

AGENDA

Public Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, 26 May 2022

Venue: online via Teams

Time: 9.30am – 11.50am Public Board Meeting

Membership		Attendance
Board Directors:	Paddy Bradley (PB) Mandy Clarke (MC) – Co-Deputy Chair Richard Clewer (RC) Doug Gale, MBE (DG) Andrew Gudgeon, OBE (AG) Paul Moorby, OBE (PJM) - Chair Carole Kitching (CK) Col Gary McDade (GMc) Alison North (AN) – Co-Deputy Chair David Renard (DR) Pam Webb (PWe) Prof Ian White (IW) Suzanne Wigmore (SW)	✓ Apologies ✓ Tentative Apologies ✓ ✓ Apologies ✓ ✓ ✓
Advisors to the Board:	Terence Herbert (TH) Susie Kemp (SK)	
Observers to the Board:	Cllr Gary Sumner (GS)	✓
In Attendance:	Claire Alexander (CA) Richard Bell Rory Bowen (RB) Phil Clement (PC) Parvis Khansari (PK) Wiltshire Council Emily Manser (EM) and Jenna Hunt (JH), representatives from Cities & Local Growth Unit Tom Marshall (TM) Chris Stevens (CT) Victoria Moloney (VM) Debby Skellern (DS) Leanne Sykes (LS)	✓ ✓ ✓ Apologies ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ Apologies
Guests:	Tim Burghes ✓ and Melody Thompson (MT) ✓ - SWLEP Alison Robinson (AR) ✓, Wiltshire Council representing Leanne Sykes SWLEP Joint Scrutiny Panel Andy Hogben, Chemring - Apologies Cllr Oladapo Ibitoye ✓, Swindon Borough Council Cllr Ian Thorn, ✓ Wiltshire Council	
Chairman:	Alison North (AN)	
Minutes:	Deborah House (DKH)	

9.30am		Start of Public meeting			
Item	Timing	Topic	Paper No.	Lead	
1.0	9.30am	Welcome / Apologies / Conflicts of Interest	Verbal	PJM	
2.1	9.35am	Review of Draft Minutes of public Board Meeting of 24 March 2022.	Paper 2.1	PJM	For approval
2.2		Matters Arising: None	Verbal	PJM	
3.0	9.40am	Submitted questions	Paper 3.0	PJM	
4.0	9.50am	SWLEP Ltd Budget 2022/23	Paper 4.0	PB	For approval
5.0	10.05am	Draft Delivery Plan 2022/23	Paper 5.0	DS	For approval
6.0	10.30am	Chief Executive's report	Paper 6.0	PB	For approval
7.0	10.45am	Business Cyber Centre update	Paper 7.0	TM	For information
8.0	11am	Growth Hub update	Paper 8.0	CS	For information
9.0	11.15am	Programme Status Report	Paper 9.0	CA	For information
10.0	11.25am	Subgroup and network group updates	Paper 10.0	SW CK AN PB	For information
11.0	11.35am	Green hydrogen generation feasibility study	Paper 11.0	DS	For information
12.0	11.45am	AOB	Verbal	PJM	
		Date of next Board meeting: Thursday, 21 July 2022 9am Board Directors only 9.30am Public Board Meeting			
		Future Meeting dates for 2022 Thursday, 29 September 2022 Thursday, 24 November 2022 All via video / telephone conference until further notice.		PJM	



Item	Timing	Topic	Paper No.	Lead	
	11.50am	Close of Part One of the meeting			
		Comfort Break			
		The public are excluded from this part of the meeting under the terms of the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Assurance Framework Appendix C, which describes reasons for exclusion of access by the public to meetings and /or reports. In this case the matters discussed will include a disclosure of confidential information.			
	12.05pm	Part Two of meeting – Directors only			
	12.35pm	End of meeting			



Attending:	Board Directors: Paddy Bradley (PB) Mandy Clarke (MC) – Co-Deputy Chair Doug Gale MBE (DG) – joined at 10.48am online Col Gary McDade (GMc) Paul Moorby, OBE (PJM) – Chair, online David Renard (DR), online Pam Webb (PWe) Prof Ian White (IW) Cllr Laura Mayes – representing Richard Clewer	Board Advisers: None Observers: None
Apologies:	Richard Clewer (RC) / Andrew Gudgeon, OBE (AG) / Carole Kitching (CK) / Alison North (AN) - Co-Deputy Chair / Keeran Vetriko (KV) / Suzanne Wigmore (SW) - SWLEP Board Directors Terence Herbert (TH) and Leanne Sykes (LS) - Wiltshire Council Cllr Gary Sumner, Observer for Swindon Borough Council Members of the SWLEP Joint Scrutiny Panel Cllr Richard Britton and Cllr George Jeans - Wiltshire Council	
In attendance:	Claire Alexander (CA) / Tim Burghes (TB) / Phil Clement (PC) – arrived 10.20am / Tom Marshall (TM) online / Debby Skellern (DS) - SWLEP Rory Bowen (RB) / Parvis Khansari (PK) – left 10.50am / Victoria Maloney – Wiltshire Council Emily Manser – representative from Cities & Local Growth Unit	
Guest(s):	Lauren Newby and Melisa Wickham of Hatch Sarah Pearce / Amy Wetherill - SWLEP Sandeep Joy Innovate 2 Grow, Observer Members of SWLEP Limited James Slade and Ben Powell from IMSM	
Chair:	Mandy Clarke (MC)	
Minutes:	Deborah House (DKH)	
Location:	Assembly Room, Town Hall, St John's Street, Devizes and conference call	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
1.0	Welcome / Apologies / Conflicts of Interest / Board Appointment	
	<p>The meeting opened at 10.05am and the Chair welcomed attendees. MC explained that she would be chairing the meeting today as both PJM and DR were suffering from COVID and would be joining the meeting online.</p> <p>Particular welcome was extended to Col Gary McDade to his first public meeting as a Board Director, Cllr Laura Mayes who was representing the Leader of Wiltshire Council, Cllr Richard Clewer, local authority staff and members of SWLEP Ltd.</p> <p>TB was thanked for offering his technical support for the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p>	
Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>MC reminded attendees of the Conflict of Interests policy and of standing items.</p> <p>None were declared for this agenda.</p>	
2.0	Review of minutes and matters arising	
2.1	The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 27 January 2022 were reviewed and approved.	
2.2	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>All matters arising were completed or ongoing.</p>	
3.0	Submitted Questions	
	No submitted questions had been received for this agenda.	
4.0	Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Assessment	
	<p>DS introduced the item giving the background and reasoning for the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Assessment (LEA). This would be taken forward to the Plan for Growth Working Group.</p> <p>The meeting was joined online by two members of Hatch, consultants undertaking the LEA, Lauren Newby and Melisa Wickham, who presented the results of their findings. The presentation can be found by following the link below:</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/board-meetings/2022/24-mar-2022/lep-board-presentation-24-3-22.pdf?sfvrsn=74984e2b_4</p>	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>In summary, the presentation identified the following analysis of the productivity and outputs of the Swindon and Wiltshire economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swindon and Wiltshire generated over £21bn worth of goods and services in 2019, making a substantial economic contribution to the South West region (15%) underscoring the importance of the SWLEP area as a major economic driver in the region; • Swindon and Wiltshire Growth Zones were the key drivers of economic growth in the SWLEP area accounting for over four fifths of total output; • output growth in Swindon and Wiltshire had been strong, outstripping growth in the South West over the last two decades, though this growth had been predominantly led by growth within Swindon specifically; • Manufacturing, Real Estate and Retail collectively contributed a third of total GVA, a sectoral mixed economy would ensure reasonable degrees of economic resilience to sector specific shocks, though it was necessary to consider the vulnerability of the retail sector in light of shifts to e-commerce; • the most significant losses to the economy due to COVID-19 were experienced in the Accommodation and Food and Administrative Support sector. This was unsurprising given the face-to-face nature of these sectors. Supporting these sectors to build back would be a crucial element of the recovery the economy; and • the Swindon & Wiltshire LEP area had a small productivity gap with England, though within the SWLEP area there was strong productivity, above England levels, in Swindon. <p>Hatch was thanked for the presentation and the Chair opened the meeting for discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a shared belief that the home working trend would continue with many employers embracing a hybrid working pattern. There were discrepancies across the area in this regard, with fewer people as a proportion of the population working from home in Swindon than in Wiltshire, in part due to the differences in the nature of employment. • The current volatile situation for energy supplies in the world and the UK's drive to Net Zero did provide opportunities to develop UK-based energy production. This would create a demand for greater skills and more jobs in the green economy, as well offering alternative employment to compensate for the 1 in 5 jobs being impacted by the need to decarbonise. • The Office for Budget Responsibility forecast that business confidence would be back to pre-COVID levels by the middle of the decade. • The difference between productivity levels in Swindon compared to Wiltshire warrants close attention, as did the level of take up and achievement of apprenticeships throughout the area. <p>Directors agreed that the evidence indicated the SWLEP was not on the same level as our comparator LEPs. We had slipped behind and to prevent</p>	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	further slippage we needed to use the information to develop targeted interventions. This work will be picked up in the SWLEP's Delivery Plan (our business plan).	
5.0	Chief Executive's report	
	<p>PB spoke to the paper and advised the meeting of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hydrogen generation - as a fuel for the future for transport and energy storage. SWLEP would be in a position to discuss further opportunities at the next meeting; and the business support figures provided were surpassing their targets. <p>IW commented that University of Bath was looking to lead on hydrogen research and thanked the SWLEP for its support.</p> <p>The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board: NOTED the contents of the report.</p>	
6.0	Business Cyber Centre (BCC) update	
	<p>TM spoke to the paper and updated the meeting on the progress of the Business Cyber Centre. As this was a public session, no commercially sensitive information would be shared.</p> <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defrayment of £3.7m from Getting Building Fund of which £1.8m had already been paid out The BCC had applied for £1.5m repayment from the Accountable Body, Wiltshire Council As the project was working in arrears, this did impact on cash flow. The BCC had moved to submitting claims every two weeks to mitigate the impact. there had been delays to the works, such as the signing of the lease, which had stalled the refurbishment pushing takeover of the building into April As the Getting Building Fund monies had to be spent by the end of March 2022, SWLEP had reached agreement with the Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body to forward fund any goods and services. This was a process accepted by BEIS and met our funding requirements. <p>Cyber cluster</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first meeting of the Swindon and Wiltshire Cyber Cluster was scheduled for 24 May. Brea Woods would start in her new role with effect from 1 April. a programme of events with high quality speakers was tied into our application as part of the funding from UKC3 and was currently being worked up. 	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>Launch event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled for 10 May Over 100 invitations had been issued with over 60 acceptances so far. <p>The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board: NOTED the progress to date and in particular the need to have forward funding secured to maintain a reasonable cash flow.</p>	
7.0	Q1-Q4 2021-22 Budget Report	
	<p>PB spoke to the paper and advised the board on the status of the Q1-Q4 2021-22 Budget. Key points made were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the figures are estimate to the end of March; turnover had significantly increased since incorporation; because of the uncertainty of the future of LEPs, three members staff had left, which had led to reduced salary costs; there had been great work on Kickstart with 110 young people placed; 2022/23 – EU-funded SME Competitiveness programme covered some salary costs; and twice net gain from last year representing 19% of annual turnover. <p>The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board: NOTED the Q1-Q4 2021-22 Budget Report.</p>	
8.0	Programme Status Report	
	<p>CA spoke to the paper. The slides can be accessed via the following link.</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/board-meetings/2022/24-mar-2022/swlep-march-2022-board-slides-ca.pdf?sfvrsn=de3c31b8_4</p> <p>CA advised the meeting that the report would continue to shorten as LGF projects were finalised. With the Getting Building Fund programme, key points were are follows:</p> <p>Porton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good progress was being made and all funds had been fully drawn down. Due to open in the Autumn. <p>Carriageworks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project had suffered the most during COVID. As it was a listed building there had been delays of materials being provided by specialist suppliers. It would complete in Autumn. 	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project would be making use of the Freedom and Flexibilities provided by BEIS and as of 23 March, arrangements were now in place. Thanks were extended to the Section 151 Team. <p>Southern Connector Road This project was a £20m DfT Retained scheme and had been delayed owing to ecological and archaeological assessments.</p> <p>The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board: NOTED the contents of the report.</p>	
9.0	Subgroup updates	
	<p>Updates from the Subgroups were given and the link to the presentation can be found below.</p> <p>https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/board-meetings/2022/24-mar-2022/subgroup-updates.pdf?sfvrsn=8cd14229_4</p> <p>Ideas, Infrastructure and Place Subgroup (Slides 2-5) SW was the Chair of this Subgroup, and in her absence, PW updated the meeting on the subjects discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Maik Schneider from University of Bath had now joined the group as an academic technical advisor and was also the PhD Supervisor for the Natural Capital project We were still unsure how the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) would work British Business Bank (BBB) had £200m for the southwest SWLEP had offered to facilitate some workshops on SPF to work with potential bidders The group was grateful for the Levelling up papers prepared by DS A presentation was received from Rory Bowen of Wiltshire Council on Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund projects, as well as a presentation on partnership working for place for Trowbridge and Salisbury Innovate UK presented on its upcoming Action Plan, with a budget of £600m. Updates received on the Innovation Centre for Applied Sustainable Technologies (iCAST) and the Innovation Campus for the Circular Economy (ICCE) An update about the hydrogen project at Wroughton Inward Investment programme drawing to a close and the Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF) <p>Skills & Talent Subgroup (Slides 6-8) CK was the Chair of this Subgroup, and in her absence PB updated the meeting on the subjects discussed:</p>	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the theme of a previous meeting had been green skills and jobs and in this latest meeting a summary of responses was provided; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Task & Finish Group would be established with volunteers from the Subgroup to look at the potential increase in job opportunities within the green economy sector; a plan of action would be presented to the Board in July; Apprenticeships. Hydrogen work – the machinery being used for the improvements along the A303 could be hydrogen fuelled. Lead to good opportunities on apprenticeships the Association of Colleges had produced a Climate Change Roadmap detailing what was needed. This was going to be used as part of the work on green skills; Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) was produced every month; The Institute of Technology (IoT) was nearing completion and there was a call for IoTs to be granted Royal Charter status; the Skills Bill was going through parliament and would be enacted in the Autumn. SWLEP had recently received confirmation from DfE that £55,000 would be provided for further work, like Skills Plans; the Careers Hub was doing well and was ranked 5th best performing in the country; an update on the next wave of Digital Bootcamps; a status update on the Shared Prosperity Fund; and in the Spring Statement the Chancellor stated government would be relooking at the Apprenticeship Levy as the current system had not worked well. <p>Business Environment Subgroup (Slides 9-11) The Chair for this Subgroup was AN. In her absence IW updated the meeting on the subjects discussed which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the monitoring of the Business Cyber Centre progress and Growth Hub activity; IW paid tribute to TM and colleagues on the work they did to get the project this far and the Swindon & Wiltshire Cyber Cluster would be important going forward; the Growth Hub had 103 Kickstart placements; the Growth Hub was one of the highlights of the SWLEP and its figures had been well above target; it was now undergoing an independent evaluation; the conflict in Ukraine could well be affecting business more than we expected, so we were looking to carry out a survey; the Business Environment Subgroup welcomed the links with the Skills & Talent Subgroup with regard to green skills and proposed an Institute of Green Skills. 	
10.0	Business Action Plan Q3	



