wiltshire such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the popular industries within Swindon and within Wiltshire;</li> <li>• jobs and skills demand, with a lot more jobs being advertising at the moment which seemed to indicate a pickup in the economy, but also that some positions were not being filled and were re-advertised;</li> <li>• age range of people not working by choice, who may have to come back into the jobs market;</li> <li>• still needed to get more young people into jobs, which was easier than reskilling the older generation, to maintain the employment pipeline;</li> <li>• 80% of the jobs did not seek any form of educational level qualification;</li> <li>• 56,500+ unique job postings amongst 5,000 employers with the postings staying open for approximately 42 days; and</li> <li>• NHS was the heaviest advertiser for vacancies at total of 19,463 in Swindon and Wiltshire.</li> </ul> <p>The presentation can be accessed via the link below.</p> <p><a href="https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/10-05-2023/rfa-and-job-and-skill-demand---6.5.23-data.pdf?sfvrsn=dfc8eff9_3">https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/10-05-2023/rfa-and-job-and-skill-demand---6.5.23-data.pdf?sfvrsn=dfc8eff9_3</a></p>	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
<b>5.0 Ideas</b>		
5.0	<b>Western Gateway Hydrogen Conference – 9 June 2023</b> DS spoke to the meeting and presented the background to the strategy and the details of the upcoming conference in Newport.	
<b>6.0 AOB and items for the next meeting</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Infrastructure Plans from Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council – current performance and future strategy</li></ul> <b>Action: RB would provide information and update on Salisbury's River Park.</b>	<b>July 2023</b>
	<b>Next meeting:</b> Wednesday, 5 July - 10am to 12noon <b>Dates for 2023:</b> Wednesday, 13 September - 10am to 12noon Wednesday, 8 November - 10am to 12noon  Meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams/video conferencing unless otherwise advised.	
	<b>Meeting closed at 12.29pm.</b>	