

**SWINDON STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
HELD ON 21 JUNE 2007**

MINUTES

Present

Rikki Hunt - Chair
Steve Richards – SWRDA
Mark Beard – Beard Construction
Gavin Calthrop – SBC
Cllr Phil Young – SBC
Bill Cotton – SBC

1 *Update from Board Members*

BC updated on work of skills group. A focus of their work in the coming year is the construction sector and working with AMEC (the Exchange developer) to both attract new entrants to the construction sector and up-skill existing workforce.

Debate about where the balance of activity should lie with a clear steer towards up-skilling agenda.

Action BC

As project becomes firmer – bring a report on how the SSEP can support skills and other issues in construction sector

Action BC/PY

Update report on regeneration group activity next meeting.

Action BC/GC

Update report/presentation on Destination Swindon project.

2 *Priorities and membership of the Swindon Enterprise Sub-Group*

The priorities detailed in the report were approved. The membership of the group to include SWRDA representative but not Matt Spencer from SBC. This to be reviewed in two meetings time.

3 *LAA Targets and the allocation of Pump Prime Funding*

The allocation of funding was approved.

Progress on LAA Targets noted. A discussion about the importance of Swindon Digital Strategy and potential for it to underpin many other projects.

Action BC - Arrange Swindon Digital strategy presentation and discussion for next meeting.

4 **Resources available to support the Partnership**

SWRDA offer of £50k 2007/08 and £50K 2008/09 welcomed.

BC explained alignment of Council Economic budgets to SSEP work programmes. Each sub-group to have flexibility up to £5000 for incidental and minor expenditure – to be accessed through their respective support officer.

Action BC - 6 months expenditure update for October meeting.

5 **SSEP Marketing Communication requirements**

Report generally well received. Discussion centred on the needs for greater clarity upfront re strategic context – where we want to be in 2/3 years time; rationalisation of website; desire to make conference a focal point for the year and ‘punched through’ with extra activity afterwards; balance tension between doing the strategic thing and getting on with it.

Action GC – produce communications action plan

Action BC – produce conference proposal & email around

Action MB – aim to secure Sir Digby Jones date for us to build around

6 **Proposed to set up Policy Task Group**

Approved

Action BC – establish group to examine LAA2 opportunity and report back

7 **Recent Wins**

- 1st crane up in Town Centre Regeneration
- Need to find wins which resonate with business community

8 **Forward Agenda**

- Regeneration – July
- Destination Swindon – July
- Construction Sector (skills & business growth) - September
- Digital Strategy – July

- Finance update – October
- Conference proposed – July
- Policy Task Group report back - September
- LAA project update – one per meeting,

9 ***Date & Venue of next meeting***

7.30 am, Thursday 19 July, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon
Action GC to organise room