



Solent Partners Corporate Plan

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Solent Partners

Distinct and dynamic, the Solent is a vitalizing gateway to productivity – and Solent Partners is intently focused on empowering a more prosperous and sustainable future for our region.

We'll achieve this by bringing together the most inspiring leaders of a generation. Solent Partners is a collaborative force that offers and showcases experience and expertise in equal measure, with the aim of fostering innovation, and nurturing long-term, local economic development.

Our members represent a rich and diverse talent pool. Solent Partners offers access to local, national, and international insight and opportunities. We are also deeply motivated by being the home to world-class innovators in every sector – especially our maritime colleagues – and, of course, we want to champion and help preserve and optimise our region's incredible natural capital.



Solent Partners. You'll recognise us, by our success. Solent Partners' members include Solent Growth Hub; Solent Careers Hub; Maritime UK Solent, and The Solent Cluster. We've come together under the Solent Partners banner.

Our Vision

What do we want to achieve?

Solent Partners aspires to be a **nationally leading**, industry-led partnership that brings Solent leaders together to promote the **collective prosperity** and **sustainability** of the Solent economy.

Solent 2050

Solent 2050 is the long-term strategy that guides our work. It's the Solent Partners' plan to unleash our region's distinctive strengths.

We want to showcase our energy, expertise and enthusiasm – use it to empower our local economy – and, in turn, increase regional productivity and ensure sustainability remains a focus. Solent 2050 is geared to economic prosperity, and enables our region to provide opportunities for all:



We want the Solent to be the globally leading maritime cluster in the UK.



We want to be at the forefront of powerful innovation that's focused on climate change.



We want to nurture trade in towns and cities that are fantastic places to live in.



And we want to expose the exciting opportunities that make the Solent such as success.

Solent 2050 is the plan that aligns our members, and invigorates us to make the most of our region's strengths. Together, we know we can resource and deliver an ambitious, innovative local economy while at the same time driving a green recovery. It's vital that we protect our region's natural capital. We all want to prosper in a more sustainable world.



Our strategic objectives provide the framework for how we will achieve our vision. We will do the following at a world-class level to realise these...



We connect organisations across the private, public, education, research, and third sectors. We convene Solent businesses and industry with national government and partners across the UK and internationally.

We champion and showcase the Solent's excellence on the regional, national and international stage. We evidence our economic opportunities and challenges to make the case for investment and intervention.

We provide independent, business-led, strategic economic and sector leadership for the Solent, through ongoing, evidence-based strategic economic planning.

We collaborate and engage widely with business and industry to ensure our strategy and programmes are current and impactful and that our partnerships are inclusive and reflective of the Solent economy.

We deliver programmes to grow the Solent economy, support businesses, spark innovation, develop talent, promote net-zero, encourage inward investment, and grow our sector strengths.

Our Missions

How will we do this over the next three years?

Connecting

We connect organisations across the private, public, education, research and third sectors. We convene them with national government and other partners, both at home and abroad.

This includes developing clusters, such as The Solent Cluster and Maritime UK Solent; ensuring Solent membership of the Maritime UK National Council; delivering the Solent Growth Hub; establishing the Solent Maritime Innovation Hub; developing a Solent cultural plan; plus skills and talent development through the Skills Advisory Panel, Solent Freeport Skills Forums, Careers Enterprise Company, and Digital Skills Partnership.

Collaborating

We engage widely with business and industry, collaborating to ensure our strategy and programmes are current and impactful and that our partnerships are inclusive and reflective of the Solent economy.

We do this through a range of activities such as brokering work around devolution; working with business, industry and business representative organisations; ensuring a voice for Solent business with national Government, and bringing together the widest range of stakeholders – MPs, local leaders, academia, local authorities and the national parks. We ensure Solent representation at national and regional networks, and we work closely with local partnerships.

Advocating

We champion and showcase the Solent's excellence locally, nationally, and internationally. We evidence economic opportunities and challenges to make the case for investment and intervention.

This involves developing a Solent destination management organisation; establishing a Solent trade and investment service, and Solent innovation network; leading strategic commissions, and developing strategic partnerships.

Leading

We provide independent, business-led, strategic economic and sector leadership for the Solent, through ongoing, evidence-based strategic economic planning.

This involves taking the lead on economic strategy development (Solent 2050), and providing strategic sector leadership.

Delivering

We deliver programmes to grow the Solent economy, support businesses, spark innovation, develop talent, promote net-zero, encourage inward investment, and grow our sector strengths.

This includes delivering new funding programmes; providing monitoring and assurance for legacy local growth programmes; ensuring effective performance management, and developing and delivering an annual business plan.

