



**SOLENT  
LOCAL  
ENTERPRISE  
PARTNERSHIP**

**Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Meeting of the Board of Directors**

Held on Friday 27 March 2020 at 13:30 convened electronically over video conference

<b>Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Brian Johnson (Interim Chair)	David Youngs
Anne-Marie Mountifield	Jo Sawford
Judith Grajewski	Christopher Hammond
Kevin George	Paula Swain
Rachael Randall	Gerald Vernon-Jackson
SJ Hunt	Chris Ward - Portsmouth City Council
Seán Woodward	Toni Wootton - BEIS Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU)
Nick Loader	
Graham Galbraith	<b>In Attendance</b>
Dave Stewart	Sophie Mallon - Portsmouth City Council
	Lloyd Clark - Portsmouth City Council
	James Fitzgerald - Portsmouth City Council (as the Accountable Body)
	Stuart Baker (LEP Executive)
	Steve Futter (LEP Executive)
	Caitlin Earey (LEP Executive)
	Nicola Twiddy (LEP Executive)

<b>Item</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>1. Introduction, Declarations of Interest and Video Conference protocols</b></p> <p>Brian welcomed all to the meeting and explained the protocols which should be used for the duration of the Zoom call for votes and comments.</p> <p>For Declarations of Interest, Directors were asked to state them during items as and when required during the meeting.</p> <p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from David Youngs, Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Jo Sawford, Paula Swain and Christopher Hammond and, from the Accountable Body, Chris Ward. It was noted that James Fitzgerald was attending as the nominated representative from the Accountable Body. Toni Wootton from BEIS Cities and Local Growth Unit had also sent through apologies.</p>	
<p><b>2. Update on COVID-19 Economic Impact</b></p> <p>The paper was taken as read and the Board <b>Noted</b> the latest intelligence return and impact of COVID-19 across the Solent economy.</p> <p>The board noted the update on the advanced manufacturing sector and it was <b>Agreed</b> that</p>	<p>LEP Executive</p>

	<p>the LEP would write to the Secretary of State at BEIS</p> <p>An update was provided to the Board on the Maritime UK emergency Council meeting and the economic impact of COVID-19 on the wider sector. It was noted that the Maritime UK Solent Board would be having an Extraordinary meeting on Monday to gain a view of the impact of COVID-19 from across the region within the maritime sector. The impact to the ports in Southampton and Portsmouth was also highlighted.</p> <p>Directors were invited to ask questions regarding the report. It was <b>Agreed</b> to include a section on the Education sector within the next Solent Business Intelligence report for HM Government to show the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Judith Grajewski asked for the board to note her interest in this as she is a Governor at Eastleigh College</p> <p>The requirement for an Economic Recovery Plan was discussed and it was <b>Agreed</b> that a Regional Recovery Plan would be included in the Solent 2050 strategy.</p>	
	<p><b>3. Update on Solent LEP Business Support Activity</b></p> <p>The paper was taken as read and the Board <b>Noted</b> the work to date in relation to Business Support activity.</p> <p>The Board <b>Agreed</b> and provided advice in relation to enhancing or supplementing the current programme of business support activity including extending the existing Isle of Wight Natural Enterprise Rural Fund, launching a digital capability programme and a Crowdfunder platform.</p> <p>The Equality Impact Assessment for these programmes will be completed prior to the funds being made available.</p> <p>The board also noted that a Solent Business Support Task Force had been convened, bringing together Local Authority Representatives, Central Government, Key Stakeholders and Local Businesses Representative Organisations to review the business support on offer and identify gaps in provision to assist with intelligence reporting back to Government. The group will meet for the first time on Tuesday 31 March 2020.</p> <p>Board Members were <b>Requested</b> to forward business case studies to the LEP Executive so they could be considered at the Task Force meeting and included in the report.</p>	<p>LEP Executive &amp; AB</p>
	<p><b>4. Finance - Local Growth Deal and Retained Schemes</b></p> <p>The paper was taken as read with the main points highlighted and the Board:</p> <p><b>Considered</b> and <b>Agreed</b> the revised Corporate and Strategic Risk Register attached at appendix A.</p> <p><b>Considered</b> the high level Risk Matrix for the Local Growth Programme attached at appendix B and delegate its <b>Approval</b> to the LEP Chief Executive and the Accountable Body's section 151 officer.</p> <p><b>Considered</b> and <b>Agreed</b> the revised schemes of delegation attached at appendices C1 and C2.</p>	

	<p><b>Considered and Agreed</b> the LGD funding scenarios presented at the meeting and Agreed to allocate a further £2.5 million for Business support in response to the COVID-19 economic emergency.</p> <p><b>Considered and Agreed</b> that the LEP Executive and the Accountable Body in consultation with the Chair of FFPMG may vary existing contracts to react to the implications of COVID-19 as appropriate and delegate the authority to do so to the LEP Chief Executive and the Accountable Body's section 151 officer.</p> <p><b>Considered and Agreed</b> that the Quarterly Monitoring Reports for the two retained schemes can be signed off after consultation with the Chair of FFPMG by the LEP Chief Executive and the s151 Officer of the Accountable Body.</p>	
<p><b>5. LEP Board Forward Plan</b></p>	<p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Considered and Agreed</b> the forward plan as set out in the paper.</li> <li>• <b>Considered and Agreed</b> a fortnightly updated COVID-19 review meeting with effect from April 2020.</li> <li>• <b>Agreed</b> for SJ Hunt to become the Interim Deputy Chair.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Any other Business</b></p>	<p>The following matters were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A call to be arranged for the SERCOM Chair and Solent LEP Chief Executive to update on home working and executive capacity.</li> <li>• An update of the operation of the Isle of Wight ferries was provided.</li> <li>• An update was provided on the engagement with MPs and Local Authority representatives by the Solent LEP.</li> <li>• The LEP Executive will circulate a link to the Board for the National Farmers Union to their jobs board for seasonal workers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>LEP Executive</b></p> <p><b>LEP Executive</b></p>

**Board Meeting closed at 15:03**