Item	Narrative	Deadline
	<p>DS spoke to the paper and the headline report. SWLEP was on track in many of the areas. The paper was taken as read and no further questions were raised.</p> <p>The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board: NOTED the progress made during Quarter 4 of the financial year 2021-22.</p>	
11.0	AOB	
	None.	
	Date of next meeting	
	<p>Thursday, 26 May 2022 – to be held via video/teleconference</p> <p>Directors to meet at 9am start of the public meeting at 9.30am.</p>	
	<p>Future Meetings</p> <p>Thursday, 21 July 2022 Thursday, 29 September 2022 Thursday, 24 November 2022</p> <p>Meetings will be held via video/teleconference unless otherwise advised.</p>	
	The meeting closed at 11.32am	



Intentionally left blank – questions received from members of the public will be circulated ahead of the meeting.



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Meeting & Date:	SWLEP Board Meeting – Thursday, 26 May 2022		
Subject:	SWLEP Ltd Budget 2022-23		
Attachments:			
Author:	Paddy Bradley	Total no of sheets:	3

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. To provide the Board with the detail of incomes, costs and operating margins for the financial year 2022-23.

2. Summary

- 2.1. This paper sets out the proposed budget for 2022-23. It is late being presented to the Board as we have been awaiting the outcome of the LEP Review and the extent of finance from the Government for LEP activities.
- 2.2. The end of year estimated operating margin is just over £1m. We are in the process of finalising our 2021-22 accounts with our auditors. It is likely we will have well over £1m to transfer to reserves. We also have £400,000 as development funding available in our GPIF account for new capital projects.
- 2.3. The 2022/23 budget includes a transfer of £100,000 from reserves to cover ongoing expenditure when Government income has declined by 40% and enabling the SWLEP to continue a similar level of business support as that provided in 2021-22.
- 2.4. The 2022-23 estimated operating margin is based on stretching targets for income from the Business Cyber Centre, new Growth Hub commercial developments and continuing take up of GPIF loans.
- 2.5. The budget makes provision for the estimated cost of a staff pay rise, but this has to be proposed to the Audit and Remuneration subgroup for consideration. It is hoped to hold a discussion on a proposed pay rise for the staff in time for a report to the Board in July.
- 2.6. The overall picture is of a company with a sound balance sheet.

3. Recommendations

The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board is recommended to:

- 3.1. approve the budget for 2022-23 as outlined.

4. Detail

- 4.1. The budget shows the combined operating costs of all programmes managed by the SWLEP. The Board will receive regular updates on budget tracking and the budgets of specific programmes are covered by the various subgroups.
- 4.2. There is a strong drive in this financial year to significantly increase commercial income in line with our overall strategy to reduce dependence on Government funding. There are stretching income targets set for the Business Cyber Centre and new developments planned for the Growth Hub.
- 4.3. In addition, we retain £400,000 in our GPIF account to be used to develop capital projects, that is, if we deploy the funds, we are required under the terms of the agreement with Government that a capital project will be delivered.
- 4.4. We are completing our end of year accounts for 2021-22 with our auditors. In 2020-21, we had a net margin of income over expenditure of circa £430,000. The estimate for 2021-22 is well over £1m. These funds will be transferred to reserves and cover our commitments to existing provisions. The income for the 2022/23 budget includes a transfer of £100,000 to cover ongoing costs during this transit year to a higher proportion of commercial income. Upon incorporating as a limited company in January 2019, approximately 90% of the SWLEP's budget came from Government grants. In 2022/23, if we meet our commercial income targets, we are estimating Government grants, including EU funding will constitute 33% of our overall income.
- 4.5. The main financial risk to the company is the operation of the Business Cyber Centre. We have sufficient secured funds in the BCC account to cover all essential costs during this next year without accessing the company's reserves.
- 4.6. The overall position is of a company with a sound balance sheet.
- 4.7. The detail of the budget is in the table on the next page.

5. SWLEP Ltd Budget 2022/23

	Income					Expenditure					Difference
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	Year
	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Year 2022/23	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Year 2022/23	Year 2022/23
LEP (Core and Other LEP)	250,797	288,648	30,148	200,027	769,620	269,630	222,670	137,070	114,993	744,364	25,256
GPIF	144,319	152,875	153,184	147,107	597,485	9,583	9,583	9,583	0	28,749	568,736
Skills and talent	0	26,000	0	26,000	52,000	6,500	6,500	19,500	19,500	52,000	0
Cyber Cluster	48,806	14,116	15,941	16,904	95,768	49,595	14,616	16,441	17,404	98,055	(2,287)
Growth Hub (Core, plus and SME Comp)	189,808	228,735	133,235	248,735	800,514	175,277	175,350	200,373	205,378	756,378	44,136
BCC	500,341	288,815	322,267	375,082	1,486,505	161,662	233,487	242,162	242,464	879,775	606,730
TOTAL	1,134,071	999,189	654,776	1,013,856	3,801,892	672,246	662,206	625,129	599,739	2,559,321	1,242,571



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Meeting & Date:	SWLEP Board Meeting – Thursday, 26 May 2022		
Subject:	SWLEP Delivery Plan 2022/23		
Attachments:	Final Draft SWLEP Delivery Plan 2022/23		
Author:	Debby Skellern	Total no of sheets:	15

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. To present the Draft Delivery Plan 2022/23 to the SWLEP Board for approval.

2. Summary

- 2.1. SWLEP is required to submit its Delivery Plan for 2022/23 for approval by 22 June 2022 as a requirement for its funding settlement. The Delivery Plan presents economic development activities proposed based on the core funding awarded which is 36% less than 2021/22. The Delivery Plan identifies commercial opportunities which will be pursued to build SWLEP's financial sustainability. Performance reporting to the Board against delivery milestones and outputs will continue as before.
- 2.2. SWLEP is also required to develop a Delivery Plan 2023/24 for submission to government by 26 November 2022. It is anticipated that SWLEP's funding settlement for 2023/24 will be related to it. Work on its development will commence immediately under the oversight of the Delivery Plan Working Group and in liaison with the three Subgroups,

3. Recommendations

The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board is recommended to:

- 3.1. approve the Delivery Plan 2022/23 and if required delegate sign off of additional minor amends to the SWLEP Chair; and
- 3.2. note the requirement and timeline to develop and submit the Delivery Plan 2023/24 by November 2022.

