

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

15 July 2021

Task Group Update

1. Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) Joint Scrutiny Panel

Membership

Wiltshire Councillors:

Cllr Richard Britton (Chairman)
Cllr George Jeans
Cllr Ian Thorn

Swindon Borough Councillors:

Cllr Junab Ali (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Burn-Howell
Cllr Russell Holland

Business Representative

Amanda Newbery
Craig Holmes
Andrew Hogben

Supporting officer: Marie Gondlach/Ceri Williams

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the Joint Scrutiny Panel are quite lengthy and therefore not included in full here, however an extract detailing the purpose of the panel is included below (*paragraph numbering from the terms of reference*):

(9.) This Panel will act as a critical friend, developing an overview of strategies and plans and providing independent scrutiny of the work of the LEP Board. It is an essential element of assuring democratic accountability for the use of public funds.

(10.) The objective is to make constructive recommendations for how future decisions of the LEP can be effectively implemented.

(11.) The Panel will not have the power to delay the SWLEP's decisions but it will be able to make recommendations for improvement to the SWLEP's decision making process and will be able to make its conclusions public.

Recent activity

The SWLEP scrutiny panel met for the first time, post-election, on 7 June 2021. Cllr Richard Britton was elected chair, with Cllrs George Jeans and Ian Thorn filling the two other Wiltshire Council vacancies. Cllr Junab Ali, Swindon Borough Council, was elected vice-chair with the two historic vacancies from industry now filled. The first meeting provided the panel with an overview of the work of the Local Economic Partnership (LEP). The panel also commissioned a final 'deep-dive' review of the LEP's 'Growth Hub', with a meeting scheduled for Friday 9 June. In addition, the chair and vice chair meet with the chief executive of the LEP on Wednesday 7 June to discuss/develop the forward work programme.

Proposals

1. **To note the update on task group and panel activity provided.**
2. **To note that the following councillors have been appointed to the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Scrutiny Panel:**
 - Cllr Richard Britton (Chairman)**
 - Cllr George Jeans**
 - Cllr Ian Thorn**
3. **To note that the following councillors have been appointed to the Financial Planning Task Group:**
 - Cllr Gavin Grant**
 - Cllr George Jeans**
 - Cllr Gordon King**
 - Cllr Charles McGrath**
 - Cllr Pip Ridout (Chairman)**
 - Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall**
 - Cllr Derek Walters**
4. **To note that the following councillors have been appointed as Overview and Scrutiny representatives on the bodies listed:**
 - Cllr Jon Hubbard – Constitution Focus Group**
 - Cllr George Jeans – Gigaclear Contract Board**

Report authors:

Simon Bennet, Senior Scrutiny Officer, T: 01225 718 709,
E: simon.bennett@wiltshire.gov.uk

Ceri Williams, Senior Scrutiny Officer, T: 01225 713 704,
E: ceri.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk

Henry Powell, Democracy Manager (Scrutiny), T: 01225 718052, E.
henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk