

Subgroup update
SWLEP Board
29 September 2022



Business Environment – no meeting (clashed with the Queen's Funeral)

- Updates on the Growth Hub on the Board's public session agenda today.
- The reports on the Business Cyber Centre and the Growing Places Infrastructure Fund are covered in the Part Two session as they include commercially sensitive information.

Ideas, Infrastructure and Places – 26 September

The meeting focused on a series of updates:

- **Ideas**
- Circular economy
 - ICCE Ltd developing a project to work with Health Trusts and Pharmaceutical Manufacturers to recycle plastic waste. If this projects develops to delivery, this would be a viable capital project, removing the SWLEP's liability to repay £200,000 used to support initial business case development for the wider circular economy;
 - SWLEP bringing together partners in the potential development of a site in Westbury which would aim to bring academic research, businesses and external investors to create a centre of excellence for the circular economy.

Ideas, Infrastructure and Places – 26 September

- **Infrastructure**

- Revival of interest in a sub-regional rail link connecting Bristol to Oxford, through Chippenham, Corsham, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon and Oxford

- **Place**

- Council bids to the Levelling Up Fund
 - Wiltshire – Salisbury Cultural Quarter and Melksham House
 - Swindon – Health Hydro and restoration of the Oasis Leisure Centre
- Updates on Place Boards and Partnerships
 - Town Advisory and Engagement Group – Swindon
 - Salisbury Place Board
 - Trowbridge Partnership Board

Skills and Talent – 14 September

- The development of a Health Academy for Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire to co-ordinate training for staff within the integrated care system.
- Green Skills and Jobs
 - Create a repository of evidence to develop and track the impact of the plan
 - Focus initially on Construction, Manufacturing, Motor Trades, Transport and Storage
 - Aware that many jobs across all sectors will need “green-skilling”
- Apprenticeship Campaign
 - Aim to have 50 businesses to take on an apprentice for the first time
 - 12 apprentices have started
 - 9 employers with a person ready to start an apprenticeship
 - 27 employers involved in discussions before decision

Skills and Talent – 14 September

- Local Skills Improvement Plan
 - Business West is the employer representative body designated by the DfE to prepare a report on how to ensure supply meets demand in some key sectors of the economy.
 - Major findings available by the end of March 2023
 - Report published by end of May 2023
- Programme updates
 - Careers Hub – continuing good performance and extending understanding through research projects into take up of mathematics by girls and how home educated students can access careers education effectively.
 - Raspberry Pi project – good progress to engage partners in putting together a package of support for those schools and colleges which commit to entering the Raspberry Pi competition