

# Swindon Strategic Economic Partnership

## Policy Task Group

Notes of meeting held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007

### **In Attendance:**

Peter Beech-Allen, GWE  
Sue Watkins, LSC  
David Evans, SBC Econ Dev  
Stuart Webb, SBC Create  
Bill Cotton, SBC Econ Dev (Items 1-3 only)  
Matt Gott, SBC Policy (Items 1-2 only)

### **Apologies:**

Alan Fletcher, Swindon Chamber of Commerce  
Pete Manley, South West RDA  
Jill Annal, Job Centre Plus

## **1. Notes of Last Meeting on 2 August 2007**

### **Matters Arising:**

DE reported that he had met with Rob Harman from the Swindon Chamber to give him the background to the Policy Task Group prior to his joining. Rob has subsequently passed the remit on to the Chamber Chairman, Alan Fletcher, who intends joining future meetings.

### **Actions outstanding:**

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

## **2. Local Area Agreement II Update**

MG gave an overview of the process for drafting the LAA II. The Government Office will be meeting with the Council in early November to review a long list of indicators. It is important that we have a firm evidence base for the Economic Development submission, identifying the main issues to be addressed over the three years of the LAA period, and drawing upon consultation carried out by the Swindon Strategic Partnership. It is also important that the Economic Development block is linked to other relevant LAA blocks

### **Actions:**

- **DE to draft a pen picture of the top 5 issues to be addressed through the Economic Development Block in LAAll.**
- **DE to circulate the draft list of 200 indicators**
- **SW to circulate the recent LSC National Business Survey**

- **DE to contact leaders of the other LAA blocks and liaise with them over the LAAll priorities**

It was agreed that DE will be the lead contact for the drafting of the Economic Development submission.

### **3. SSEP Context**

BC outlined how the SSEP Management Board sees the Policy Task Group working, suggesting that the policy group represents 'the brains behind the partnership'. Specific work that it will coordinate includes the LAAll submission, and any new policy areas that emerge from partner agencies and Central Government. He also outlined the latest position in relation to attracting the University of the West of England to the Borough.

### **4. Research & Intelligence needs of the SSEP**

The group discussed the needs of the partnership and agreed that future research needs to underpin the LAAll. It would make sense to liaise with Wiltshire County Council over taking forward the W&S Economic Assessment, particularly in terms of sharing common data sets.

### **5. Current Policy consultations**

#### **5.1 SWRDA Inward Investment Review**

DE reported that he had recently attended a meeting with SWRDA to discuss the RDA taking a role in inward investment.

**Action: DE to circulate report on SWRDA Inward Investment review**

### **6. SSEP Website**

The group passed on favourable comments on the new SSEP website at [www.ssep.org.uk](http://www.ssep.org.uk)). DE explained that it is under development, and that it will soon be a repository for policy documents, sub group minutes, and other useful information.

### **7. Any Other Business**

None

### **8. Date of Next Meeting:**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 2.00, at Create Studios, Wyvern Theatre.