



## Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Business Support Investment Panel Meeting Notes

Held on Monday 4 April 2022 10:30-12:30 (in lieu of Thursday 24 March 2022: 10:00 - 12:00)  
Convened electronically via Zoom video conference

<b>Present</b>	<b>Ex-Officio members present</b>
Adrian Went (Nominated Chair)	<b>LEP</b>
David Bream	Chris Heath
Caroline Carter	Kate Cloud
James Fitzgerald - PCC	Lauren Hartley (note taker)
Paula Swain	Jayne Sime - for item 8 only
Rob Dewing	
	<b>PCC</b>
<b>Apologies</b>	Shabana Islam - PCC
Mark Waldron	Amy Stamp - PCC
Tim Fielder	
Cllr Derek Pretty	<b>Guests</b>
Lyn Davis	KCC Ltd - Neil Houghton (Presenter)

<b>Item</b>		<b>ACTION</b>
1.	<b><u>Introductions</u></b> Adrian Went welcomed members to the meeting.	
2.	<b><u>Apologies</u></b> Apologies were received from Tim Fielder, Mark Waldron and Cllr Derek Pretty.	
3.	<b><u>Notes of previous meeting</u></b> The notes from the meeting on 3 February 2022 were <b>Agreed</b> as a correct record of the meeting. The notes will be signed electronically following the meeting.	<b>LEP Executive to action accordingly</b>
4.	<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b> The Panel asked if the information contained in the tables in item 6 from the previous meeting be included for comparison. The papers for this meeting have been prepared with this request in mind.  All other matters will be covered during the course of the meeting.	

5.	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>An interest was noted for David Bream in a named beneficiary. This was noted by the Chair.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Business Support Programmes Status Update Report</u></b></p> <p>The LEP Executive confirmed IOW Natural Enterprise figures have changed slightly to take into account recent funding stream amendments from IOW Rural Fund. The LEP Executive are satisfied with these changes.</p> <p>A panel member reiterated that we need to be comfortable that the 'number of jobs safeguarded' output from beneficiaries is robust. Particular attention was drawn to the disparity between the number of jobs reported across the various funds. The LEP Executive confirmed the process itself is robust, but the LEP Executive does rely on applicants confirming these numbers.</p> <p>The LEP Executive confirmed the LEP will investigate these numbers more closely and will report back to the BSIP accordingly. The LEP Executive also confirmed the Solent LEP will consider the evidence provided to support safeguarded jobs numbers in any future funding.</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>	
7.	<p><b><u>Contract Updates</u></b></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>	
8.	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>Panel members were updated on areas of focus for business support including specialist support e.g., sustainability, 121 support, peer network support, recover and rebuild programmes and digital support. It was confirmed the LEP Executive is currently looking into facilitating SME support from private sector investors. Support was offered from panel members in respect of these initiatives.</p> <p>Discussion around support for SMEs continued. Based on the above comments on facilitating support from private sector investors it was suggested that the LEP Executive might have a role using its institutional credibility to represent regional SMEs in their search for both private or large corporate investment / other business support. However, it was recognised that this needs much more attention and it was requested that the BSIP members present ideas to the LEP Board in the near future.</p> <p>The LEP Executive would circulate details relating to the Ringwood business support to panel members. Where panel members can support, please respond accordingly.</p> <p>No further business.</p>	

**Meeting closed at 12:30**