



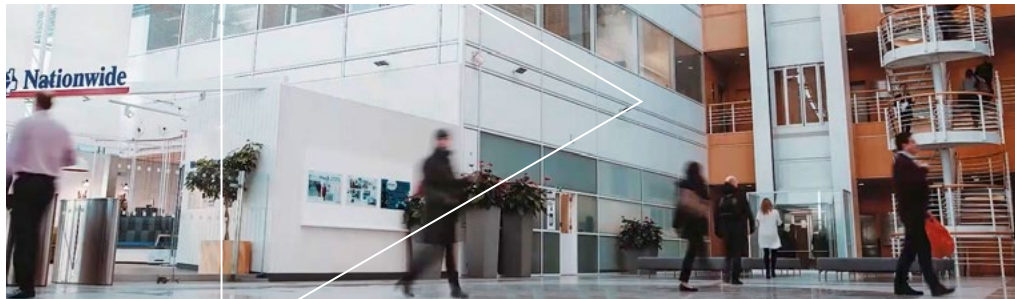
Swindon & Wiltshire
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report **2019/20**





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Working for Swindon and Wiltshire's prosperity

SWLEP completes Incorporation and transfer process out of Wiltshire Council to be a fully business-led organisation.

Switch of Chairs as John Mortimer retires and Paul Moorby OBE steps up.

Leading Salisbury into recovery from the Novichok incident.

Working with Honda and its staff to prepare for them leaving Swindon in 2021.

Supporting businesses through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Foreword from the CEO

The Foreword of our Annual Report would usually come from our Chair, but this year it's my turn as I introduce some of the key changes.

In March 2020 John Mortimer our long-standing Chair (2015-2020) stepped down and we welcomed our new Chair, Paul Moorby OBE. John was instrumental in the SWLEP's early days and a real asset to the Board. His passion and understanding of the Swindon and Wiltshire rural community helped us all understand the challenges this community faces. John's successor, Paul Moorby brings different experience and skills to the role, and as a successful technology entrepreneur, his skills will be invaluable as we move into an increasingly digital future.

A lot of our work in 2019/2020 was to move to Incorporation, and to be seen as a business-led organisation. Our first Board meeting as a limited company took place in May 2019, but it took a while for us to fully transfer out of Wiltshire Council. All of this work is now complete, and we are now independent. This has presented lots of new opportunities for bringing in new investment as we begin to implement our Emerging Local Industrial Strategy – a major piece of work for us over the last year. It sets out a pathway and showcases how over the next 10 years Swindon and Wiltshire will contribute to making the UK a global leader in the industries of the future.

Swindon and Wiltshire have been

rocked by unprecedented events in the last few years, namely the Novichok incidents in Amesbury and Salisbury in 2017, and the economic shock of Honda preparing to leave Swindon in 2021. We've been incredibly busy working with our partners to support our area through these crises and into recovery – and then the Covid-19 pandemic hit us all. I'm incredibly proud of our team and how we worked swiftly and as a collective force with our partners to support our businesses in Swindon and Wiltshire as the Covid situation unravelled. We quickly mobilised a Triage Plus Business Support Service with a dedicated support line, working directly with local businesses on their concerns. As of the end of July 2020,

we've supported over 1,000 businesses and our web traffic has been up by 300% compared to the same period last year.

We know it's an incredibly tough time for Swindon and Wiltshire's 30,000 registered businesses, but we want you to know that we're here for you. Please reach out and make use of the many business services available to you. Some of our companies are doing really well and have reacted fast, digitalising their services, for others it's going to be a long road to recovery, especially for the tourism and hospitality industry.

Covid has given us all time to reflect, regroup and restructure and in many ways, perhaps this crisis will speed up the sustainability agenda, encouraging



John Mortimer, Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Chair, 2015-2020

Foreword (continued)

us all to be greener in our daily life and business.

Our Emerging Local Industrial Strategy sets out our plans to promote productivity and sustainable, inclusive growth; now is the best time to embrace that way of thinking. I urge you to buy local if you need a product or service and reach out to the many brilliant businesses we have in Swindon and Wiltshire. It's by working

together that we can rise to meet the challenges that Covid has brought us and move into a bright future.

Paddy Bradley

Paddy Bradley, Chief Executive Officer
Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership, July 2020

Tribute to John Mortimer

SWLEP Chair 2015-2020

John was absolutely passionate about his work with the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

He brought a real sense of purpose and took us through some challenging times, leading us through incorporation into a Limited Company.

John was conscious of all of the different groups that work within the Swindon and Wiltshire area, ensuring that no group was left behind, and everyone had their voice. He was also passionate about the levelling up of the rural communities, way before the Government were.

He was very good at maintaining relationships and ensuring that people worked together for local success.

The legacy he's left is a very strong SWLEP, highly rated by government, financially secure, and able to offer a wide range of support through our Growth Hub which is extremely well regarded by government and businesses alike.

John's strong vision for the area, coupled with his forthright yet easy manner, enabled the SWLEP team to have a clear understanding of, and respect for, the work the Board asked to be delivered under his stewardship.

We thank John for all his hard work and dedication over the years.

John sadly lost his battle with cancer in September 2020.



“

As Chair, I'm hands on and want to hear from you. Let me know your worries and frustrations. Reach out to me and we can work together to make Swindon and Wiltshire the best it can be.

”

Meet our new Chair

Paul Moorby OBE joined our Board as a Director in July 2019. Fast forward to 2020 and in less than a year he has progressed to become Chair.

Paul has lived in Wiltshire for the last 26 years and built his business, Chipside here. Chipside is a leader in the world of parking and traffic management IT and works with over 130 government authorities in the UK.

Through his work, Paul's got to know the complexities of local government and the many challenges facing the towns and cities that make up our UK economy. He understands what makes Swindon and Wiltshire different and is passionate about working on its strengths to drive a successful economy now and into the future.

What attracted you to working with the SWLEP?

I'm a passionate supporter of SMEs. I started my company with just £10 and know how hard it is to start and grow a business.

As the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership tried to recruit local business people to the Board, I thought hard about the drain on my resources; my business may flatten whilst looking after the SWLEP. I suddenly felt that I should at least try and get SMEs heard at this kind of level. I'm gobsmacked at how many SMEs are involved now – it's fantastic! 98% of our businesses are SMEs. 9% of those have less than ten staff. What that means to me is families putting food on the table. S's become M's, M's become L's and before you

know it you've got the Dyson's of this world in Wiltshire.

I'm passionate about inclusivity. This isn't about career building for me, I'm honoured to be on the Board for the next three years and diversity will be at the heart of what I do.

What are your current goals?

We need to put sustainability at the heart of everything we do. I'm really keen on anything to do with sustainable, low-carbon growth; less consumption, cleaner air, cleaner living and healthier people.

