



SOLENT  
LOCAL  
ENTERPRISE  
PARTNERSHIP

# ANNUAL REPORT



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A downloadable version of the 2019 Annual Report is available online at [solentlep.org.uk/publications](https://solentlep.org.uk/publications)

# A truly ground-breaking year

Gary Jeffries, Chairman,  
and Anne-Marie Mountifield,  
Chief Executive



Our work on the new *Solent 2050 Strategy* is ambitious and forward facing, positioning us as a globally significant region with real potential to play an important role nationally and internationally, as well as locally.

Gary and Anne-Marie found a great deal of inspiration through talking to partners from across the Solent, to help shape a new strategic framework. The level of ambition and the pioneering spirit of the Solent that has served it so well over history, has played a big part in these discussions. We are looking forward to working with partners throughout 2020 to develop a strong 30-year strategy for the Solent.

In the interim, in 2019 we have completed a number of strategic documents, including a new economic forecast that shows the region is well placed to respond to the winds of change, especially with the new relationships being forged with partners in the EU and across the globe.

This is linked to our new internationalisation

programme, and has been important in 2019 for placing the Solent on the international stage, comprising trade missions, including to one of the east's fastest growing economies, Bangladesh.

We also continued to strengthen our maritime sector through the second UK-USA Maritime Nations Forum, held in Washington DC. Here we showcased the region's capabilities on board the Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carrier, where the delegates were hosted.

It provided the opportunity for us to close 2019 by firmly cementing the Solent's maritime industry position as the globally leading maritime cluster.

This was also augmented during the year when we launched Maritime UK Solent and hosted the inaugural Maritime UK Awards in the region. We were delighted to welcome the country's maritime community to celebrate the importance of this sector to the national economy.

Next year will be another important year for

Maritime UK Solent as we are due to publish a new strategy and delivery plan to support the promotion of our maritime activities.

Other ground-breaking endeavours have come as a result of our new geography, and we have been working closely with new partners including New Forest District Council, New Forest Business Partnership, New Forest National Park, and Fawley Waterside, areas offering further economic opportunities. We were proud to sponsor the Brilliance in Business Awards for businesses in the New Forest, and we sponsored an overarching Business of the Year category to celebrate the very best of the winners.

We have been working with partners, including those in the research sectors, to protect our world-class natural environment and to herald a new, innovative approach to support our adaption to climate change, with an ultimate goal of making the Solent a zero-carbon producing region.

# THE SOLENT – THE JOURNEY TO 2050

## The Solent 2050

At the helm of coastal renaissance and pioneering approaches to mitigating climate change

Our mission to achieve this vision has five emerging priorities:

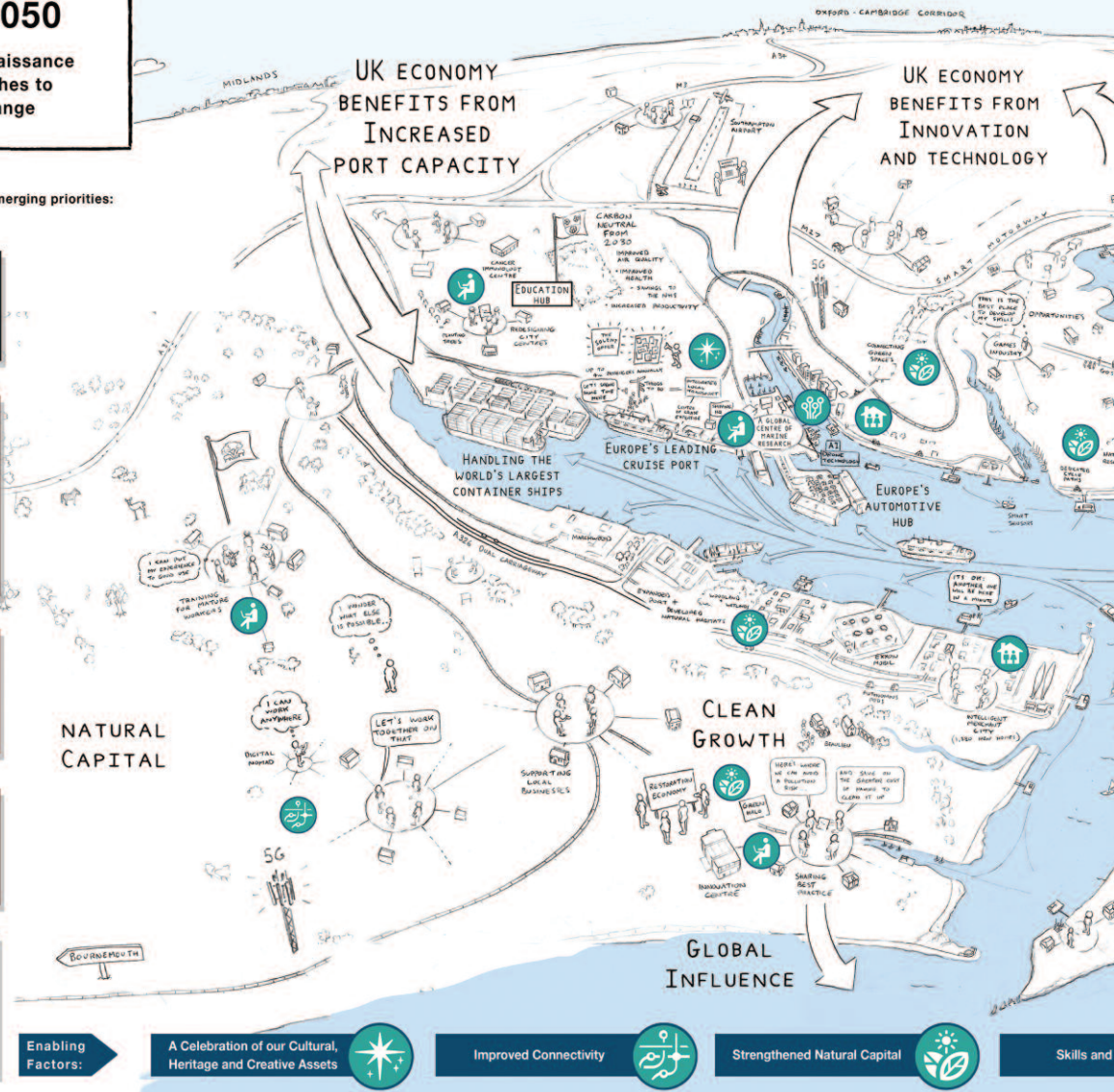
Secure our position as the number one economy for maritime, building on our existing strengths and ensuring we remain at the cutting edge.

