

SOLENT GROWTH FORUM

MINUTES of the meeting of the Solent Growth Forum held on Monday, 16 October 2017 at 7:15pm in the Council Chamber, Fareham Borough Council.

Present

Councillors

Tony Briggs	Havant Borough Council substitute member.
Mark Hook	Gosport Borough Council (Chair)
Caroline Horrill	Winchester City Council
Donna Jones	Portsmouth City Council
Warwick Payne	Southampton City Council substitute member.
Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Guy Shepherd	East Hampshire District Council
Sean Woodward	Fareham Borough Council

Ex-officio

Bruce Voss	Homes & Communities Agency
James Fitzgerald	Portsmouth City Council
Tim Houghton	Community First

Standing Ex Officio Members

Stuart Baker	Solent LEP
Marc Griffin	Solent LEP
Robert Parkin	Portsmouth City Council

Also present

Peter Grimwood	Fareham Borough Council
Stuart Jarvis	Hampshire County Council
Laura Taylor	Winchester City Council
Nick Tustian	Easteigh Borough Council
David Williams	Portsmouth City Council

9. Introductions and Apologies for Absence.

As the Chair, Councillor Cheshire had sent his apologies for absence, a chair for the meeting needed to be elected from the non LEP Board Director members of the SGF. Councillor Mark Hook was duly proposed, seconded and elected as chair for this meeting.

The following people sent their apologies for absence: Councillor Michael Cheshire, Graham Galbraith, Councillor Edward Heron, Councillor Keith House and Anne-Marie Mountfield.

10. Declarations of Interests.

No interests were declared.

11. Notes of the Previous Meeting of 14 March 2017 and Matters Arising.

The notes of the Solent Growth Forum meeting held on 14 March 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

12. Workforce Futures (Developing a new workforce strategy for the Solent area).

Stuart Baker, Head of Local Growth at Solent LEP introduced the report and provided a short presentation.

The Chair thanked Stuart for his presentation and invited comments and questions, which included the following points:

- It is essential that businesses are asked to identify what skills are currently lacking and those that will be required in five years' time.
- The UTC in Portsmouth is now open. During the process, they were almost forced to adopt a multi academy trust as a model.
- Employers in the area have sent a clear message to central government that they want local influence. It is therefore essential that local employers and education providers work together.
- Employers are telling us that there is limited talent coming through.
- There are two workshop sessions taking place on 31 October at the Hilton Ageas for providers and employers.
- Members are encouraged to give their views either at the meeting or afterwards by email.
- The implications of Brexit on skills supply in the Solent will be considered as part of the work programme, but it is acknowledged that the nature of the deal the UK government strikes with Europe is likely to continue past the delivery of this strategy.

13. Local Growth Deal Capital Programme Update

Marc Griffin, Head of Capital and Infrastructure at Solent LEP provided an update on the 2017/18 Local Growth programme. This was followed by a presentation on the Local Growth Deal funded capital projects delivered to date in the Solent LEP area. During the presentation members were asked to note that to date the Solent LEP has provided over £80m of capital funding to deliver local growth deal projects to support economic growth including transport, skills, innovation and housing infrastructure projects. He also informed them that the funding finance and performance management group will consider the options available to address the under allocation of funds currently reported for this year at its meeting in November 2017 for recommendation to the Board for their approval at December 2018.

14. Forward Plan.

Marc Griffin, LEP asked members to contact him if they had any other items for future meetings.

15. Any Other Business and Close.

There were no other items to discuss.

.....

The meeting concluded at 7.56pm.