Digital skills are going to be fundamental to future growth. International Trade Secretary, Dr Liam Fox MP, said on one of his trade missions that the UK education sector generates more overseas earnings than the

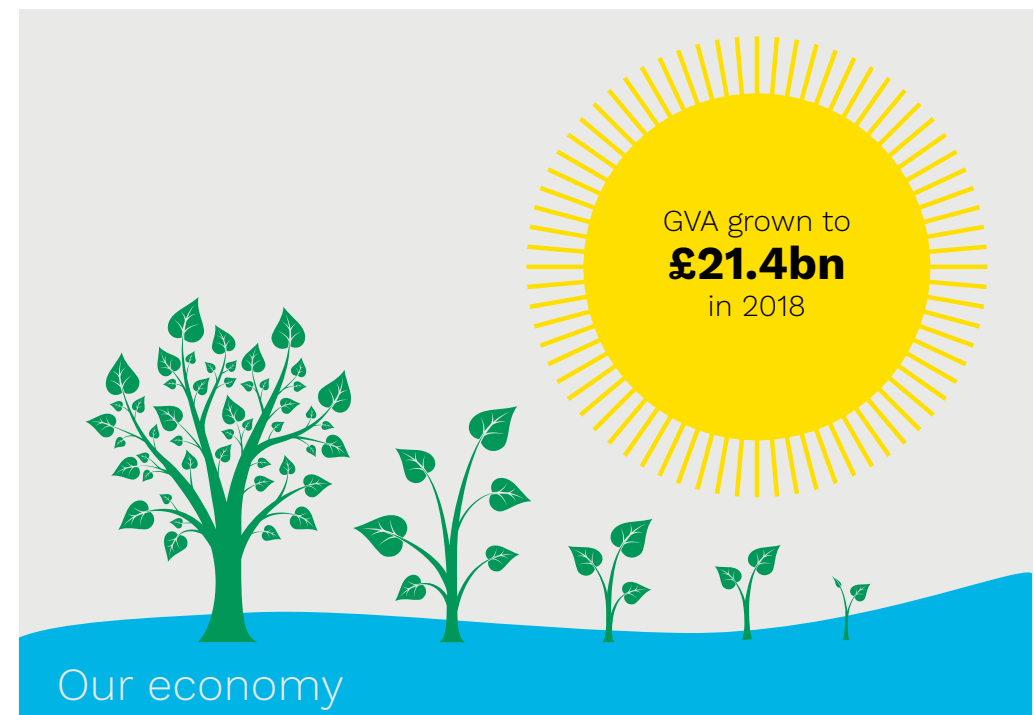
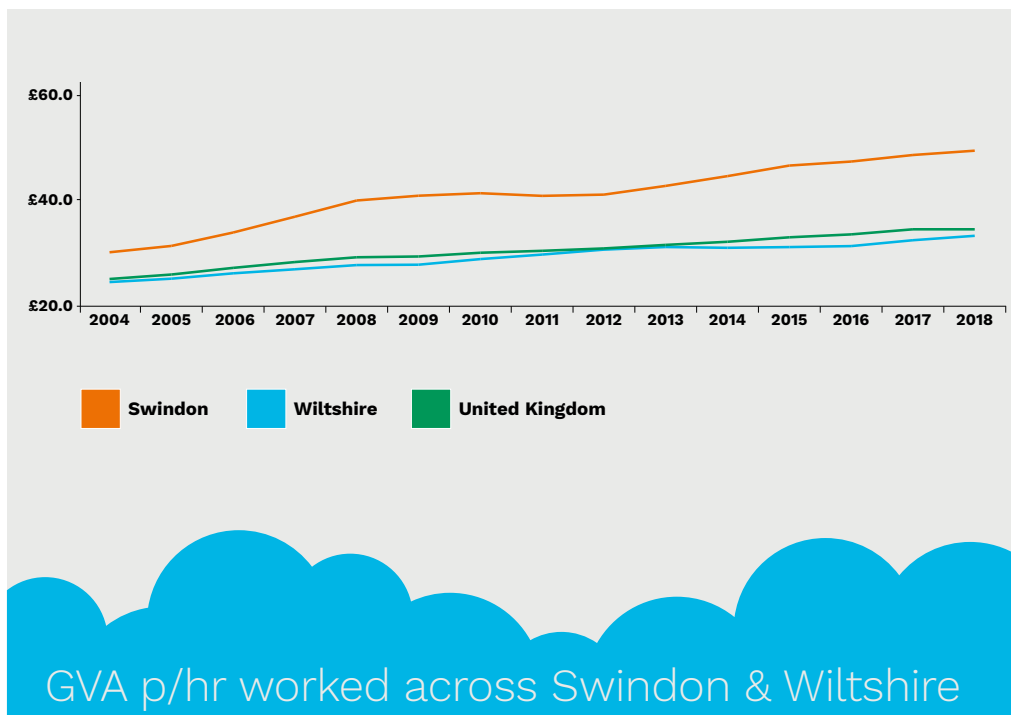
City of London. It's a little-known fact. I think anyone based in our area should be able to tap into that market. The UK's always been good at education and communication, and this builds into sustainability; building a diverse skilled workforce for the future.

What drives you?

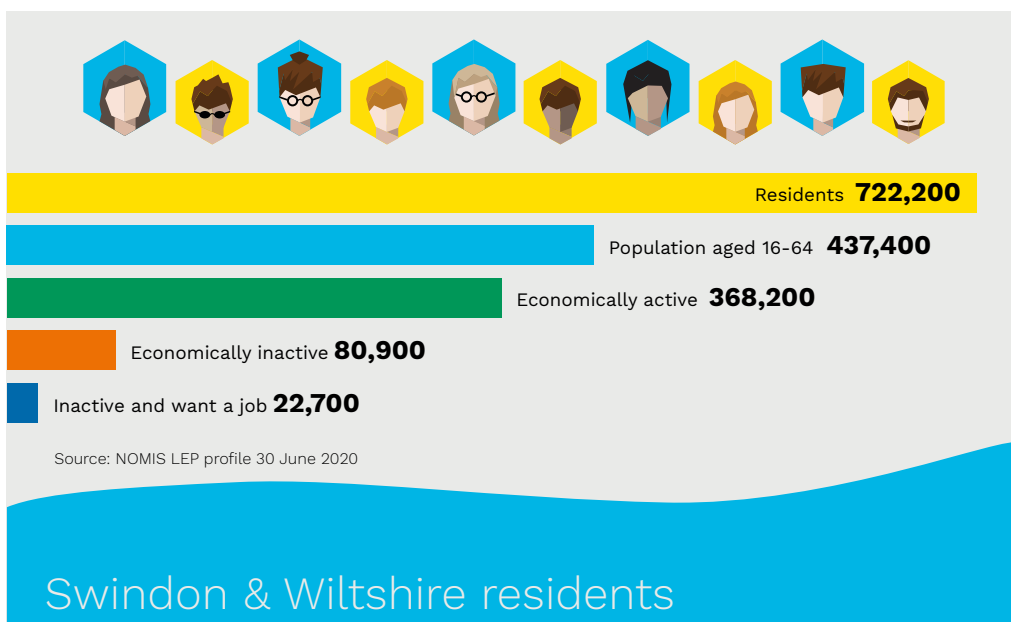
I believe everyone in our region should be given the opportunity to achieve their dreams and it's my job to help facilitate that.

