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Solent Local Enterprise Partnership
Meeting of the Board to be held on Friday 15th May 2015
10.00am - 12:30pm at GKN Osborne site, Saunders Way, East Cowes

Item	Title	Time
1.	Welcome and Introduction to GKN	10:00-10:15
2.	Apologies for absence	
3.	Minutes of meeting held on Friday 20th March 2015	
4.	Matters Arising and declarations of interest	
5.	Executive Update • Verbal update on website development – RJ (10 mins) • Executive report – AMM (35 mins)	10:15-11:00
6.	Board Updates: • Business Support Investment Panel - Stuart Hill (10 mins) • Solent Strategic Land and Infrastructure Board – Verbal update Dave Lees (10 mins)	11:00-11:20
7.	Life Sciences Update – Presentation by Peter Smith (University of Southampton)	11:20-11:50
8.	Employment and Skills Board / Solent Skills Strategy: One Year On - Sarah McCarthy-Fry	11:50-12:20
9.	Any Other Business	12:20-12:30

15.5.15

Item 5

Executive Update

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Item: 5
Title: Executive update
Date: 15 May 2015

1. Introduction

The Executive report provides an opportunity to update the Board on progress in a number of areas including the Enterprise Zone, ESIF, Local Growth Deal, the Growing Places Fund and across LEP priority areas.

2. LEP staffing

Recruitment is underway to the Head of Inward Investment role. The board were also notified at the last meeting that with the launch of the new delivery panels and wider forums, the introduction of the Local Growth Deal capital programme in 2015/16 and the expected conclusion of the RGF programmes in 2015/16, there would be a requirement to review general support capacity to ensure that going forward we have the capacity to deliver on all LEP commitments and provide admin support to the delivery panels.

3. Enterprise Zone

Work continues on the Enterprise Zone, and the new Innovation Centre has opened. The LEP has secured a £7.09m grant to support improvements/general upgrades to infrastructure and utilities at the Enterprise Zone. Work is expected to start in 2015/16 and a further more detailed update will be provided to the Finance Funding and Performance Management Group when they meet at the end of May 2015.

4. European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) 2014-2020

Since the last Board meeting the Solent ESIF Committee has convened again to consider project specifications for a number of project calls linked to employment and skills. These have been endorsed by the ESIF committee and it is expected that a call for bids to support employment and skills programmes will be launched in June 2015.

Currently there are project calls out seeking bids and the details relating to calls in the Solent LEP area can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds
https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds/research-and-innovation-call-in-solent-south-east
https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds/sme-support-call-in-solent

The calls are due to close at the end of May and the Solent ESIF committee will meet again on 28 May 2015 to consider the EOIs and provide advice to the managing authority on the proposals.
The board will also recall that it approved the proposal that Solent LEP bid to the technical assistance fund. This is a local and national Technical Assistance call looking for projects which will deliver support for the development of projects, capacity building and publicity activities. There is a total value of £60 million of funding available for Technical Assistance projects through this call. The outline application deadline is 30 October 2015 but there are review points as follows:

- First review of applications received: 27 April 2015.
- Second review of applications received: 30 June 2015.
- Third review of applications received: 1 September 2015.

Work is underway to submit an outline by the second review point on 30 June 2015

5. Local Growth Deal update

Further to the update on the Solent Growth Deal at the March LEP Board meeting, the 2015/16 Local Growth Deal allocation of £40,391,667 was received in the account of Portsmouth City Council on the 10th April. 2015. This settlement is expected to secure the following:

- Two new STEM centres, and
- Transport infrastructure to bring forward the delivery of 9,500 houses and associated employment floor space; and
- Strategic green infrastructure to enable accelerated delivery of housing; and
- Significant transport infrastructure improvements to improve network performance across the Solent area, unlock development land (at Dunsbury Hill Farm); and
- A £2m business support grant programme; and
- Planning consents for J10 M27 and Welborne

Board Members will also recall that Local Growth Deal tail funding of £55.5m covering the period 2016/17 - 2020/21 was outlined in a letter from DCLG dated 6th February 2015, previously shared with the Board. Subsequently, the Executive has received a further letter from DCLG, advising the profile of this 'tail' funding across the years 2016/17 to 2020/21. The indicative profile of annual grant payments from 2016-17 onwards for the Solent LEP Growth Deal is as follows:

Table 1: LGD profile 2016-17 to 2020-21

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
£42,640,334	£18,982,028	£10,817,860	£9,252,686	£9,252,686

These figures include funding announced in the July 2014 original growth deals, the expansion of growth deals announced in January 2015 and the pre-committed allocations to Local Transport Bodies.

It is now for Solent LEP to manage any changes to individual project profiles within our overall annual budget and approve funding for individual projects through the local LEP assurance framework.

