



**SOLENT  
LOCAL  
ENTERPRISE  
PARTNERSHIP**

**Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Meeting of the Board of Directors**

Held on Friday 8 December 2023 at 09:00 - 11:30 at National Oceanography Centre, Southampton

| <b>Present</b>          | <b>In Attendance</b>  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Graham Barnetson        | Crispin Dick (Company Secretary)                                    |
| Graham Galbraith        | Jack Elias (DLUHC)  |
| Jo Sawford              | James Fitzgerald (Portsmouth City Council, as the Accountable Body) |
| Julie Jones-Evans       | Lloyd Clark (Portsmouth City Council, as the Accountable Body)      |
| Nick Loader             | Nicola Twiddy (LEP Executive)                                       |
| Paula Swain             | Peter Baulf (Portsmouth City Council, as the Accountable Body)      |
| Rachael Randall (Chair) | Stuart Baker (LEP Executive)  |
| Richard Jones           |   |
| Salli Shapcott          |   |
| Steve Pitt              |   |
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| <b>Apologies</b>        | <b>Guests (For Item 4 only)</b>                                     |
| Alex Rennie             | Luke Bonnici, Lichfields (via Teams)                                |
| Brooke Hoskins          |   |
| David Youngs            |   |
| Edward Heron            |   |
| Richard Turl (DLUHC)    |   |
| Satvir Kaur             |   |

| <b>Item</b> |  | <b>ACTION</b> |
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| <b>1.</b>   | <p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b><br/>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Apologies for Absence</b><br/>Apologies were noted from Alex Rennie, Brooke Hoskins, David Youngs, Edward Heron, Satvir Kaur and Richard Turl.</p> |               |

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| 2. | <p><b>A. Notes of the last meeting held on 20 October 2023</b><br/>The minutes from the Board meeting on 20 October 2023 were <b>Agreed</b> subject to amending that Ryde had been successful in its application to the Town Partnership.</p> <p><b>B. Matters Arising and Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u><br/>The following matters arising were raised:<br/>Page 2 - LEP Integration template will be reviewed under item 4.<br/>Page 3 - Engagement with Local Authority partners has taken place and will continue.<br/>Page 3 - Business Director's briefings have taken place.<br/>Page 4 - Articles and Board appointments - will be discussed today before the Articles are updated.<br/>Page 4 – Subsidiary transition - The Executive have written to the Chairs of MUK Solent and The Solent Cluster to update on the board position. Both Boards are meeting next week and will review the transfer of ownership.<br/>Page 5 - SERCOM met in November to look at scenario planning.</p> <p>All other matters will be covered as part of the meeting.</p> <p><u>Declarations of Interest</u><br/>The following interests were noted ahead of the meeting:</p> <p><u>Edward Heron, Julie Jones-Evans, Satvir Kaur and Steve Pitt</u> in relation to the update on local authority engagement under item 4.</p> <p><u>Graham Barnetson</u> as a Maritime UK Solent Ltd Director</p> <p><u>Jo Sawford</u> - as a Director of Solent Partners.</p> <p><u>Julie Jones-Evans</u> in relation to Isle of Wight Council led project, Branstone Farm.</p> <p><u>Nick Loader</u> - Employer has a commercial relationship with ABP, unrelated to any LEP project.<br/>- as a Director of Solent Partners.</p> <p><u>Paula Swain</u> - as a Director of Solent Partners.</p> <p><u>Rachael Randall</u> – as the Chair of Solent Partners.</p> <p><u>Richard Jones</u> – as a Director of Solent Partners.</p> <p><u>Stuart Baker</u> as a Maritime UK Solent Ltd Director, The Solent Cluster Director and Solent Partners.</p> <p><u>General Noting</u><br/>Item 5 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> | Executive |
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| <p>3.</p> | <p><b>HM Government Update</b><br/>                 Jack Elias provided the HM Government update as follows -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New director at DLUHC</li> <li>• The LEP Integration templates have been received and are being accessed at present, with DLUHC reviews being compiled for Directors prior to Christmas.</li> <li>• Ministers are being kept informed, but will not be involved in any decision making, the DLUHC Directors will be making the decisions in relation to geography for core LEP functions of Business Boards, Strategic Economic Planning and monitoring for legacy programmes.</li> <li>• Endorsement letters are expected in January 2024.</li> <li>• Confirmation that Growth Hubs will be funded for 2024-25 in the budget - with specific allocations for areas to follow.</li> <li>• Levelling Up Fund Round 3 – there were successful bids for IoW, Gosport and Test Valley.</li> <li>• Freeports - Business rates extensions have been agreed and announced in the Autumn Statement.</li> <li>• Level 4 devolution frameworks were announced in the Autumn statement.</li> </ul>  |   |
| <p>4.</p> | <p><b>Establishment of Solent Partners</b></p> <p><u>LEP Integration</u><br/>                 The LEP Integration templates were submitted on 30 November 2023. Engagement took place with Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight Councils in order to complete the templates with approval provided by the LEP Chair.<br/>                 The templates will be reviewed in more detail at the Strategy Session today.</p> <p>Following a discussion, the Board <b>Agreed</b> to draft a letter of clarification on the points raised in Hampshire’s template, for submission to DLUHC officials.<br/>                 The Board also <b>agreed</b> to write to Hampshire County Council in relation to points of clarification on core functions and to write to wider stakeholders to provide an update on the latest position in relation to the establishment of Solent Partners.</p> <p>Engagement with local partners will continue including with the Districts and Borough Councils.</p> <p>The Board were all clear that the focus needs to be on businesses and on the economic growth of the region.</p> <p>Richard Jones gave an update on the membership of Solent Partners which was included in the LEP Integration return, highlighting the desire from Southampton and Isle of Wight Councils to be members of Solent Partners.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agreed</b> the appointment of Southampton and Isle of Wight Councils as members of Solent Partners.</li> <li>• <b>Noted</b> the update in relation to LEP Integration templates.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Executive</b></p> <p><b>Executive</b></p> |

