

Media Release

From the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire
www.push.gov.uk



09 September 2010

Solent Local Enterprise partnership

A business led proposal to establish a Solent LEP was submitted to Government on 6th September 2010. The proposal for a Local Enterprise Partnership in the Solent area (Solent LEP) is driven by the business community and is supported by four university partners, the further education sector, three upper tier authorities, eight district councils and the voluntary and community sector, all of whom are actively working together to secure a more prosperous and sustainable future for the Solent area.

With a population of over 1.3 million and some 50,000 businesses, the Solent area is a well recognised functional economic area anchored around the Isle of Wight, the two cities of Portsmouth and Southampton and the M27 corridor and Solent waterway.

The vision is to create an environment that will better facilitate economic growth and private sector investment in the Solent area, allow businesses to grow, become more profitable, greener and enable new businesses to form and prosper. As a result there is a need to make the best use of the assets that the area already possesses (highly skilled people, world class businesses, outstanding further and higher education, the natural environment and high quality of life) and achieve sustainable economic growth.

The Solent LEP partners are determined to put business at the heart of economic growth in the Solent area, enabling this recognised globally competitive area to realise its full potential. The Solent LEP will be output driven, delivering real and substantial improvements in the co-ordination of private and public investment in key areas of sustainable economic development including skills, business support, regeneration, transport, housing and inward investment. It will focus on: rebalancing the local economy in favour of the private sector; reindustrialising the economic base, supporting the development of knowledge based industries and high value added manufacturing; and providing a catalyst for regeneration.

PUSH Chairman, Councillor Seán Woodward, said:

We are in a very strong position to respond to the request for a Local Enterprise Partnership. There is widespread support and commitment from the private sector to lead the LEP, we already have in place a strong and well established private-sector led Employment and Skills Board. The creation of a Solent LEP is seen as a positive step by the business community, the higher and further education community and the public and voluntary sector as we work together to further develop local solutions to the challenges we face, building on the momentum and unity of purpose that already exists in the Solent area.

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For further information on PUSH, please contact the Executive Director, Anne-Marie Mountifield via email to Anne-Marie.Mountifield@push.gov.uk

Notes to the Editor

PUSH

1. PUSH is a partnership of eleven local authorities including unitary authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton; Hampshire County Council and the district authorities of Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester.
2. PUSH in collaboration with local partners and government agencies continue to work to deliver sustainable, Economic-led growth and regeneration to create a more prosperous, attractive and sustainable South Hampshire, which offers a better quality of life for all who live, work and spend their leisure time in the sub region.
3. Solent LEP is driven by the business community and is supported by four university partners, the further education sector, three upper tier authorities (Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton), eight district councils (East Hampshire, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester) and the voluntary and community sector, all of whom are actively working together to secure a more prosperous and sustainable future for the Solent area.