



INNOVATION ALLIANCE

**Elsewhere in the IAWM & WMIP (March
2021)**

Pam Waddell - Director

Virtual Innovation Team (VIT)

Business facing innovation experts hosted by a range of regional cluster/ sector bodies supporting businesses to innovate

- Team of 6 (2.8FTEs) and growing
 - Low carbon (Alan Carr, SWM);
 - Manufacturing and transport technologies (WMG, MAA, The Rail Alliance);
 - Future mobility (TfWM);
 - Creative (Create Central)
 - Health (WM Health Technology Cluster – postholder being recruited)
 - Construction (tbc – interim post)
- Meet the VIT Event 20th April – register [here](#)
- New IAWM team member, Devon Geary facilitating VIT and leading on Smart/ Digital for VIT

Developing WMIP/ VIT projects and themes

- Innovation Engine 3 pilot: Engaging creative SMEs with Low Carbon Challenges
- SCIP (Supply Chains Innovate to Pivot, formerly CITEC): cross-sector solutions into sustainable aerospace/ aviation supply chains
- Procuring Innovative Solutions: working with Birmingham CC on new processes to facilitate local companies to supply with novel solutions
- Supporting a sustainable Commonwealth Game:
 - Joining up VIT member discussions with Organising Committee
 - SWM in discussion with Jess Fidler, new Head of Sustainability
 - [Carbon Neutral Commonwealth Games pledge](#) is a key opportunity: invitation to ILCWG to discuss tangible benefits and how they might be achieved

IAWM network & innovation culture activity

- Smart City Alliance:
 - New Chair (Sarah Windrum, Emerald Group & C&W LEP) and new IAWM support (Devon Geary)
 - Supporting delivery of WMCA Digital Roadmap
- Venturefest WM (online) on 28th January – Blogs and links to videos of keynote and panel sessions
<https://innovationwm.co.uk/category/blog/>
- The Grid - being redesigned around needs of all platform users. Soon ready for feedback from multiple potential users. If interested contact devon_geary@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk
- Keep suggesting businesses for our [Innovation Tracker](#) and diverse people for our [New Voices of Innovation](#) campaign