Become an engine for pioneering approaches to climate change adaptation and decarbonisation. Such adaptation will be a necessity for the Solent given its unique geography with two major coastal cities, and there is an opportunity to build real expertise in this area that other regions - nationally and globally - can learn from.

To be the UK's capital for coastal renaissance, harnessing new technologies and approaches to revitalise coastal communities and ensure growth is inclusive.

To have the UK's most thriving visitor economy and culture, capitalising on the Solent's superb natural beauty and rich maritime history.

To be a global leader in developing people for the economy of the future, helping people at all points of their career build the skills they need to take part in an innovative knowledge-based economy.



## BUILDING A BIG PICTURE

We have collaborated with stakeholders from across the region to develop a Big Picture of the Solent for 2050.

Together we have been developing a strategy for the future economy with input from a diverse range of local people – including teenagers and students, local businesses, senior council executives, and politicians – to gather input to reflect the breadth and scope that such a strategy should include.

So that this strategy is a genuine long-term, inspirational vision for the Solent economy in 2050 that everyone can embrace and relate to, we have developed a Big Picture using data from interviews, surveys and consultations (see illustration above).

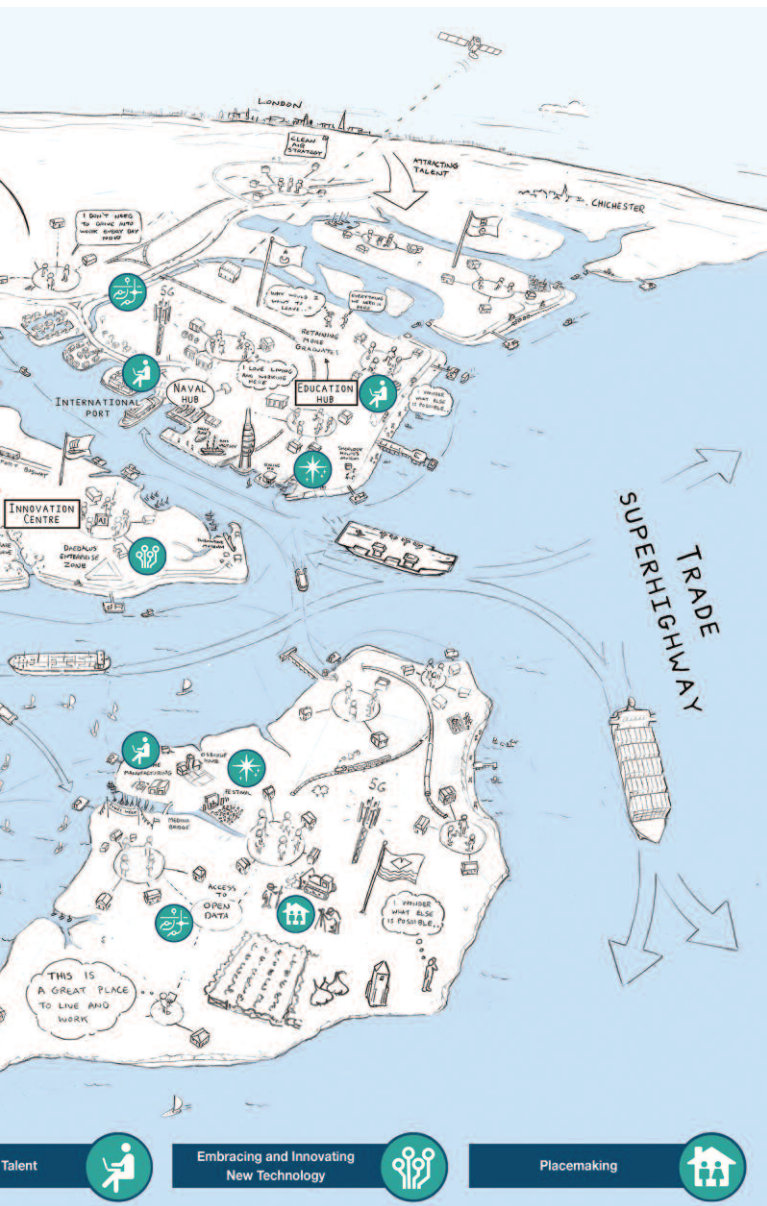
Using this artistic approach to build a Big Picture for the *Solent 2050* has encompassed diverse views.

