

SOLENT GROWTH FORUM

MINUTES of the meeting of the Solent Growth Forum held on Wednesday, 9 December 2015 at 7pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillors Seán Woodward - Fareham Borough Council
Keith House - Eastleigh Borough Council
Guy Shepherd - East Hants District Council
Edward Heron - New Forest District Council
Martin Hatley - Test Valley Borough Council
Stephen Godfrey - Winchester City Council
Mark Hook - Gosport Borough Council
Warwick Payne - Southampton City Council
Tony Briggs - Havant Borough Council
(Deputising for Michael Cheshire)
David Williams - Portsmouth City Council
(Deputising for Donna Jones)
Keith Mans - Hampshire County Council

Ex Officio Sarah Duckering (deputising for Graham Galbraith)
Fiona Dalton - University Hospital
Southampton NHS Foundation Trust
Tim Houghton - Community First

In attendance Stuart Baker - Solent LEP
Marc Griffin - Solent LEP
Jane Di Dino - Portsmouth City Council (Accountable Body)
Terry Wilson (deputising for Robert Parkin) - Portsmouth City Council (Accountable Body)
Anne-Marie Mountifield - Solent LEP
Stuart Jarvis - Hampshire County Council
Bob Jackson - NFDC
Roger Testall - Test Valley Borough Council
Tom Horwood - East Hants Borough Council
Nick Tustian - Eastleigh Borough Council
Bob Jackson - New Forest District Council

7. Election of Chairman for the Meeting

Terry Wilson, Principal Lawyer, Portsmouth City Council asked for nominations for a Chair. Councillor Mark Hook was proposed by Seán Councillor Woodward and seconded by Councillor Guy Shepherd.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mark Hook be elected Chair for this meeting only.

8. Introductions, Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from:

Councillors

Jonathan Bacon - Isle of Wight Council

Michael Cheshire - Havant Borough Council

Donna Jones - Portsmouth City Council

Simon Letts - Southampton City Council

Ex-officio Members

Pal Ahluwalia - University of Portsmouth

Kevin Bourner - HCA

Chris Elliott - New Forest District Council

Graham Galbraith - University of Portsmouth

John Henderson - Highways England

Deryn Martin - Skills Funding Agency

Ken Moon - Federation for Small Businesses

Robert Parkin - Portsmouth City Council (Accountable Body)

Chris Ward - Portsmouth City Council (Accountable Body)

9. Meeting Notes and Matters Arising.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June be agreed.

10. Declarations of Interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

11. Local Growth Deal Programme Update.

Marc Griffin, Head of Capital and Infrastructure presented the report.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Solent Growth Deal Update be noted.

2. An update be requested from the scheme promoters on projects that are near to delivery completion at a future meeting.

12. Solent LEP Strategy and Performance Update.

Anne-Marie Mountifield, Chief Executive, Solent LEP gave a presentation setting out the progress made on the delivery of the Solent Growth Deal programme and an update on strategy. A copy of the presentation will be attached to the minutes.

In response to questions, Anne-Marie clarified the following points:

- There is a link between GVA and capital investment.
- A key focus of investment is skills, recognising that businesses do not have access to the high level skilled workers that they require to growth their business. The Solent Further Education Area Review is underway and the Group steering this work has met twice. The outcome of this process will influence any LEP funding decisions in relation to skills projects.

13. Developing the Project Pipeline.

Stuart Baker, Head of Local Growth Solent LEP introduced the report which gave an update on the work of the LEP to develop its project pipeline and sought advice from the forum on the type of projects that the LEP should prioritise. In response to questions, he explained that he had anonymised the schemes in the report as far as possible because some details are commercially sensitive and as the detail of each scheme is being reviewed internally. It should be noted that the EoI's provide only high level information and for those schemes that show the strongest potential to support growth, further detail will be requested through an outline business case.

The Chair noted that work on the Stubbington bypass should be high priority and that infrastructure was essential to support economic growth.

Seán Woodward noted that infrastructure to support housing delivery and economic growth should be prioritised.

Keith House agreed that infrastructure is required to unlock the housing that the area requires to support economic growth should be prioritised.

David Williams suggested that it would be helpful to have a presentation on the interfaces between skills, business and training at a future meeting. This was agreed.

14. Forward Plan.

Stuart Baker, Head of Local Growth, Solent LEP informed members that the next meeting would be held in spring 2016 and would include updates on the following issues:

- The Transport Investment Plan
- The emerging strategic economic plan
- The project pipeline.

15. Any Other Business and Close.

The Chair thanked officers for their report and the presentation.

The meeting concluded at 8:25pm.

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Chair