As Chair, I'm hands on and want to hear from you. Let me know your worries and frustrations. Reach out to me and we can work together to make Swindon and Wiltshire the best it can be.

Paul Moorby OBE, Chair
SWLEP, July 2020



Our area's economy in 2019





Key projects 2019/20

An overview of our key projects in the last year by Paddy Bradley.

Local Industrial Strategy

This has been the biggest piece of work internally that we've engaged in. It's been about assembling economic data as evidence and then working from that to find out what that tells us about our economic structure and what we need to be doing in the future. We've looked at our current performance and what's happening elsewhere in the world and future trends to decide what we need to do in our area (read pages 18-21 to find out more). This work has two main outcomes:

- ▶ to raise the level of productivity in our area, and;

- ▶ enable all communities to contribute and benefit from the economic growth in Swindon and Wiltshire.

Preparing for Honda leaving Swindon in 2021

There has been a good coordinated effort between the SWLEP, Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council to support those affected by Honda leaving Swindon. We've worked hard on labour market intelligence to help Honda, working with associates who are going to be made redundant, knowing what job opportunities are out there in the market, who's advertising, what the salaries are like, what skills are needed and what qualifications are required. If there have been gaps, we've

been working with the colleges to fill some of these and aid employability.

Education

Our new Institute of Technology is progressing well. The merger of Swindon College and New College into a single entity offering its backing is a powerful outcome. This supports the vision for a vibrant, high-performing and sustainable academic offering in our region, which supports the needs of our economy.

The Institute of Technology is a £21m investment allowing us to train over 1,000 students and apprentices in higher level STEM based subjects. It's set to open for the academic year, 2021.

Forging a greater infrastructure and a stronger economy

We've been working hard over the last year to further strengthen our links with our neighbouring economies.

The SWLEP, and separately Swindon Borough Council, have recently joined 'England's Economic Heartland'. It's a really important regional group to our east, unbound by political boundaries. It covers Cambridge, Milton Keynes, Oxford and Swindon and is home to a booming economy driven by high technology, high value activity. This relationship is set to open up new exciting opportunities for our region in the future.

We've also looked to strengthen our



Key projects 2019/20 (continued)

links to the west and north through The Western Gateway which groups Swindon and Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, West of England Combined Authority, and Cardiff, Newport and Swansea. This is an interesting grouping as it crosses the boundary into Wales, and we need to be part of this as we have economic links this side. We've invested heavily in this, and so for us a rail link joining up Bristol through to Oxford is a fantastically powerful prospect, and also a road link from Swindon – the A420 to Oxford. Improving the A420 is a big challenge but it's of vital importance and really significant for the Honda site as well.

These links with our neighbouring regions are powerful, as Swindon and

Wiltshire is the glue that bonds the east and west of the country together, forming a corridor right across from South Wales.

Rail infrastructure

In 2019 we published our Rail Strategy which identified our priorities for investment to improve connectivity east to west, and to the Midlands and the north. We have begun to work on the potential for new stations in Devizes, Corsham and Royal Wootton Bassett. A bid to a fund to re-open Beeching stations has been submitted for Devizes station via Wiltshire Council.



Building relationships with:

- Business West
- Chambers of Commerce (Swindon, Chippenham, Salisbury & District, and Wessex)
- Country Land Association
- Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
- Institute of Directors
- National Farmers Union
- Salisbury BID Company
- Swindon BID Company

Working together

We're proud that in the last year we've forged even stronger relationships with other Business Representative Organisations' Group (BROG) in our area.

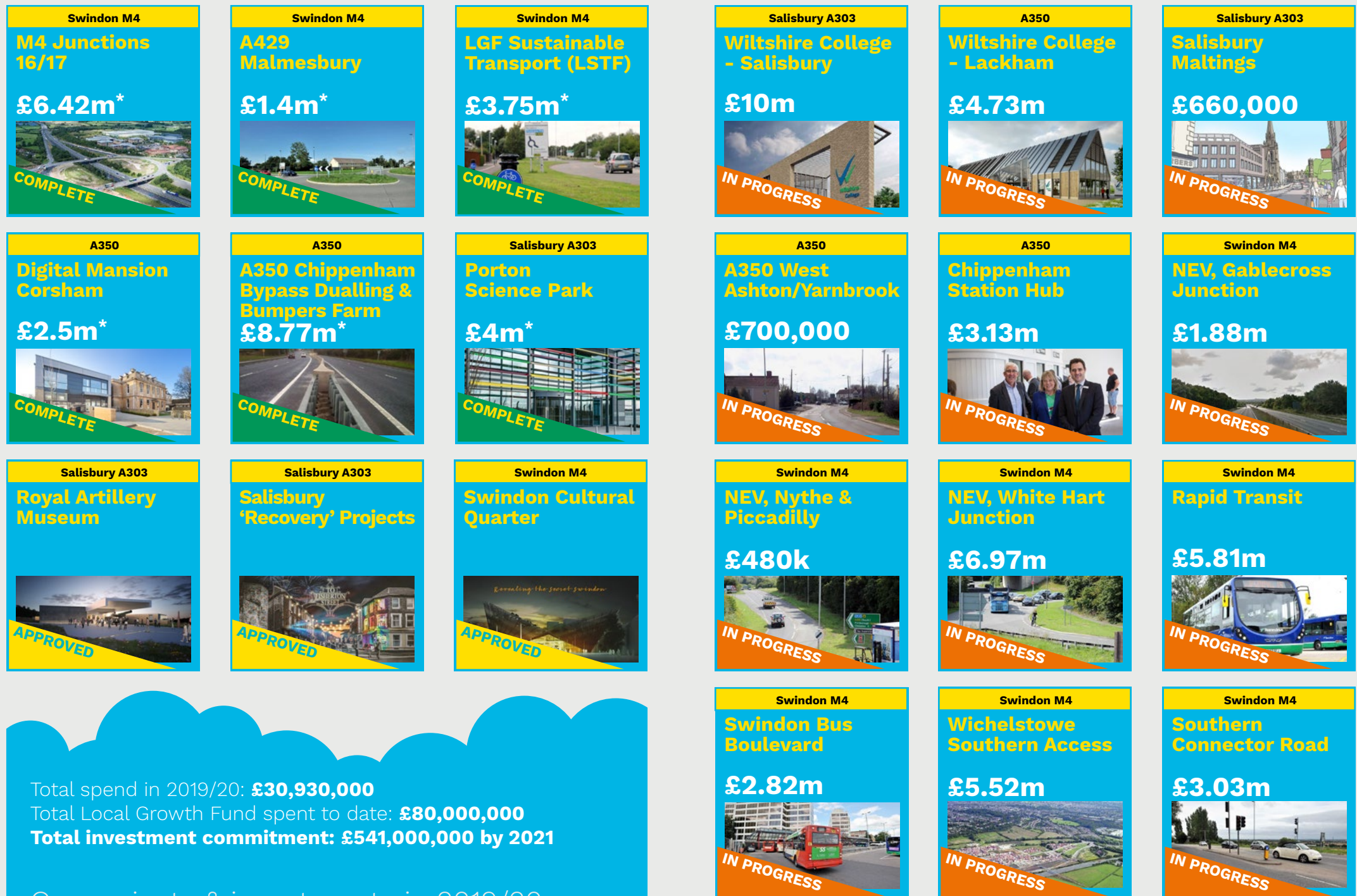
We now work closely with all of the organisations listed above.