Final Draft SWLEP Delivery Plan for Sustainable Economic Growth: 2022/2023

May 2022

Pre-design version



Contents

1. Vision	1
2. Introduction.....	2
3. Project mobilisation and delivery 2022/23	4
4. Resource management.....	8
5. Governance	9
6. Monitoring and evaluation.....	10
Appendix I: Board reporting: quarterly report template.....	11

I. Vision for Swindon and Wiltshire to 2036

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) was published in March 2020 and sets out the long-term strategic priorities for the area. It was produced following extensive consultation with local businesses, stakeholders and partners and it was adopted by both local authorities. It therefore remains a relevant overarching strategy for SWLEP's activities during 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Our Vision to 2036 published in the Local industrial Strategy, March 2020

To ensure all of our communities benefit from sustainable and inclusive growth, making the Swindon and Wiltshire area world-renowned for its convergence of innovation, entrepreneurialism and great quality of life.

Pre-design version

2. Introduction

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership, as a business-led organisation, will continue to work alongside our local authority partners, Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council, the military and education sectors to deliver sustainable economic growth for our area. Our role is to provide the clear vision and strategic leadership to drive sustainable private sector-led growth and make a significant contribution to economic growth and job creation in the area by: ensuring that strategies for achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth within the area reflect the needs of business; and driving the successful implementation of those strategies through engagement with local and central government, business, potential investors and others.

SWLEP's Delivery Plan for Sustainable Economic Growth 2022/23 focusses on the strategic priorities we can directly deliver as part of the wider framework of economic development organisations locally and nationally. It is set against the backdrop of the Government's review of local enterprise partnerships; its long-term plans for local government devolution; and the Board's desire for SWLEP's commercial independence. Activity planned for 2022/23 builds on the achievements of the previous financial year and successful mobilisation of the Local Industrial Strategy (Table 1).

Table 1: Programme output targets 2021/2022, March 2022

Key Performance Indicators	Targets 2021/22	Outputs 2021/22
Capital programme: Getting Building Fund		
Construction Jobs of which:	194	119
BCC	40	40
Porton	52	52
Carriage Works	102	27
Commercial and innovation space occupied of which	9,212 sqm	3,700 sqm
BCC	1,970 sqm	1,970 sqm
Porton Innovation Centre	3,242 sqm	1,730 sqm (1,512 sqm scheduled for Q1 2022-23)
Carriage Works	3,500 sqm	0 sqm (3,500 sqm scheduled by end Q2 2022-23)
Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (loans)		
GPIF loans awarded	5	6
Value of loans awarded	£4m	£4,182,790
Authorised transfer from LGF	£4.75m	£3.5m
Revenue programme: Growth Hub		
Number of businesses receiving light support	1,600	1200
Number of businesses receiving medium support (3+hours)	300	770

Number of businesses receiving intensive (12+ hours)	200	155
Growth Hub Community membership reaches	2,500	2150
Peer Networks established	10	3
Peer Networks: businesses supported	110	22
DIT export webinars delivered (South West)	24	145
Number of schools and colleges engaged with by the Careers Hub	63	63

Publicly funded economic development priorities 2022/23

Considerable progress has been made to mobilise the delivery of the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), the focus for 2022/23 is to embed the operational delivery of these projects and services. The drive towards Net Zero, Levelling Up and tackling the area's gradual decline in competitive advantage will steer SWLEP's economic development delivery priorities for the 2022/23:

- Contributing towards the delivery of [Net Zero](#) is a cross cutting priority for SWLEP and it will be the first consideration for the work we champion and deliver, as well as influencing the way in which SWLEP operates as a company. Our response is one of a number which will need to be delivered locally and our activities will [add value](#) by focussing on the delivery of our [green hydrogen plan](#) and initiatives to support the use of [sustainable technologies](#) to drive [the circular economy](#).
- Supporting the [Levelling Up](#) agenda within Swindon and Wiltshire focussing on [skills demand and supply](#) and the delivery of [business support](#) services. These activities will create new jobs and economic opportunities and help boost [business productivity and competitiveness](#).
- [Advocating the work of our partners](#) through our social media activity, at our networking events and through letters of support for funding which align to our strategic priorities such as bids to the UK shares Prosperity Fund.

SWLEP's Commercial Priorities

In parallel, the SWLEP Board will set out its five-year plan for the [financial sustainability](#) of SWLEP Limited. The priorities for 2022/23 will be:

- Establishing the [Business Cyber Centre](#) as a trusted source of cyber resilience products, goods and services;
- Developing new value-add [Growth Hub](#) business support services, access to which will be on a paid for basis;
- The continued delivery of the [Growing Places Infrastructure Loan Fund](#); and
- Developing a niche [investment portfolio of local projects](#) which will generating a commercial return for our company.

3. Project Mobilisation and Delivery Priorities 2022/23

I. Innovation and infrastructure: Net Zero focus

- 1.1 We will work with neighbouring universities and businesses to promote the development of [sustainable technologies and the circular economy](#) to improve business performance, and productivity as well as reduce waste through the promotion of the Innovation Centre for Applied Sustainable Technologies, 'iCAST', which will open its facility in Swindon and we will continue to progress our aspirations for the development of the Innovation Centre for the Circular Economy 'ICCE'.
- 1.2 Regionally, we will play a leading role in the Western Gateway to progress the hydrogen ecosystem. Locally we will deliver the [Swindon and Wiltshire Green Hydrogen Plan](#) enabling small scale hydrogen energy production facilities locally and along the wider M4 referred to as the 'West HyWay'. In addition, we will establish the feasibility case for the use of hydrogen fuel along the A303 and the options for development of the 'South West Hyway' from London to Cornwall based around the benefits and legacy of the excavation of the A303-Stonehenge tunnel, if approved.
- 1.3 In January 2022 SWLEP signed up to the [SME Climate Hub](#) commitment to reduce its carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve Net Zero by 2050. We will complete our baseline assessment of the company's carbon emissions and develop our action plan to 2030 to achieve this target.
- 1.4 We will [advocate the work of our partners](#) throughout the year, for example the opening of [new railway stations](#) which progress the priorities identified in the Swindon and Wiltshire Rail Strategy and [electric vehicle charging point bids](#) of our local authority partners.
- 1.5 Our [commercial opportunities](#) will focus on hydrogen, the circular economy and town centre regeneration. We will:
 - Identify opportunities to generate income from [investing](#) in the delivery of identified capital schemes which support the development of the circular economy which will generate a capital return; and
 - Offer paid for [project management services](#) to partners to progress the delivery of schemes for example support to develop funding bids or convene investment partners.

2. Skills activity

- 2.1 We will deliver our [Skills Plan and apprenticeship campaign](#) addressing the supply and demand for skills and ensuring inclusive growth and supporting the growth in the numbers of businesses that take on apprentices.
- 2.2 We will continue to deliver the [Careers Hub](#) programme to develop pathways into work including [upskilling and reskilling](#) those in work to respond to labour market restructuring and the demand for [green skills](#).
- 2.3 We will promote [digital bootcamps](#) to businesses and residents in our area through our business support and social media channels.

- 2.4 We will produce regular [labour market intelligence](#) to support the work of our Skills and Talent Subgroup¹ and wider partners and stakeholders.
- 2.5 We will [advocate the work of our skills partners](#) whose initiatives align to our strategic priorities for example an application by the Institute of Technology for a Royal Charter by 2025.
- 2.6 Once plans are announced, we will engage with the lead employer representation organisation appointed by Department for Education to develop the [Swindon and Wiltshire Local Skills Improvement Plan](#) as an associate partner and on a commercial basis.

3. Business support service activities

- 3.1 The [Swindon and Wiltshire Growth Hub](#) will be to provide comprehensive support to businesses from start-up to scale-up and beyond. This will include business information, advice and guidance including specialist advice to level-up business opportunities for our micro, small and medium sized businesses.
- 3.2 Swindon and Wiltshire is home to significant [Global Britain](#) assets which support the UK's reputation internationally; through partnership working we will continue to promote and support new our [life sciences, advanced engineering and cyber priority](#) sectors with the Western Gateway and the Department for International Trade organisations to attract new investment into the area.
- 3.3 We will embed the [Business Cyber Centre](#) as a trusted source of cyber defence products and services following its launch in May 2022 including acting as the [Swindon and Wiltshire Cyber Cluster Lead](#).
- 3.4 Investment and innovation will be fostered through the stronger links with neighbouring universities, local businesses and UKRI including Innovate UK. We will use the financial capacity of our [Growing Places Infrastructure Fund](#) to support the growth of ambitious innovative businesses. We will work with the British Business Bank to facilitate applications to its [investment fund for the South West](#). In addition, we will work within the Western Gateway to develop a strong relationship with the British Business Bank to create future investment opportunities
- 3.5 We will [advocate the work of our partners](#) including their work to tackle electricity [grid capacity constraints](#) to unlock investment plans of businesses in Swindon and Wiltshire;
- 3.6 We will deliver [commercial services](#) including:
 - developing the [Growth Hub+](#) value-add business support service offer;
 - assisting the work of lead partners in our area to identify options to support [low carbon tourism businesses and specialist entrepreneurial and mentoring support services](#);
 - identifying joint venture opportunities to deliver products and services through the Business Cyber Centre;
 - managing the [Growing Places Infrastructure Fund](#) loan programme as a successful and revolving loan fund; and

¹The Skills and Talent Subgroup is the Swindon and Wiltshire's Skills Advisory Panel.

- co-ordinating [inward investment enquiries as a paid for service](#) for partners including business promotion campaigns such as Switch onto Swindon

4. Place-based activities

- 4.1 We will continue to support the research work underway at the University of Bath to understand the value of [Natural Capital](#) in the local economy and as this work progresses, seek to embed consideration of Natural Capital within our operation and encourage its partners to do likewise.
- 4.2 SWLEP has successfully completed its Local Growth Fund (March 2021) and [Getting Building Fund](#) (March 2022) capital investment programmes. This concludes SWLEP's current role in programme managing the allocation and award of major capital investment in the area on behalf of the government; this is a role which has been assumed by the two local authorities and their respective bids to national programmes in the future.
- 4.3 We will continue to advocate the work of our partners to progress their place-based priorities including:
 - The [Levelling Up](#) priorities for our partners;
 - [Digital connectivity](#) improvement plans and funding bids;
 - The bid for the [Head-Quarters of the Great British Railways](#) to be located at Swindon; and
 - Swindon's designation as a [priority place](#) by the Arts Council.

