

Swindon Strategic Economic Partnership

Policy Task Group

**Notes of meeting held on 1st November 2007
Create Studios, Wyvern Theatre, Swindon**

In Attendance:

Alan Fletcher, Swindon Chamber of Commerce (Chair)

Peter Beech-Allen, GWE

Sue Watkins, LSC

David Evans, SBC Econ Dev (Secretariat)

Ernesto Gomez, SBC Econ Dev

Stuart Webb, SBC Create

Matthew Pearce, SBC Policy

Stuart Tarr, GOSW

Mike Glossop, GOSW

Apologies:

Pete Manley, South West RDA

Jill Annal, Job Centre Plus

1. Notes of Last Meeting on 28 September 2007

Matters Arising:

None

Actions outstanding:

Matt Gott to produce and circulate a map of the Swindon Strategic Partnership and its constituent groupings and partnerships.

Action:

MP to chase partnership map

2. Local Area Agreement II Update

ST gave an overview of the LAA II process from the perspective of the Government Office, saying that the set of 35 indicators, plus 17 relating to children, should be signed off by June 2008, albeit due to commence in April 2008. Between now and Christmas the Government Office will be working with local authorities to whittle down the list of 198. He emphasised that:

- Duplication with LAA I indicators should be avoided
- Technical guidance on all of the 198 indicators will be produced in the New Year.

The meeting expressed concern that the local partnership is expected to have finalised its set of 35 indicators before the Technical Guidance had even been produced. MP said that we are aiming for a list of around 100 indicators as an initial long list to put to a meeting on 21st November.

The meeting also expressed concern over the number of indicators within the 198 that are directly relevant to the SSEP's agenda. DE suggested the LAAll process would be a useful prompt for the partnership to prepare a 3 year performance plan, which includes LAAl and LAAll indicators, as well as other indicators that measure the partnership's performance.

DE circulated a profile of Swindon's main economic issues, to inform the selection of the economic development indicators. It was agreed that members of the group would share the profile with other Sub Groups, and refine it.

Action:

- **All to consider the Profile and provide comments back to DE**
- **SW and DE to present the Profile to the Employment & Skills Board, and the Enterprise Group, and take on board the comments.**

3 SSEP Update

DE outlined the changes to the SSEP's structure, which were agreed at the October Board meeting, namely:

- **Management Board:** DE to join in the role of secretariat
- **Policy Sub Group:** BC has the policy remit on the Board. Alan Fletcher (Swindon Chamber) has agreed to chair that group
- **Cultural Sub Group:** Mike Pringle will join the Board
- **Inward Investment:** it was proposed that this group be moved to the Regeneration Sub-Group, with the marketing aspects remaining in the Marketing Group. James Lockhart (Whitmarsh Lockhart) has agreed to chair this group in its new capacity.
- **Employment & Skills Sub Group:** John Davies has agreed to represent that group on the Management Board, with Sue Watkins continuing to chair the Sub Group.
- **Major Employers:** RH had discussed with Alan Fletcher a meeting over dinner in the New Year between large employers and senior decision makers, such as Rod Bluh / Gavin Jones. Alan Fletcher had agreed to take on the co-hosting.
- **Enterprise Group:** Innovation should stay nominally in the Enterprise Group, but all groups need to be aware of the need to raise the culture of innovation in their groups' activities

3. Current Policy Consultations

There were no current policy consultations

4. Any Other Business

None

5. Date of Next Meeting:

To consider the next draft of the Swindon Profile.

Monday 12th November at 3.30, at Create Studios, Wyvern Theatre.