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| Meeting: | Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board |
| Date: | 14 May 2025 |
| Title: | Super Cluster Update |
| Appendices | 1 – Exploratory meeting invitees and attendees |
| Report From: | Strategic Economy Lead |
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The Purpose

1. To provide the Board with an update following the exploratory meeting of the Super Cluster in February 2025.
2. Seek agreement from the Board as to whether a member of the HPPB should attend the Super Cluster and/or chair.
3. Seek agreement from the Board to go forward with the proposed approach outlined in paragraph 8.

Background

4. As part of the governance agreed after the integration of LEP functions, the HPPB has agreed to establish a Business Forum, to engage a broad range of businesses across the geography.
5. The objectives of this forum are to:
 - a. Allow Hampshire’s business community to speak with a single voice on issues of common concern, including identification of opportunities which will be reflected to the HPPB.
 - b. Better integrate business needs with that of skills delivery organisations by linking with the Hampshire Skills Partnership.
 - c. Understand the common goals, barriers and opportunities, and values of the businesses, and by communicating these with a single voice, increase the region’s influence with government.
 - d. Enable Hampshire’s clusters and other industry groups to increase their effectiveness through sharing best practice and innovation, networking and collaboration.

6. An exploratory meeting of the Super Cluster was held in February. The invitees to and attendees at the exploratory meeting are listed in appendix 1 below. Any suggestions from HPPB for other invitees to future meetings would be welcome.
7. At the exploratory meeting, attendees were asked about their sectors' current opportunities and challenges, and where focus should be placed in the next 12 months.
8. The outcomes of the meeting were:
 - a. It was agreed that the Super Cluster can be a valuable platform which supports the needs of businesses, and raises the profile of the region both nationally and internationally in order to influence decision making.
 - b. The group came up with four areas in which they felt the Super Cluster could be most effective in supporting the HPPB as well as economic growth for Hampshire:
 - i. Investment in businesses – supporting businesses with securing funding while developing products for market
 - ii. Mid-career skills development to support employees and also businesses to keep up with advances in technology and other changes in the economy
 - iii. Identification of cross-sector issues and opportunities
 - iv. Inward investment – promotion of the region's assets, business diversity and successes, in order to support skills attraction and retention, inward investment, growth of indigenous businesses, and strengthened supply chains
 - c. A commitment was made by HCC to reflect on this and, upon agreement from the HPPB, develop and deliver against these themes.

Proposed Approach

9. The following programme of work is suggested:
 - a. Establish and agree Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Super Cluster
 - b. Agree a chair, governance and admin requirements
 - c. Develop project proposals and deliver projects against **four proposed work areas**:
 - i. Investigation into and delivery of an **investor group** for Hampshire and the Solent focusing on supporting innovation pull through into commercialisation
 - ii. Investigation and delivery of **mid-career skills and employment programmes** supported by current and future skills initiatives
 - iii. Identification of **cross-sector themes and opportunities** for growth and collaboration
 - iv. **Inward investment**, focusing on the promotion of the region and its assets
 - d. Hold an Annual Business Summit in Autumn 2025, highlighting what has been achieved so far, and setting out a vision for the future for the Super Cluster

- e. Producing an Annual Report around April 2026, which would double as an inward investment prospectus

Appendix 1 – Exploratory meeting invitees and attendees

| Name | Organisation | Attended? |
|----------------------|--|-----------|
| Mark Chapman | Herrington Carmichael | Yes |
| Alan Fisher | FAC | Yes |
| Vanessa Rueda Mata | SCRDSC | Apologies |
| Stuart Baker | Maritime UK Solent & Solent Cluster | Apologies |
| Frank Ratcliff | Health Innovation Wessex | Yes |
| Louise Butt | Space South Central | Yes |
| Carla Modley | Solent Freeport | Apologies |
| Ross McNally | Creative Network South | Yes |
| Sarah Mills | Hampshire Chamber of Commerce | Yes |
| Natasha Dochniak | Hampshire Fare | Yes |
| Lucinda Lamont | Southampton Science Park | Apologies |
| Sally-Ann Hall-Jones | Reality HR | Apologies |
| Tom Peters | NFU | Yes |
| Alexandra Smith | The Sustainability Group | Yes |
| Simon Watson | Milestone Infrastructure | Yes |
| Stephen Brownlie | Fareham Innovation Centre | Apologies |
| Adam Doyle | ADS Group | Apologies |
| Christine McGrath | Wessex Health Partners | Yes |
| Stuart Mckean | TechUK Cyber Security SME Forum | Apologies |
| Mark Rands | Barclays Eagle Labs | Apologies |
| Sally Saunders | Solent Creatives | Apologies |
| Leah Putman | Amiri Construction | Yes |
| Sharon Williams | University of Southampton | Apologies |
| Peter Campbell | Business Services Association | Apologies |
| Paul Spencer | South of England BIDs Group | Yes |
| Gary Westbrook | Hampshire County Council | Yes |

To be invited to future events:

- Solent Freeport
- Business South
- Southampton Solent University
- Other clusters in local areas which are identified