

Subgroup update  
SWLEP Board  
30 March 2023



# Business Environment – 6 March

- **Horizon scanning**

Papers and discussion on:

- “The potential impact of technological developments on the world of work”. This touched on the expanding use of artificial intelligence and the implications for jobs.
- “Maintaining an oversight of government initiatives”. This covered the process of generating initiatives and the importance of consistency and a long-term view.

- **Performance reports**

Business Cyber Centre

- The presentation is available here [https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/business-environment-subgroup---main-meeting/2023/06-march/20230306-swlep-bcc-bes-update.pdf?sfvrsn=55304384\\_3](https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/business-development/business-environment-subgroup---main-meeting/2023/06-march/20230306-swlep-bcc-bes-update.pdf?sfvrsn=55304384_3)
- Discussion about the opening of BCC’s new café, Franco’s and what it brings to the place and our involvement in Global Epic cyber programmes.

- **Growth Hub**

- Discussion about the processes to facilitate the planned close down the SME Competitiveness programme by 30 June and also scenario planning for Growth Hub Plus.

# Skills and Talent– 7 March

- **Labour Market Intelligence**
  - Paddy Bradley presented the quarterly LMI overview. This analysis focussed closely on demand for skills over time.  
[https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/skills-talent/skills-talent-2023/7-mar-2023/swlep-labour-market-070323.pdf?sfvrsn=7964d5cd\\_3](https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/skills-talent/skills-talent-2023/7-mar-2023/swlep-labour-market-070323.pdf?sfvrsn=7964d5cd_3)
- **Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)**
  - Update provided by Matt Tudge, Business West.  
[https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/skills-talent/skills-talent-2023/7-mar-2023/310123-lsip-overview-swindon-march23.pdf?sfvrsn=a81a4804\\_3](https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/skills-talent/skills-talent-2023/7-mar-2023/310123-lsip-overview-swindon-march23.pdf?sfvrsn=a81a4804_3)
  - Identified role for the Skills and Talent subgroup in providing governance as the LSIP is completed and implementation begins.
  - Stakeholders have met as a group and consider relationships and engagement with Business West are now good and there is a commitment to help develop a plan that meets our local needs.
- **Performance updates**
  - Updates provided on the good progress of the Careers Hub, the Apprenticeship Campaign and the Computer Coding Challenge.

# Ideas, Infrastructure and Places – 8 March (1)

- **Review of progress of IIP Strategy**
- Performance against IIP priorities in the SWLEP 2022-23 Delivery Plan.
- Recognition of a high level of uncertainty in 2023-24. Proposed maintaining joint work with the University of Bath on natural capital and sustainable technologies and to be an active contributor to the Western Gateway on hydrogen generation and use.
- **Infrastructure**
- Presentation by Rory Bowen about Porton Innovation Park [https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/8-mar-2023/porton-science-park-update-18-1-23.pdf?sfvrsn=c223f9c9\\_3](https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/8-mar-2023/porton-science-park-update-18-1-23.pdf?sfvrsn=c223f9c9_3)
- The subgroup appreciated the good progress made and the significance of having such a concentration of high quality research and development in the area.
- Discussion about the Economic import of road improvements report for DfT – a project led by Dr Mark Matthews with the potential to involve a group of LEPs in influencing DfT policy development.

# Ideas, Infrastructure and Places – 8 March (2)

## Ideas

### • **Environmental, Social & Corporate Governance (ESG) Responsibility update**

- Wide-ranging discussion about what might be proposed to the Board for support in 2023-24.
- For many employees of businesses, their employer's commitment to ESG principles is of importance for their job satisfaction and also maintaining a link to the community in which the company is based.
- PB declared a potential conflict of interest as he is being considered as a trustee of one of the charities discussed .
- Proposals to be worked up for the May set of meetings.

## Place

- PB presented the LMI overview also received by the Skills and Talent subgroup  
[https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/8-mar-2023/swlep-labour-market-080323.pdf?sfvrsn=f1e26ce6\\_3](https://static.swlep.co.uk/swlep/docs/default-source/sub-groups/infrastructure-ideas-and-place-subgroup/2023/8-mar-2023/swlep-labour-market-080323.pdf?sfvrsn=f1e26ce6_3)
-