



**SOLENT
LOCAL
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP**

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Meeting of the Board of Directors

Held on Friday 31 March 2023 at 09:00 - 12:30 at DP World, 204 - 207 Western Docks, Southampton, S0151DA

Present	In Attendance
Anne-Marie Mountifield	Jack Elias (DLUHC)
Rachael Randall (Chair)	James Fitzgerald (Portsmouth City Council, as the Accountable Body)
Alex Rennie	Mike Harris (Chief Executive Southampton City Council for Satvir Kaur)
Graham Barnetson - via Teams	Nicola Twiddy (LEP Executive)
Jo Sawford - via Teams	Peter Baulf (Portsmouth City Council, as the Accountable Body)
Julie Jones Evans	Richard Jones (LEP Executive)
Nick Loader	Sam Warren (DLUHC)
Paula Swain	Stuart Baker (LEP Executive)
Steve Pitt	
Apologies	Guests
Brooke Hoskins	Phil Gibby, SW Area Director, Arts Council England
David Youngs	Adam Dent - Arts Council England
Edward Heron	
Graham Galbraith	
Salli Shapcott	
Satvir Kaur	

Item	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome and Introduction The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and roundtable introductions took place.</p> <p>Apologies for Absence Apologies were noted from Brooke Hoskins, David Youngs, Edward Heron, Graham Galbraith, Salli Shapcott and Satvir Kaur. Mike Harris, Chief Executive of Southampton City Council was attending on behalf of Satvir Kaur as a co-optee on the board for this meeting.</p>	

<p>2.</p>	<p>Presentation from Arts Council England (ACE) and the development of cultural compacts - Phil Gibby SW Area Director for ACE</p> <p>Stuart Baker gave an overview of the cultural sector and the case for a strategic approach to working with the sector.</p> <p>Phil Gibby and Adam Gent joined the meeting and gave a presentation about the work of Arts Council England (ACE), their investments & partnership working, the future opportunities and next steps. They outlined some of their key focus areas in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximising talent development across the sector, - The importance of arts and culture in place making, - Celebrating the value of creative and culture nationally and internationally. <p>The Board noted that ACE also have a focus on areas with cultural deficit as well as cultural assets and 53 places have been identified across England including Portsmouth, Southampton, IOW and Gosport.</p> <p>ACE outlined the culture recovery fund and the opportunity to unlock growth. It was noted that there is a requirement to have a sub-regional economic development body in place to secure investment to support creative and cultural businesses and ACE indicated that they would like to work with the Solent sub-region.</p> <p>Alex Rennie joined the meeting (09:30)</p> <p>Following the presentations there was a discussion to explore the potential for Solent LEP to work with ACE to co-commission a Solent Investment Plan.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the update. • Agreed that ACE and the Solent LEP executive would draft a specification for the commission to come back to the Board at the May 2023 meeting. <p>The Chair passed on the Board's thanks to Phil Gibby and Adam Gent for attending the meeting.</p> <p>Phil Gibby and Adam Dent left the meeting (09:55)</p>	<p>Executive</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Local Visitor Economy Partnerships (LVEPs)</p> <p>Julie Jones-Evans and Rachael Randall noted an interested in this item as Board Members for Visit IoW. Steve Pitt also declared an interest in this item.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Mountifield and Stuart Baker provided an update on the LVEPs and outlined the Visit England prospectus for LVEPs.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the alignment between the work on visitor economy and the opportunity to maximise the potential of the cultural and creative sector with a view to increasing visitor footfall.</p> <p>The Board agreed that the LEP could act as a convenor to bring partners together with a view to exploring options under which a LVEP could come forward for the sub region.</p> <p>Graham Barnetson and Jo Sawford left the meeting due to technical issues (10:00).</p> <p>Following a detailed discussion, The Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the update. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that a call should be convened with local partners to look at next steps for a LVEP for the area. • Noted that work on the visitor economy will also be looked at within the work being undertaken with Arts Council England on creative and cultural sector. • Agreed to delegate authority to the Executive to continue discussions with Visit England regarding LVEPs. 	<p>Board/Executive</p> <p>Executive/ACE</p> <p>Executive</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>HM Government Update</p> <p>Jack Elias provided the HM Government update as follows -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levelling up fund - Southampton's bid was successful. There will be a Round 3 of the Levelling up Fund, following a review of earlier rounds. • The Annual Performance Review outcome letters are expected to be issued in April. • Core funding for 2023/24 has been confirmed. • An Evidence gathering exercise is underway for all LEPs with information being submitted by 14 April 2023. • Growth Hub funding is being considered for next year. <p>Sam Warren provided a devolution update, advising that Ministers have welcomed the interest and proposals that have come through. DLUHC have started engagement with partners to look at forging a path forward and discussions continue to look at and develop out the options.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Notes of meeting held on 2 December 2022, 30 January 2023 and 24 March 2023</p> <p>The minutes from the Board meeting on 2 December 2022, 30 January 2023 and 24 March 2023 were Agreed.</p> <p>The following matters arising were raised:</p> <p><u>2 December 2022</u></p> <p>Page 2 - Investment Zones - a prospectus was published following the Spring Budget noting there is an opportunity for areas not announced in the first cluster, to enter discussion with Government. Executive will re-engage to see if partners would like to take forward.</p> <p>Page 4 - the 2023/24 Assurance Framework has been published.</p> <p><u>30 January 2023</u></p> <p>There are no matters arising to note.</p> <p><u>24 March 2023</u></p> <p>Page 2 - draft communication on the future integration of LEPs has been developed. It was advised that a team meeting has taken place following the Spring Budget.</p> <p>All other matters will be covered as part of the meeting.</p> <p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>The following interests were noted ahead of the meeting:</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Mountifield</u></p> <p>Item 2 - Maritime UK Solent Ltd Director</p>	<p>Executive</p>