## A STRATEGY FOR SOLENT 2050

We have been consulting widely on a long-term strategy designed to strengthen the Solent's position as a global centre of excellence. By 2050 we want to have 50,000 businesses generating at least £50 billion a year for the local economy.

In what has been an open consultation for anyone with an interest in the Solent, we've explored what this vision means with businesses, residents, commuters, schools, colleges and universities. Hundreds of people attended our various workshops and contributed to our online survey.

The long-term strategy for the Solent is an opportunity for the region to set its future economic agenda. It is about shaping the place we live in and making it better for future generations. We need to look at what are the building blocks that we need to put in place now – for example in skills,



## FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS



**#Solent2050:** In a short film we've made, business leaders of the future share their thoughts on what life will be like in 2050. Among the ideas are shopping delivered by drones, jetpacks and embedded microchips, and a community that stays close-knit.

They are positive, believing in the transformative power of technology. They understand that solutions are needed for long-term infrastructure and connectivity issues, and they have high hopes for a more sustainable future.



**Visit our channel on YouTube to watch the video.**

training and infrastructure – to make sure the Solent is prosperous and competitive in the future.

People have a strong sense of pride in the region and a desire to set an ambitious vision for our economy.

Emerging themes include:

- Marine and maritime cluster
- Clean growth and climate change adaptation
- Visitor and cultural economy
- Renaissance of coastal communities

People are encouraged by opportunities in, for example:

- Enhancing & innovating new technology
- A celebration of our cultural heritage and creative assets
- Strengthened natural capital
- Improved connectivity (transport and digital)
- Skills and talent
- Place (including the regeneration of cities, towns and the Isle of Wight).

# 2019 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STRATEGY

152,000 jobs

Total Solent-based maritime sector and Portsmouth Naval-based jobs



*\* CEBR Economic Contribution of the Maritime Sector in the Solent LEP*

Solent 2050

Progress update on the long-term strategy for the region published, signalling the Solent as a significantly international gateway



£31bn

Forecast for the region's economic growth



*\* Solent Economic Forecast*

41,600

Number of enterprises in the Solent's internationally recognised economic hub



*\* Economic Profile*

FUNDING

£7.5m

in grant funding for phase 2 of the redevelopment of Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering

**UK'S LARGEST MARITIME SIMULATION CENTRE**

3,500 new homes

£14m funding for new development, supporting key infrastructure needs



CETC opens

A unique apprentice training college created in collaboration with employers and Fareham College



Over £2.5m

Allocated to construction of the new National Maritime Systems Centre



CONVENING

Over 2,000

people and businesses consulted during the production of the 2050 strategy for the Solent



Maritime UK Awards



the inaugural, national awards were launched in Southampton

Careers Hub

Bringing schools, colleges & universities together with employers



**REGION WIDE**

Business support

Our Growth Hub Team held 141 masterclasses and business clinics



ADVOCATING

International trade missions

Selling the Solent on the international stage via trade missions including UK/USA Maritime Forum in Washington DC and investment mission to Bangladesh



New Forest Business Awards

The LEP sponsored Business of the Year, an overarching category, won by the Balmer Lawn Hotel