5. Output Summary 2022/23

Table 2 presents the output targets for our planned activity during the financial year delivered by the 31 f March 2023.

Table 2: SWLEP's output targets 2022-2023

Key Performance Indicators	Target by March 2023
Capital programme	
Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (loans)	
Value of new loans awarded	£3.25m
Income from loan interest payments	£610,000
Revenue programme: Growth Hub	
Number of businesses receiving light support	800
Number of businesses receiving medium support (3+hours)	290
Number of businesses receiving intensive (12+ hours)	216
Growth Hub Community membership reaches	2,800
Revenue programme: Business Cyber Centre	
Tenancy occupancy	90%
Job creation	100
Businesses assisted	20
Learners assisted	475
Number of Cyber Cluster members	200
Revenue programme: Skills and Talent	
Careers Hub:	
Minimum Gatsby Benchmarks for each school	3
Average Gatsby Score across the network	5
School upgrades to Compass	75%
Quarterly labour market reports	4
Number of businesses taking on an apprentice for the first time	50

4. Resource Management

Business Planning activities of the SWLEP Board

The Board will focus its attention on the long-term [financial sustainability of SWLEP Limited](#) to enable it to operate independently of government core funding. A five-year financial plan will be produced by September 2022 and activity to progress financial independence will form part of the Delivery Plan 2023/24.

Board recruitment and retention

As part of its annual round of [Board Director recruitment and induction](#), SWLEP will achieve a [50:50 gender balance](#) by March 2023 in line with our original intentions and not taking advantage of the offer by government to flex this arrangement². Alongside the review of the composition of the Board, a further round of recruitment will be undertaken to increase the [business membership base of the SWLEP](#) as a private sector company limited by guarantee.

Staff retention and development

SWLEP will continue to review its staff base to enable the business to flex and extend its commercial reach and offer [career development](#) opportunities within the organisation and through brokering [secondment](#) opportunities where there is mutual benefit.

Marketing and Communications

We will improve co-ordination and collaboration in delivering effective marketing and communications by creating a team of up to 4 people to work across the business, using existing personnel. The purpose of the marketing and communications team is to promote our work and that of our partners. The focus of our activity will be on our social media channels which include Linked-In and Twitter and increasing the accessibility and reach of our websites. In addition, we will produce content for e-books, newsletters, business intelligence reports and press statements. Our annual conference 'Doing Business Brilliantly' will be held in October 2022, and we will also be hosting conferences, network meetings and training in the Business Cyber Centre.

Budget

2022/23 sees an overall drop of 36% in SWLEP's in public funding from government to deliver the LEPs core activities including the Growth Hub. Despite this SWLEP remains a going concern and will develop plans [to raise further commercial income](#). The budget for 2022/23 is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Headline Budget 2022/23

Budget table 2022/23 to be added when approved by the Board at its meeting on 26 May.

² Status as of May 2022.

SWLEP Ltd Budget 2022/23

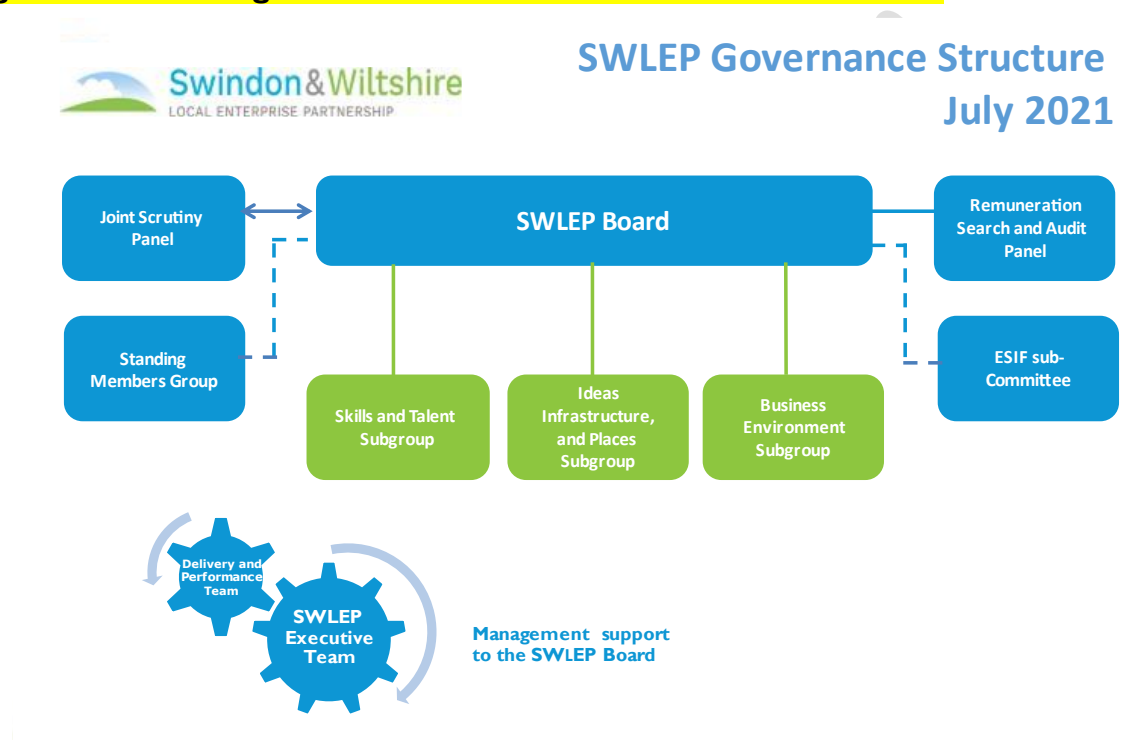
	Income					Expenditure					Difference
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	Year
	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Year 2022/23	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Year 2022/23	Year 2022/23
LEP (Core and Other LEP)	250,797	288,648	30,148	200,027	769,620	269,630	222,670	137,070	114,993	744,364	25,256
GPIF	144,319	152,875	153,184	147,107	597,485	9,583	9,583	9,583	0	28,749	568,736
Skills and talent	0	26,000	0	26,000	52,000	6,500	6,500	19,500	19,500	52,000	0
Cyber Cluster	48,806	14,116	15,941	16,904	95,768	49,595	14,616	16,441	17,404	98,055	(2,287)
Growth Hub (Core, plus and SME Comp)	189,808	228,735	133,235	248,735	800,514	175,277	175,350	200,373	205,378	756,378	44,136
BCC	500,341	288,815	322,267	375,082	1,486,505	161,662	233,487	242,162	242,464	879,775	606,730
TOTAL	1,134,071	999,189	654,776	1,013,856	3,801,892	672,246	662,206	625,129	599,739	2,559,321	1,242,571

5. Governance and operation

Activity undertaken by SWLEP will comply with our Governance Framework 2021 and delivery will be overseen by the three Board Subgroups which meet every two months and report directly to the SWLEP Board (Figure 1). In addition, task and finish working groups will continue to operate to develop and oversee the day-to-day delivery of SWLEP's projects and programmes according to business need. We will also continue to run our two business reference groups: the Business Intelligence and Networking Group and the Rural Economy Sector Group.

Unless joint activity is directly funded, or programme managed, by SWLEP, the work of our partners sits outside of our governance structure and is subject to the arrangements in place within their respective organisations.

Figure 1: SWLEP's governance structure – October version of GF



During the year, the [Governance Framework will be refreshed](#) in line with any updated guidance from government. Our activities will be reviewed by the Cities and Local Growth Unit team to ensure we meet national requirements against governance, delivery and strategy for the delivery of our publicly funded activity at [our mid-term and end of year annual performance reviews](#). SWLEP Limited also works within the Company Law Act 2006, as the business extends its commercial activities, legal advice will be sought in year to review SWLEP's articles of association.

SWLEP's [financial accounts will be audited](#) and they will be published on Companies House and headline information will be included in our [Annual Report 2021/22](#) which will be published by the end of July 2022. We will also hold our [Annual General Meeting](#) in the fourth quarter of the financial year.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring

Where financial resources have been allocated by, or awarded to, SWLEP, a highlight report will be completed in line with the performance management arrangements. Performance reports will be presented to the Board after the end of each financial quarter.

Evaluation

Where external funding is secured for delivery, SWLEP will follow the and evaluation requirements specified by the funder. This may extend from an informal internal evaluation or a formal, independent evaluation exercise. If no evaluation is required, this will be undertaken by SWLEP internally. In addition, the Joint Scrutiny Panel may, at its discretion, request to undertake a deep-dive review into delivery.

As a minimum, SWLEP will publish its Annual Report and the Growth Hub Evaluation Plan by 31 July 2022.

Pre-design version

Appendix I: Board reporting: quarterly report template

Key	SP: Strategic Priority	RAG:	Proposed/ Not started	Green	Amber-Green	Amber-Red	Red	Complete
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Oversight: **BE:** Business Environment Subgroup, **IIP:** Ideas, Infrastructure and Places Subgroup, **S&T:** Skills and Talent Subgroup

Ref	Strategic Priority	Activity summary as of 11 March 2022	£source	Status	RAG
SPI IIP	Summary of activity				
	Q1 Apr-June 2021				
	Q2 July-September 2021				
	Q3 Oct-Dec 2021				
	Q4 Jan-Mar 2022				
	Economic impact:				



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Meeting & Date:	SWLEP Board Meeting – Thursday, 26 May 2022		
Subject:	Chief Executive's Report		
Attachments:	None		
Author:	Paddy Bradley	Total no of sheets:	5

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report enables Board Directors to view a range of issues in one paper, raising items for approval, discussion or noting.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The report describes procedures for managing the extension of directors' service and handling any resignations.
- 2.2. There is a need to maintain at least 14 directors on the Board and we have fallen below that level following a recent resignation. The report seeks approval to commence a recruitment campaign.
- 2.3. On 10 May 2022, the Business Cyber Centre in Chippenham was officially opened by the Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP. The event and the marketing and communication strategy surrounding it have proved to be highly successful.
- 2.4. The SWLEP's Director of Strategy and Policy will be seconded to the Western Gateway from 1 June 2022 until 31 March 2023 for 2.5 days a week, working in the SWLEP for two days a week.
- 2.5. The SWLEP is working closely with Swindon and Wiltshire Councils and the Western Gateway to showcase development and employment opportunities at the UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board is asked to:
- 3.1.1. approve the extension of service of Directors listed in paragraph 4.2 seeking to continue their terms as Directors for a further three years until July 2025;
- 3.1.2. note the already submitted resignation of Keeran Vetriko;
- 3.1.3. authorise the CEO to commence recruitment of up to 5 new Board Directors;

3.1.4. agree to the establishment of a task and finish group to oversee the Director recruitment process comprising the Chair, at least on Deputy Chair, one other Director and the CEO;

3.1.5. note the remaining contents of the report.