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|           | <p><u>SERCOM Update</u></p> <p>Richard Jones gave an update from the November SERCOM meeting which looked at the transition of the committees to Solent Partners and membership of the committees and wider recommendations for Solent Partners for noting.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agreed</b> the draft terms of reference for SERCOM at Annexe C.</li> <li>• <b>Noted</b> the update from SERCOM.</li> </ul> <p><u>Launch Arrangements</u></p> <p>The website for Solent Partners is now live and the Executive will look to hold a formal launch of Solent Partners. The Executive are working with Business South to support with the Solent Partners launch arrangements, proposed for March. Any support from Board Members with supporting Solent Partners social media post would be welcome.</p> <p>A Solent Socio Economic report is currently being updated and will be part of the launch event.</p> <p>The Board received a presentation from Luke Bonnici from Lichfields covering what they will be doing to update the Solent Economic Profile.</p> <p>The Boards thanks were passed to Luke Bonnici and he left the meeting.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noted</b> the update in relation to the Solent Partners launch event.</li> <li>• <b>Provided</b> feedback to shape the update to the Solent socio-economic report.</li> </ul> |  |
| <p>5.</p> | <p><b>Finance, Funding and Performance Management report</b></p> <p>The Finance paper was taken as read and James Fitzgerald provided an update on the current budget position and on the ongoing discussion between the Accountable Body and Hampshire County Council.</p> <p>Stuart Baker and Graham Barnetson left the meeting.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reaffirmed</b> the decision to provide the allocated funding to Maritime UK Solent, Solent Cluster, and the Maritime Innovation Hub.</li> </ul> <p>Stuart Baker and Graham Barnetson joined the meeting.</p> <p>Lloyd Clark provided an update on the current and future years budgets.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noted</b> the update on the LEP integration detailed in paragraph 3 and the update provided at the meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Approved</b> the revised budget for 2023/24 of £5,192,792 as set out in Appendix A1 and <b>Noted</b> the revised indicative budgets for the period 2024/25 to 2025/26 as set out in appendix B which includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current position of the LEP Loan Funds available as summarised in appendix D.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |  |