It should be noted that the figures do not include funding related to what are referred to as Department for Transport 'retained schemes' or 'tail majors', which in our case includes the £14.9 m M27 Junction 10 scheme included in the Solent Growth Deal. Funding profiles for this scheme will be for Department for Transport to sign off and agree and we are in discussion with them in relation to this. In addition, it does not include funding that any LEP is expecting to receive from Housing Revenue Account, Regional Growth Fund, New Homes Bonus, or the European Structural Investment Fund. Separate arrangements apply to that funding.

Board Members will note that this letter represents a commitment to an indicative profile only and any future year's allocation is not yet confirmed, and this does have implications for 2015/16 delivery.
The Executive have been working with delivery partners to progress project scheduled to commence in 2015/16 and also to finalise funding agreements. Table 2 provides a status updates based on the latest implementation plans submitted by scheme leads.

Table 2: Current Contracting Status of Projects within the Solent Growth Fund Programme

Solent Growth Fund (launched 23 March 2015)	£	2,000,000
Sub Total	**£**	**2,000,000**
Final Contract		
Eastleigh College Estates Renewal	£	4,810,000
Isle of Wight College CoE for Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine	£	3,800,000
Solent Recreation Mitigation Project	£	590,000
Dunsbury Hill Farm Link Road	£	4,540,000
Station Quarter Southampton	£	4,185,000
Sub Total	**£**	**17,925,000**
Under Offer (Contracts issued)		
St. Margaret's Roundabout and Peel Common Roundabout	£	5,000,000
A27 Station Roundabout / Gudge Heath Lane	£	565,000
Sub Total	**£**	**5,565,000**
Under Negotiation (Amendments to delivery have been advised)		
The Hard Interchange	£	4,832,000
North Whiteley Transport Improvements	£	1,645,000
Sub Total	**£**	**6,477,000**
Earmarked (Business cases under development)		
Fareham / Gosport Multi-Year Programme	£	1,000,000
Solent Gateways	£	1,986,200
Sub Total	**£**	**2,986,200**
Total	**£**	**34,953,200**
Solent Growth Deal Award	**£**	**40,391,667**
Balance	**£**	**5,438,467**

Table shows 2 a potential balance of £5,438,467 for the 2015/16 programme. As set out in the Growth Deal, the Council as the accountable body and the LEP will have the flexibility to manage the implementation of the Growth Deal in order to deliver the outcomes agreed. It is recognised that scheme spending profiles are not static and therefore the level of spending on any particular scheme in any particular year is for the LEP to manage. The board will be able to use this flexibility to advance some 2 year schemes to a point where they either complete early to accelerate delivery on other schemes. This will be considered at the Board meeting.

6. Growing Places Fund Round 5

Following on from the Board meeting in March Round 5 of the Solent Growing Places Fund opened. Solent LEP is seeking expressions of interest from stalled projects that will, following the injection of capital funding, be able to start or re-start quickly and unlock economic growth. All types of land and property projects could be supported, including infrastructure (highway improvements, site access, utilities, flood defence, etc), commercial/ industrial space, and new homes as part of mixed use developments. For this round, up to £2million is available and the LEP has invited applications for projects between £100,000 and £1million. At the time of writing this round is due to close with expressions of interest due to be assessed and considered by the Funding Finance and Performance Management Group at their meeting on 28 May 2015. Therefore a verbal update will be provided at the Board meeting.

7 Innovation

The board will be aware that work is underway to bring forward arrangements to establish the Innovation panel. To assist with this work we have received an offer from the University of Southampton of some additional resource to support this work. It is expected that this will bring some much needed momentum to this priority area and it is an anticipated that the panel will be in place before the next board meeting.

In addition the board should note that research entitled “Mapping Local Comparative Advantages in Innovation” research undertaken for BIS Innovation Directorate by Liverpool John Moores University & Impact Science has been completed. The report is expected to introduce a common framework and set of indicators for mapping local comparative strengths in innovation in the 39 LEP areas. The common framework and the economic intelligence presented should be helpful to us as we further develop our innovation strategies and business support offers, and roll out our ESIF and Growth Deal activities. It will help in identifying where there is a critical mass of excellence and/or expertise, help minimise duplication and signal where there is scope for collaboration between LEPs and with partner organisations.

The report is intended to help BIS work with LEPs to improve co-ordination of government investments at national and local levels, so as to make the most of available funding by aligning local, national and European budgets and connecting local activity and priorities with national expertise and capability.

The full research is expected to be published shortly.

8 Skills for Growth

Towards the end of March BIS launched a consultation document entitled – A Dual Mandate for Adult Vocational Education.

This builds on the Government's further education and skills reform programme and explores some of the key issues that will ensure our vocational education system is able to meet the major skills challenges that will face this country over the next five years and beyond. The issues raised in the document imply important changes for how we think about further education for adults.

