

Subgroup update
SWLEP Board
24 November 2022



Business Environment – 7 November

- Membership of the Business Environment Subgroup is now extended to both local authorities, with the proviso that LA members will leave the meeting when commercially sensitive information is discussed about the BCC and Growth Hub Plus.
- Paper 8.0 on the public session agenda covers the breadth of business support services – Growth Hub, Growth Hub Plus, GPIF loan facility and Inward Investment;
- Paper 2.0 in the Part Two Directors only meeting provides the update on the Business Cyber Centre;
- Future activity:
 - Most of the next meeting to cover a recap on what we were doing to ascertain whether we had hit our KPIs. This would give us an opportunity to reflect on our progress to-date.
 - Other items include jobs in the green economy and continuing discussion of commercial development

Ideas, Infrastructure and Places – 3 November

Ideas

- Update presented by Dr Maik Schneider on the PhD research the SWLEP is co-sponsoring at the University of Bath into assessing the value of natural capital.

Infrastructure

- APPG on Freight and Logistics
 - Tom Marshall joining the APPG steering group to represent the Western Gateway area. The APPG was established to develop and promote a view on the future of Freight and Logistics in the country.
- Western Gateway Freight Forum – Chris Stevens attends the meetings which cover rail, road and aviation and maritime. The groups had been established to create one voice for the area.

Place

- Sam Rackham from SBC gave a well-received presentation on regeneration projects in Swindon Town Centre covering Kimmerfields, the Health Hydro and the Carriage Works. The subgroup is keen to understand the regeneration projects throughout Swindon and Wiltshire.

Skills and Talent– 9 November

Labour Market Intelligence

- Paddy Bradley presented an overview of key issues, aspects of growth and data of concern.

Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)

- Business West is the Employer Representative Body designated by the DfE to develop an LSIP for our area.
- Matt Tudge from Business West presented an overview of the programme to develop a report on skills needs and opportunities in sectors which will be described as significant for the area.
- There is an ongoing discussion about the analysis of evidence to identify significant sectors for investment in skills development.
- The development of the LSIP will be a key feature of the work of the Skills and Talent Subgroup.

Skills and Talent – 9 November

- **Other programme updates**
- Careers Hub – research and development programmes for take up of mathematics by girls post GCSE and careers education for home-educated young people.
- Raspberry Pi programme – making good progress on creating a support programme and a S&W competition
- Apprenticeship campaign – target of 50 businesses taking on an apprentice for the first time: 10 in place, 21 on track.