We meet on a quarterly basis and host roundtable sessions asking what the thorny issues are. We have worked together to pool our knowledge and understanding of local business conditions drawing on the survey results which BROG members have compiled to see what they're telling us, not just our individual organisations. It's all about increasing opportunities for business.

We have a plan to create an annual business health report for Swindon and Wiltshire. We were anticipating to launch it

in summer 2020 but will have to readjust our plan due to Covid-19. Watch this space.

This way of partnership working has been crucial in our response to Covid-19. If this network hadn't already been established the effort to support our local businesses would have been more difficult. At the start of the Covid-19 crisis we stepped up our meetings to monthly, meeting online and sharing information to help get funding out to those eligible. We look forward to further strengthening this network for the benefit of our community in the years to come.



*Total investment from Local Growth Fund to date



Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)

In 2019, Swindon and Wiltshire became part of the third, and final wave of LEPs to develop its Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). In 2018-19, we focussed on building a robust evidence base to support LIS development. In 2019-20 we identified our strategic priorities, tested them extensively with over 1,000 businesses, stakeholders and partners and in March 2020 we published our Emerging Swindon and Wiltshire Local Industrial Strategy (SWLIS) on the SWLEP website.

SWLIS Vision 2020-2036

To ensure all of our communities benefit from inclusive and sustainable growth, making the Swindon and Wiltshire area world-renowned for its convergence of

innovation, entrepreneurialism and great quality of life.

The Places Foundation

'Places' looks at the development of our settlements to secure vibrancy, nurturing our natural capital and developing our city and town centres for an improved visitor, high street and cultural offering.

Inclusive, sustainable and connected growth is at the forefront of our strategy.

Key projects include:

- ▶ Good growth for Swindon: transformational programmes to improve the business, retail, infrastructure and cultural offers.
- ▶ Good growth for Salisbury: strengthening

its economic position locally, nationally and internationally.

- ▶ Rural communities: investing in broadband and digital connectivity, and levelling up opportunities for learners, employees and entrepreneurs.
- ▶ Natural capital: understanding the value it makes to our economy and identifying ways to incorporate it in our future plans.
- ▶ The Great West Way: we will look to establish a Tourism Zone to support tourism growth including clean growth.

The Ideas Foundation

'Ideas' looks at increasing innovation across our business base. We will encourage closer collaboration with businesses

and universities leading in research and development (R&D) to create more spin-offs, and by attracting further inward investment and new innovation-active firms to the area. This is expected to lead to the creation of high value jobs, helping drive productivity and greater R&D investment.

Swindon & Wiltshire's prominent sectors:

- ▶ High Value Manufacturing
- ▶ Advanced Engineering
- ▶ Life Sciences
- ▶ Defence & Security
- ▶ Energy & Sustainability

Key projects include:

- ▶ Life Sciences at Porton: working to



LIS (continued)

attract direct foreign investment of the Defence and Security sectors R&D.

- Swindon and Wiltshire as a key location for high value manufacturing and advanced engineering R&D: provision of the right space to attract new investment, supporting cross-sector collaboration with local businesses, cluster development and the commercialisation of new ideas.
- Sustainable technologies: establishing a facility to translate fundamental research into commercial reality.
- Research and Innovation activity at the National Collections Centre (NCC) facility at Wroughton: encouraging innovation and R&D led investment to locate to the site.

The People Foundation

'People' looks at ways to address our current and future imbalance between skills demand and supply, whilst driving productivity improvements. This is expected to lead to a more inclusive workforce and a greater proportion of highly skilled people, delivered through strong higher education and apprenticeship programmes.

Key projects include:

- Balancing skills demand and provision: working with a full range of providers including the Colleges and the new Institute of Technology, private providers, and our businesses, supported by on-going and robust analysis of our labour

market. Careers information advice and guidance will also play an important role, delivered through the Careers Enterprise Company and the Careers Hub.

- Federation of Higher Education Providers: ensuring that higher level provision is business-led, providing a clear link between education and job opportunities.

The Infrastructure Foundation

This looks at improving our physical and digital infrastructure to enable productivity gains to facilitate growth and nurture the low carbon economy. We will work to develop a well-connected, reliable and resilient transport system that supports new energy vehicles, permits economic growth at key locations and enables flow of investment and ideas through easier access to centres of excellence outside of our area.

Key projects include:

- New energy vehicle fuelling infrastructure: working collaboratively to see how new energy vehicles can be a viable option in both urban and rural areas.
- The Rail Strategy: working with third parties to improve east to west and north to south connectivity across four main routes.
- Tackling north-south road connectivity: focussing on the M4 and A350 connections to the Midlands and southern ports, the A420 to Oxford and improvements to the A36 and A303 to support movement to Salisbury and southern Wiltshire.
- Tackling capacity constraints: including uses for hydrogen energy.
- Digital, mobile and other connectivity technologies: delivery of full fibre networks in Salisbury and Swindon

and one gigabit connections for new development sites, and exploring options for next generation technologies such as 5G.