A copy of the consultation and response document are available at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/adult-vocational-education-challenges-over-the-next-decade

The consultation closes on 16 June 2015 and it is proposed that Solent LEP responds to it.

9 Governance and Management

a. Solent LEP Assurance Framework

This was agreed by the Board at the last meeting and was also update to reflect an amendment to the schemes of delegation in order that the Heads of local growth and Capital and Infrastructure have authority from the Board to approve funding for activity up to the value of £75,000 for all investment panels and the wider work of the LEP. This should ensure that the decision making structure is strengthened and remains agile as we move forward with the existing RGF programmes and the new local growth deal programme.

Portsmouth City Council in their role as accountable body have also agreed it and have written to DCLG as required and it has now been published on the Solent LEP website at the following link:

http://solentlep.org.uk/uploads/documents/Solent_LEP_Assurance_Framework_May_2015.pdf

The Board are asked to:

- **NOTE** this update

b. Staffing structure – initial review

As previously advised the nature of executive support required to support the Solent LEP needs to evolve and there is an ongoing requirement to review the capacity of the Executive to ensure that there is support in place to take forward the work of the Board. The review has taken into consideration the following:

- The current administrative and operational capacity of Solent LEP and the on-going requirement to underpin the new delivery panel structure; and
- The current governance requirements for Solent LEP Limited and the need under the assurance framework to ensure that there are robust arrangements in place to deliver on the published requirements; and

- The requirement to strengthen and reinforce our business engagement and external relations with Solent based businesses as well as manage two new programmes[1] in 2015/16; and
- An on-going commitment to the drawing on secondments/shared posts where possible and the promotion of apprenticeships and internships as part of our commitment to supporting the development of new talent in the Solent.

On this basis the Board will consider proposals to support and strengthen the existing capacity of Solent LEP

10 Forward plan

The board will be aware that a number of the new delivery panels have started to convene and are undertaking activity that will need to ultimately come through to the Board for consideration. On this basis we are recommending that the Board agrees the attached forward plan in Annex B which seeks to provide a reporting schedule for delivery panels and other groups through to the main Board. This will be updated on a rolling basis (in agreement with the Chair of the Board) and it will be used as the basis for agreeing agendas for future meetings.

[1] Solent Growth Hub funded under the Solent Growth Deal and the SEEDA legacy fund

Table E24: Rank of average ranking for key indictors across all elements

				Money		Talent					Knowledge assets			Structures & Incentives		Broader environment						Innovation outputs			
Rank of average ranking	LEP area	Region	Classification	BERD per FTE	Total Innovate UK grants per FTE	Science, Research, Engineering, & Technology professions & assoc.	NVQ4+	Non-UK FT Postgraduates	STEM 1st degrees	STEM Doctorates	Inventor population	Publication output	HE-BCI total per FTE	% FTE 9 IS sectors	% FTE 5 sci-tech sectors	Net enterprise birth-death rate	Employment rates	Mean gross full time earnings	Quality of Life	Broadband take up, over 30 Mbit/s	Travel to work times	GVA per capita	GVA per hour worked	% firms product or process innovators	Average rank score
1	Oxfordshire	SE	3rd Tier	9	3	1	2	7	22	4	5	5	3	2	1	12	10	5	5	20	32	4	11	5	8.0
2	Gtr. Cambridge & Gtr. Peterborough	EoE (part EM)	3rd Tier	5	6	3	9	10	18	3	1	3	2	10	4	15	2	9	3	18	30	10	12	11	8.8
3	Enterprise M3	SE	Lon CR	7	9	5	5	16	21	14	3	19	26	4	5	10	8	3	1	8	36	3	4	4	10.0
4	Thames Valley Berkshire	SE	Lon CR	4	18	2	4	23	31	21	2	17	18	1	2	2	4=	2	4	5	33	2	2	20	10.3
5	West of England	SW	2nd Tier	14	4	4	10	14	10	7	7	6	23	11	3	6	24	7	16	4	26	6	8	21	11.0

