



## **The Workshed in Swindon hosts visit from Prime Minister and Business Secretary**

The Workshed, located in the Council-owned, former Brunel Carriage Works in Swindon, played host today to a high-profile visit from the Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, and Business Secretary, Jonathan Reynolds.

The historic site was selected as the backdrop for the Government's announcement of its new Small Business Plan and a package of measures designed to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) across the country.

Operating since 2018, The Workshed is an innovation and business incubation centre providing modern office space and support for Swindon's growing digital, tech and creative business community, making it the ideal location for today's announcement.

During their two-hour visit, the Prime Minister and Business Secretary met with representatives from a diverse range of Swindon-based SMEs - including Bright Affect, Create Studios, Sinewave Energy Solutions Ltd, and SW Group Logistics Ltd - as well as the Leader of Swindon Borough Council, Councillor Jim Robbins, and officers from the Council's Inclusive Economy team.

Swindon boasts a thriving ecosystem of approximately 6,990 SMEs, accounting for 99.4% of all businesses in the Borough.

Earlier this year, the Council Leader, Councillor Jim Robbins, a number of his Cabinet colleagues and senior council officers, visited Number 10 Downing Street to share the Council's 'Heart of Swindon' town centre vision with the Government.

On the same day, a special investment summit at the House of Lords showcased Swindon's strong economy and investment prospects to businesses, investors and Government.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Jim Robbins, said: "It is a clear endorsement for Swindon and its thriving SME community that The Workshed was chosen for the Prime Minister and Business Secretary's visit, and the stage for announcing new national SME measures.

"SMEs form the backbone of our local economy and represent the vast majority of Swindon businesses. The Workshed is an example of the supportive environment we offer for digital, tech, and creative businesses to collaborate, innovate, and grow. The office

space is ideal for flexibility and convenience – whether businesses want to hot desk, a designated desk or an office, they can upscale easily, taking on more space.

“More generally, our pro-growth agenda is focussed on creating conditions in Swindon for all businesses to make it here.

“That includes progressing a clear ‘Heart of Swindon’ vision to rejuvenate the town centre and advancing new Economic and Skills Strategies that facilitate a strong, inclusive and prosperous local economy. The new Local Plan in development will also provide a clear and supportive framework for business growth, identifying suitable land for economic uses, and setting policies to unlock investment and job creation.”

ENDS

**Notes to Editors:**

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Images:

Picture 1: Prime Minister Keir Starmer with guests at The Workshed in the Carriage Works

Picture 2: The Workshed in Swindon's Carriage Works