4. Detail

Board Directors

- 4.1. Of the six Directors whose three-year tenure expires in July 2022, one Director, Keeran Vetriko, resigned on 12 May 2022 and has been removed from the listing on Companies House and the SWLEP website, and five Directors are asked to confirm their wish or otherwise to extend their time as Directors for a further three years.
- 4.2. The proposed extensions until July 2025 would be for Paul Moorby OBE (Chair), Alison North (Co-Deputy Chair), Mandy Clarke (Co-Deputy Chair), Andrew Gudgeon OBE (Board Champion BCC) and Carole Kitching (Chair of the Skills & Talent Subgroup). At this Board meeting on 26 May, each will be able to confirm their intention to stay on or resign. The Board is asked to approve their extension of service and note any resignations.
- 4.3. One resignation takes the number of Board Directors to 13, which is below the number recommended by the Government and in our Governance Framework. We have received several expressions of interest from people wishing to join the Board but have held back holding a recruitment campaign pending the outcome of the LEP Review.
- 4.4. We now know that we are likely to be operating as a LEP with Government funding for at least the next two years. When seeking new Directors, the Board has included within its criteria the following factors:
 - 4.4.1. the need for representation from relevant economic sectors;
 - 4.4.2. the requirement for a cross-section of strategically important skills;
 - 4.4.3. the Board's wish to achieve a 50:50 gender balance by 2023; and
 - 4.4.4. the drive for inclusivity, ensuring the opportunities for Board membership is open to all regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
 - 4.4.5. The Board is recommended to authorise the CEO to start a new recruitment campaign, seeking to add up to five new Directors to the Board.
 - 4.4.6. To support the assessment of candidates and to make recommendations for suitable candidates to be appointed as directors, the Board is asked to approve the creation of a task and finish group to oversee the recruitment process comprising the Chair, at least on Deputy Chair, one other Director and the CEO.

Launch of the Business Cyber Centre (BCC)

- 4.5. The BCC was officially opened on 10 May 2022 by the Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP, who represents the constituency of Chippenham in the House of Commons and is also the Minister of State in the Department for Education for Further and Higher Education.

- 4.6. We had over 100 guests at the event from business, universities, central and local government, defence and security, employer representative organisations, further education colleges and other support agencies. The extensive presence of SWLEP Directors and staff enabled the event to be a great success.
- 4.7. The programme has progressed within 20 months from an idea on paper in summer 2020 through assembling finance, recruiting staff, finding a location and refurbishing a three-storey building to create 21,000 square feet of state-of-the-art facilities.
- 4.8. Contractors first went on site in October 2021 and completed the work in six months and 12 days.
- 4.9. The marketing and communications strategy for the launch has been very successful.
- 4.9.1. Twitter
- impressions for @cyberconfidence increased from 1,600 in the month before Launch Week to 13,700 between 9 and 13 May with 5,663 impressions alone on 10 May; and
 - the number of followers increased from 82 to 120.
- 4.9.2. LinkedIn
- impressions for the Business Cyber Centre increased from 6,220 in the month before the launch to 6,408 in the launch week and 1,809 on 10 May alone; and
 - the number of followers increased from 189 to 272.
- 4.9.3. Website
- between 8 April - 8 May, 1,400 users (1,300 new), average engagement time 15 seconds and 2,200 site views;
 - during launch week, 9 - 13 May, we had 553 users (519 new), average engagement time of 46 seconds and 1,400 site views; and
 - on the launch day on 10 May we had 207 users (192 new), with an average engagement time of 45 seconds and 511 site views.
- 4.9.4. These figures are in relation to the BCC's social media accounts and do not include the data from many individuals' accounts.
- 4.9.5. The slides in Appendix I show the analysis prepared by Sarah Pearce, one of our Digital Marketing Apprentices.

Staffing update

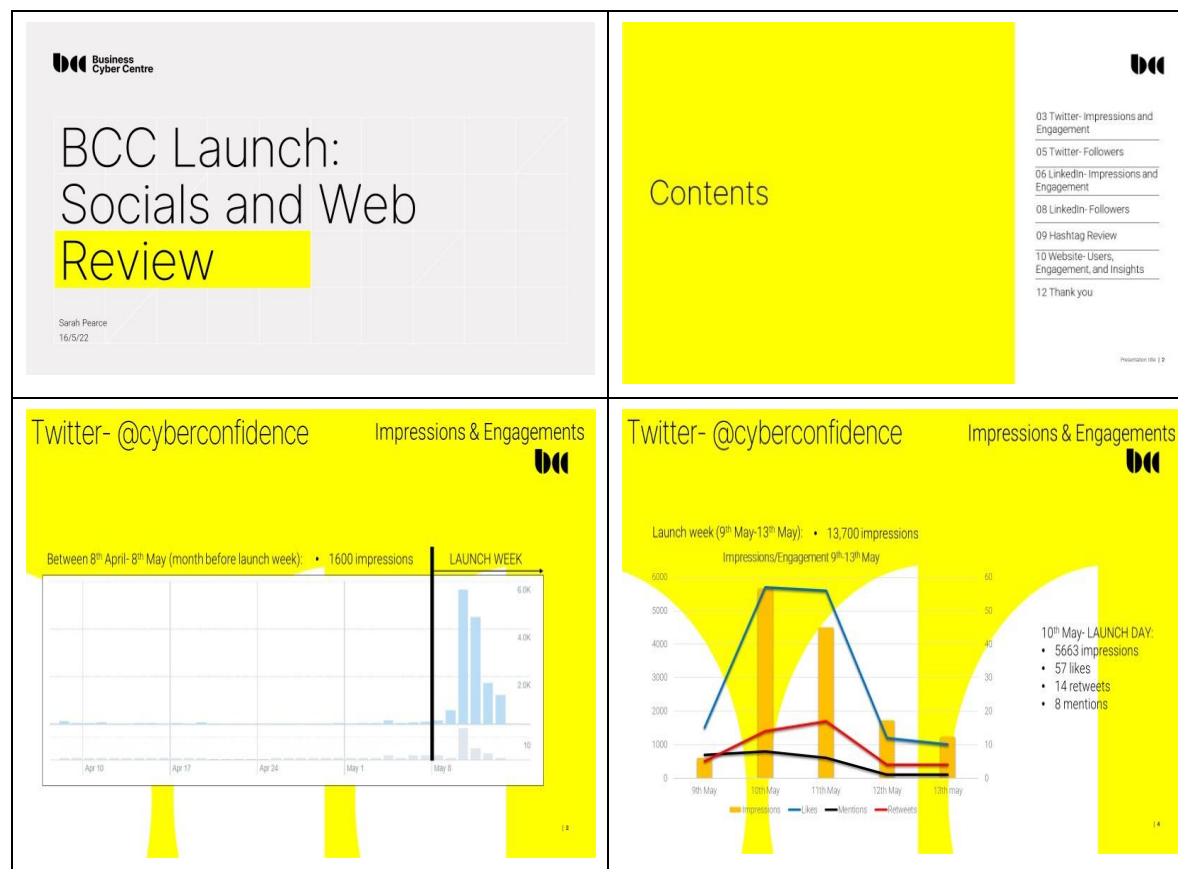
- 4.10. Debby Skellern, Director of Strategy and Policy will be seconded to the Western Gateway from the 1 June until 31 March 2023. Debby will work for two days a week for SWLEP and 2.5 days a week for the Western Gateway.
- 4.11. Currently, Debby is supporting the Western Gateway to develop its governance procedures. She will continue with that work and take the lead on the Western Gateway's hydrogen project.

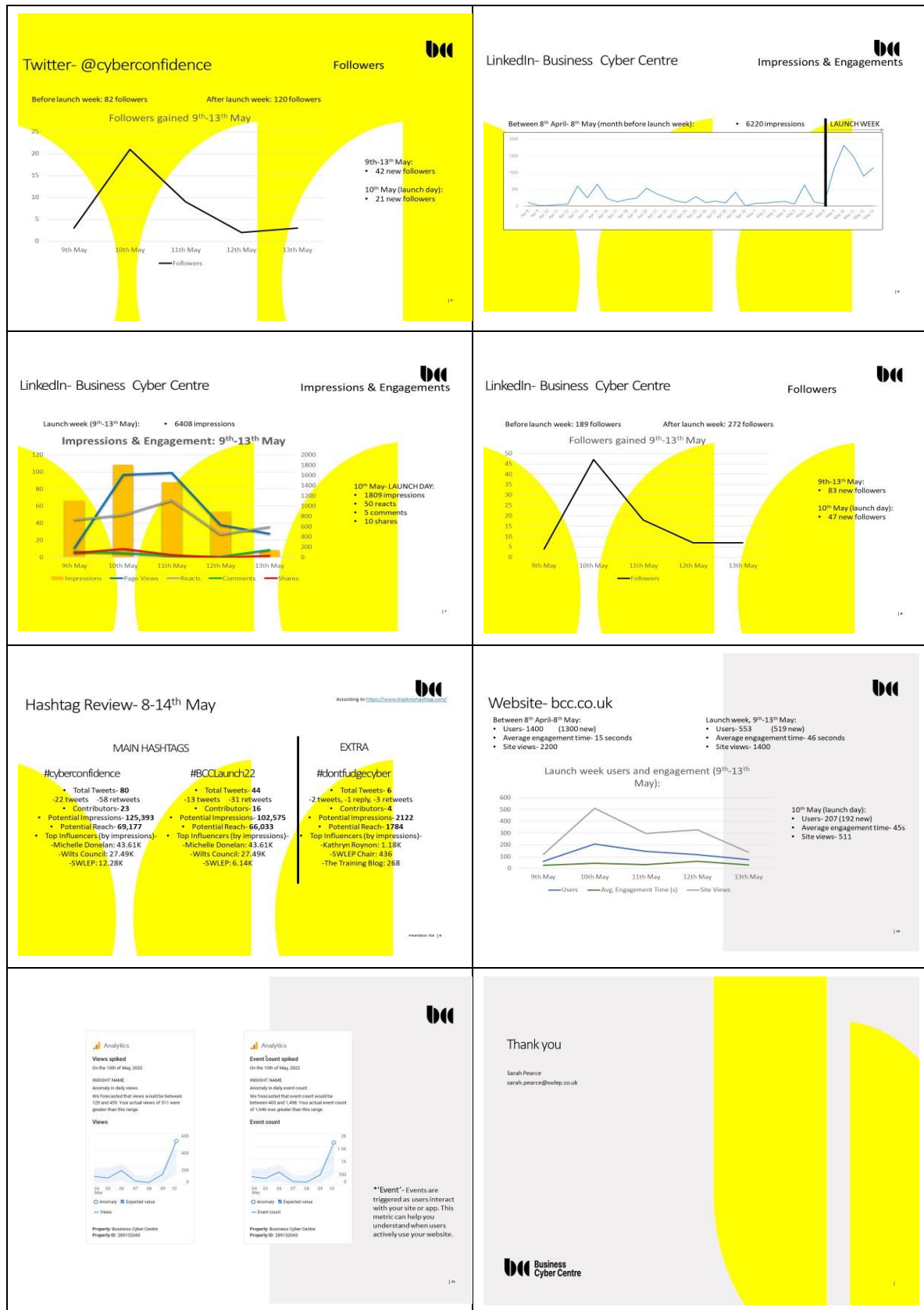
- 4.12. She will continue to be the lead in the SWLEP for governance, hydrogen, development of the delivery plan and supporting the CEO and Chair with links to the LEP Network and the Government's policy on local devolution.

UK Real Estate, Infrastructure and Investment Forum (UKREiiF)

- 4.13. Melody Thompson from the Growth Hub team is now leading on inward investment for the SWLEP. From 17 - 19 May she attended the UKREiiF event in Leeds. She has received very good support from staff in both local authorities to create our proposals for development and employment opportunities in the area. Our SWLEP proposition is part of the Western Gateway portfolio of opportunities. The Western Gateway also held a seminar at the event and the SWLEP Chair was a speaker on the panel.

5. Appendix I – BCC Launch: Socials and Web Review







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Meeting & Date:	SWLEP Board Meeting – Thursday, 26 May 2022		
Subject:	Business Cyber Centre (BCC) update		
Attachments:	None		
Author:	Tom Marshall – Commercial Operations Manager	Total no of sheets:	3

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

This report has been produced to provide an update on:

- 1.1. the completion of refurbishment works;
- 1.2. the Business Cyber Centre Launch event on 10 May 2022; and
- 1.3. the Swindon & Wiltshire Cyber Cluster.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The refurbishment works at the Business Cyber Centre have been completed, on time and in budget, in six months and 12 days. The building is now officially open and looking forward to welcoming its first tenant, Mastek (UK) Limited.
- 2.2. The BCC Launch event was a huge success, with the building being formally opened by Michelle Donelan, MP for Chippenham, and Minister for Universities. Over 100 guests attended the launch, with speeches from Andrew Elliot, Deputy Director for Cyber Innovation and Skills, Paul Moorby, SWLEP Chair, and Paddy Bradley, SWLEP CEO.
- 2.3. The Swindon & Wiltshire Cyber Cluster (SWCC) has submitted a bid for administration funding for 2022/23 from UKC3. This funding will cover operating costs of SWCC, including staffing, marketing and events. The initial funding submission to UKC3 totalled £108,000, which was rejected on the basis that UKC3 is oversubscribed for funding. A revised total of £69,000 has been submitted to UKC3 and a response is awaited at the time of this paper.
- 2.4. SWCC's launch event takes place on 24 May, with over 29 attendees registered at the date of this paper. This inaugural event will be closely followed by further events, which



will be coordinated with assistance from a steering group, which is made up of local representatives of both government primes and SMEs.

- 2.5. SWCC will host its first annual conference in June 2022, titled CyberICE: Innovate. Collaborate. Educate. Guest speakers include Simon Hepburn, CEO UK Cyber Security Council, Richard Yorke, Chair UKC3, James Stanley, Head of Sectorial Engagement at DCMS, and Dominic Simonis-Law, Defence and Security Accelerator. This will be held both in co//lab at the Business Cyber Centre and online.

3. Recommendations

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board is asked to:

- 3.1. note the contents of this report.

4. Detail

- 4.1. SWLEP was awarded £3.7m from the Getting Building Fund to capital refurbish commercial premises to be home to the Business Cyber Centre. The refurbishment of the BCC has now been completed, with snagging works now being undertaken. From the point of being awarded £3.7m from BEIS, the BCC project has been completed in 20 months. The physical refurbishment works have been completed in six months and 12 days, which was both on time and within the budget of £3.7m.
- 4.2. The £3.7m Getting Building Fund grant was defrayed using contractors across Swindon & Wiltshire, the South West and nationally.
- Contractors from Swindon & Wiltshire made up 23% of the total workforce and travelled an average of 8 miles to reach the BCC.
 - Contractors from the South West represented 71% and travelled an average of 24 miles to the BCC.
 - National contractors represented 6% and travelled an average of 69 miles to the BCC.
- 4.3. On 10 May 2022, SWLEP hosted the BCC Launch event. 112 guests accepted invites, with 108 attending on the day, enjoying speeches from:
- the Rt Hon Michelle Donelan, MP for Chippenham, and Minister for Further and Higher Education at the Department for Education;
 - Andrew Elliot, Deputy Director for Cyber Innovation and Skills at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS);
 - Paul Moorby, SWLEP Chair; and
 - Paddy Bradley, SWLEP CEO.

- 4.3 The Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP cut the ribbon at the entrance to the BCC, formally opening the building and marking the completion of the refurbishment works.
- 4.4. The Swindon and Wiltshire Cyber Cluster (SWCC) launch event will take place on 24 May at the BCC, with 29 guests registered to attend at the time of this paper. The launch event will feature talks from:
- Tom Marshall, BCC;
 - Brea Woods, SWCC;
 - Lauren Metalle, Regional Lead, DCMS; and
 - Alan Hill, Splunk.
- 4.5. There will also be a light buffet and an opportunity to network and experience a tour of the BCC.
- 4.6. 'CyberICE: Innovate. Collaborate. Educate.' is the title of SWCC's annual conference, taking place on 30 June 2022. Utilising the BCC's full hybrid capability, CyberICE will host talks from:
- Simon Hepburn, CEO UK Cyber Security Council;
 - Richard Yorke, Chair, UKC3;
 - James Stanley, Head of Sectorial Engagement, DCMS; and
 - Dominic Simonis-Law, Defence and Security Accelerator.
- 4.7 CyberICE will be a hybrid conference, hosting attendees at the BCC as well as online, utilising the technology available at the BCC. Through this approach, we are also seeking to engage some of the global partners in the worldwide network of cyber clusters of which we are a member.



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Meeting & Date:	SWLEP Board Meeting – Thursday, 26 May 2022		
Subject:	Growth Hub Service Update		
Attachments:	None		
Author:	Chris Stevens, Growth Hub Manager	Total no of sheets:	5

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. To provide a high-level update to the SWLEP Board on the Swindon & Wiltshire Growth Hub service, in line with the SWLEP Business Plan priorities and KPIs. The paper provides a Growth Hub financial summary which incorporates the spending position at financial year 21/22 end. Also included in this paper are some metric outputs relating to direct delivery of business support programmes and projects together with headlines on the aspiration to build a commercial arm of business support, delivered by the Growth Hub.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board is asked to note the contents of the paper and prepare any points to raise during the session.

3. Summary

- 3.1 Growth Hubs, nationally, have incurred a 50% funding reduction with Swindon & Wiltshire being allocated £231,000 for the financial year 22/23.
- 3.2 Whilst, SWLEP is not yet in receipt of the Grant Funding Agreement, SWLEP has received communications from Communities & Local Government Unit (CLGU) containing some insight to the funding conditions proposed, enabling SWLEP to plan for the year ahead.
- 3.3 The general BEIS funding requirement is to continue delivering information, advice, guidance and brokerage to the SME community, supporting growth. SWLEP/GH intends to continue to target support towards key areas such as Skills, Digital, Access to Finance with some Green Economy too.
- 3.4 There is no expectation to continue delivering the Business Intelligence reports, however, as a valued output, SWLEP/GH will continue to complete this task on a monthly basis.



- 3.5** Swindon & Wiltshire Growth Hub has successfully allocated and defrayed all £462,000 of BEIS Growth Hub Core by 31 March 2022, with an underspend of 7p.

4. Financial Summary

- 4.1** The tables below illustrate the Growth Hub's financial position at financial year end 21/22 on both programme/project and budget top lines followed by some narrative beneath.

Combined	21/22 Forecast	21/22 Actuals	Budget vs Actuals 21/22 difference
Expenditure	£981,946	£869,431	-£112,515
Growth Hub Core	£462,000	£462,000	£0
Peer Networks	£149,946	£64,858	-£85,088
SME Competitiveness	£370,000	£342,573	-£27,427

Combined	21/22 Forecast	21/22 Actuals	Budget vs Actuals 21/22 difference
Expenditure	£981,946	£869,431	-£112,515
Advertising & Marketing	£43,385	£36,143	-£7,242
General	£27,600	£16,009	-£11,591
Professional fees	£358,300	£296,432	-£61,868
IT/Software etc	£44,687	£50,831	£6,144
Salary	£507,974	£470,017	-£37,957

- 4.2** All BEIS Growth Hub Core Grant funding was allocated and defrayed by 31 March 2022.

- 4.3** Despite huge efforts, due to an incredibly challenging recruitment climate with eligibility, availability and time-constraints on the business community, Growth Hub has been unsuccessful in fulfilling ten cohorts for Peer Networks. However, GH has completed three cohorts with 100% retention. Therefore, £64,858 was drawn down of the BEIS £150,000 budget allocation, resulting in an underspend in the programme which is reflected in Professional Fees, General and some Advertising & Marketing budget lines.



- 4.4** The underspend of c£27,427 on the ERDF SME Competitiveness Project has been re-profiled in line with the recent contract extension approval until 31 June 2023. The underspend is a direct result of little-no 'physical' delivery and the cost profile associated with this. The project is underspent on the expenditure targets such as room hire, materials, travel, sundries, etc.
- 4.5** Due to delays at the start of the FY with budget sign off and receipt of the Grant Funding Agreement from BEIS, there was a delay in recruiting certain 'specialist' positions. The salary underspend was re-allocated to business support services, delivered free of charge to the SME community in areas such as Social Media, Cyber, Data Solutions, Carbon Emissions and Health & Wellbeing, delivered by partnership organisations.

