

Meeting of the Solent LEP Business Support Investment Panel to be held on:

Thursday 14th December 2017: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Item	Title	Time
1.	Introductions	10:00 - 10:15
2.	Apologies for absence	
3.	Minutes of previous meeting - 19 th October 2017	
4.	Matters Arising	
5.	Vote of Thanks	
6.	Declarations of Interest	
7.	Business Support Programmes Status Update Report	10:15 - 10:30
8.	Contract Updates - Confidential	10:30 - 10:45
9.	Consideration of Solent Growth Fund Applications Commercial in confidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Armed Forces Fund ○ Capital Investment Fund ○ Small Business Programme 	10:45 - 11:45
10.	Any other business Future Meetings 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 22nd February 2018, location to be confirmed - Meetings for the rest of 2018 	11:45 - 12:00

Meeting to close at 12:00 noon



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Item: 7
Title: Business Support Programmes Status Update
Date: 14th December 2017
Purpose: To provide the Business Support Investment Panel with an update on the SME Grant programmes and Regional Growth Fund Legacy Programmes.

Introduction

This report provides Panel members with an update in relation to progress and changes to LEP Business Support grant programmes since the 19th October 2017 meeting. It includes high level information on job outcomes and awards made.

Regional Growth Fund Project Monitoring

The Executive Team and Accountable Body, have written to those businesses that have not provided Accountant's Reports to evidence the final job numbers for their project. The team will be repeating the monitoring exercise with all past beneficiaries from early 2018.

The reported numbers will be conveyed to the Department for Communities and Local Government as part of the regular monitoring update the LEP is required to provide on legacy programmes.

Current Fund Status

The status of the funds and job outputs, as at November 2017, can be seen in Table 1 overleaf.

The programmes that are open to applications are currently rated Green in terms of defrayal and job creation dates.

Table 1

Solent Growth Fund (consisting of BTG Growth, Armed Forces Fund, Marine & Maritime Fund, IoW Rural SME Fund, Solent Growth Fund, Havant SME Fund, Capital Investment Fund, Small Business Programme, Capital Investment Fund, Z21 Innovation Fund)									
Current Fund End Date: 31.03.2019 Jobs created by: 31.03.2019									
FUNDS					JOBS				
Target	Live Projects: Approved	Pipeline Projects: At Panel	Remaining (Target less live & pipeline projects)	Target	Live Projects: Approved Jobs	Live Projects: Actual to date	At Panel	Remaining (Target less approved jobs)	
Totals	£12,800,000 ¹	£2,978,861	£1,840,18	£7,980,991	2,000 ²	436.5	91	364	1,563.5
BTG Growth (Fund Closed - replaced by successor funds)	£588,333	£588,333	£0	£0 (Fund closed: replaced by successor funds)	83	83	45	0	0 (Fund closed: replaced by successor funds)
Armed Forces	£250,000	£34,350	£42,000	£173,650	45	6.5	4	4	38.5
Marine and Maritime Growth Fund	£250,000	£184,015	£0	£65,985	45	29	12	0	16
IoW Rural SME Fund (managed by Natural Enterprise)	£750,000	£530,469	£0	£219,531	96	135	30	0	10
Solent Growth Fund (Fund Closed - replaced by successor funds)	£78,000	£78,000	£0	£0 (Fund closed: replaced by successor funds)	30	19	0	0	0 (Fund closed: replaced by successor funds)

¹ £12.8m consisting of £2m per annum from Local Growth Deal 2015/16 to 2020/21 and £0.8m ERDF from November 2016 to December 2019

² 2000 jobs consisting of 1,800 jobs in total from Local Growth Deal 2015/16 to 2020/21 and 200 jobs in total from ERDF from November 2016 to December 2019

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Havant SME Fund	£250,000	£117,248	£0	£132,752	45	25	0	0	20
SGF - Capital Investment Fund	£3,200,000	£1,107,414	£1,603,700	£488,886	480	105	0	285.5	375
SGF - Small Business Programme	£1,800,000	£325,032	£194,448	£1,280,520	200	34	0	74.5	166
Z21 (managed by University of Southampton)	£500,000	£14,000	£0	£486,000	40	0	0	0	40
Residual Funds ³	£5,133,667	-	-	-	936	-	-	-	-

³ Given that LGD settlements are received annually, the LEP currently has LGD funds of £6m available until the end of 2017/18. The residual balance here consists of the total £12.8m for SME support to 2020/21, less the live funds as detailed in the rows above.

Progress update

Z21

The Z21 Innovation Fund programme, in conjunction with the Web Science Institute at the University of Southampton, was officially launched on 15th November 2017 at the University. A beta round of applications was undertaken in the autumn and two initial awards have been made to support the projects during a Development stage to achieve Minimum Viable Product. The first full round of submissions was considered by the Z21 Panel on 12th December 2017.

Contracting

At the previous panel meeting on 19th October 2017 five awards were agreed (and / or recommended for support and subsequently agreed by the LEPs Funding, Finance and Performance Management Group in line with the LEPs Scheme of Delegation), as listed below.

Fund	Company	Award Value
Small Business Programme	Snowflake Software Limited	£75,000
Small Business Programme	The Mobile Vet	£50,000
Small Business Programme	Wickham Laboratories Limited	£60,000
Capital Investment Fund	Coolers & Condensers Ltd	£296,800
Capital Investment Fund	Red Ensign Ltd	£140,000

The LEP Executive Team have informed all applicants of the outcomes from the October panel meeting, and have begun contracting arrangements with two of the beneficiaries. The recommendations for award made in relation to the Capital Investment Fund were supported in principle by the LEP's Funding Finance and Performance Management Group at its meeting on 8th November 2017. Additional due diligence is currently being undertaken before contracting will proceed.

The next application deadline for submission to the SME support funds is **5th January 2018**. Applications received by this date will be considered by the panel at its meeting on **22nd February 2018**.

Small Business Programme Funding

The LEP Executive and Accountable Body held a Project Initiation Visit with Managing Authority (MA) on 18th October 2017. A first claim has been made for funds from the ERDF programme. This is being reviewed by the MA and we are awaiting payment. The variation to the grant project contract was issued at the end of November 2017. This would enable the programme documentation to be updated in relation to the fund and the programme re-promoted.

Projects to be considered at the Panel Meeting

The LEP Executive Team received 13 new applications for funds by the 3rd November 2017 deadline to be considered by the panel.