Mission: Connecting

During 2023/2024, we will undertake the following activities:

Objective	Activity	Outputs and milestones
Strengthen the Solent's role as global leading maritime cluster	Establish new Maritime Innovation Hub for the Solent	Maritime Innovation Hub to be opened in 2023
Secure the shift to a net zero carbon economy	Deliver a programme of support for SMEs to move to a more sustainable business model and achieve net zero	Provide education, action plans and peer-to-peer learning to 25 SMEs to enable them to achieve net zero
Support the growth of the Solent's visitor, creative and cultural economy	Lead the development of a Digital Skills Partnership strategic plan over the Catalyst South region	Provide a joined-up approach to digital skills work bringing partners from public, private and education sectors together and raise awareness and participation in Digital Skills across the Solent under the Digital Skills Partnership
	Develop a South Coast Creative Hub with an industry focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tech and digital • Design • Film, TV, photography • Events and festivals • Fine arts and crafts 	Source new funding streams such as British Film Industry, Arts Council, National Lottery and industry sponsorship to deliver creative networking events and industry specific advice and support

Mission: Connecting

During 2023/2024, we will undertake the following activities:

Objective	Activity	Outputs and milestones
<p>Develop a clear pathway to developing and securing the skills and talent the Solent requires to raise productivity</p>	<p>Lead and manage a Solent Careers Hub that delivers meaningful content to enhance the delivery of careers advice and education across the Solent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of schools / colleges (establishments) are actively engaged with the Careers Hub • An Enterprise Advisor to be recruited for every engaged establishment • 98% of establishments have at least one Enterprise Advisor • 90% of establishments in the Careers Hub to achieve no fewer than three Gatsby Benchmarks • Careers Hub to achieve an average of five Gatsby Benchmarks • 80% of establishments to achieve Gatsby Benchmark 1 • 90% of establishments upgraded to Compass-Plus • 70% of Enterprise Advisors are satisfied with the experience
	<p>Lead and manage an effective Solent Cornerstone employers forum</p>	<p>Through the Cornerstone employer group monitor, champion and transform careers education to benefit the lives of young people across the Solent</p>
	<p>Work with Hampshire Chamber of Commerce as the designated Employer Representative Body to design and deliver the Solent Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)</p>	<p>The Skills Advisory Panel will provide a steering group for the Solent LSIP</p>

Mission: Connecting

During 2023/2024, we will undertake the following activities:

Objective	Activity	Outputs and milestones
Develop a clear pathway to developing and securing the skills and talent the Solent requires to raise productivity	Deliver a Solent wide Skills Summit	Hold Solent Skills Summit available to all students from across the Solent, that educates and inspires our next generation workforce with a particular focus on Maritime, Net Zero and Digital
	Work with partners to deliver careers and skills interventions for those hard to reach	NEET intervention project that will support 150 young people in areas with high indices of pupils on free school meals to develop a progression plan
		Provide careers advice and guidance for up to 970 young people in the Solent including those who are elected home educated
Lead the work to deliver the Freeport Skills Programme	Three skills fora to be established in 2023, aligned to Freeport sites	

Mission: Connecting

During 2023/2024, we will undertake the following activities:

Objective	Activity	Outputs and milestones
<p>Develop a clear pathway to developing and securing the skills and talent the Solent requires to raise productivity</p>	<p>Work with local employers to deliver Skills Bootcamps in 2023/24</p>	<p>Deliver seven skills bootcamps for 16 week periods at levels 3-5 to respond to local skills needs with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Marketing • Software Development • Maritime Transport and Logistics • Care Services - Adult Care Worker • Creative Management Business and administration/Management professional • Green Skills - Green Construction and Buildings • Catering and Hospitality - Hospitality Supervisor
<p>Secure long-term inclusive growth through supporting businesses to expand and build future resilience</p>	<p>Maintain the Solent Growth Hub and work with partners to develop and fund specific interventions tailored to the local needs of businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support and signposting for 1,000 businesses • Develop programmes of activity to support businesses to start, grow and improve • Provide leadership across the Solent business support ecosystem building a network of organisation to encourage collaboration • Continuation of the Business Support Taskforce

Mission: Connecting

During 2023/2024, we will undertake the following activities:

Objective	Activity	Outputs and milestones
Secure long-term inclusive growth through supporting businesses to expand and build future resilience	Work with partners to secure investment and deliver business support activity through UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Provide intelligence and advice to encourage collaboration on a Solent wide approach and offer on business support
	Work with colleges and skills providers to create a 'Business and Skills Accelerator'	<p>Three skills fora to be established in 2023, aligned to Freeport sites</p> <p>Establish a working group that co-ordinates business engagement across the Solent, and provides and connects support for businesses to grow and flourish whilst creating vocational training opportunities to support growth such as T-levels and apprentice placements</p> <p>Work with partners to create an inclusive growth taskforce that promotes and explores workplace diversity</p>

