

Business, Ideas and Places Subgroup Board update, 21 March 2024

Alison North, Chair and SME Champion
SWLEP Board Deputy Chair



BIP Subgroup meeting, 8 March 2024

1. New opportunities for involvement

- West of England Cluster Industrial Decarbonisation Plan

2. Subgroup oversight of strategic priorities

- BCC update
- Business support
 - Growth Hub
 - Inward investment
 - Growing Places Infrastructure Fund
- Spring budget discussion

3. Items for future updates

- England's Economic Heartland update

West of England Cluster Industrial Cluster:

- Dispersed Industrial Decarbonisation Plan 2030, across western England. UKRI funded 2024/25
- Hub: Avonmouth industrial area: reduce 18MT carbon emission
- Spokes: reduce 6MT carbon emissions by 2030
- Potential for Swindon and Wiltshire and Gloucestershire involvement as spokes
- Outputs by December 2024:
 - Decarbonisation Plan
 - Dissemination Plan
 - Exploitation Plan



West of England Cluster Industrial Decarbonisation Plan

- Expected impact includes: jobs, inward investment, community, industrial support and shared infrastructure projects.
- Seven Net as lead stakeholder engagement organisation
- Survey April 2024
- Deep dives:
 - Rail for carbon capture and transportation
 - E-fuels and hydrogen including energy from waste
 - Power options
 - Land availability
- Quarterly meetings of stakeholders



BCC update

- BCC office space fully let as of January 2024
- Pipeline of enquiries
- Digital marketing campaign live for event space and meeting room hire
- Franco's café ad deli's first anniversary since opening
- Swindon and Wiltshire Cyber Cluster update
 - Cyber Connexions workshop series
 - Cyber ICE 3.0 conference, 21 May 24, iCAST, Swindon
 - Cyber Clusters under review 2024/25



Business Support update

Growth Hub

- Wavehill evaluation scoping 2013/14- 2023/24
- Low and high intensity activity good performance
- Focus for Q4 is increasing medium intensity support
- 40% enquiries are start-up related

Inward investment update

- 14 active projects
- 5 successes

Growing Places Infrastructure Fund

- Overall good performance
- Loans paused with £225,000 unallocated capital in pot

