

**South West Observatory
Operational & Research Group**

Minutes of the meeting held on **Thursday 29 April 2010** at Western Power in Taunton

Attendance:

Vinita Nawathe (Chair)	SWO Core Unit
Donald Barr	SWRDA
Rose Bird	GOSW
Hollie Bryant	West of England LIN
Mark Dancox	South West PHO
Janine Gamon	SINe
Alistair Gordon	Environment Agency
Anne Gray	Dorset County Council
Sarah Hardwick	SWO Core Unit
Darren Horn	Planning Module / South West Councils
Lou Maddocks	SWO Core Unit
Karen McDonald	Gloucestershire County Council
Ben Neild	SLIM
Mark Painter	Devon LIN
Ray Perrins	SWO Core Unit
Eddie Smith	ONS

Apologies: Jules Channer, Patrick Hartop, Shane Vallance, Steve Garrett

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
1	Welcome and Apologies	
2	Minutes from Previous Meeting The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.	CORE UNIT – Circulate draft ORG minutes to group within three weeks.
3	Matters arising from Action Matrix <i>Forward Planning for the Network –</i> VN expressed concern that despite modules and LINS getting them in to the Core Unit, work plans had not been circulated to the ORG as promised in a digestible form. She stated that we have to resolve this issue this year so we can use them to spot areas of common interest, plan better for next year and avoid duplication. SH mentioned a suggestion from the LIN meeting of setting up a web resource (in list format) where people could give feedback on key partnership working and areas of work. The Observatory Community of Practice (CoP) was suggested as a potential forum for this. AG suggested that the module reports for the board should be distributed to the network and JG agreed that this would be enough to pick up on the modules' work plans. CU to make Board reports available. RB made a suggestion that broad headings could be used to capture relevant work. SH said that it would be hard to capture everything Modules and LINS are doing, and as such a simple format would work best. AG expressed the	Action: CU Action: CU