5. KPIs

5.1

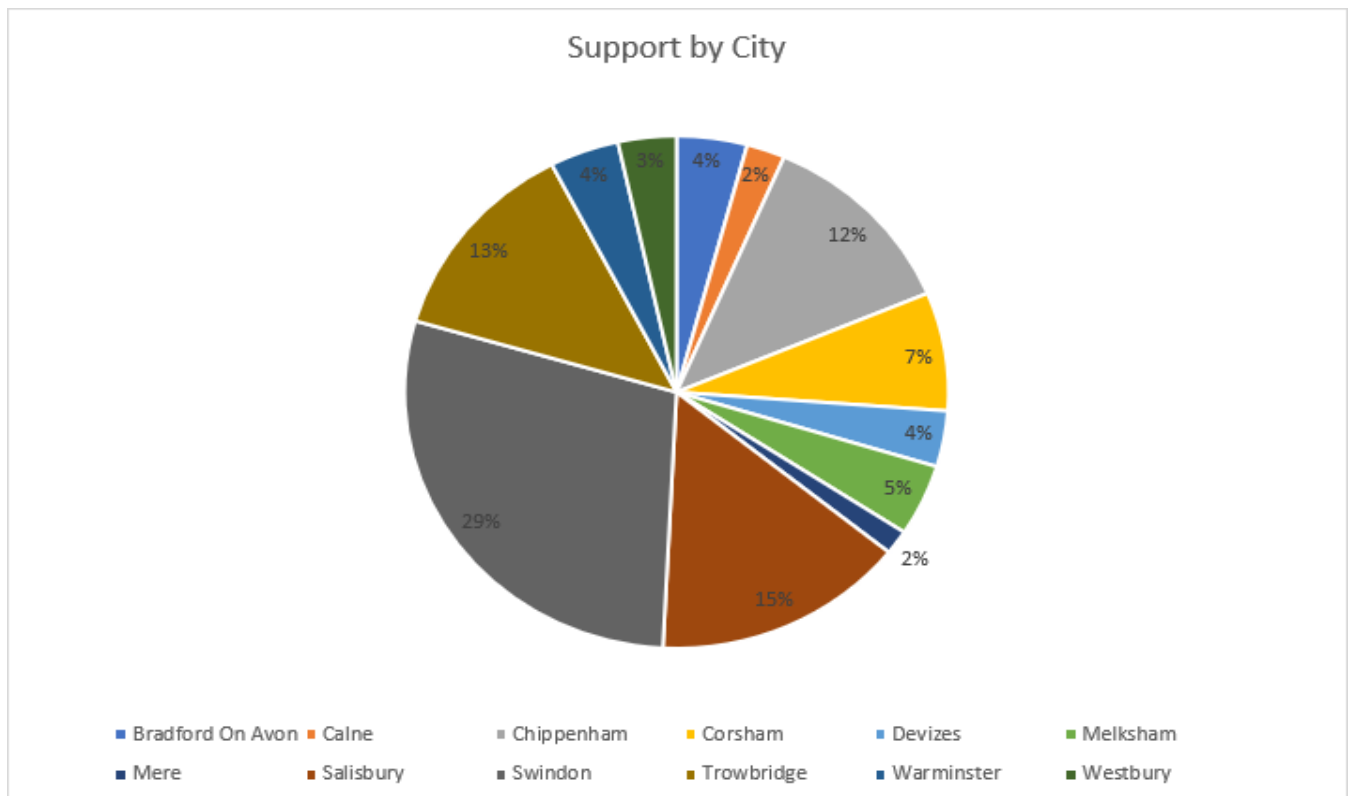
	Target	Achievement to date
Number of businesses receiving light support (up to 1 hour)	1,600	1219
Number of businesses receiving medium support (1-6 hours)	300	853
Number of businesses receiving intensive (6+ hours)	200	181
Growth Hub Community membership reaches	2,500	2,153
Peer Networks established	10	3
Peer Networks: businesses supported	110	35

- 5.2** Positive growth on all metrics and evidence indicates, businesses seeking support are having more detailed and longer engagements, namely in the 'medium' space as their recovery continues. Growth Hub Community Membership has grown by another 35 businesses in the last two months.



6. Business Support Geography

- 6.1** This pie chart shows the businesses registered by town/city accessing Growth Hub Services, we have seen significant growth in Salisbury and Trowbridge due to collaboration with Chambers and BIDs primarily, but also due to proactive general outreach work.



- 6.2** This location map, illustrates the coverage of businesses register as Growth Hub Community Members. It is very pleasing to see that the coverage is such that it resembles the shape of Wiltshire:



7. Commercial Service Development

- 7.1** In the interest of bridging the funding gap, not retracting the GH service and making the move toward self-sustainability, Swindon & Wiltshire GH is scoping options to deliver 'pay for' business support services in addition to the fully funded offer.
- 7.2** The idea is to launch a sub brand, provisionally titled Growth Hub+ (plus), to house the pay-for offer.
- 7.3** The sub brand will incorporate two distinctive arms:
- Business to Business – delivering support services and economic development activity on behalf of partnership organisations; and
 - Business to Consumer – delivering intermediate and advanced level business support interventions to the SME Community via digital, workshop, webinar and I-I methods.
- 7.4** The service will boast a high value proposition in the shape of membership services also where an SME will enjoy discounts to pay-for provision, exclusive access to a 'resource bank' online and be able to tap into the business community through service sharing and networking.
- 7.5** GH has committed to a sum of income generation for this financial year through commercial services delivery.



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Meeting & Date:	SWLEP Board Meeting – Thursday, 26 May 2022		
Subject:	Programme Status Report		
Attachments:	None		
Author:	Claire Alexander	Total no of sheets: (inc cover sheet)	8

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 Highlight reports are presented to the SWLEP Board to communicate the status of live projects and to demonstrate that projects are being managed in line with the LEP Assurance Framework.
- 1.2 The highlight reports produced for each capital project have been reviewed and approved by the Delivery & Performance Team, which will now meet on an ad-hoc basis as capital projects end.
- 1.3 Financial information provided is at Q4 (March 2022).

2. Summary

- 2.1 There are 22 live projects as summarised below, two of which are Department of Transport Retained Schemes, of which one is currently RED.

Green	Amber Green	Amber Red	Red
18	0	3	1

3. Getting Building Fund (GBF)

- 3.1 Freedoms and Flexibilities have been used within this programme and this includes a year-end/programme end position of £1,280,544 being moved into 2022/23 in respect of the Carriage Works project, which has been adversely impacted by COVID-19 and supply chain issues.
- 3.2 The Q4/programme end financial reporting return has been prepared, approved by the I51 Officer, and submitted to/accepted by the funder. Reporting will now focus on outputs only and Scheme Promoters via SWLEP are required to report outputs through to March 2025.

- 3.3 GBF Highlight Reports will now cease, with both the Porton Collaboration Centre and the Business Cyber Centre having fully drawn down their capital allocation. Carriage Works is scheduled to complete November 2022 and reporting will now be by exception.

4. Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF)

- 4.1 The Board is asked to note that two loans are marked as 'Amber-Red', with both organisations requesting a second extension to their loan repayment date.

5. Local Growth Fund (LGF)

- 5.1 Financial reporting is now complete and output reporting has now moved to a bi-annual schedule and will continue through to May 2025. The return for the period October 2021 through to March 2022, is being prepared by Officers for submission later in May.

6. Department for Transport (DfT)

- 6.1 The SWLEP Board does not oversee and participate in the financial performance reporting of these projects, this is done directly by the Scheme Promoter to DfT and information to date has been provided to afford the Board an oversight of highways improvement and its unlocking of economic development within the area.
- 6.2 Of the three retained projects, Wichelstowe is now complete, White Hart Junction will complete in the next reporting period and whilst the Southern Connector Road will continue and is delayed until March 2023, due to ecology and archaeology issues, reporting will now be by exception.

Getting Building Fund (GBF)

Project Ref	Project Name	Lead	Project Cost (£'m)	GBF Grant (£'m)	Previous	Current	Notes
LEP/GBF/GD 404	Carriage Works (Swindon)	SBC	7.0	4.0	AR	AR	This project has been impacted by COVID-19 and Brexit issues and is now due to complete November 2022. £1.2m of funding has been moved into 2022/23 via Freedoms & Flexibilities.
LEP/GBF/GD 403	Porton Collaborative Innovation Centre	WC	10.25	2.0	G	G	This project remains on track to complete July 2022 and the GBF funding has been fully drawn down.
LEP/GBF/GD 401	Business Cyber Centre	SWLEP	4.2	3.7	AG	G	This project is complete and the GBF funding has been fully drawn down.

Skills & Enterprise Projects

Project Ref	Project Name	Lead	Previous	Current	Notes
LEP/GEN/00 1/CEC	Enterprise Advisor Network & Careers Hub	WC & SBC	G	G	Continued progress has been made during the period.
LEP/GEN/00 2/GH	Growth Hub	SWLEP	G	G	Continued progress has been made during the period.

Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF)

Project Ref	Project Name	Lead	Previous	Current	Notes
LEP/GPIF/003 /RT	Recycling Technologies	SWLEP	AG	AR	£1,035,433 loan in place and the company is in receipt of all the loan monies. The SWLEP Board approved an extension of the loan term to June 2023 (from December 2022). This further six-month period was at a higher interest rate. The company is now requesting a further extension of the loan by six months to the end of 2023. Negotiations taking place to agree terms with RT covering potential extension and securing the full repayment of the loan.
LEP/GPIF/004 /OW	Our Wilton	SWLEP	AG	AR	£1,250,000 loan in place with complete repayment to SWLEP by December 2021. A formal extension was not granted but it was agreed that enforcement action would not be taken until 1 April 2022. This deadline was not met. The company is now seeking an extension to 1 September. Extensive discussions underway to resolve all issues and secure the full repayment.
LEP/GPIF/005 /PRP	PRP Optoelectronics	SWLEP	G	G	£1,140,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by December 2023.

LEP/GPIF/006 /FL	Four Legs Are Better Than Two	SWLEP	G	G	£150,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by January 2024.
LEP/GPIF/007 /AE	Autoguide Equipment	SWLEP	G	G	£150,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by December 2024.
LEP/GPIF/008 /ABS	Advanced Biofuel Solutions Ltd	SWLEP	G	G	£1,250,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by December 2024.
LEP/GPIF/009 /PP	Potts Partnership	SWLEP	G	G	£276,500.00 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by June 2024.
LEP/GPIF/010 /CP	Clinical Partners Ltd	SWLEP	G	G	£250,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by June 2024.
LEP/GPIF/011 /CI	Connected ID	SWLEP	G	G	£150,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by October 2023.
LEP/GPIF/012 /BF	The Black Farmer Ltd	SWLEP	G	G	£156,340 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by April 2026.
LEP/GPIF/013 /PP2	Potts Partnership (2 nd Loan)	SWLEP	G	G	£472,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by August 2026.
LEP/GPIF/014 /SPL	Simpson-Partners Ltd	SWLEP	G	G	£354,450 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by September 2025.
LEP/GPIF/015 /NEG	Nationwide Engineering Group Ltd	SWLEP	G	G	£2,000,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by October 2026.
LEP/GPIF/016 /CP2	Clinical Partners (2 nd Loan)	SWLEP	G	G	£1,050,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by December 2025.