London	London	33	11	13=	1	1	1	1	16	1	10	6	12	1	29	1	29	9	39	1	1	30	11.7
WM	3rd Tier	1	2	11=	12	6	15	15	19	10	4	5	9	19	28	12	13	16	8	15	17	22	12.3
SE	3rd Tier	10	12	10	18	9	7	12	6	4	11	12	6	24	18	10	11	12	28	13	10	26	12.8
EoE	Lon CR	2	19	9	6	27	23	25	24	31	1	3	28	11	1	6	10	2	37	7	7	2	13.4
EM (part SE & EoE)	3rd Tier	15	8	17	16=	11	16	17	8	16	30	15	23	3	12	11	7	14	27	9	13	1	13.8
EM	2nd Tier	11	16	20=	28	13	5	6	11	7	20	8	14	29	26	21	28	15	18	24	23	7	16.7
NW	3rd Tier	3	30	6	8	30	29	35	9	24	36	9	16	7	15=	15	15	24	19	8	5	9	16.8
SE (part London)	3rd Tier	21	24	18	7	18	17	23	13	22	33	17	17	17	11	8	8	11	38	14	9	6	16.8
EM	2nd Tier	20	13	13=	21	12	14	10	20	13	7	18	26	16	25	24	17	10	22	21	26	16	17.3
SE	Lon CR	6	20	8	3	32	34	32	26	37	34	7	13	21	4=	4	2	22	35	5	3	19	17.5

				Money		Talent					Knowledge assets			Structures & Incentives		Broader environment						Innovation outputs			
Rank of average ranking	LEP area	Region	Classification	BERD per FTE	Total Innovate UK grants per FTE	Science, Research, Engineering, & Technology professions & assoc.	NVQ4+	Non-UK FT Postgraduates	STEM 1st degrees	STEM Doctorates	Inventor population	Publication output	HE-BCI total per FTE	% FTE 9 IS sectors	% FTE 5 sci-tech sectors	Net enterprise birth-death rate	Employment rates	Mean gross full time earnings	Quality of Life	Broadband take up, over 30 Mbit/s	Travel to work times	GVA per capita	GVA per hour worked	% firms product or process innovators	Average rank score
16	Leeds City Region	YH	2nd Tier	25	25	28	22	4	2	5	10	2	9	23	27	18	32	23	31=	19	20	20	22	15	18.2
17	Greater Manchester	NW	2nd Tier	35	27	24=	20	5	3	2	15	9	22	16	24	13	33	17	31=	6	23	18	18	35	18.9
18 =	Greater Birmingham and Solihull	WM	2nd Tier	28	21	24=	33	3	12	11	17	12	21	13	19	23	37	16	20=	7	29	17	20	27	19.5
18 =	South East	SE (part EoE)	Lon CR	17	28	27	26	15	6	20	4	20	15	19	33	14	19 =	18	12	23	34	26	16	18	19.5
20	North Eastern	NE	2nd Tier	32	5	29=	31	2	4	8	24	8	8	35	7	22	34	28	31=	27	9	32	24	13	19.7
21	Swindon and Wiltshire	SW	3rd Tier	8	17	7	15	39	39	37 =	12	33	39	14	18	9	6	14	19	28	31	12	6	24	20.3
22	Gloucestershire	SW	Rural	13	10	16	13 =	34	33	31	23	36	38	21	8	25	3	13	14	30	11	11	14	31	20.4

23	Liverpool City Region	NW	2nd Tier	19	15	32=	34 =	19	9	13	29	18	6	25	11	8	39	22	31=	13	24	30	15	29	21.0
24	Tees Valley	NE	3rd Tier	23	1	23	34 =	33	20	28	37	30	24	22	10	5	36	26	31=	1	2	35	21	17	21.9
25	York, North Yorkshire and East Riding	YH	Rural	22	23	19	11	21	28	19	21	14	5	33	32	28	17	30	6	38	10	25	34	39	22.6
26	Dorset	SW	3rd Tier	26	26	20=	16 =	26	25	29 =	28	27	35	30	21	33	14	20	25	26	16	19	19	10	23.4
27 =	Heart of the South West	SW	3rd Tier	30	14	34=	23 =	17	13	16	22	11	19	32	15	37	15 =	37	26	37	5	29	29	32	23.5
27 =	Sheffield City Region	YH (part EM)	2nd Tier	36	7	32=	32	8	8	9	18	15	16	24	22	30	30	31	31=	31	17	38	33	25	23.5
29	Northamptonshire	EM	3rd Tier	18	36	34=	23 =	31	35	33 =	31	38	29	29	34	4	9	25	18	17	21	16	30	14	25.0
30	Lancashire	NW	3rd Tier	27	35	26	30	20	11	22	27	21	17	20	20	39	35	34	31=	32	12	34	31	12	25.5
31	New Anglia	EoE	3rd Tier	12	33	29=	29	22	24	18	14	23	24	34	35	35	23	26	27	34	14	22	27	34	25.7
32	Worcestershire	WM	Rural	16	22	11=	13 =	35	32	37 =	30	39	37	27	25	38	7	33	9	29	25	27	35	23	26.2
33	The Marches	WM	Rural	34	32	20=	27	38	37	36	35	34	13	26	31	32	13	38	24	36	4	28	38	8	27.8
34	Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire	WM	3rd Tier	24	31	29=	36	25	19	26	32	26	27	36	30	26	27	32	20=	21	13	37	36	36	28.0
35	Humber	YH	3rd Tier	29	37	36	37	24	30	24	33	25	14	28	29	36	31	29	22	35	6	31	25	37	28.5
36	Black Country	WM	2nd Tier	37	38	39	39	29	27	29 =	38	29	12	37	37	20	38	36	31=	3	15	36	28	3	28.6

