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Solent Local Growth Deal Consultation: Southampton Solent University Digital and Creative Innovation Centre

Summary of Responses

4th June 2018



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Introduction

The Solent LEP administered a consultation on the Southampton Solent University (SSU) for a Digital and Creative Innovation Centre Business Case for eight weeks from 18th December 2017 until 12th March 2018.

One response was received during this consultation period from a local non-profit organisation.

The consultation asked the following three questions:

1. Do the projects respond to the following key priority areas outlined in the Solent Strategic Economic Plan:
 - Enabling flagship sites for housing and employment;
 - Enhancing transport connectivity across the area; and

 - Growing the skills base and supporting business growth
2. Do you think the projects provide sufficient geographic / sector coverage?
3. Are there any additional comments you would like to make?

Response Summary

The response commented the proposal for a Digital and Creative Innovation Centre in the Southampton Cultural Quarter. The response was positive and supportive of the proposal.

A range of responses were received in relation to the questions from the one respondent. For the purposes of this summary, these responses have been categorised as follows:

Positive comments in relation to the Business Case

- **Enabling Flagship Sites for employment** - The development will provide critical mass in support of the growing digital and creative economy in Southampton, providing complementary work space to the existing infrastructure.
- **Supporting Business Growth** - The development will have a positive impact in supporting entrepreneurial activity and business start-ups in a fast growing sector.
- **Anchoring the Solent** - Building on the existing universities' strengths in digital innovation and design to place Southampton as a lead city in the creative sector economy.

Issues in relation to the Business Case

- There were no issues raised in relation to the published business case.
- **Geography** - The response was positive, highlighting that the project is needed to support the continued growth of the creative economy in Southampton and to facilitate graduate retention.

Other General Comments

- The respondent strongly supports this project, which it sees as being complimentary to the development of other creative industry workspace in the city.