



**Swindon & Wiltshire**  
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

**Draft SWLEP HE Strategy  
SWLEP Board - 24 May 2018**



# Purpose

- To present the draft strategy to the SWLEP Board
- To gain feedback and a clear ‘steer’ from the Board in relation to the vision, strategic aims and high level actions

# Issues we are trying to address

- Lack of graduate talent pool
- Forecast skills shortages at L4+
- Employers reporting higher level skill shortages
- Limited HE offer linked to SWLEP sector priorities beyond foundation level
- Low progression to HE and student choice not matching employer need

# Strategy Vision

By 2028, Swindon and Wiltshire will meet employer demand for higher level skills through targeted provision and enabling opportunities for all residents to access higher education with clear pathways. The benefits of studying and working in the area will be clearly outlined and a strong university presence will attract students from outside the area and provide wider economic benefits. There will be enough skilled workers to fill job vacancies, making the area attractive to investors, retaining local talent and improving both productivity and social mobility.

# Strategy Aims

## 1. Increase productivity

- The area will have a sufficiently qualified workforce at higher levels
- Employers will report fewer skills shortages
- The area will attract and retain talent and investment
- There will be a workforce pipeline at graduate level
- SWLEP will benefit from increased HE provision including a multi campus university and growth through the FE sector.

# Strategy Aims

## 2. Raise aspirations and increase social mobility

- Residents will be inspired by strong local HE provision to continue their learning journey through to higher level
- Higher education is accessible - that is, flexible, affordable and close by
- Residents can relate the benefits of pursuing higher education to labour market opportunities, particularly in relation to STEM
- The route to higher education is navigable and seen to be achievable

# High Level Actions

- Ensure the strategy links to the emerging local industrial strategy and future research and investment opportunities
- Grow and promote HE provision within the area including commissioning a feasibility study for a multi- campus university
- Promoting SWLEP as a great place to live, work and study
- Develop our approach to an employer led skills infrastructure, reflecting the national and local industrial strategies.
- Improve educational attainment and progression to higher education

## Next Steps

- Finalise consultation draft following feedback at the SWLEP Board
- Carry out wider and sector targeted stakeholder engagement and consultation during July-August
- Develop an implementation plan
- Finalise the strategy for consideration by the SWLEP Board in September





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# Thank you

