

Swindon Strategic Economic Partnership Management Board

Note of Meeting held on Thursday 19 March 2009

Civic Centre, Swindon

In Attendance: Alan Fletcher
Joanne Stagg, Swindon Chamber of Commerce
David Evans, Swindon Borough Council (minutes)
Rikki Hunt, Cipol Energy Ltd (Chairman)

Apologies: Bill Cotton, Swindon Borough Council

Also in Attendance:

- Item 3: John Gilbert, Paddy Bradley and Chris Walton from SBC Children's Services Group Directorate
- Item 4: Dr Rod Hebden from NMSI

	<p>Attendance at Board meetings Frustration was expressed at the attendance level, particularly as only one apology had been received in advance. Action: RH to contact all absent Board members to discuss their attendance</p>	
1	Notes of last meeting and Matters Arising / Carried Forward	Date Initiated
1.1	<p>Liaison with GWE. Action: JS and DE to liaise with James Durie to progress the lobbying role.</p>	Oct 08
1.2	<p>Liaison with Lenders DE reported that, having circulated a proposed approach to the Board, to date two meetings had been held. The outstanding banks will be met over the course of the next month with a view to reporting back on findings to the next meeting, and organising a group meeting with as many banks as possible. Action: DE (Phil Merrick) to progress</p>	Nov 08
1.3	<p>Economic Downturn RH reported on a SBC meeting he had attended earlier in the week, at which a range of measures to assist businesses were discussed. RH and Bill Cotton to address the next Chamber of Commerce lunch. It was recognised that the Business Charter is the vehicle to roll out recession support to businesses from the Council</p>	Nov 08

<p>1.4</p>	<p>Workspace Strategy DE reported that GVA Grimley had more or less completed the Strategy. Agreed that a Workshop will be organised in May/June with the Board and other interested parties. Action: DE (Lawrence Murphy) to invite the Board and other SSEP members to hear the findings of the Workspace Strategy at an event in May/June.</p>	<p>Dec 08</p>
<p>1.5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Membership of the Board DE reported that Gavin Calthrop has resigned from the Board. Agreed that Communications is a vital aspect of the Board's work. Action: DE to discuss with Gavin a replacement for the Board from within the Communications team.</p>	<p>Jan 09</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>SSEP 2009 Priorities Plan</p> <p>DE reported that he had circulated the Draft Priorities Plan back in January, and had incorporated the few comments received into a final version. Agreed to adopt the final version, and circulate it for information. Action: DE to finalise Priorities Plan, circulate it to Board for information and post on website</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>The Council's new 13-19 Education Agenda</p> <p>Introduced by John Gilbert, Paddy Bradley and Chris Walton from SBC Children's Services Group Directorate.</p> <p>JG introduced the item giving the background to the new governance structures due to be introduced following the demise of the LSC in September 2010. The Council will take on a new 16-19 education agenda. It is important that businesses and schools communicate more effectively on the delivery of all education, particularly in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expanding Apprenticeships within businesses, numbers of which have declined over recent years. • the new Diploma courses now being offered in schools. All but one of the Borough's schools are signed up to offer them. • placements in business for personal development and to create enterprise opportunities. <p>CW informed the Board that SBC will also pick up responsibility for commissioning work based learning including apprenticeships from September 2010. The Council's role will be to analyse needs and performance manage the learning providers.</p> <p>It was recognised that a strategy is needed to enable effective engagement between business and schools, perhaps using the schools' own specialisms as the basis for that approach to employers. It was noted that in Swindon has expressed an interest in strengthening its 13-19 links, and that its Chairman, Paul Booth,</p>	

	<p>intends joining the Board.</p> <p>JG reported that the team is also strengthening its links with Secondary Heads, and that the Council has put forward an Expression of Interest for a Building Schools for the Future funding programme.</p> <p>It was proposed that a skills/ employer trade expo be organised in the Autumn.</p> <p>Action: 13 – 19 Team to liaise with Peter Snowman to progress Skills Expo.</p> <p>RH asked for a map setting out how businesses can most effectively engage. He thanked the three guests for attending the meeting.</p> <p>Action: DE and Peter Snowman to meet with 13 – 19 Team to identify how businesses can engage in the Education agenda.</p>
4	<p>The National Science Museum</p> <p>Dr Rod Hebden, Development Manager at the Science Museum in Wroughton introduced the item.</p> <p>The main building project is progressing, and design consultants have recently been appointed to move it forward. In the current economic downturn it is becoming increasingly difficult to extract funding from the private sector.</p> <p>In the meanwhile there is much activity, including improvements to Hangar D4 to improve the storage of collections and to increase access. Also, the Science Museum continues to invest in the Library, raising awareness of the facility nationally, and improving access to the property.</p> <p>NMSI recognises the importance of environmental technologies, and is building operational links with the Climate Change Gallery in London, due to open in Wroughton in the second half of 2011. The Wroughton site will also provide year-round space for Research & Development within Environmental Technologies, offering space for testing facilities, trade shows, and a national festival.</p> <p>RHe also spoke about some of the branded festivals in the pipeline, including the national Festival of Innovation, due to be held over the weekend of 12/13 September 2009. Funding has been attracted from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and matched locally by Intel.</p> <p>RH thanked RHe for attending the meeting, and emphasised the support of the SSEP in progressing the Science Museum as an asset for Swindon.</p>
6	<p>Date of next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 16th April</p>