				Money		Talent					Knowledge assets			Structures & Incentives		Broader environment						Innovation outputs			
Rank of average ranking	LEP area	Region	Classification	BERD per FTE	Total Innovate UK grants per FTE	Science, Research, Engineering, & Technology professions & assoc.	NVQ4+	Non-UK FT Postgraduates	STEM 1st degrees	STEM Doctorates	Inventor population	Publication output	HE-BCI total per FTE	% FTE 9 IS sectors	% FTE 5 sci-tech sectors	Net enterprise birth-death rate	Employment rates	Mean gross full time earnings	Quality of Life	Broadband take up, over 30 Mbit/s	Travel to work times	GVA per capita	GVA per hour worked	% firms product or process innovators	Average rank score
37	Cumbria	NW	Rural	31	39	13=	25	36	36	33=	36	35	31	39	36	31	19=	19	31=	39	1	23	37	38	29.9
38	Greater Lincolnshire	EM (part YH)	Rural	38	34	38	38	28	26	27	34	32	32	31	38	27	19=	35	23	25	7	33	32	33	30.0
39	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	SW	Rural	39	29	37	19	37	38	37=	39	28	28	38	39	34	19=	39	30	33	3	39	39	28	32.0

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Item 5 Annex B

Title: **Solent LEP Board Meeting Forward Plan**
Date: **15th May 2015**

Friday 15th May 10:00am - 12:00pm - GKN Aerospace, Cowes

- Life Sciences Report Feedback
- Sarah McCarthy Fry, Employment and Skills Delivery Panel - Year-End Report
- Final review of new Solent LEP website before launch
- Board updates for business support and SLIB

Board Strategic Away Day – Date and venue to be agreed (June –July)

- Oxford Economic - Economic Model Update Report
- Local growth, devolution and the role of Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Review of Strategic Economic Plan and discussion session on strategic direction for the next 2-3 years

Friday 10th July 08:00 - 10:00 (with tour 10:00 - 11:00) - QinetiQ, Portsdown Technology Park

- Final Year End position for 2014/15 and general update
- Year end performance report
- Brian Johnson, Marine and Maritime Steering Group - Year-End Report
- Transport Investment plan – interim report

Friday 25th September 10:00am - 12:00pm – ABP Southampton

- Inward investment year end report and strategy update
- Solent SEP and annual growth report
- Innovation strategy and operational plan

15.5.15

Item 6

Enterprise and Business Support

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Item:	6a
Board update:	Enterprise and Business Support - Bridging the Gap and Business Support Investment Panels
Board lead:	Stuart Hill
Purpose:	To provide LEP Board Members with an update on all of the LEP Business Support Investment programmes.

Introduction

This update will provide Board Members with a progress update on the Business Support Investment Panel which makes funding decisions and recommendations for all of the LEP Business Support Investment programmes up to £75,000.

Projects approved

The Bridging the Gap (BTG) Investment Panel met on 19th February 2015 and approved the following Bridging the Gap projects for support:

- Online Youth Manager
- Niche Coffee
- Air, Sea and Land Group
- Amdale
- Audio Lock
- CLC Creative
- DLM UK
- HealthQuest Solutions
- Sell My Livestock
- Straightpoint (UK) Ltd

In line with changes to the LEP delivery panel structure and with the development of the new assurance framework The BTG panel agreed a revision to their membership and remit and subsequently have been re-named the Business Support Investment Panel. This met on 21st April 2015 and approved the following projects for support:

- Senseye
- Chips Away
- Consumable Solutions Limited
- Gully Howard Technical

- iFlip Limited
- Island Foods
- Parkview Retail Limited
- Waterside Pool
- Tekevers Limited

It is also worth noting that the panel was attended in an ex-officio capacity by David Bradley from BAE Systems, who works as the Head of the CMIS Centre on Portsdown Hill. David was in attendance to provide the technical expertise and guidance required by the Panel in considering the first application to the Defence Growth Partnership SME Fund. The application from Tekevers Limited was subsequently approved for support by the Panel.

1. Business Support Investment Panel - projects recommended for support

The Business Support Investment Panel met on 21st April 2015 and considered the following two projects, which they agreed to recommend to the LEP Board for grant support.