The Business Environment Foundation

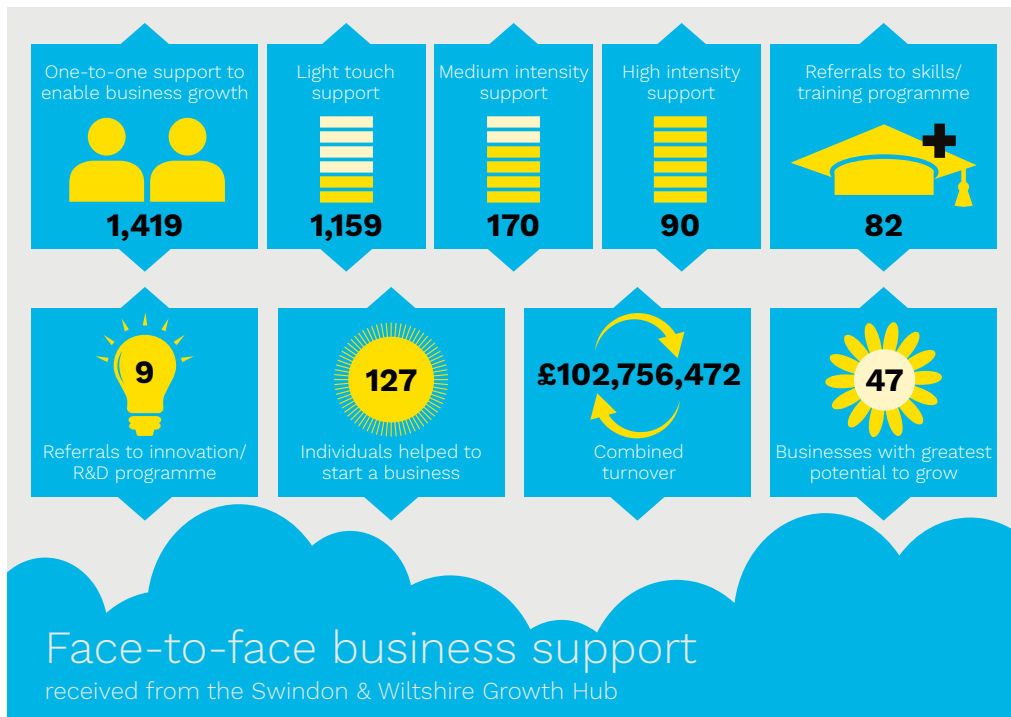
To ensure that our business environment continues to thrive long-term, we will keep providing support to micro, small and medium sized enterprises through the Swindon and Wiltshire Growth Hub and its delivery programmes. As well as start-up services, the Growth Hub will provide support to scale-ups, including facilitating access to local and national mentoring and business leadership growth programmes aimed at increasing business productivity and export levels.

In the short term, we will monitor the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the performance and prospects of our businesses, and our overall economy taking into consideration our residents, workers and communities, and will respond accordingly.

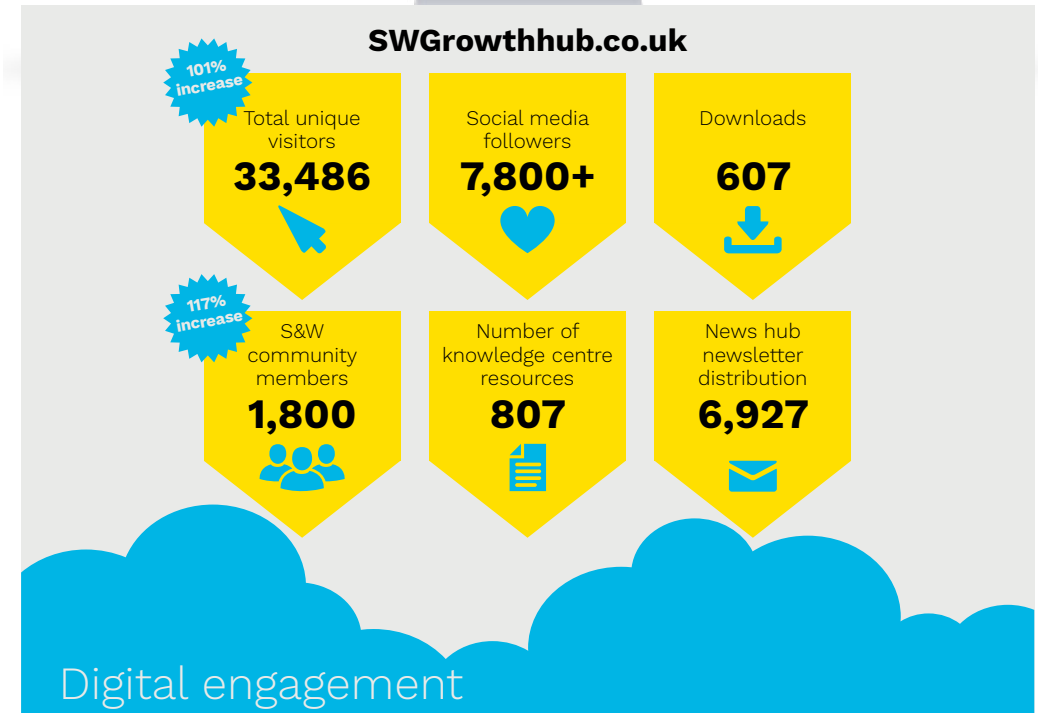
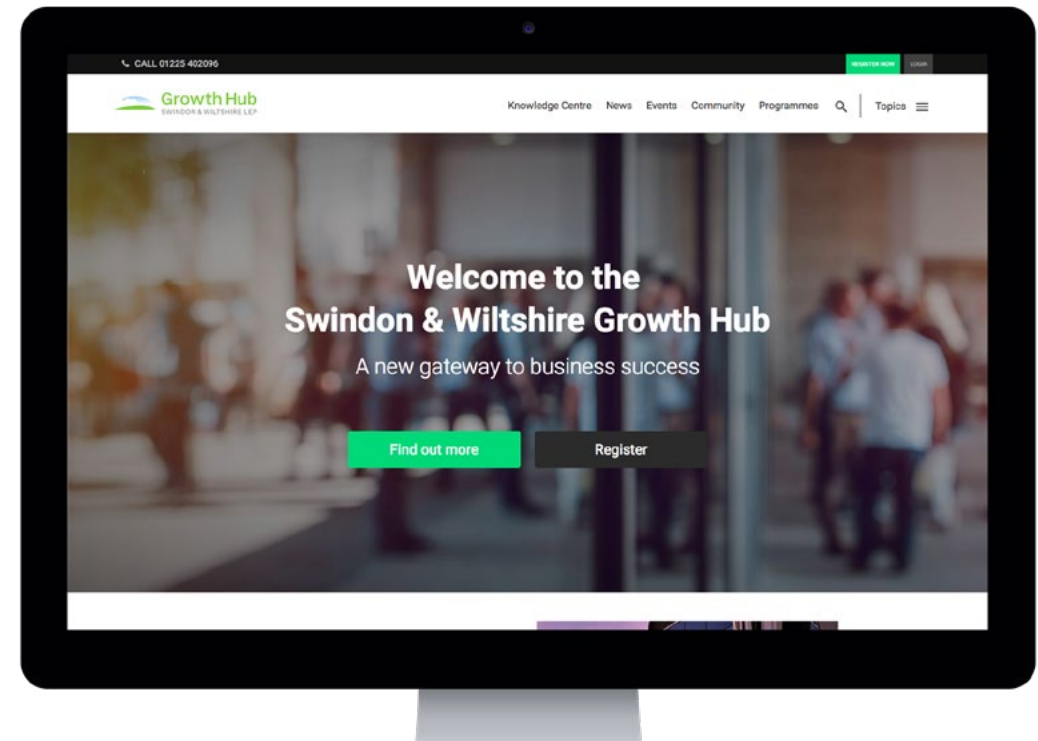
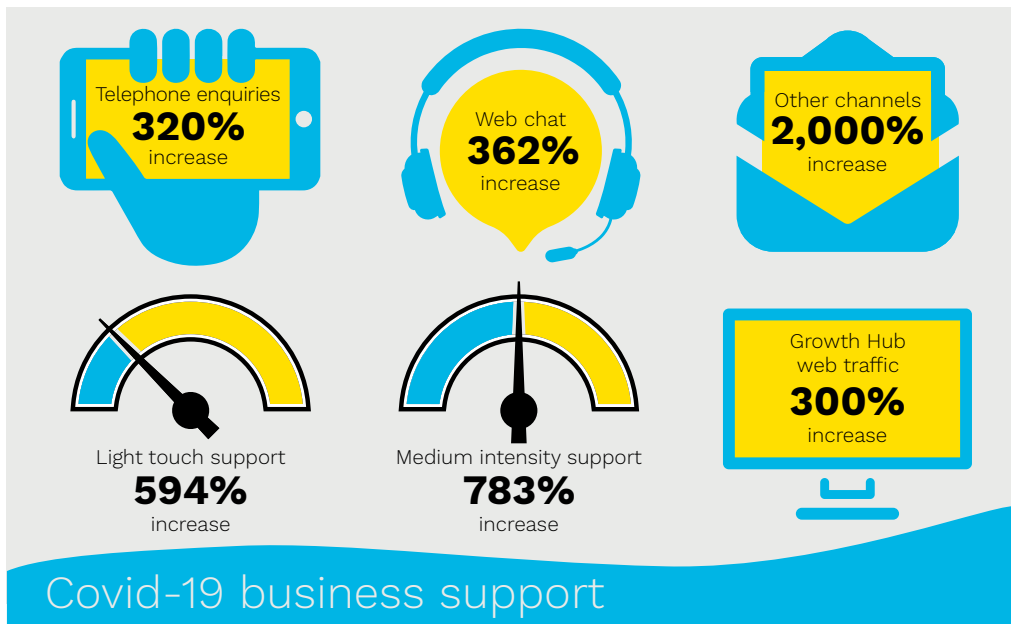
Key projects include:

- Delivery of the SME Competitiveness Programme: A three-year ERDF funded programme of business support commencing in July 2020.
- The Swindon and Wiltshire Business Cyber Centre: working in partnership we will establish a facility focussed on developing cyber solutions for businesses of all sizes, offering incubation space, cyber research facilities and training provision.

To view the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Industrial Strategy in full go to:
swlep.co.uk/about/our-strategies/lis








Business Development





Skills support

(Number of businesses supported)

	Skills support to business	702
	Learning on programme	1,855
	Degree and Higher Apprenticeships	510
	Learners at level 4+	797
	Actual learner starters below level 4	548

Higher Futures

Skills & talent

Focus on apprenticeships

The SWLEP dedicated Higher Futures skills programme has supported local employers in securing training for their employees at the higher level and 510 apprenticeships in the last year.

Apprenticeship vacancies are promoted via the Higher Futures website and the Higher Futures team is at hand to offer advice on staff training, courses and other opportunities.

Apprenticeships through to MBA/Level 7 are heavily subsidised by the government and employers paying the apprenticeship levy.

Here we meet a few successful apprentices and hear how they've got on...

Sean Ellis

Technical Development Apprentice at Nationwide, Swindon

"I started my apprenticeship back in February 2019 and it lasts for four and a half years (similar to a University Degree).

"I have enjoyed every minute so far. No two days are the same. I enjoy being able to get involved in a lot of tasks within my team, as well as having the opportunity to attend events with the Technology Development Programme, helping to build skills and knowledge along the way. This has helped to increase my confidence as well as being able to take on new responsibilities."

Chloe White

Digital Marketing Apprentice at New College, Swindon

"When I first started my apprenticeship, I was very shy and timid. I've now done so many things out of my comfort zone, even my family are surprised how much my confidence has grown. There are many benefits of being an apprentice. I've had lots of opportunities to do further training and work experience to enhance my knowledge in different sectors. I feel lucky to be able to continue learning, earn a proper wage, and feel a valued, supported, member of a team."

Joe Palmer

Digital Marketing Apprentice, SWLEP, Corsham

"I had had some time out from education and had got a full-time job due to issues I had in my personal life. Because of this I had moved out and still needed to continue earning, even though I wanted to go back into education to gain more qualifications. An apprenticeship enabled me to learn and get paid at the same time."

To connect with the Higher Futures team and find out more about apprenticeships and up-skilling opportunities for you and your business, contact: Amanda.Peach@swlep.co.uk



Recycling Technologies' RT700 machine, Swindon

GPIF

The Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF) is a capital only fund of circa £8m used to invest in projects that create jobs and deliver economic growth to the Swindon and Wiltshire area.

It is a repayable loan, with negotiable repayment terms, that helps accelerate the delivery of projects that stimulate innovation, enterprise, growth or productivity gains.

Loan payments are made in line with the development schedule drawn up in consultation with the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

There is an open call for applications. These are assessed by a Working Group that will make a recommendation to the SWLEP Board, which meets every two months.

The minimum loan is £150,000 to around £1.25m, with the term usually around four years. The interest rate reflects the nature of the project and we will loan on an unsecured basis and to pre-revenue firms.

Projects supported to date include the expansion of manufacturing lines (with funds to expand or alter buildings and purchase new plant and machinery), investment in R&D capability and the creation of co-working space.

To find out more about the GPIF programme email: hello@SWGrowthHub.co.uk



Case study: PRP Optoelectronics

PRP Optoelectronics received a £1.1m Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF) loan to help achieve its growth ambitions.

They have been producing LED displays and devices for applications such as aircraft, printing and medical for over 31 years. Originally located in Towcester, they relocated to Swindon in 2014.

With the firm's continued success supplying companies around the world with existing and new specialist LED products, including using UVC LED in sterilising applications, the company has ambitious growth plans for the future at its Swindon location.

The GPIF loan will enable the expansion of the company in both much needed specialist capital equipment and growth

into an additional building of 10,000sq/ft. This will support the production of a new water purification product, 'Aegina', for various applications, including drinking water.

The new building will be ready for occupation in July 2020 with the first shipments of Aegina ready in the fourth quarter of 2020.

The company's growth plans also include additional staff across all disciplines including technical and production teams.

