**Participant Information Sheet**

### Study Title: Assessing the Impact of Local Entrepreneurial Ecosystems on UK Female Entrepreneurship

**Researcher Name**: Catherine Guest

**ERGO Number: 41116**

***Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.***

**What is the research about?**

I am currently completing a PhD at Southampton University, researching female entrepreneurship in the UK. Having taken a break from my career in industry to raise my two sons, I am very aware of the challenge in trying to combine family and a career. I have seen some of my peers overcome this challenge by building their own businesses. I was very surprised to find that in the UK in 2016/17 despite women representing 57% of graduates and 46% of the workforce; only 20% of entrepreneurs are female.

My research aims to understand how to better support women entrepreneurs in their local environment. By interviewing women from different backgrounds, areas, sectors, ages etc I can understand the common themes that emerge from their experiences of starting and growing businesses in specific local areas. This understanding can inform current theory and help local government to better target their economic policies.

My research is funded by the University of Southampton and by the Chartered Accountants’ Livery Charity.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

You have been selected to participate because you are a female business owner in the Winchester area.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

The interview will last approximately 45 minutes at a time and venue of your choice. With your consent, the interview will be recorded.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

There will be no immediate benefits from your taking part, however you will be contributing to the knowledge about female entrepreneurs and if you wish I will provide a dissemination document at the end of the study so you can be informed of the findings.

**Are there any risks involved?**

n/a

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Any information you supply will be treated in strictest confidence and will only be used anonymously. Access will be restricted to myself and my 3 supervisors.

Data will be stored in compliance with the Data Protection Act/University policy, in locked facilities.

**What should I do if I want to take part?**

If you wish to take part, please contact me (Catherine Guest) at [cg12g14@soton.ac.uk](mailto:cg12g14@soton.ac.uk).

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have a right to withdraw at any time and your data will be destroyed.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

I am aiming publish the results of this study in an academic journal and will also produce a dissemination document for anyone involved in the study who would also like to see the final results. Once the study is complete, data will be stored for minimum of 10 years in accordance with the University of Southampton policy. Publications and anonymised data relating to the research will be made available through the institutional repository.

**Where can I get more information?**

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at [cg12g14@soton.ac.uk](mailto:cg12g14@soton.ac.uk).

**What happens if something goes wrong?**

In the unlikely case of concern or complaint, please contact the Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

The University has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

**Thank you.**

Thank the individual for taking the time to read the information sheet and considering taking part in the research.