	<p>Item 6 - Annexe J -Contract Variation for Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust Item 8b - Maritime UK Solent Item 8C - Proposals in relation to Governance (for noting only) General - Non-Executive Board Director for VIVID</p> <p><u>Edward Heron</u> Item 6 - Annexe J -Contract Variation for A326 and Stubbington Bypass</p> <p><u>Julie Jones-Evans</u> Item 6 - Annexe J - Contract Variation for Branstone Farm</p> <p><u>Graham Barnetson</u> Item 8b - Maritime UK Solent Decisions</p> <p><u>Rachael Randall</u> Item 10 - AOB re Chair Recruitment</p> <p><u>Richard Jones</u> Item 8C - Proposals in relation to Governance (for noting only)</p> <p><u>Stuart Baker</u> Item 2 - Maritime UK Solent Ltd Director Item 8b - Maritime UK Solent Decisions</p> <p><u>General Noting</u> Item 6 Appendix F (Risk Register) - Board Members are asked to delegate the agreement of the LGD risk register to the LEP Chief Executive and S151 officer. On this basis, all interests in relation to risk register are potential and for noting only. Board Members only required to withdraw from meeting if Board wish to discuss a specific project.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Corporate Plan 2023-2026 Graham Barnetson and Jo Sawford joined the meeting.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Mountifield gave a presentation on the Solent LEP Corporate Plan for 2023-2026 covering the potential evolution of Solent LEP, including branding considerations, the Vision, strategic objectives and Values. The corporate structure, financial budgets, conclusions and key considerations were also highlighted.</p> <p>Following the presentation, it was confirmed that the core work of the LEP as funded by HM Government, needs to continue in its current form under the Assurance Framework through to March 2024 as a minimum. Board members highlighted that the trusted brand of the Solent LEP is well regarded locally and that this needs to be considered as part of any consideration on brand development. The Board agreed the revised vision, purpose, and five missions and the supporting corporate structure. It was also agreed that a governance working group drawn from the board would be created to look at the options for developing this work further and that they would report back on this at the May meeting.</p> <p>Mike Harris left the meeting (12:00)</p>	

