

**Meeting of the Solent Growth Forum held on Friday 26 November 2021 at 12:00 via MS Teams video conference**

<b>Present Councillors/Members</b>	<b>Ex-Officio</b>
Councillor Pamela Bryant - Hampshire County Council	Nicola Twiddy - Solent LEP
Councillor Tony Denton - Havant Borough Council	Lauren Hartley - Solent LEP
Councillor Alexis McEvoy - New Forest District Council	Sophie Mallon - Legal Representative, Solent LEP Accountable Body, PCC
Councillor Derek Pretty - Eastleigh Borough Council	Steve Futter - Solent LEP
Jason Grygiel - Gosport Borough Council	Richard Jones - Solent LEP
Councillor Ken Moon - East Hampshire District Council	James Fitzgerald - Finance Representative, Solent LEP Accountable Body, PCC
	Josie Worsfold, Solent LEP
<b>Invited Attendees</b>	James Ford, Solent LEP
Paul Somerset, Accountable Body, PCC	Karen Martin - Democratic Services, Portsmouth City Council
<b>Apologies</b>	
Councillor Susan Bayford - Fareham Borough Council	
Councillor Karen Lucioni - Isle of Wight Council	
Councillor Satvir Kaur - Southampton City Council	
Tristan Samuels - Portsmouth City Council	

<b>Item</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>All were welcomed all to the meeting and advised that the meeting was being live streamed and recorded.</p> <p>Induction workshops have taken place following changes in Membership of SGF after the local elections earlier this year.</p> <p>Round table introduction took place.</p> <p>Apologies</p>	

	<p>Apologies were noted from Karen Lucioni, Cllr Satvir Kaur, Cllr Susan Bayford and Tristan Samuels.</p> <p><u>Agreement of Solent Growth Forum Chair</u></p> <p>Sophie Mallon, Legal Representative of the LEPs Accountable Body presided over the meeting until the Chair was appointed.</p> <p>A nomination from Tony Denton to be the Chair of SGF was received at the Solent LEP, no further nominations were received. Ken Moon seconded the nomination.</p> <p>Tony Denton was <b>agreed</b> as the Chair of the Solent Growth Forum (SGF).</p>	
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Mid-year review of the Solent LEP 2021/22 Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>Richard Jones provided an overview of the Solent LEP 2021/22 Delivery Plan which is available on the Solent LEP website.</p> <p>A mid-year review of the 30 activities in the delivery plan has taken place and a RAG rating on these activities was made available to Members.</p> <p>If there are any areas that Members would like a deep dive on, these areas can be built in for a review at future SGF meetings.</p> <p>Solent Growth Fund Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noted</b> the mid-year delivery plan performance review.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Mid-year review of Solent Growth Hub</b></p> <p>James Ford provided a presentation on the Growth Hub Biannual Review covering 1 April - 1 September 2021. The presentation covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the Solent Growth Hub is measured by Government - light, medium and high touch interventions</li> <li>• RAG rating for actual verses forecast interventions</li> <li>• Programmes that have been in place or are still running</li> <li>• Data to show up take on the programmes</li> <li>• Enquiry trend</li> <li>• Activity post September 2021</li> </ul> <p>Solent Growth Forum Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noted</b> the mid-year review of Solent Growth Hub.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Local Growth Programme</b></p> <p>James Fitzgerald and Steve Futter provided an update on the Local Growth Deal (LGD) and the Getting Building Fund (GBF).</p> <p>The paper was taken as read and the LGD funding by scheme was highlighted</p> <p>Questions were received from members on the North Whiteley scheme, M27 Junction 10 scheme and Covid-19 loan fund.</p> <p>The GBF funding by scheme was highlighted.</p>	

	<p>Questions were taken on the HIWWT Nutrient Mitigation programme progress.</p> <p>Areas in the paper were highlighted including Local Growth Deal tail projects, an overview of the annual process reviews which have been extended to all projects with some seeking variation requests due to construction delays brought on by Covid-19.</p> <p>Programme updates on the Isle of Wight and New Forest Rural SME Funds overseen by Natural Enterprise were provided.</p> <p>Crowdfunder SME Support Programme was introduced in the early stages of lockdown and saw a very positive response by local businesses.</p> <p>Questions were taken on successor funds to the Local Growth Deal.</p> <p>Solent Growth Forum Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noted</b> latest position of the Local Growth Deal and Getting Building Funds as set out in appendices A and B respectively.</li> <li>• <b>Noted</b> the update in relation to the LGD tail and the ongoing GBF projects as set out in paragraphs 4.1 and 5.</li> <li>• <b>Noted</b> the updates provided in relation to progress on the Local Growth Deal and Getting Building Fund programmes, including the Annual Progress Reviews.</li> <li>• <b>Noted</b> the updates provided in relation to the Rural SME and Crowdfunder programmes.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Overview of Solent LEP Assurance process</b></p>	<p>The paper was taken as read and Richard Jones gave an overview of the Solent LEP Assurance process.</p> <p>Paul Somerset provided an update on the Solent LEP Audit process, the Annual Opinion for 2020/21 and the Annual Audit Plan for 2021/22.</p> <p>Questions were taken on the actions arising out of audits completed. Once feedback on audits is received, learning points are taken on board to improve internal controls going forward. Next steps and actions are undertaken and an activity plan that is overseen by the Funding, Finance and Performance Manager Group (FFPMG) has been established. Additionally, independent verification is also undertaken via re-auditing.</p> <p>Cllr P Bryant left the meeting (13:30)</p> <p>A future update on audit activity will be considered as part of the SGF forward plan to be agreed with the Chair.</p> <p>Solent Growth Forum Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noted</b> the update on the Solent LEP Assurance process</li> </ul>	<p><b>Executive</b></p>
<p><b>6. AOB</b></p>	<p>There was no further business, so the meeting was closed.</p>	

**Meeting closed at 13:35**