Applicant	Fund	Project Cost	Grant Value	Leverage	Jobs
Cherrytech Ltd.	Advanced Manufacturing SME	£620,000	£124,000	£496,000	28
Hi Tech Precision Engineering (UK) Ltd	Advanced Manufacturing SME	£1,893,000	£378,600	£1,514,400	27
	TOTALS	£2,513,000.00	£502,600.00	£2,010,400.00	55

Given the respective levels of funding requested, and in line with the scheme of delegation, Board Members will be asked to:

- consider and agree the recommendations for support from the Business Support Investment Panel for the two projects from Cherrytech Engineering and Hi Tech Precision Engineering.

15.5.15

Item 7

Solent Life Sciences Report

Executive Summary for the Central South Life Sciences – a Solent perspective.

The Institute for Life Sciences (IfLS) at the University of Southampton is delighted to submit the outcomes from a scoping exercise into the enterprise activities in the life sciences for South Central England with a primary focus on the Solent LEP region. We are grateful to the Solent LEP and the Wessex Academic Health Science Network (WAHSN) for funding this project and to OBN for its execution. OBN is a membership organisation supporting and bringing together the UK's emerging life sciences companies, corporate partners and investors. The IfLS contracted OBN as a neutral partner, removing any regional or professional bias in assessing the enterprise activity, its uniqueness, and overlap with regional strengths. Data have been provided to the project by Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council, Hampshire County Council, the University of Southampton and the WAHSN. As such we are confident with the outcomes and are enthused by the opportunities that lie before us.

Acknowledged in the Government Strategy for UK Life Sciences [1, 2], the UK has led the world in life sciences research and enterprise for over 40 years. We are now entering an 'Age of Life Sciences' where three primary societal concerns – Food, Fuel and Health – lie within its domain. Britain has much to contribute. Despite this, and despite apparent regional strengths, Life Sciences has not featured in the regional growth strategy for the Solent and South Central regions. Why? We would propose two obvious answers; the success and dominance of the marine and maritime sector but, also, a lack of information on the life sciences activities in the region itself. This is despite the clear impact of this sector in the Oxford and London catchments. Recognising that the marine sector is now a mature and world class enterprise for the Solent, that regional growth initiatives will become a better funded part of local government activities in the future, and the belief that life sciences within the Solent region and surrounds can provide new quality jobs and revenue, this project set about quantifying the current activity and potential for growth. We have concluded that unique strengths do exist and can be grown, particularly around healthcare, health technologies and data management.

Life Sciences Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are an important component of the Solent economy and include 97 companies concentrated within the domain of the Solent LEP. This region is bordered by a catchment that contains, minimally, another 50 companies including those at Porton and through to Chichester harbour. The wider Wessex region, extending in a broad band from Swindon in the north, through Salisbury, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth to the Brighton area in the east and includes inland areas such as Basingstoke and the South Downs, contains approximately 250 companies and organisations. The Solent region is the dominant player.

Within the Solent region over 90% of the companies surveyed have an active research and development program. 36% are connected to the University of Southampton and 10 companies are derived from the University itself. All companies responding found overlap with the Life Sciences challenges currently managed by the IfLS (**Appendix 1**) and in line with the UK Government's perceptions of national challenges and strengths – these areas are; New Pathways to Health, Life Technologies, Global Change and the Human Nexus (a.k.a. Data). We have identified clear strengths in the area of medical technology (36 Solent LEP companies), including information and communication technologies (ICT)/eHealth and telehealth (7), ophthalmic devices and production (5), as well as diagnostic and analytical equipment (4). Importantly, the strengths in life sciences mirror the regional strengths in material, engineering and physical sciences, distinguishing our activities from the nearby cluster in Oxford. We also have comparable strengths with this region in Medtech and Therapeutic Discovery and Development (50 companies: **Table 1**). Further regional power exists in the integration of academic and enterprise activities around orthopaedics, prosthetics, rehabilitation technologies and care, as well as in complex and mixed data set integration.

Since 2010 the Solent LEP region has seen the creation of 20 new small and medium sized life science companies (SMEs) and within the 64% of the total SME life sciences activity for the Solent where data is available have provided 4,236 jobs. [This does not include organisational employers in the Life Sciences – such as Higher Education Institutions and Hospital Trusts – major employers in the region]. As this activity has developed rather 'in the shadows' we are confident that incorporation within the Solent strategic plans and with attention to building a life sciences network, along with selective support mechanisms and moderate investment, this growth can be continued and accelerated.

In the following Sector Development Plan we outline proposals for three initiatives to promote employment and skills growth in the Solent Life Sciences sector:

1. Build up the existing network by giving support equivalent to that already provided by the Swindon and Wiltshire LEP
2. Targeted support for business creation in key development areas identified by this survey
3. Strategic investment in a life sciences innovation hub

These proposals have been influenced by the views gathered during this survey and our discussions with regional stakeholders.

