



**SOLENT
LOCAL
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP**

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Meeting of the Board of Directors

Held on Friday 22 March 2024 at 09:00 - 12:00 at Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth and via MS Teams

Present	In Attendance
David Youngs	Crispin Dick (Company Secretary)
Graham Barnetson	Jack Elias (DLUHC)
Graham Galbraith	James Fitzgerald (Portsmouth City Council, as the Accountable Body)
Jo Sawford	Lloyd Clark (Portsmouth City Council, as the Accountable Body)
Julie Jones-Evans	Natalie Brahma-Pearl (Portsmouth City Council, as the Accountable Body)
Lorna Fielker	Nicola Twiddy (LEP Executive)
Nick Loader	Paul Griffiths (Portsmouth City Council, as the Accountable Body)
Paula Swain	Richard Turl (DLUHC)
Rachael Randall (Chair)	Stuart Baker (LEP Executive)
Richard Jones	Ian Maguire (Portsmouth City Council, as the Accountable Body)
Roz Chadd (for Edward Heron)	Paddy May (Portsmouth City Council, as the Accountable Body)
Steve Pitt	
Apologies	Guests
Alex Rennie	
Brooke Hoskins	
Edward Heron	
Salli Shapcott	

Item	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome and Introduction The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and an overview of the meeting was provided. Roundtable introductions took place.</p> <p>Apologies for Absence Apologies were noted from Alex Rennie, Brooke Hoskins, Edward Heron and Salli Shapcott.</p>	

2.	<p>Notes of the last meeting held on 2 February 2024 The minutes from the Board meeting on 2 February 2024 were Agreed.</p>	Executive
3.	<p>Matters Arising and Declarations of Interest <u>Matters Arising</u> The following matters arising were raised: All matters will be covered as part of the meeting. <u>Declarations of Interest</u> The following interests were noted ahead of the meeting: <u>Edward Heron, Julie Jones-Evans, Lorna Fielker, Roz Chadd and Steve Pitt</u> in relation to the update on local authority engagement under item 4. <u>Graham Barnetson</u> as a Maritime UK Solent Ltd Director <u>Jo Sawford</u> - as a Director of Solent Partners. <u>Julie Jones-Evans</u> in relation to Isle of Wight Council led project, Branstone Farm. <u>Nick Loader</u> - Employer has a commercial relationship with ABP, unrelated to any LEP project. - as a Director of Solent Partners. <u>Paula Swain</u> - as a Director of Solent Partners. <u>Rachael Randall</u> – as the Chair of Solent Partners. <u>Richard Jones</u> – as a Director of Solent Partners. <u>Stuart Baker</u> as a Maritime UK Solent Ltd Director, The Solent Cluster Director and Solent Partners. <u>General Noting</u> 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>	
4.	<p>HM Government Update Richard Turl provided the HM Government update as follows -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the submission of the LEP transition templates, formal confirmation of the geography is still awaited. It was advised that the 3 Upper Tiered Authorities will be confirmed with funding of £234k expected. • A new or refreshed strategic economic plan will be expected for the area. Collaboration will be encouraged with the Upper Tiered Authorities, District & Borough councils which could include detail on a future combined authority deal. • There will be guidance provided on an assurance framework. • Growth Hub business cases are awaiting sign off. 	

