



Swindon & Wiltshire

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Wessex Community Energy Network

Low Carbon Opportunities and funding in Swindon and Wiltshire

25 January 2019

Swindon and Wiltshire ERDF Technical Assistance project



Today: Agenda

- About SWLEP
- ESIF programme and low carbon
- Local Energy Strategy
- Industrial Strategy & Shared Prosperity Fund

About SWLEP: A voluntary partnership

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) is a private sector led partnership between Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire Council, local businesses, the military and the education sector.

Our role is to set the overarching economic priorities for the area and promote activities that drive economic growth and job creation.

Our Board has 14 Members who collectively encompass private, public and military sector backgrounds.

SWLEP governance and operations

- *SWLEP Board*
- *Director leads small team – work in partnerships with local authorities and others*
- *Skills & Talent, Rural Economy, Digital Skills, Transport, Growth Hub, Place and Business Representative sub-Groups*
- *Committees for openness and transparency for investment of public money*
- *ESIF sub-Committee advises on investments from 2014-2020 ESIF programme*

About SWLEP: Quick glance

supporting



skills
growth



transport



digital
capability



place
shaping



business
development



518m

of investment
secured for projects
between 2014-2021
including **£169m** from the
Local Growth Fund



+18%

more start-ups in 2014 compared to
economic boom of 2007



Top 5
business locations
in England



Centrally located
with excellent
connections



**An attractive
location** for foreign
businesses

7th

Highest in England for
employment for science,
research, engineering and
technology fields

8th

Highest in England
for business R&D
expenditure

12th

Most competitive LEP
area among 38 in
England

About SWLEP: Programmes & Delivery

[Sites](#)[HIGHER FUTURES](#)[SWLEP](#)[GROWTH HUB](#)

Programmes

Our programmes are funded by Central Government and European Funding, secured through competitive bids. Programmes are primarily delivered by the local Unitary Authorities, Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council; revenue contracts are delivered by local partners.



EU Structural Funds

SWLEP's EU Structural Funds (ESIF) programme invests in projects to help businesses compete and grow, and improve people's skills and employment prospects.



Growth Hub

The Swindon and Wiltshire Growth Hub is the gateway for growth for businesses looking to start, grow or realise their full potential.



Higher Futures Skills Hub

Higher Futures works with businesses to up-skill employees with local, bespoke training solutions created in partnership with nationally based university level providers.



Local Growth Fund

'Growth Deals' are funds provided by the government to LEPs in response to their bids for investment that could help unlock growth and development within a local economy.



The Swindon & Wiltshire Enterprise Adviser Network

The national Enterprise Adviser Network and the local Swindon & Wiltshire Network helps to further develop and support



Growing Places Infrastructure Fund

The Growing Places Infrastructure Fund (GPIF) is a capital only fund used to invest in infrastructure projects that deliver

ESIF Programme: Snapshot

European Social Fund

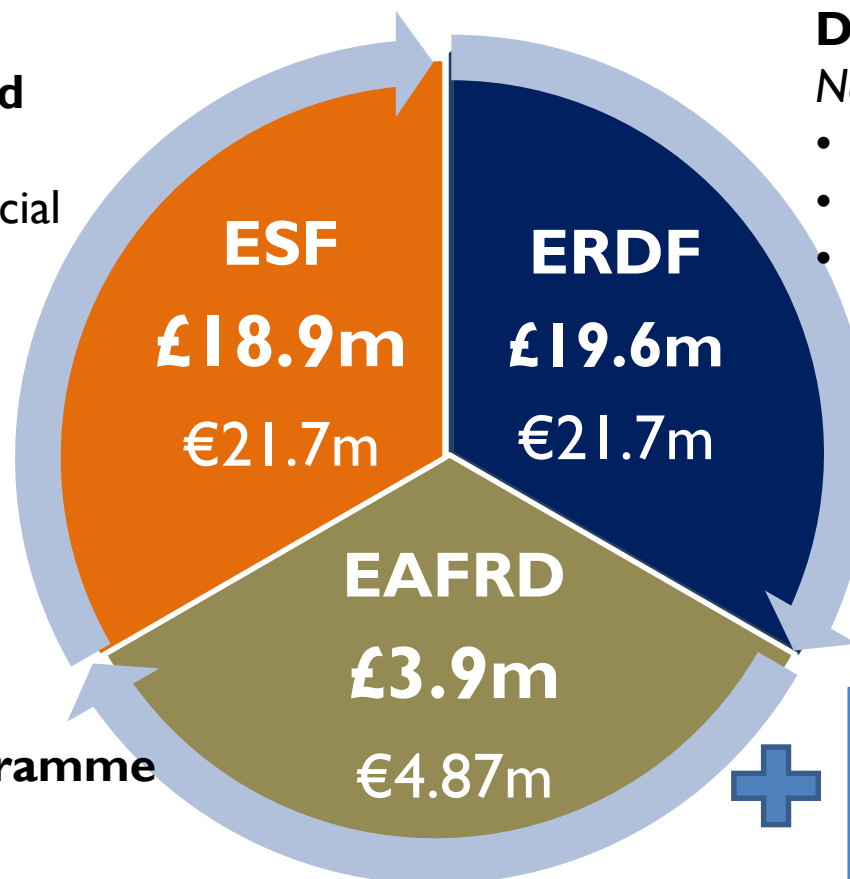
National Priorities

- Labour market & social inclusion
- Skills for Growth

Rural Growth Programme

National Priorities

- Food & Drink
- Tourism
- Business development



European Regional Development Fund

National Priorities

- R&D and Innovation
- SME Competitiveness
- Low carbon economy

ESIF Programme: in Swindon and Wiltshire

- ❑ UK programme £8.4bn (€10.5bn) – LEP area allocations
- ❑ Swindon and Wiltshire area allocation **€48m ESIF / £42.4m ESIF** + match funds = **£85m+** total expenditure
- ❑ Programme runs **2014-20** – projects will run until 2021/22 *regardless of Brexit*
- ❑ Investment by calls for projects with **local and national priorities**
- ❑ **ESIF sub-Committee advises** on local priorities and about proposals
- ❑ Managing Authorities publishes **calls for projects** and takes final decisions
- ❑ **Projects deliver the ESIF Programme** – 20+ intermediary and skills projects
- ❑ **Technical Assistance** provides some support to applicants and provides information about programme