Kevin Peart, Managing Director, said, "We are very excited for the future and with the support of the SWLEP we can look forward to a continued investment in product and employment growth."



Our Board Directors

The SWLEP Board is business-led and chaired by Paul Moorby OBE. It's supported by a small core team headed by Chief Executive, Paddy Bradley, to coordinate delivery across our partners of our Skills and Talent, Transport, Digital Capability, Place Shaping and Business Development projects. Our constitution allows for a board of up to 20 Directors with at least 70% being from the private sector.

Our Board has 15 Directors, 13 from the private sector and two from the public sector, which are representatives from Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council, whose administrative areas make up the geographic area of the SWLEP.

Board Directors do not receive any payment for being a member of the

Board although they can claim expenses associated with their role. For more information visit our website.



Paul Moorby OBE
Chair, SWLEP
Managing Director, Chipside Ltd



Peter Wragg
Deputy Chair, SWLEP
Chairman, Visit Wiltshire Ltd



Amanda Burnside
Principal, Wiltshire College & University Centre



Alex Reed
Finance Director,
Catalent Pharma



Doug Gale
Director (Strategic)
QinetiQ plc



David Renard
Leader, Swindon
Borough Council



Mark Smith
CEO, WRc



Mandy Clarke
Founder, Accomplish HR Ltd



Paddy Bradley
Chief Executive Officer, SWLEP



Carole Kitching
Principal, New College Swindon



Andrew Gudgeon OBE
Zurich



Keeran Vetriko
Managing Director, JERES



Alison North
Founder, AN Information



Phillip Whitehead
Leader, Wiltshire Council



Accountability & transparency

The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership is committed to being accountable, open and transparent.

Board meetings

All of our Board meetings continue to be held in public and we welcome people to participate. Board papers are posted on our website and the public can submit questions in advance for answering on the day. Our online document library provides a full archive of our reports, papers, agendas, and meeting minutes.

Investment decisions

It is essential that our investments are a good use of public money and Wiltshire Council, acting as our Accountable Body,

has an important role to play in making sure that SWLEP is transparent and accountable for the decisions we make. Its section 151 Officer ensures that SWLEP complies with national government guidelines and that our investments offer good value for money. We review our Governance Framework annually to make sure we are in line with the national guidelines. To view the latest framework document, please visit our website.

Strategic decisions

Your opinions are important to us and are at the heart of our strategic decisions. A key example of this is our Local Industrial Strategy.

Board diversity

We are keen to encourage greater female and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic representation on our board. We currently have a 33% female directorship, working towards 50% representation by 2023.

Annual Conference & Growth Summit

Our Annual Conference & Growth Summit is a great way of finding out more about our work and provides an opportunity for you to meet our team. In October 2019, 279 attendees gathered at Cineworld in Swindon for an inspiring day. 'Growth from Resilience' was the theme and the CEO of Swindon-headquartered WHSmith was just one of the day's exciting speakers.

Connect with us on Twitter

To encourage local community engagement our Chair and CEO now have their own Twitter accounts, regularly sharing what they've been up to.

🐦 Paddy Bradley: @SwlepC

🐦 Paul Moorby: @Swlepchair



Growth Hub
SWINDON & WILTSHIRE LEP



Meet our Growth Hub Manager

Chris started his new role as the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Growth Hub Manager in March 2020. After a rigorous recruitment process, Chris was selected following the departure of previous Growth Hub Manager, Jo Minnaar.

Jo had worked with the Growth Hub since 2017 helping to design and implement the website and follower base. She created a great foundation for someone to develop and take to the next stage.

When Chris began in post, his task was to take the Growth Hub to the next level by looking at how the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership tackles the big challenges faced by local businesses. Little did he know that the

growth trajectory for the Growth Hub would happen so quickly, with Covid-19 transforming operations within weeks of him joining.

From the start of March 2020, Chris became an essential part of the Swindon and Wiltshire 'frontline' team, supporting businesses through the hardest time our country has faced since war time Britain. Almost overnight, what was previously primarily a digital business support service was stepped up to offer an enhanced model. Chris and the team quickly mobilised a new Triage Plus Business Support Service with a dedicated support phoneline and a team of six Business Navigators working directly with businesses on their challenges.

Four members of Wiltshire Council's Employment and Skills team were seconded to the Growth Hub as part of the effort, covering the whole of the SWLEP region. As a result, thousands of businesses have been in receipt of intensive support, which included guidance to apply for the Small Business Grants, Job Retention Schemes and Discretionary Grants.

Chris' next challenge is to develop the role of the Growth Hub as we move into Covid-19 recovery mode and to launch the SME Competitiveness Programme. This programme is a European Regional Development Funded programme with an investment of £2.4m over the next three years. There are three specific strands. One is delivering business startup

support via delivery partner YTKO, the second is a scale-up element delivered by the University of Bath's business and innovation arm, SETSquared. The third strand is in partnership with Swindon Borough Council to support workers being made redundant as a result of the Honda factory closure to help them set up their own businesses. The programme will bring with it an expansion of the team with four new full time Growth Hub roles being created.

2020/21 will be a challenging yet exciting time for the Growth Hub as it helps businesses start-up, grow and thrive.