	<p>Questions and comments were taken and an update on the Levelling Up Fund Round 4 was provided.</p>	
<p>5. LEP Integration</p>	<p>Rachael Randall provided an overview of the background to date for the item. The region is in a moment of change and is in the middle of a journey to conclude the detail on the transition between now and August. All agreed that they want to work together for the good of the region.</p> <p>A discussion was had on the future ways of working with Solent Partners, the considerations needed and how best to get there to continue to support the growth of the Solent. Comments and thoughts were taken.</p> <p>Richard Jones gave a presentation covering -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Partners Delivery Activity - Core activity and wider activity enabled. • Activity no longer delivered through Solent Partners. • Potential additional core activity to be considered. <p>Comments and questions were taken on the presentation and the discussion continued covering Solent Partner Directors, convening power of Solent Partners, the role of Solent LEP Directors moving forward, what is needed to finalise future arrangements and next steps.</p> <p>The Executive raised that Solent Partners was set up for the good of the area and with the 3 Upper Tiered Authorities can continue to deliver on this.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Solent LEP Ltd continues to exist post 1 April 2024, until the company is formally dissolved. From 1 April 2024, Solent LEP will no longer be receiving HMG funding and not recognised by HMG as an entity.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the update in relation to LEP Integration, and; • Provided feedback to the Executive to share with the UUTLAs in relation to the potential activity to be delivered through Solent Partners. • Agreed the confirmation of the Solent Partners Board appointments. • Agreed to convene a Solent Partners Board meeting. • Agreed to convene a final Solent LEP Board meeting to review and agree the commissions for the Solent Cultural and Creatives Plan and Socioeconomic Plan, along with the Solent LEP closure process. • Agreed for the Chair and Chief Executive to meet with the joint Upper Tiered Local Authority Board to seek agreement of the initial business plan. <p>Jo Sawford and Lorna Fielker left the meeting. (12:04)</p>	<p>Executive</p> <p>Executive</p> <p>Executive/AB/ Company Secretary</p> <p>Chair & Executive</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>Finance, Funding and Performance Management report</p> <p>The Finance paper was taken as read and James Fitzgerald gave an overview of the budgets and the disaggregation position. The budgets will be further reviewed and agreed by the LEP Board in advance of the closure of the company and once agreements are in place with the Upper Tiered Authorities.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered the MUK Solent annual report and delegated it's Approval to the to the LEP Chief Executive. Graham Barnetson and Stuart Baker abstained from commenting or voting on this decision. <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the update on the LEP integration detailed in paragraph 3 and the update provided at the meeting. • Noted the current proposed separation of budgets from 1 April 2024. • Approved the revised budget for 2023/24 of £4,241,712 as set out in Appendix A1 and Noted the revised indicative budgets for the period 2024/25 to 2025/26 as set out in appendices B1 and B2 which includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current forecasted budget for the LEP funds to be disaggregated across the four Solent Upper Tier Authorities. - The current forecasted budget for Solent Partners post 31st March 2024. The current position of the LEP Loan Funds 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 the financial dashboard in Appendix A. <p>The Board also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted and Agreed the Corporate and Strategic Risk Register at appendix C. • 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 update on the key budget 2023/24 movements and associated issues in paragraph 4. • Considered and Approved the recommended actions relating to Hampshire County Council A326 scheme at Appendix G. • Considered and Approved the recommended actions relating to the North Whiteley scheme at Appendix H. • Noted the likely transitional period that will be required to finalise the LEP integration and Agreed that the Accountable Body work to ensure that sufficient resources are identified to fund the activity that needs to take place during this period. 	<p>Chief Executive & AB</p> <p>Executive & AB</p> <p>Executive & AB</p> <p>AB</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Solent Careers Hub transition arrangements</p> <p>Further to the update at the previous Board meeting regarding the position of the local authorities in relation to commissioning Solent Partners to deliver the Solent Careers Hub contract, the Chief Executive of Portsmouth City Council has written to the LEP to confirm a revised position whereby the line management of the Solent Careers Hub team will transfer to Portsmouth City Council from 1st April 2024. Richard Jones advised that the team have been kept informed and the CEC transition plan is under way. The transition period will</p>	

	<p>extended past 1 April, but will be finalised as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the update in relation to the Solent Careers Hub, and; • Agreed the transfer of the match funding from the LEP for posts within the Careers Hub team to Portsmouth City Council as the Accountable Body for the contract, and; • Delegated authority to the executive to finalise the transition plan and handover of the service. 	<p>AB Executive</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>General updates from Board Leads – for note The update was taken as read and noted by the Board.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Any other business The Solent Partners launch in May 2024 will be postponed to a later date.</p> <p>Local Skills Improvement Plan is led by Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and will remain as the lead entity for this. (Rachael Randall noted an interest in this)</p> <p>A very helpful meeting today, thanks were passed to the LEP executive for all their work and continued commitment.</p> <p>No further business, so the meeting was closed. The Board were offered a tour of the Mary Rose Museum.</p>	

Meeting closed at 12:25