

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Newsletter – Issue 8

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Westminster Edition



Welcome to the Solent LEP Westminster Network Event

Today marks the first event being run by the Solent LEP at the Houses of Parliament and, as LEPs take the reins from Regional Development Agencies, engagement between all stakeholders is vital. This includes the LEP, local businesses – large and small, representative organisations, higher and further education institutes, local authorities and of course the MPs that represent the Solent. Everyone involved is working towards a common goal – economic growth in the Solent and a brighter future for those that live and work here. The LEP believe that we can be more effective in this task by working together, and today is about ensuring everyone involved understands the challenges we face, the work that is being done, and the opportunities to work in partnership moving forward. Today's event will be chaired by Caroline Dineage MP. Caroline is the MP for Gosport and has already demonstrated the benefit of working with the LEP for her constituency. Caroline supported the Solent LEPs successful bid for an Enterprise Zone at Daedalus Airfield and has since been nominated by the LEP board to chair the Daedalus Action Group who will oversee the delivery of the Enterprise Zone. We hope this is the first of many examples of partnership working strengthening the Solent region.

The Solent Enterprise Zone

On Wednesday 17th August, Government announced 11 new enterprise zones to be set up across the country. Daedalus Airfield on the Gosport Peninsular was named as one of the second wave of enterprise zones and, with this announcement, Chancellor George Osborne

has positioned Gosport and the wider Solent area at the heart of the national drive for economic growth.

The awarding of the enterprise zone at Daedalus is one of the biggest successes for the Solent LEP to date and is one of just 22 Enterprise Zones across the country.

The Solent LEP plans to create a world class centre for advanced manufacturing and innovation at the site, with a focus on the marine and aerospace sectors to build on the existing strengths of the Solent economy. The Solent LEP is off to a flying start in this respect, with a number of successful businesses already based on the airfield. A more detailed briefing on the many benefits associated with the Enterprise Zone is included in this pack.



The new Enterprise Zone is ready for lift off - From left to right: Gosport MP Caroline Dineage, LEP Board Member Russell Kew, Captain Mike Burns of local business Atlas Helicopters Ltd, Minister of State for Business and Innovation Mark Prisk MP and Leader of Gosport Council Mark Hook

Regional Growth Fund

On October 31st the Solent LEP celebrated the announcement of the results of bidding to round of the Regional Growth Fund. Of the 492 bids received by Government on July 1st, only 119 were successful. Only eight successful bids came from the South East, half of which were supported by the Solent LEP. The Solent LEP submitted one of these bids themselves and is one of only three LEPs in the country to be directly awarded RGF funding.

The Solent LEP will outline the successes in more detail today, including; news of £2.1m to be allocated via an innovative bidding process to SMEs, over £5.5m to increase the capacity of Platform Road in Southampton, further investment into the Solent Enterprise Zone and funding for an International Boatbuilding Training College and Enterprise Centre in Portsmouth.

Local Growth APPG

Tuesday 25th October saw the inaugural meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group

on Local Growth, Local Enterprise Partnerships & Enterprise Zones. The Group was well attended by MPs and LEPs alike and the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, attended to speak directly with the group. Mr Pickles described a “more mature” relationship being fostered by government between MPs, local authorities and business leaders. It is hoped that the APPG will form a key part of this relationship.

With the Enterprise Zone award at Daedalus, the Solent will be a key LEP at the APPG. Caroline Dinenage MP was elected as vice-chair of the group at the inaugural meeting.

The Solent LEP and UKTI

On Monday 19th September, the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership signed an agreement with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) making the LEP the official government body responsible for co-ordinating inward investment locally.

The signing, which took place at the internationally renowned Southampton Boat Show, represents a landmark for the LEP as they indicated their intent to ensure a high level of inward investment to the Solent.

Ernie Battey, Executive Chairman of Morgan Sindall Investments Ltd, signed the document on behalf of the Solent LEP, with Minister of State for Business and Enterprise Mark Prisk MP signing for UKTI.



From left to right: Back row - Cllr Royston Smith (Solent LEP), Jan Ward (Inward Investment Board), Mark O'Connell (UKTI), Stuart Hill (Solent LEP), Chris Allington (Solent LEP), Bernie Topham (Inward Investment Board). Front row: Mark Prisk MP, Ernie Battey (Solent LEP).

At the signing, Business Minister Mark Prisk said: “The Solent is an important area for the nation in targeting inward investment. The recently announced Solent Enterprise Zone will make the area particularly attractive to foreign investors, especially those in the

Aerospace and Marine sectors. I expect the Solent to become one of the strongest areas in the UKTI national portfolio.”

Collaborate 2 Innovate

The Solent LEP supported this year's Collaborate2Innovate event on November 1st. The event took place at the Holiday Inn in Winchester, and was attended by around 350 delegates from the local business community.

The popular annual event has been running for three years and offers businesses the opportunity to achieve growth through collaboration. This year's event included sessions on growing business internationally, technological collaboration, business funding, marketing communications, building your team for success and the impact of cloud computing

The Solent LEP closed the successful event by updating attendees on the LEPs progress to date and the breaking news for the Solent on the Regional Growth Fund.



LEP Director Russell Kew speaking to local businesses at Collaborate 2 Innovate

More information on this year's Collaborate 2 Innovate event is available online at: www.collaborate2innovate2011.co.uk

Coming soon

News on the progress of delivering the successful RGF bids and the Solent Enterprise Zone, and the Solent LEPs response to yesterday's announcement of a £500m Growing Places fund.

For further information visit the Solent LEP website at: www.solentlep.org.uk, or email info@solentlep.org.uk