

LEP core functions transition update

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Recap: LEP core functions transition policy

- 15 March 2023 Budget: Government was 'minded to' withdraw core funding for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) from April 2024 with functions currently undertaken by LEPs: business representation, local economic planning, and delivery of government programmes, to be delivered by local government in future.
- Guidance published on 4 August 2023:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-enterprise-partnerships-integration-of-lep-functions-into-local-democratic-institutions>
- Latest government guidance, published 19 December 2023
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-local-authorities-delivering-business-representation-and-local-economic-planning-functions>

Update: LEP core functions transition update

- In January 2024, SWLEP was informed that Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council had come to a shared and joint position on LEP Transition.
- Wiltshire Council will take on the lead local authority role for Swindon and Wiltshire as Managing Body and Accountable Body for the integration of LEP core functions across Swindon and Wiltshire:
 - Business representation
 - Economic strategy and analysis
 - Programmes

Update: LEP core functions transition update

- An Integration Plan will be submitted to government officials in early March.
- Work is underway with both local authority partners on determining the practicalities and timeline to achieve the integration of SWLEP's core functions.
- Both Cabinets meet in March to confirm the agreed position to deliver LEP transition.
- Members of the Skills and Talent Subgroup, along with other partners and stakeholders, will be informed of the decision and delivery route and timeline after the cabinets and Board have held their meetings.

Delivery in 2024/25

- Government guidance is clear on the need for single delivery solutions to be agreed for the delivery of programmes such as the Careers Hub and Growth Hub.
- There is a continued desire to develop a strategic skills framework for the area and to work with key delivery partners on the wider skills agenda, the LSIP and Careers Hub.
- The proposed governance structure includes arrangements for working with key stakeholders on strategic planning and implementation of skills priorities
- Wiltshire Council is undertaking due diligence on the Skills Bootcamp bid ahead of signing a contract with the DfE.

Delivery in 2024/25

- Delivery includes the publication of an Economic Strategy for the area and potentially develop a wide-ranging Skill Strategy.
- The interface between skills and business will be maintained but under new governance arrangements to be established.