ERDF Priority 4: Progress to date

Priority 4 – Supporting the shift to a low carbon economy

ERDF priority 4	Funds Allocation
PA4 allocation	£6.295m
<i>Committed funds</i>	£1.35m
<i>Uncommitted funds</i>	£4.945m

ERDF Priority 4: Lack of Progress

- **Programme management**
 - Too much concern to deliver outputs from innovative projects
 - Differences of opinion about market failures, early deployment and opportunity
 - Applicants uncertain and backing away – loss of confidence in programme
- **Information not clear and / or advice not conclusive**
 - Complex and incomplete national policy, low knowledge within departments
 - Interpretation, assumptions, guidance were muddled by Managing Authority
- **Organisational considerations**
 - Due diligence and cultural judgements by Managing Authority on applicants
- **Programme and project design**
 - State Aid, procurement, income generation, value for money

ERDF Priority 4: Local Priorities

Local development needs

- Energy transition – storage, distribution, capacity, smart grid
- Early deployment / demonstration makes for better fit with rules
- Energy efficiency, materials and tech for homes and business
- R&D and innovative energy technologies – eg; biomass
- Assist & remove barriers for firms to invest in energy efficiency
- Resource efficiency – not just energy – but reducing GHG is critical

Hydrogen in particular

- Green hydrogen production techniques, distribution, supply
- Infrastructure for hydrogen and renewables sector growth and jobs
- Enabling renewables – storage, distribution, gas vectoring & grid capacity
- CHP and fuel cells – for installation and early deployment / demonstration

Local Energy Strategy: Looking ahead

Smart grids and mitigating constraints

- Affordable access to electricity network to tackle constraints on development
- Accelerating the development of a clean, flexible and resilient power system
- Improve Swindon & Wiltshire attractiveness as a place to establish and grow a business

Hydrogen technology innovation and deployment

- To make Swindon & Wiltshire a nationally significant place for hydrogen technology
- Grow the existing cluster of hydrogen technology businesses
- Increase hydrogen innovation and deployment to enable new applications

The transition to new energy vehicles

- Comprehensive network of charging infrastructure and fuelling stations
- Low Energy Vehicles for public sector, public transport and private carriers

Low carbon growth

- Support clean growth in the business community
- Embedding low carbon growth in SWLEP's decision making
- Supporting low carbon construction and development

Industrial Strategy: Emerging policies

Industrial Strategy

- **5 Foundations** - Ideas, People, Business Environment, Infrastructure and Place
- **4 Grand Challenges**
 - put the UK at the forefront of the **artificial intelligence** and data revolution
 - maximise the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to **clean growth**
 - become a world leader in shaping the **future of mobility**
 - harness the power of innovation to help meet the needs of an **ageing society**

Clean growth means ... “growing our national income while cutting greenhouse gas emissions: ... ensuring an affordable energy supply for businesses and consumers”

Local Industrial Strategies

- Guide investment of funding and act as a gateway to any local growth funding being deployed through strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Skills Advisory Panels – will become new commissioning body for skills - shaping the provision and funding of post-16 education, training and careers guidance

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

- 2017 GE commitment for a simplified integrated fund “to reduce inequalities between communities”
- Consultation delayed - uncertainty - still in development

Our Local Industrial Strategy: Quick Glance

What we are doing in preparation ...

- Local Economic Assessment
- Higher Education Strategy
- Digital Capabilities Strategy
- Local Energy Strategy
- Sub-regional transport body
- Cyber Resilience - science audit
- Apprenticeship Growth Plan
- Rail Strategy
- Business forums
- Business engagement

Whilst delivering ...

- Higher Futures
- Careers Hub
- Growth Hub
- ESIF programme
- Inward investment
- Growing places loans
- Growth Programmes

And looking ahead to ...

- Skills Advisory Panel
- Institute of Technology
- Shared Prosperity fund
- Sector deals

Shared Prosperity Fund: Looking Ahead

Funding will be linked closely to Industrial Strategy foundations:

- Ideas
 - People
 - Business environment
 - Infrastructure
 - Place
- + *Inclusive Growth*

Fund Design – government consultation overdue ...

- Local / Regional / National
- Capex / Revenue
- Output driven delivery / Outcome seeking approach
- Multi-year funding programme / targeted and costed
- Mix of grants, loans, investment and other interventions
- Place-based allocation / key sectors
- Market failure .v. opportunity

Existing funding related to energy

- Clean Growth Strategy
- Rural Community Energy Fund
- Heat Networks investment project
- ESIF ...
- Local [regional] energy hubs



Swindon & Wiltshire
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP



Thank you – any questions?

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<https://growthhub.swlep.co.uk/community/swindon-wiltshire-esif-eu-funding-programme>

[https://www.swlep.co.uk/programmes/European-Structural-Investment-Fund-\(ESIF\)](https://www.swlep.co.uk/programmes/European-Structural-Investment-Fund-(ESIF))