To get in touch with the Growth Hub email: hello@swgrowthhub.co.uk

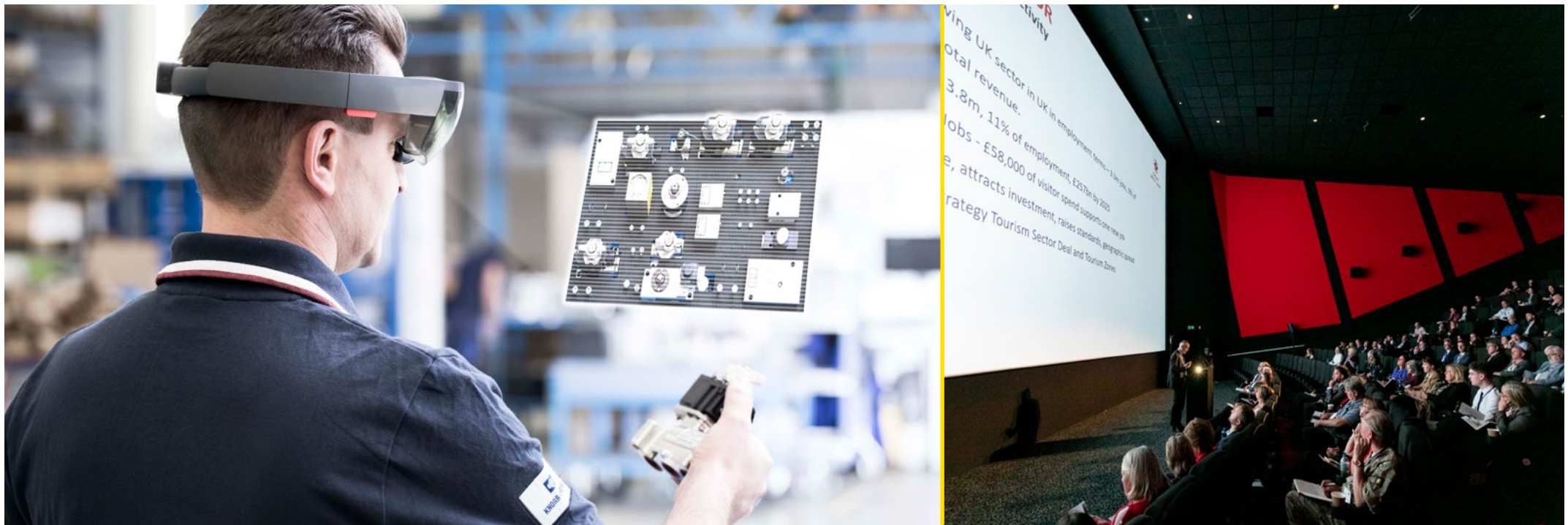


2019/20 Financial Statement

	Brought forward 2018/19	Income 2019/20	Sub total	Expenditure 2019/20	Roll forward 2020/21
Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF) Capital	£7,197,000	£979,200	£8,176,200	£3,640,000	£4,536,200
Local Growth Fund (LGF)	£471,300	£18,017,800	£18,489,100	£17,821,700	£471,300
Non Local Growth Fund (LGF) Capital Programme				£196,100	
Local Growth Fund (LGF) Retained	-£471,300	£35,979,000	£35,507,700	£11,890,000	£23,617,700
Total Capital	£7,197,000	£54,976,000	£62,173,000	£33,547,800	£28,625,200
Core Funding	£146,800	£834,600	£981,400	£697,200	£284,200
Additional Capacity Funding 18/19	£200,000	£200,000	£400,000	£177,200	£222,800
Skills Analysis Panel Grant	£75,000	£0	£75,000	£57,600	£17,400
Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Support	£5,900	£0	£5,900	£600	£5,300
Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF) Revenue	£410,800	£125,500	£536,300	£98,600	£437,700
Higher Futures	£281,700	£0	£281,700	£150,000	£131,700
Growth Hub	£0	£236,579	£236,579	£236,579	-£0
Careers and Enterprise Company	£97,200	£155,200	£252,400	£124,900	£127,500
Total Revenue	£1,217,400	£1,551,879	£2,769,279	£1,542,679	£1,226,600

In accordance with the guidance from DCLG, the total Local Growth Fund grant for non-retained schemes has been spent on capital projects in 2019/20. The SWLEP and its accountable body have the authority to manage the programme and funding across financial years providing that the grant is spent on capital projects in each financial

year. To manage the full allocation in 2019/20 £0.196 was badged against the accountable body's capital programme and will be made available to the SWLEP for LGF schemes in 2020/21.



Looking ahead

Progressing the Emerging Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)

Strategic business cases have been developed for the following LIS projects:

- ▶ Swindon and Wiltshire Business Cyber Centre – working to attract investors.
- ▶ New energy vehicle infrastructure – progressing plans for a Hydrogen Logistics Demonstrator, developing hydrogen logistics, Hydrogen Buses and Community Charging.
- ▶ Work is in progress to further the innovation campus at the National Collections Centre at Wroughton.
- ▶ Skills Plan will be completed.
- ▶ Further funding has been secured from the Department of Education

to support the work of the Skills and Talent Subgroup and to take forward the work of balancing skills demand and supply, and responding to the impact of Covid-19 on the labour market.

- ▶ The SWLEP Board has agreed to sponsor a PhD student at the University of Bath, looking at the Natural Capital work, starting in September 2020.

Launch of the SME Competitiveness Programme

The SME Competitiveness Programme is a European Regional Development Funded programme with an investment of £2.4m over the next three years.

Launching in the summer of 2020 the programme has three specific strands:

- ▶ Delivering start-up support via delivery partner YTKO.
- ▶ Helping businesses scale-up delivered by the University of Bath's business and innovation arm, SETsquared.
- ▶ Supporting workers being made redundant from Honda to help them set up their own businesses.

This investment in Swindon and Wiltshire couldn't have come at a better time with us all feeling the effects of Coronavirus. We are looking forward to getting this project moving and welcoming four new members to the team by Autumn 2020 to help

deliver this programme. We will be able to support more businesses start-up, grow and thrive than ever before which is hugely exciting.

SWLEP Annual Conference

The plan was to host our Annual Conference at Salisbury Cathedral in October 2020. This has now been postponed until the spring of 2021 due to Covid-19. The prospect of holding the conference in Salisbury Cathedral is just brilliant and we can't wait to make it happen, providing an inspiring day which all of Swindon and Wiltshire's businesses will be invited to attend.



Looking ahead (continued)

The outlook

The true impact of Covid-19 is unknown and there could be further outbreaks for us to contend with. We will continue to react to the Government's plan in the best way possible to support our local businesses. The community wants business, not only for the employment it offers, but for the services offered. Although people have changed their ways of living and working things will return to something like they were before. We're social beings and people want to meet up and go places, they don't want to be alone. We've seen fantastic examples of how businesses have adapted and supported the national effort and that's given a great credibility and

recognition for the good side of business and communities respond to that.

Our message is that digital makes you resilient and to invest and innovate where you can to maximise your success.

We are confident that our plans will put us in the strongest place possible to weather economic storms and create a bright future for Swindon and Wiltshire.

Get involved

The SWLEP is a business-led partnership and we are keen to hear the voice of local business in taking forward the work we do. There are several ways this can be done:

Joining the SWLEP: At least 70% of the SWLEP Ltd Board Directors come from the private sector. From time-to-time we advertise vacancies on the Board. All businesses in Swindon and Wiltshire are invited to become members of SWLEP.

To apply, please email:
administration@swlep.co.uk

Business Support: Start-ups, small and medium-sized businesses in need of information, advice or guidance can access this through the SWLEP's Growth Hub.

To find out more visit:
swgrowthhub.co.uk or email:
hello@swgrowthhub.co.uk

Provide feedback: We are interested in your views about the work we do as well as how your business may be affected by national policies. You can get involved by attending our events, participating in our consultations and surveys on our website, or through responding to a direct request for feedback from us.

You can also provide us with feedback via our website:
www.swlep.co.uk/contacts
Complete the Get in Touch form and insert 'Feedback' in the Your Enquiry field.

SWLEP newsletter: Subscribing to our newsletter is a great way to hear about the latest news on the SWLEP's programmes and events which could support your business and extend your network within the wider business community.

To subscribe and get started, please email:
hello@swgrowthhub.co.uk



Join us in growing our local economy

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