Mission: Connecting

During 2023/2024, we will undertake the following activities:

Objective	Activity	Outputs and milestones
Support innovation in the Health and Social Care sector	Work with the local NHS Trusts to connect them into the business support ecosystem	Provide access to Venturefest South Festival of Innovation 2023
	Strengthen opportunities for health care innovations to be commercialised	Work with University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust Innovation Development Centre
Support business owners and employees	Provide signposting to support for businesses available both locally and nationally	Create a dedicated health and wellbeing hub with local resources and signposts

Mission: Advocating

During 2023/2024, we will undertake the following activities:

Objective	Activity	Outputs and milestones
Develop a clear pathway to recover and grow the Solent visitor economy	Work with DCMS, Visit England and local partners to secure a Local Visitor Economy Partnership in the Solent	Support partners and advocate for the local area to secure a Local Visitor Economy Partnership in the Solent
Secure long-term inclusive growth through international trade and investment activity.	Establishment of a Solent Investment Hub in partnership with key stakeholders including Solent Freeport and Department for International Trade	Solent Investment Hub established during 2023/24

Mission: Leading

During 2023/2024, we will undertake the following activities:

Objective	Activity	Outputs and milestones
Strengthen the Solent's role as global leading maritime cluster	Continue to provide sector leadership for the maritime sector through Maritime UK Solent	Establish Maritime UK Solent as a financially sustainable cluster by March 2024
		Provide leadership for the following Maritime UK Solent programmes of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People • Innovation • Environment
Support the growth of the Solent's visitor, creative and cultural economy	Develop a Solent Cultural Plan in partnership with Arts Council England	Plan to be published during 2023
Secure the shift to a net zero carbon economy	Establish The Solent Cluster as a major decarbonisation initiative to substantially reduce CO2 emissions from industry, transport and households across the Solent	Solent Cluster to be established during 2023/24

Mission: Collaborating

During 2023/2024, we will undertake the following activities:

Objective	Activity	Outputs and milestones
Further strengthen the business leadership of the Solent	Ensure the Solent has a Business Board in line with National Assurance requirements as well as the English Devolution Accountability Framework	Review Board and panel composition in line with national frameworks
		Maintain equal female representation on our Board and broaden the diversity of all Panels and Forum
Broaden use of convening powers on a local, regional and national basis.	Convene Annual General Meeting for all Solent LEP Members	AGM to be convened by July 2023
	Broker and support local conversations around the devolution agenda to ensure local Governance is optimised	Ongoing engagement with local authority partners throughout 2023/24

Mission: Delivering

During 2023/2024, we will undertake the following activities:

Objective	Activity	Outputs and milestones
Support and accelerate the delivery of housing and jobs to build sustainable communities	Continued investment of up to £14m at North Whiteley in order to support the delivery of the housing scheme	Continuation of highways infrastructure works which will see a total of 3,500 new homes by the end of the scheme in 2028
	Work with key partners to develop a strategy to invest the retained business rates from the Solent Enterprise Zone to help grow the Solent economy	Strategy established during 2023/24
Improve travel and digital infrastructure and connectivity	Continued investment of up to £5.6m into improvements on the A326 along New Forest waterside area	Completion of the scheme will see significant improvements to eight roundabout junctions, reducing congestion and improving journey times on this key link.
Secure long-term inclusive growth through supporting businesses to expand and build future resilience	Provide targeted funding support to new and start-up innovative businesses	New Start Up Fund launched by Autumn 2023

Mission: Delivering

During 2023/2024, we will undertake the following activities:

Objective	Activity	Outputs and milestones
Complete monitoring and assurance of Local Growth Deal and Getting Building Fund legacy programmes	Establish and deliver a robust evaluation of the Local Growth Deal programme	Work with Government to evaluate the process of delivering the Local Growth Deal
		Commission a final programme evaluation report to supplement the 2020 Impact report
	Establish and deliver a robust evaluation of the Getting Building Fund programme	Work with Government to evaluate the process of delivering the Getting Building Fund
		Commission a final programme evaluation report

Our Purpose

Why do we want to do this?

We want to build and grow a **world-leading, innovative, low-carbon economy.**

Our Values

What kind of organisation are we?

We are **Ambitious**

From funding to research, skills and advice, we have our sights set on inspiring a fresh approach to business that will deliver a more prosperous, sustainable Solent.

We are **Courageous**

We will be a vocal catalyst for change. We'll take pride in having the strength to stand up for what's right for the region.

We are **Transparent**

We will be open, collaborative partners. Success is nurtured by engendering trust at every level, and in every aspect of our business.



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