

 <b>Swindon &amp; Wiltshire</b> LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP	<b>Minutes of Ideas, Infrastructure, &amp; Place (IIP) Subgroup Meeting 5 July 2023</b>
--	---

**Date:**        **Wednesday, 5 July 2023**  
**Time:**        **10am – 12noon**  
**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	Apologies
Tom Harrison (TH)	SWLEP Director	✓
Victoria Moloney (VM)	Wiltshire Council	✓ - left at 11.24am
Suzanne Wigmore (SW)	SWLEP Director	✓
<b>Guest(s)</b>	<b>SWLEP Ltd</b> Comms Tim Burghes ✓ <b>Cities &amp; Local Growth Unit</b> Richard Walters ✓ - left at 11.40am	
<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 10.04am. 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 10 May 2023.	
<b>2.2</b>	Matters Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ESG matter was left over for a future meeting.  <i>UPDATE: PB stated that there was no further information to add at the moment.</i></li> </ul> <p>SW, however, added that the results from the OVA study on what veterans needed for support, in collaboration with Citizens</p>	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p><i>Advice were due to be published in the next couple of weeks. This would be shared with the group when available.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action: DfT and Ipsos project. Circulate the final version of the questionnaire when appropriate. <i>Update: PB stated that the project was in two parts, being the environmental impact of infrastructure developments and that within the supply chain. A questionnaire had been devised, but not enough incentives had been offered for companies to take part in the survey. Anonymised data about their sector could be supplied. SWLEP's Director, Mark Matthews, was the point of contact for this study and was having discussions with the Department of Business &amp; Trade. The item would be brought back to the Group.</i></li> </ul> <p>The other Matter Arising was on the agenda.</p>	
<b>3.0 Infrastructure</b>		
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Freight &amp; Logistics update</b></p> <p>TH spoke to the meeting and updated the group on the recent meeting of the APPG on Freight &amp; Logistics. Midlands Connect headed up the Steering Group together with DHL.</p> <p>One year on since the publication of its Freight &amp; Logistics Vision to 2050, the group wanted to collect data in the form of a short report which would be produced in September. All participants had received a matrix for completion which was aligned to the Vision. A lot of effort had gone into the matrix, but the information collected was what people already knew. The aim was to stress sustainability and embrace new and emerging technology and infrastructure currently developing, particularly within the private sector, which would challenge the norm and accelerate carbon reduction. For example, underground network for freight trains and hydrogen powered ships. Ports and aviation were already talking to industry, but neither Network Rail nor Highways England attended the APPG, so their views could not be gathered in this forum.</p> <p>The Sub National Transport Bodies wished for investment into rail which would enable extra movement of goods, but less investment by government would match the 2050 Vision. Government wanted local regions to have local solutions, for example, final mile delivery. What did they need in their area? It should be affordable to move goods around and greener would be more sustainable, but cost could be a barrier to entry, particularly for the SMEs in Swindon and Wiltshire.</p>	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>Strategies and investments should be continually updated, as the World would look different by 2050.</p> <p>Recent news on the proposed closure of railway ticket offices had met with disapproval from many quarters. Unmanned stations would become less accessible, particularly to the disabled, vulnerable travellers, and the elderly and could also form a digital divide in the same way as cashless parking. As well as not being inclusive to all areas of society, fears were about potential anti-social behaviour and fare transparency. This could be a Public Service Board issue. It would be appropriate for this Subgroup to keep an eye on the use of ticket offices and smaller stations etc.</p> <p><b>Action: this issue to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.</b></p>	<b>Sept 2023</b>
<b>4.0 Ideas</b>		
	<p><b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</b></p>	
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Swindon Borough Council</b></p> <p>There were no representatives from Swindon Borough Council at the meeting, so this item was not discussed.</p>	
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Wiltshire Council</b></p> <p>VM spoke to the meeting on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Wiltshire Council was operating. This fund had been set up as a successor to European funding, although details were still not through about required outputs etc.</p> <p>The presentation can be accessed by using the link below.</p> <p><a href="https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/5-jul-2023/swlep-update-ukspf.pdf?sfvrsn=f85db120_3">https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/5-jul-2023/swlep-update-ukspf.pdf?sfvrsn=f85db120_3</a></p> <p>The programme was divided into nine key themes under the three headings of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community &amp; Place (£2.5 million allocated);</li> <li>• Local Business (£3.8m allocated); and</li> <li>• People &amp; Skills (£2.1m allocated).</li> </ul> <p>Added to which was the Multiply programme for adult numeracy.</p>	

Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>It was commented that short-term funding programmes did not make systemic change.</p> <p>Urban rural split. A meeting was being held with Defra on 7 July to discuss the rural economy. 41 Local Authorities had been classified as mainly rural, of which Wiltshire was one. SWLEP was interrogating the databases it could access to provide a profile of businesses within Local Authority boundaries and trying to define the rural economy throughout the country. Defra appeared to concentrate on land-based industries, when the rural economy was actually much broader than that.</p> <p>UWE was doing work on rural workforce patterns to ascertain whether changes after the pandemic were permanent or a temporary shift.</p> <p><b>Action: VM to update on the programme early in 2024 when it was reaching the end of Year 2.</b></p>	<b>2024</b>
<b>5.0 Place</b>		
<b>5.1</b>	<p>PB spoke to the meeting on the financial health and growth potential of businesses in Swindon and Wiltshire</p> <p>The presentation can be accessed by using the link below.</p> <p><a href="https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/5-jul-2023/financial-health-and-growth-potential-june-2023.pdf?sfvrsn=ffa6a5dc_3">https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/5-jul-2023/financial-health-and-growth-potential-june-2023.pdf?sfvrsn=ffa6a5dc_3</a></p> <p>Producing this data would allow SWLEP to target companies which had capacity to grow with appropriate support and to measure the impact of these interventions. It would be beneficial if these fantastic companies were encouraged to stay in the Swindon and Wiltshire area.</p> <p>It would also be possible to access companies which had received grants to see if that had made a difference to their survival and operations.</p>	
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>Update on Salisbury River Park</b></p> <p>RW spoke to the meeting and presented on the status of the Salisbury River Park project. 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/2023/5-jul-2023/salisbury-river-park-presentation-jul-2023.pdf?sfvrsn=2138bbf9_3">https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/5-jul-2023/salisbury-river-park-presentation-jul-2023.pdf?sfvrsn=2138bbf9_3</a></p>	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>The project had received £6m from the Local Growth Fund (LGF) towards the regeneration and flood mitigation works of the area working alongside the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The impact on businesses during the work had been minimal, with good communication about loss of car parking spaces and no feedback that they had been adversely affected. Market traders continued to park without problems for the Tuesday market. There would still be enough car parking around the City overall. The Boathouse pub near the coach park had closed and was now sold with an Indian restaurant and a cocktail bar due to open shortly. The River Park would offer a fantastic arrival point for Salisbury.</p>	
<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> <li>• strategies for hydrogen electric;</li> <li>• updates on iCAST and Westbury site developments;</li> <li>• update on Partnership Boards for Salisbury and Trowbridge;</li> <li>• invite attendance from Chippenham Partnership on plans; and</li> <li>• the Town Hall development at Trowbridge was recruiting a project manager.</li> </ul> <p>Thanks were given to Paddy at his last meeting of the IIP Subgroup before his retirement.</p>	
	<p><b>Next meeting:</b> Wednesday, 13 September - 10am to 12noon</p> <p><b>Dates for 2023:</b> Wednesday, 8 November - 10am to 12noon</p> <p>Meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams/video conferencing unless otherwise advised.</p>	
	<b>Meeting closed at 11.47am</b>	

18 September 2023