<p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered and Agreed the revised vision, purpose, missions and corporate structure for the new corporate plan (2023-2026) as set out in Annexe A and B; and • Supported the proposal to create a subgroup of the Board to work with the executive to shape the next version of the plan for the Board to consider in May 2023; and • Considered and Agreed version one of the Corporate Plan as a basis for developing a version 2 plan with financial forecasts for consideration at the May 2023 Board meeting. • Noted that the work on the website will be paused. This will come back to the Board for consideration in summer 2023; and • Agreed to delegate authority to the LEP Chair and Chief Executive to agree the evidence gathering exercise return to Government for submission on 14 April 2023. <p>Paula Swain left the meeting (12:47).</p> <p>Due to time constraints, the Board agreed that Item 8 would come back to the May Board Meeting.</p> <p><u>Solent Cluster</u></p> <p>An update was provided on Solent Cluster and the Cluster sequencing for the Track 2 Carbon Capture Usage and Storage competition that has just been launched by HM Government. It was noted that the expression of interest would need to be submitted by 28 April 2023 and the Board confirmed their strong support for the continuation of this work.</p>	<p>Board/Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive and Chair</p> <p>Board</p>
<p>6. Finance, Funding and Performance Management report</p> <p>The Finance paper was taken as read and James Fitzgerald provided an overview of the paper including details on the RRR Loan Fund.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the update on the RRR Loan Fund at Appendix G and Agreed the recommendations contained within it. <p>Jo Sawford left the meeting (13:17)</p> <p>Further details on the EZ retained rates will come back to May board meeting.</p> <p><u>Project variation requests</u></p> <p>Julie Jones-Evans left the meeting for the decision in respect of Branstone Farm. Anne-Marie Mountfield left the meeting for the decision in respect of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the range of project variation requests at Appendix J and Agreed the recommendations included within it. <p>Alex Rennie left the meeting.</p> <p><u>Equity Opportunity Update</u></p> <p>Stuart Baker provided an update on the equity opportunity and the development of a</p>	<p>Executive & AB</p> <p>Executive & AB</p>

	<p>framework to look at a portfolio of options.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the Equity opportunity update at Appendix I and the supporting information in the reference folder and Agreed the recommendation to receive advice on a framework of options to come to the Board meeting in May for consideration. <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed the revised budget for 2022/23 and forecast outturn of £7,343,895 as set out in Appendix A and the revised budgets for the period 2023/24 to 2024/25 as set out in appendix B, which include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current position of the LEP Loan Funds available as summarised in appendix D. - The latest position of the Local Growth Deal and Getting Building Funds as set out in appendices E1 and E2 respectively. - The re-profiling and budget movements as set out in the table in paragraph 3. • Noted and Agreed the Corporate and Strategic Risk Register at appendix C. • Noted the update in relation to the LGD and GBF tail funding as set out in paragraph 3.2 and Considered the specific project updates in paragraphs 3.3 of the report. • Noted the latest positions of the LGD and GBF at appendices E1 and E2. • Considered the high-level Risk Matrix for the Local Growth Programme at appendix F and delegated its Approval to the LEP Chief Executive and the Accountable Body's section 151 officer. • Noted the Equity opportunity update at Appendix I and the supporting information in the reference folder and Agreed the recommendations included within it. <p>The Board also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the Loan Fund update in paragraph 4. • Noted the CEC funding updates in paragraph 7 of the report. • Noted the update provided in respect of the Enterprise Zone retained rates MoU in Appendix H. • Noted the range of new funding that has been added to the financial forecasts as set out in paragraph 9. 	<p>Executive</p> <p>Executive & AB</p> <p>Executive</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Governance Update</p> <p>Due to time constraints at the meeting, it was agreed that item 8a would be considered as a written resolution and item 8b and 8c would be considered at the Board meeting in May 2023</p>	<p>Executive</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>General updates from Board Leads – for note</p> <p>The update was taken as read and noted by the Board.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>There was one item of further business and the board agreed that this would be considered via written resolution following the meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 26 May 2023.</p>	<p>Executive</p>

	No further business, so the meeting was closed.	
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Meeting closed at 13:45

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