Table 1 Comparison of Solent and other areas in the UK

The data presented below are derived from work carried out by OBN as follows: southern Wales (Feb 2012), Kent (Feb 2013), Oxford postcode region (Autumn 2014). Core areas for which the data are more uniform across the different regions are highlighted in blue. Where cells are empty data are not available e.g. in the work carried out for Kent and Wales, academic institutions did not form part of the analysis and no data about these were gathered.

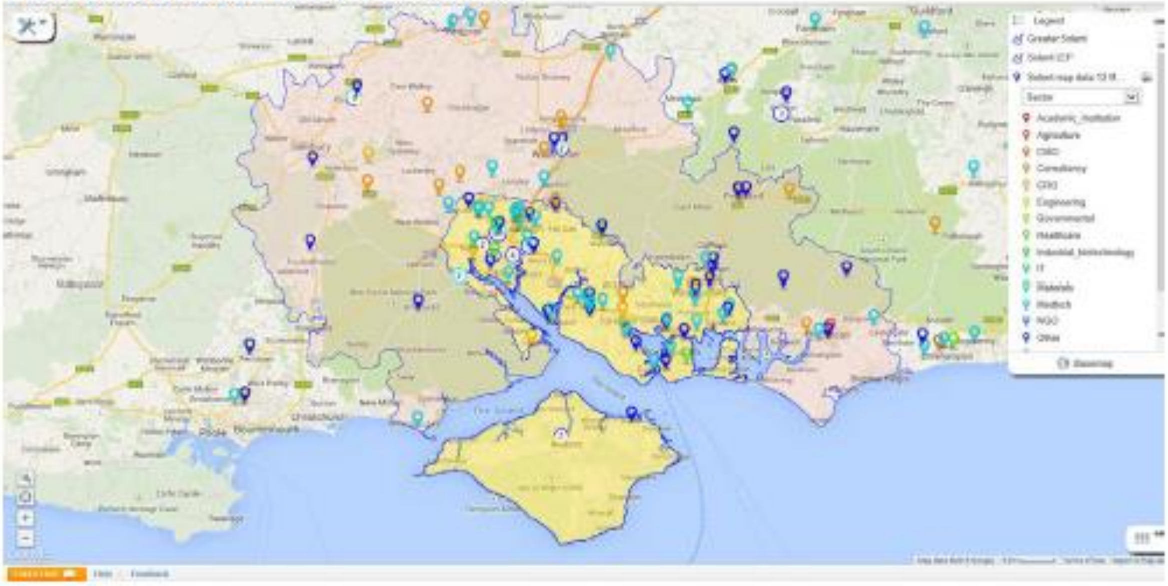
Sector	Solent	Extended Solent	Wessex	Kent	Wales	Oxford
Academic Institution	4	4	4			3
Agriculture	0	2	2	1		
Contract Manufacturing Organisation	**0**	**0**	**6**	**9**	**7**	**4**
Consultancy	**5**	**16**	**23**	**16**	**4**	**33**
Contract Research Organisation	**11**	**14**	**17**	**22**	**15**	**22**
Engineering & Materials	17	18	19			
Governmental & Non-governmental	6	9	9	3		10
Healthcare	3	3	6			7
Industrial & other biotechnology	**2**	**2**	**3**	**8**	**17**	**4**
Information Technology	5	5	5			
Medtech	**36**	**51**	**92**	**68**	**115**	**84**
Research & Development support	**8**	**13**	**24**	**16**	**7**	**31**
Therapeutic Discovery & Development	**9**	**15**	**31**	**14**	**9**	**42**
Other	1	1	1			
TOTAL	107	153	242	157	174	240

