



SOLENT
LOCAL
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Business Support Investment Panel Meeting Notes

Held on Wednesday 9 August 2023 10:00-12:00

At the offices of James Cowper Kreston, The White Building, 1-4 Cumberland Place, Southampton, SO15 2NP and also electronically via video conference

Present	Ex-Officio members present
Ben Harraway	LEP
David Bream	Chris Heath
Lloyd Clark - PCC	Kate Cloud
Mike Bath	Nicola Twiddy
Rob Dewing	Richard Jones
Tim Fielder (Chair)	
Apologies	
Andy Head	
Caroline Carter	
Nick Petford	
Paula Swain	

Item		ACTION
1.	<p><u>Introductions</u></p> <p>Tim Fielder welcomed members to the first face to face meeting for a while. A warm welcome was extended to new members and roundtable introductions took place.</p> <p>Thanks were passed to Mike Bath for hosting the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Caroline Cater, Nick Petford and Paula Swain. Andy Head was unable to attend the meeting via Teams due to technical difficulties.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Notes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>The notes from the meeting on 10 November 2022 were Agreed as a correct record of the meeting. The notes will be signed electronically following the meeting.</p>	LEP Executive to action accordingly

<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> Chris Heath advised on the following matter arising - Page 1 - Natural Enterprise Rural Fund - return of unallocated funding has been received. Page 4 - The BSIP Terms of Reference will be reviewed following this meeting. Page 4 - The Delivery Plan was submitted to Government in November 2022 and has since been updated. A copy will be circulated following this meeting.</p>	<p>Executive Executive</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u> An interest was noted for David Bream with regards a beneficiary in item 7.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Business Support Programmes Status Update Report</u> Chris Heath provided an update on the various historic funds, outputs across the funds and information on the levels of support being provided by the Solent Growth Hub to businesses in the region.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Contract Updates</u> 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>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Future direction of BSIP / LEP</u> Richard Jones gave a presentation on the evolution of the Solent LEP which has been taking place organically over the last 12 years. In addition to running government programmes the Solent LEP has also been integral to other wider programmes such as The Solent Cluster, Maritime UK Solent and the set-up phase of Solent Freeport. The presentation covered the key milestones over the last 18 months of the Levelling Up White Paper, Spring budget announcement, English Devolution Accountability Framework and Guidance for LEPs and local combined authorities: integration of LEP functions into local democratic institutions. To bring these programmes altogether alongside the announcement on Friday on the Local Growth Policy Landscape, the Solent LEP Board have been working on a new Corporate Plan for Solent Partners, to support the work on the long-term strategy of Solent 2050. Questions and a discussion followed. BSIP Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the update provided. </p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>SME - New Grant Fund</u> Kate Cloud gave an overview of the proposed new SME Grant Fund programme, alongside a possible future loan scheme. Details of the offer were highlighted.</p>	

	<p>BSIP Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided Advice on the proposed grant fund and Noted the update provided.	
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>Panel Recruitment - Outstanding media and Local Authority vacancies</u> A couple of panel members are still required on the panel to cover the media and Local Authority positions. Work on this continues to fill these vacancies.</p> <p><u>Next Meeting</u> The date of the next meeting will be confirmed in due course.</p> <p>BSIPs thanks were passed to Mike Bath for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>No further business.</p>	<p>Executive</p>

Meeting closed at 12:05