LEP/GPIF/017 /SL	Seamach Ltd	SWLEP	G	G	£150,000 loan in place with repayment to SWLEP by September 2026.
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Transport – Retained Schemes (DfT)

Project Ref	Project Name	Lead	Project Cost (£'m)	LGF Grant (£'m)	Previous	Current	Notes
LGF/1516/00 3/EV (v)	New Eastern Villages - White Hart Junction	SBC	30.12	28.20	AG	G	Further progress has been made during the period with works to noise barrier, safety fence and street lighting to be completed during the next period.
LGF/1516/00 3/EV (iv)	New Eastern Villages. Southern Connector Road	SBC	30.57	11.60	AR	R	Construction completion has been delayed due to ecology and archaeology.



Key

Project Status

	Red	Amber Red	Amber Green	Green
	R	AR	AG	G

See below for RAG rating methodology.

Milestones

BLUE – complete, **GREEN** - on track, **AMBER** - at risk, **RED** – will be late/is late.

RAG Rating

		Impact			
		1 (Low)	2	3	4 (High)
	4 (Likely)				
	3				
	2				
	1 (Unlikely)				

The RAG reporting is based on the composite elements of probability and impact (see chart to the left) and splits into the following categories:

- **GREEN:** Project considered being on track, to time, quality, and cost.
- **AMBER, GREEN:** Project considered at risk of minor to medium impacts on time, scope and/or cost – requires small mitigating action.
- **AMBER, RED:** Project considered at risk of medium to major impacts on time, scope and/or cost – requires mitigating action.
- **RED:** Project considered at serious risk of significant impact on time, scope and/or cost. Immediate mitigating action required.

RAG Scoring

RAG rating	Cost	Scope	Time
	All funding for overall scheme has been secured and is available to spend as required.	Deliverables and project scope remain unaltered.	Minor project slippage may be present but total project delivery remains on track. <30 days total slippage.
	Extra funding is required for overall project and is expected to be secured shortly (within 1 month).	Project is experiencing or is expected to experience slight changes to scope, and outputs delivered.	Project is experiencing or is expected to experience slippage. >30 days but <90 days total project slippage
	Extra funding is required for overall project. A funding plan is in place and applications have been made but there is a risk of an unsuccessful bid.	Project is experiencing or is expected to experience major changes to scope and outputs delivered.	Project is experiencing major slippage and is due to deliver the project outputs and outcomes late. >90 days slippage but <six months total project slippage.
	Extra funding is required for overall project. No funding plan is in place or applications made in order to address funding gap.	Project is experiencing or is expected to experience significant change to scope and outputs delivered.	Project is suffering significant and major delays to delivery. >six months total project slippage.

Principles of Overall Project RAG Status

The 'lowest' rating against any of the three areas of Cost, Scope or Time will be used for the overall project.



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Meeting & Date:	Board meeting		
Subject:	Subgroup and network group updates		
Attachments:			
Author:	Paddy Bradley	Total no of sheets:	3

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. To update the Board on the activities of the subgroups.

2. Summary

- 2.1. Due to issues with availability, the Skills & Talent and the Ideas, Infrastructure & Places Subgroups did not meet as planned in May. The Business Environment Subgroup did meet.
- 2.2. The three Subgroups will meet as scheduled in July.
- 2.3. This report summarises activity overseen by the Subgroups and is provided for information.
- 2.4. We hold two networking groups – The Business Intelligence Network Group (BING) and the Rural Economy Sector Group (RESG). Both met recently.

3. Recommendations

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership is recommended to:

- 3.1. note the information presented in this update.

4. Update

4.1. Infrastructure, Ideas & Places Subgroup

- 4.1.1. The Porton Collaborative Innovation Centre (previously known as Porton Science Park) forms the second phase of development at Porton Down outside the wire.
- 4.1.2. It is a Getting Building Fund project, and the details are included in the Programme Status Report (Paper 9.0 on today's agenda).
- 4.1.3. The planned completion is mid-July 2022, with construction on-site taking just under 12 months.



- 4.1.4. Following a procurement process, the business support programme is being run by SETSquared, with marketing of the programme provided by Oxentia. The first workshops are scheduled for June 2022.
- 4.1.5. Details of the draft Delivery Plan and the feedback on the hydrogen generation feasibility study are included as separate papers on today's agenda.

4.2. Skills & Talent Subgroup

- 4.2.1. The task and finish group developing an action plan for Green Skills and Jobs is meeting on 31 May 2022, with the aim of producing a plan seeking Board approval in July or September.
- 4.2.2. The Department for Education (DfE) has announced its guidance to produce Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIP). The opportunity to bid to lead on a plan for our area is restricted to Employer Representation Organisations (ERO), such as Chambers, the FSB, CBI and Institute of Directors. LEPs are not considered to be EROs and so are not allowed to bid. The DfE sees a role for LEPs and local authorities as stakeholders represented on the boards delivering the plans.
- 4.2.3. The DfE has allocated £52,000 to the SWLEP for 2022-23 to fund skills activities. The money will be used to provide a quarterly labour market intelligence report and we are also required to retain 50% to support the development of the LSIP for Swindon and Wiltshire.

4.3. Business Environment Subgroup

- 4.3.1. The Subgroup met on 9 May and discussed in detail the Growth Hub, the Business Cyber Centre and how the Delivery Plan fits in with the work of the Subgroup. The focus in the case of both the Growth Hub and the Business Cyber Centre was current performance and future plans.
- 4.3.2. The reports earlier in the meeting today contain the content of the material discussed at the Subgroup.

4.4. Network Groups

- 4.4.1. The Business Intelligence Network Group (BING) enables the SWLEP to bring together local authorities, EROs, education and training providers, government agencies, trade associations and individual businesses. At its meeting on 31 March, the group discussed:
 - the analysis of the SWLEP's labour market intelligence report;
 - the evidence behind the work by the Skills and Talent Subgroup on Green Skills and Jobs;
 - the Innovate UK Action Plan; and
 - monitoring business confidence (item led by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England Wales and the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce).
- 4.4.2. Through the Rural Economy Sector Group (RESG), SWLEP convenes representatives of local authorities, the CLA, the NFU, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise, Wiltshire



Wildlife Trust, Visit Wiltshire, training providers and individual rural businesses. The group met on 11 May. Items under discussion were:

- the Biosphere Foundation, based in Devon but interested in working with Swindon and Wiltshire;
- entrepreneurship, enterprise and the rural economy; and
- the results of the investigation by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the rural economy into rural productivity.



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Meeting & Date:	SWLEP Board Meeting - Thursday, 26 May 2022		
Subject:	Green Hydrogen Production Feasibility Study		
Attachments:	None		
Author:	Debby Skellern	Total no of sheets:	3

Papers are provided for:	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. To update the Board on the completion of the green hydrogen production feasibility study based at the Science Museum Group's Science and Innovation Park (S+IP) site near Wroughton.

2. Summary

- 2.1. This paper updates the SWLEP Board on:

- 2.1.1. the findings of the feasibility study which was funded by the South West Energy Hub;
- 2.1.2. the outline next steps by the Science Museum Group; and
- 2.1.3. an overview of the national funding opportunities.

3. Recommendations

The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board is recommended to:

- 3.1. note the completion of the feasibility study;
- 3.2. note the business case development work being progressed by the Science Museum Group; and
- 3.3. note the timeline for the hydrogen funding calls.

4. Feasibility Study

- 4.1. SWLEP secured funding from the South West Energy Hub (renamed the South West Net Zero Hub in April 2022) for a feasibility study to be undertaken at the Science Museum's site at Wroughton. The study looked at the feasibility of generating green hydrogen based on a 50 MW solar array.



- 4.2. Kiwa, working in association with Pannell Hayes was appointed by the South West Energy Hub to complete the feasibility study in October 2021. The commission comprised two elements: a two-day workshop looking at the potential use of hydrogen produced from the site and a technical assessment of hydrogen generation based on the existing solar array based on the last 20 years of weather information alongside actual data from the solar farm operator.
- 4.3. The generation of green hydrogen for use on site, as well as taken offsite for local transport use were considered as the most appropriate markets for locally produced hydrogen. In addition, the study included recommendations on the size of the electrolyser/s which could be deployed on the site in order to be commercially viable and headline costs for delivery.
- 4.4. The business funding model proposed was based on the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation in the absence of any alternative funding opportunities having been released to support the generation of electrolytic hydrogen.
- 4.5. On the basis of these data, the study indicated that green hydrogen production was feasible on the site in terms of generation capacity and the proposed funding model (as of March 2022).

5. Business case development by the Science Museum Group

- 5.1. Alongside the feasibility work, the Science Museum Group commenced work on its plans to decarbonise its estate nationally and the role which their site at Wroughton could play in helping to achieve this aspiration.
- 5.2. A business case is in development and considers an ecosystem of renewable energy solutions and storage including green hydrogen production to offset the energy use of the Science Museum Group nationally. The business case is scheduled to be complete by the autumn of 2022 and will be presented to trustees for consideration.
- 5.3. Key milestones would include: achieving planning consent; a suitable grid connection and engaging a developer to deliver the scheme.
- 5.4. A working group will be established by the Science Museum Group locally to work on next steps and SWLEP and the South West Net Zero Hub will be invited to join.

6. UK hydrogen funding calls

- 6.1. On 25 April, the government announced its hydrogen funding framework based on the £240m Net Zero Hydrogen Fund which provides capital and development expenditure to support low carbon production projects with an operational date by 2025. The aim is for the UK to generate up to 10GW of hydrogen production by 2030. The fund comprises four strands¹ which will be managed by either UKRI or BEIS. Applications will have different opening and closing dates (Table 1).

¹ <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1150/overview>



Table 1: Hydrogen Funding Strands, April 2022

Strand	Summary
1	Development Expenditure (DEVEX) support for front end engineering design (FEED) and post-FEED studies, to grow the future pipeline of hydrogen projects in the UK. UKRI competition, closing date 22 June 2022.
2	<u>Capital expenditure (CAPEX)</u> for projects that do not require a hydrogen specific business model ² . These are low carbon hydrogen projects that can deploy on the basis of capital expenditure support and are able to start construction rapidly. UKRI competition, closing date 6 July 2022.
3	CAPEX for projects that require a <u>hydrogen business model (HBM)</u> and sit outside of the Phase 2 cluster sequencing process (CCUS). Delivery will be led by BEIS and will focus on electrolytic hydrogen production. Call opens in July 2022, date to be confirmed but expected in July.
4	CAPEX for carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) enabled projects that require a hydrogen specific business model and are part of the Phase 2 cluster sequencing process. Delivery led by BEIS.

6.2. Strand 3 would be the appropriate funding stream to submit an application for green hydrogen production at the S+IP at Wroughton. Further information on the funding criteria for this strand is expected in July and should include details on the minimum level of hydrogen generation, match funding and confirmed off-taker requirements.

² The aim of the business model is to provide an incentive to invest in low carbon hydrogen production, while limiting costs to consumers and taxpayers.