



SOLENT
LOCAL
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Business Support Investment Panel Meeting Notes

Held on 30 April 2020 at 10am
Convened electronically as per Terms of Reference

Present	Apologies
Tim Fielder - Chair	Mark Waldron
Adrian Went	Caroline Carter
Clr Derek Pretty	Lloyd Clark - PCC
Lyn Davies	LEP
David Bream	Steve Futter
Rob Dewing	Chris Heath
James Fitzgerald - PCC	Caitlin Earey (minute taker)
	Kate Cloud

Item		ACTION
1.	<u>Introductions</u> Tim Fielder welcomed members to the meeting.	
2.	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Mark Waldron, Caroline Carter and Lloyd Clark.	
3.	<u>Notes of previous meeting</u> The notes from the meeting on 27 February 2020 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting. The notes would be signed at the next meeting convened in person.	LEP Exec to action accordingly
4.	<u>Matters Arising</u> There were no Matters Arising that would not be covered by the agenda items.	
5.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> There were no Declarations of Interest made.	

6.	<p><u>Solent LEP Response to COVID-19</u></p> <p>Members took the papers circulated as read, noting that significant progress had been made within the two weeks since the papers were circulated.</p> <p>Panel Members were informed how the Solent LEP was working remotely and the re-structure of the team to allow additional support to businesses whilst ensuring the ongoing monitoring of projects and timely release of funding to supported schemes.</p> <p>Members noted the funding options provided by the Solent LEP including the Crowdfunder <i>Pay it Forward</i> scheme and Isle of Wight Rural Business Resilience Fund in partnership with Natural Enterprise. It was noted that a Rural Business Resilience Fund in partnership with Natural Enterprise and New Forest District Council was in the process of being extended to the New Forest area.</p> <p>An updated report was provided to Panel members on the support provided through the Crowdfunder platform. The criteria was discussed and the reason for the requirement to have 10 backers was to indicate that the business had the community's support for the project, which would give the LEP confidence to make their pledge.</p> <p>It was queried how the information was being used. All LEPs were submitting a weekly business intelligence report to Government and all of the Crowdfunder information was being captured within this report. It was reported there was also a Solent Coronavirus Business Task Force Group made up of Government Representatives; Local Authorities and Business Representatives to share the impact of COVID-19 across the Solent area. This information was included in the report to Government and used to address funding gaps in the Government's offering.</p> <p>It was reported that three Extraordinary Board Meetings had been held to review the ongoing COVID-19 situation and to make funding decisions, which included allocating a total of £8.5m in response to COVID-19. It was noted there had been no indication from Government if the Local Growth Deal funding would be extended beyond the current deadline of 31 March 2021.</p> <p>It was discussed how information was being shared and kept up to date. The Solent LEP was sending out newsletters every Tuesday and Thursday with updated business support advice and news from around the Solent.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Business Support Programmes Status Update Report</u></p> <p>Panel members were provided with an update in relation to progress and changes to LEP Business Support programmes since the 27 February 2020 meeting. It included high-level information on job outcomes.</p> <p>Members took the report as read.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Contract Updates</u></p> <p>Confidential report has not been published as it includes information defined as exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, including information relating to an individual and/or relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Members were advised a minor amendment had been made to the Terms of Reference. Members Agreed the updated version of the Terms of Reference.</p>	LEP Exec to action accordingly.

Meeting closed at 11:02