

SWLEP Subgroups Update

28 September 2023



Business Environment Subgroup Update

Meeting held on 18 September 2023

Chair: Alison North

SWLEP Board Deputy Chair and SME Champion

- Governance: Subgroup merger with the Ideas, Infrastructure and Places Subgroup
- BCC update
- Swindon and Wiltshire Cyber Cluster awarded funding to continue delivery in 2023-24
 - Cyber work experience day
 - Unlock Cyber event at the Institute of Technology in October
- Business Support update:
 - Growth Hub activity summary
 - Skills support
 - Inward Investment
 - Business Intelligence Reports
- SME Competitiveness Programme conclusion and Summative Assessment submitted
- GPIF: strong pipeline of interest for future loans

Ideas, Infrastructure and Places Subgroup Update

Meeting held on 13 September 2023

Chair: Suzanne Wigmore

SWLEP Board Director

- Subgroup merger with the Business Environment Subgroup
- Infrastructure update
 - Western Gateway Rail Vision Parliamentary Reception
 - APPG Freight and Logistics 2050 vision
- Items carried forward to the next meeting:
 - Carriage Works Phase 2b GBF scheme update
 - UKSPF overview for Swindon
- Forward programme of agenda items:
 - iCAST update
 - Western England Cluster Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan bid

Skills and Talent Subgroup Update

Meeting held on 13 September 2023

Chair: Carole Kitching

SWLEP Board Director and Equality, Diversity Champion

Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) – update from Business West

- SWLEP S&T Subgroup would provide the external governance and key role in steering further research and engagement
- Deep dives research with employers in specific sectors identified in 2022-23
- New Skills Adviser appointed for signposting to the Growth Hub in the first instance to avoid duplication
- Mapping of current skills provision to be undertaken with providers

Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) – update from Wiltshire College & University Centre

- LSIF funding intended to enable FE to respond to priorities emerging from the LSIP
- Joint bid by Wiltshire College & University Centre with New College Swindon and IoT for £2.5m
- Projects include Eco House & Sustainable Technology, Tech Trowbridge, green automotive and digitalisation of logistics/distribution
- Bid outcome expected October

Careers Hub

- Continues to be one of the top performing Careers Hubs in the country
- Vast majority of Gatsby benchmarks above national averages (as per last five years)
- Renewed focus on apprenticeship opportunities this year
- Launch of the online careers platform for Electively Home Educated young people in August

LMI presentation - University of Bath

- Focus on identifying any causal link between economic inactivity in Swindon and wage inflation

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) skills strands – local authority update

- Update from two Councils focussed on the People & Skills strands includes Skills for Net Zero & Sustaining Work, delivery started from April 2023. Total value WC £5.73m SBC £2.1m