<p>importance of avoiding creating an additional task. SH mentioned that in the LINs funding agreement (Q1) was the action to share 2010/11 workplans. VN mentioned PHO had agreed once to highlight in their plan items of most relevance to the broader audience. It was agreed that the main point was to share workplans with each other. The sticking point had been in turning them into a single digestible format. It was agreed that to ensure the objective was met, work plans could be shared in their raw format.</p> <p><i>Joint Research Project</i> – VN suggested that CU would continue to support the possibility of joint projects that the network might be interested in doing. Request to forward any ideas to CU as they come up.</p> <p><i>Lack of co-ordination/information about data tools across the SWO network</i> – Ray produced a summary document of usage of different data tools, based on the network consultation in October 2009. This was circulated one week after last ORG (December 2009).</p> <p><i>Tourism information within the Regional Accounts</i> – SH to follow up with SB (Stephen Bashford – not at meeting) prior to next ORG.</p> <p><i>Incorporating additional sub-regional questions to the Value of Tourism Survey</i> - SH spoken to Paul Haydon from South West Tourism about boosting their Annual Visitor Survey to get local level data. SWT will look at when they start planning the survey at the end of April. SH to provide more info at next ORG.</p> <p><i>How to map new unitary authorities</i> - Complete; note on this in State of the South West 2010.</p> <p><i>Collection & collation of non-domestic business rates data</i> SH to follow up with SB (Stephen Bashford – not at meeting) prior to next ORG.</p> <p><i>'Total Place' initiative</i> - SH had been in touch with Dorset about coming along to next RIG/ORG to update on 'Total Place'. RB suggested this could be an option for RIG. SH to follow up with Dorset contact & RB RB will provide information on 'Total Place' in July. VN enquired as to whether anyone had funding for 'Total Place' JG said that they had funding from <i>REIP</i> and were currently recruiting new posts.</p> <p><i>Usefulness of the Community of Practice (CoP) across the network</i>- Emails were sent out by Andy and although a lot have joined, there has not been much activity. RP said that he could contact Kristin Warry to see how activity could be stimulated. MP suggested the minutes of ORG should be placed on the CoP, rather than circulated by e-mail to increase traffic.</p> <p><i>Possibility of collaborative data purchase for network</i> See agenda item no 7</p> <p>It was noted that CU should delete from Action Matrix all completed actions.</p>	<p>Action: LINs</p> <p>Action: All</p> <p>Action: SH</p> <p>Action: SH</p> <p>Action: SH</p> <p>Action: SH</p> <p>Action: SH</p> <p>Action: RB</p> <p>Action: CU</p>
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	<p>Suggestions for technical workshops were also made. The workshops will be focused events around specific issues or areas that the network would like further training on. These could include increasing understanding and usage of data resources, for example. Suggestions included:</p> <p><i>Technical Workshop Suggestions</i> Topics for workshops/training sessions were agreed as followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ten dimensions of Equality 2. NOMIS – Eco Literacy 3. ECO Footprints 4. Health Profiles 5. Customer Insight 6. IMD Consultation <p>It was agreed that the CU would put together a list of options and dates to circulate and progress these dates.</p> <p>VN thanked the group for their suggestions on workshops, training, Policy Seminars and Annual Conference.</p> <p><i>Common Policy Drivers</i> VN commented that policy drivers for last year included the LEA work, as identified in the Sub-National Review (SNR), and also noted the FEMA work which has been ‘signed up’ to by all upper tier authorities. VN asked for thoughts around what future policy drivers may arise.</p> <p>HB shared with the group that there was an emerging PPS (PPS1) on ‘Climate Change’, from which new policy drivers may come. AG added that there were many others on the same subject.</p> <p>VN asked for any further thoughts on this to be fed back.</p>	<p>Action: SH</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Local Profiles Some discussion was had around Local Profiles and the number being developed across the network. Local Environmental Profiles, and Public Health Profiles were mentioned, as well as a number of Community Profiles being carried out by LINS. It was suggested that everyone submit their profiles to SH in the form of a list to avoid duplication, but that a template should be provided by SH to enable them to do so. Some discussion was had around possibly mapping the profiles in the future. SH agreed to circulate template on Local Profiles for completion.</p>	<p>Action: SH</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Updates <i>Data Purchases -</i> SH informed the group that low cost postcode level patenting data has been purchased and should be available in the next couple of weeks. SH had sent out an e-mail to ascertain the level on interest of zone A shop and office rental values, at a cost of approx. £175 per town. A number of LINS are interested and SH is progressing a joint purchase of this info with the Valuation Office. SH is happy to send out further information to anyone interested.</p>	<p>Action: SH</p>

	<p>SH led a discussion on 'Axiom Data Packs'. The group queried the added value (particularly over the Annual Population Survey, which includes similar indicators). The high cost was noted. SH will contact Yorkshire Futures to see how useful they feel it is (specifically over the APS).</p> <p>RB informed the group that GOSW were doing some work around the election (capturing the results) and will be producing maps of the region including constituencies and MP's names and will e-mail them round to the group when complete.</p> <p>RB enquired about a 'refresh' of SoSW. SH informed the group that there would be an on-line refresh in 2011 and that she will send out a timescale to authors for this soon.</p> <p>A 'What's Changed' report will also be produced in 2012. SH informed the group that SoSW will be hosted by Limehouse as well as Easysite (not yet live) this year and asked for feedback on the two hosting options. AG also expressed interest in getting feedback on the Limehouse hosting for the State of the Environment report. RB informed the group that they would also be doing a 'refresh' of the Governmental and Political Context chapter of SoSW due to the election.</p>	<p>Action: SH</p> <p>Action: RB</p> <p>Action: SH</p>
8	<p>Self-help/AOB</p> <p>HB asked a question about Indicator E3 on Renewable energy and AG suggested that she contact REGENSW.</p> <p>BN asked ES if there was any low level income data and ES agreed to find out what they had.</p>	<p>Action: ES</p>
9	<p>Review of actions and close of meeting</p> <p>KM expressed her opinion that the meeting had been very productive and VN reiterated that ORG is their group and it's up to them how it is used. RB made a suggestion that, if nothing particular is emerging at the time, a half hour break out session could be useful.</p>	
<p>Date of next meeting 15 July 2010 (following RIG)</p>		