

Subgroup update
SWLEP Board
25 May 2023



Business Environment – 9 May

Business Cyber Centre

- Successful visits to represent the BCC at the UK Cyber Conference, Belfast and the Defence Industry Technology & Training Conference, Rotterdam
- Google Digital Garage –attendance is higher than that achieved in major cities in the UK when Google has invested heavily in marketing. 75% of the attendees came from SWLEP contacts with little marketing spend by Google.
- CyberICE 2.0 – very successful conference bringing together schools, training providers, businesses, cyber organisations and Government Departments. Quotes from participants:

1 of 2

The @dstl team had a really great day. Tiana's presentation about her (un)conventional route into software engineering was fantastic, and we've had some excellent engagement with local future talent, employers and colleagues at Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.”

‘Thank you to everyone involved in the event. Our students had a really interesting and informative day, and found the future opportunities and routes into Cyber really interesting. Looking forward to working with you all again in the future.’ – *St John’s Marlborough*

Business Environment – 9 May

Alison North

Growth Hub

- In the final stages of completing impact report for the Growth Hub 2022-23 and preparing the end of project evaluation for the SME Competitive Project which finishes at the end of June.

“Doing business with us” – Wiltshire Council

- Update on the well-received workshop presented by Wiltshire Council about opportunities for SMEs to bid for council contracts

Rural Economy Sector Group

- SWLEP convenes this group in line with the Subgroup sequences of meetings.
- Latest meeting included a very good session on supporting military leavers into training and employment within the agriculture and forestry sectors.

Labour Market Intelligence

- Quarterly report focussing on jobs demand and skills and a profile of the financial health of businesses in Swindon and Wiltshire.

Ideas, Infrastructure and Places – 10 May

Tom Harrison

Infrastructure

- **The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Freight & Logistics update**
 - TH attends, representing LEPs in the Western Gateway.
 - Wide ranging discussion following TH presentation.
 - The aims of the APPG are to:
 - Develop a National Freight Framework – getting all modes working together for seamless end-to-end journeys.
 - support the transition to Net Zero – Gov and industry to collaborate and invest.
 - Bring some reform to Planning – A planning system that integrates infrastructure & logistics.
 - Invest in People & Skills – attract and retain talent so sector can meet demand for goods distribution.
 - Make effective use of Data & Technology in support of the aims above.

Ideas, Infrastructure and Places – 10 May

Tom Harrison

Infrastructure

- **Sub-national transport bodies**

- SWLEP attends the England's Economic Heartland with Swindon Borough Council and the Western Gateway SNTB with Wiltshire Council.
- Discussion about domination of passenger transport over freight transport. All freight transport in the UK is privately run. One freight train on average takes out the need for 76 HGVs on the road.
- Economic Impact of Road Improvement
 - SWLEP working with Ipsos and DfT to co-ordinate work assessing the economic impact of road improvements including supply chain logistics.
 - Survey developing for use by LEPs, LAs and businesses.

Place

- **Labour Market Intelligence**

- Quarterly report focussing on jobs demand and skills and a profile of the financial health of businesses in Swindon and Wiltshire.

Skills and Talent– 18 May

Carole
Kitching

- **Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)**
 - This was the main item on the agenda. Matt Tudge from Business West presented the findings, priorities and proposed next steps.
 - There were a number of contributions from the Group in the follow-up discussion.
 - The Skills and Talent subgroup will serve as the body to provide governance of the LSIP.
 - The DfE has announced a £165m fund for training providers to support the implementation of the LSIP for each area.
- **Careers Hub**
 - Presentation on a requested deep dive on outcomes and careers education provision for learners with special educational needs and/or difficulties (SEND).
 - Very good level of involvement of special schools and specialised college provision in the Careers Hub, emphasising school interest in employment opportunities for their learners.
 - Discussion about the nervousness of some employers to take on young people with SEND.

Skills and
Talent– 18
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- **Technical Education**
 - Good turnout at a hastily arranged face to face meeting to provide the Careers Enterprise Company with local feedback on technical education routes and level of awareness amongst employers.
 - This is an initial response, and the Careers Hub will lead further work to gain a more comprehensive view of the opinions of learners, providers and employers to add substance to a priority in our development plan.
- **Multiply Programme**
 - This DfE funded programme is directed through LAs to target adults with low levels of mathematical knowledge and skills.
 - Swindon and Wiltshire Councils gave comprehensive overviews of how they are using the funding to make provision, ensure accessibility and identify the residents most in need of the training.