References

1. Strategy for UK Life Sciences. Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, 5 December 2011

2. Strategy for UK Life Sciences: One Year On. Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, 10 December 2012

Figure 1 Solent LEP and 'Extended Solent' areas

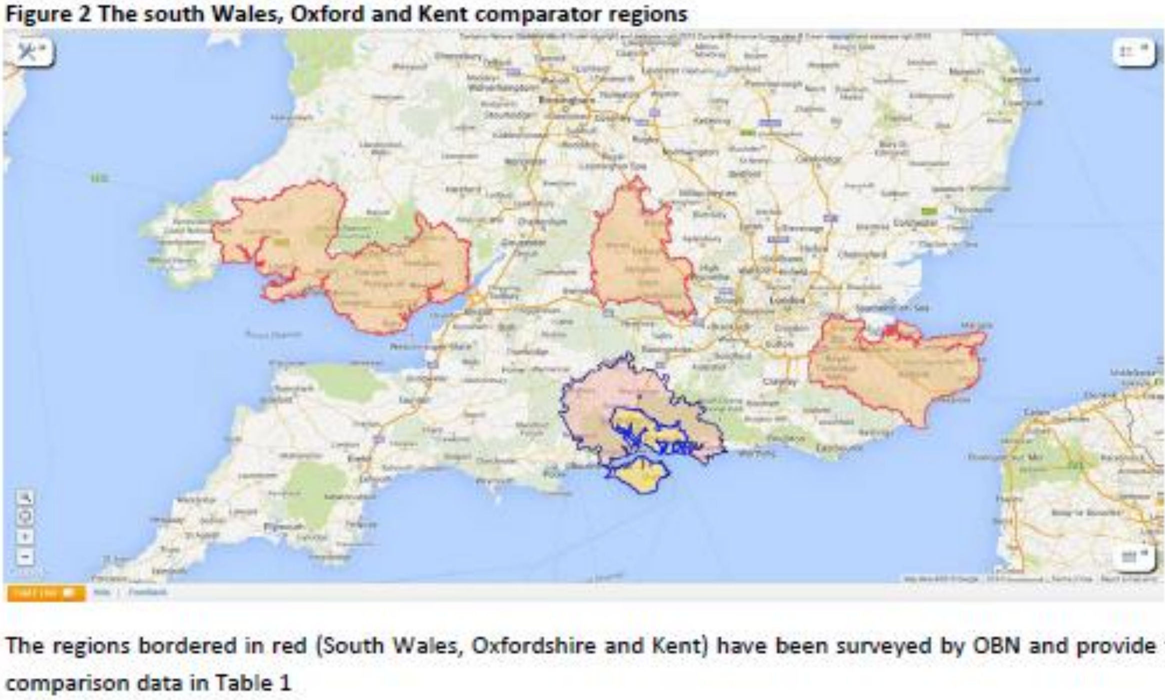


The interactive map can be found by following the web link below. Guidance for using the map is in the **Appendix.**

https://maps.espatial.com/maps/_Created-by-OBN-for-the-Institute-for-Life-Sciences-at-the-University-of-Southampton/pages/map.jsp?geoMapId=86247&TENANT_ID=126251

Companies within the Solent LEP area were mapped using a database of 31,230 postcodes, supplied by Hampshire County Council. The shape map used to illustrate the Solent LEP area was processed by eSpatial to enable its use within their mapping programme. In the map legend, the Greater Solent area refers to the Solent LEP area plus the Extended Solent area identified in the Solent LEP database. Companies and organisations within the database are designated as belonging to Solent LEP, Extended Solent or Wessex Life Science Cluster.

Figure 2 The south Wales, Oxford and Kent comparator regions



The regions bordered in red (South Wales, Oxfordshire and Kent) have been surveyed by OBN and provide the comparison data in Table 1

15.5.15

Item 8

Employment and Skills Board update

SOLENT
LOCAL
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

Item 8

Title: **Employment and Skills Board update**
Date: **8th May 2015**

SOLENT SKILLS PLAN INTERIM EVALUATION

Introduction

This paper is a progress report on the Solent Skills Strategy Interim Evaluation. It will be accompanied by a presentation from Sarah McCarthy-Fry, Chair of the Employment and Skills Board who will highlight the key findings and set out some recommendations for the review of the Skills Strategy. The Board will be asked to discuss the recommendations raised in the presentation to provide guidance for the final evaluation report.

Background

The Solent LEP Skills Strategy 2014 – 16 was published in March 2014, to underpin *Transforming Solent,* the Solent's Strategic Economic Plan 2014 – 2020. Aspiration and achievement are critical to the Solent's economic success both now and in the future. Transforming the Solent economy will require a knowledge-rich and creative economy, one which will require the highest levels of education in the entire workforce.

As part of the Solent's commitment to reviewing progress, in December 2014 the Solent LEP, on behalf of the Employment and Skills Board, commissioned an Interim Evaluation of the Skills Strategy, appointing the University of Exeter to undertake the work in January 2015.

Since then, partners have participated in an online survey, and a series of interviews has taken place with key stakeholders. A review of the evidence base in terms of key labour market indicators has also been conducted to enable us to determine whether there is a case for adjusting the priorities identified within the Strategy.

Annex A and B set out the key findings from the stakeholders and the data review. The current strategy provides a broad framework setting out a number of priorities. Whilst there is broad support for the importance of these priorities, clearly a major question is whether at this stage, and given resources available, the LEP should focus down onto on a smaller number of priorities that drive the Transforming Solent agenda.

It is clear from the evaluation findings that much progress has been made in delivering the strategy with major successes in Growth Deal supporting capital projects, as well as developments in funding mechanisms. The launch of the ESIF programme, now underway will also ensure progress against a number of priorities in the coming period.

Next Steps

Consider the recommendations set out in Sarah McCarthy-Fry's presentation.

The consultants will then produce a short report of the key findings and recommendations for publication at the Skills Summit.