

21st November 2014 Board Meeting Summary

The Board met on 21st November 2014 and discussed business support and engagement, a Board ambassador for SME's based in the Solent, social media, "Solent Associates", the Strategic Economic Plan, the Solent Local Growth Deal and the upcoming AGM.

- **Business Support/Engagement:** The board decided that the Solent LEP needs to strengthen its business engagement generally with businesses in the Solent. It has been decided that the top Solent businesses will be allocated a key point of contact for LEP engagement.
- **Ambassador for SMEs:** Board member Jan Ward agreed to take on a dedicated Board ambassador role for the SME sector on behalf of the Board.
- **Social Media:** The Board agreed to the creation of a Solent LEP corporate LinkedIn account and the proposed timeline of director blogs and subject matter.
- **"Solent Associates":** It was recommended that the LEP establish an informal structure to enable businesses to engage directly with the LEP without needing to commit to the requirements of formal B membership

Updates:

- **Strategic Economic Plan/Local Growth Deal:** Work continues on the Strategic Economic Plan and Local Growth Deal that was announced in the summer. The LEP continues working with partners to strengthen a number of sections in the existing strategy to focus on the social enterprise sector and the development of the life sciences cluster. Following the Autumn Statement, Government will allocate a further £1billion to support local growth. The Solent LEP is now working on an additional bid for further funding.
- **RGF:** The Solent LEP continues to use the RGF to support business growth in the area.
- **EZ:** Work continues on the EZ and the Solent LEP Board are supportive of the next stage of the proposal of land transfer to Fareham Borough Council of Daedalus West. The Board also agreed to support the request for funding from Universal Tool and Production for their project to be based on the EZ.
- The MoU has been signed to bring forward Welborne in conjunction with local partners and the developers.
- The Funding Finance Performance Management Group endorsed the revised budget for 2014/15.