Women in Business

Expert in Residence is seconded to deliver positive action for greater female inclusion in business



Solent Powerhouse

The LEP was a finalist in the Maritime UK Awards for the Coastal Powerhouse



# SOLENT LEP 2019 - AT A GLANCE

## Milestones achieved in the Solent during 2019



Further details regarding our investments on business support, skills, the maritime sector and the region's infrastructure appears on the following pages

# BUSINESS SUPPORT

## PREPARING FOR BREXIT

**BREXIT READY:** We launched a package of support to help businesses prepare for all of the possible Brexit outcomes. Together with a variety of partners – including neighbouring LEPs and Chambers of Commerce, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Department for International Trade – we held a series of free workshops across the Solent with specialist, expert advice on offer.

There have been a number of one-to-one meetings with international trade advisers, covering subjects such as import and export documentation and the rights of employees from elsewhere in the EU.

We established a free online toolkit that 41 businesses used, with a virtual adviser able to identify the best actions for them to take, given their specific circumstances. The Solent LEP remains committed to supporting businesses during the EU exit transition phase. This includes working in partnership with BDO, a business planning and advisory company, to provide a package of support to boost business resilience.



## BUSINESS SUPPORT

**BUSINESS BOOST:** Finance, people management and marketing are among the most critical issues that prompt businesses to approach our Growth Hub team for free help.

Our first-stop team is there to simplify the process of business support for all organisations across all sectors, from start-ups and scale-ups to major brands.

The team provides one-to-one advice and signposts businesses to resources and potential funding opportunities. Priority sectors include marine and maritime, advanced manufacturing, digital technology, creative industries, life sciences, green tech, defence and aerospace. However, the team can be the first port of call for support for any businesses in the Solent.

Across the Solent to date, the LEP has awarded more than £11.092m in grant funding to more than 302 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), of which 85 are new start-ups.

The Growth Accelerator Programme was designed to improve business productivity, develop new products and new markets, and support the creation of private sector jobs. Delivered in partnership with BDO, a business planning and advisory company, 16 regional businesses received 12 hours of tailored, expert advice with highly experienced growth coaches, to apply to their businesses.

## TRADE MISSIONS

**TAKING THE SOLENT TO THE GLOBAL STAGE:** Our international trade missions programme has been helping businesses in the Solent establish new trading partners and relationships.

Working with Portsmouth City Council, we sponsored the leaders of two small businesses here to act as area ambassadors on a trade, investment and education mission to Dhaka, Bangladesh, one of southern Asia's fastest-growing economies.

Our various trade missions this year included a major focus on maritime. Following the success of our visit to New York in 2018, we once again played a leading role in the UK-US Maritime Nations Forum, attending a trade mission to Washington DC and the Port of Baltimore, along with the national industry organisation Maritime UK and the UK government.

We discussed opportunities for enhanced co-operation and sharing of best practice between our two countries' maritime sectors. Topics included decarbonisation and the potential for a future free trade agreement.



Trade mission to Dhaka, Bangladesh





## SOLENT PROSPERITY FUND

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT:** In September 2019, we announced a broad range of support to create and maintain jobs, increase profitability and help economic growth. To date, 33 businesses have applied for various-sized grants.

The fund offers different streams of support for start-ups, existing small and medium-sized businesses looking to get a particular project up-and-running, and bigger organisations who need funding to support large-scale projects or programmes involving, for example, infrastructure or digital connectivity.

The number of small and medium sized businesses who have received grants this year is seven.



## ISLE OF WIGHT INVESTMENT

**RURAL ECONOMY:** Natural Enterprise, our Isle of Wight community and environmental investment partner, works with us to deliver financial support for the Island economy.

More than 46 businesses have benefited so far, stimulating more than £1.5m of additional investment into local projects and creating and safeguarding more than 200 jobs.

Natural Enterprise manages a competitive fund on our behalf, the Isle of Wight Rural Fund, providing grants of between £2,500 and £50,000 to small and medium-sized businesses.

To date, we have allocated £750,000 to the fund to help with investments in new ventures, premises and equipment. This year we invested in 11 businesses, which has safeguarded and created 39 jobs.

## CASE STUDY: Innova Design and Build

**ACCELERATING GROWTH:** Founded in 2001, Havant based Innova Design and Build is an advanced manufacturing and precision engineering SME, working across multiple industry sectors, including electronics, marine and defence.

The firm's cutting edge machining technology and automated processes have enabled Innova to dramatically reduce lead times and costs, making machining even the most complex parts, a fast and affordable process.

Their capabilities have seen the firm hit the world stage, manufacturing 'Man of the Match' trophies for both the 2014 and 2018 World Cups.

The Solent LEP has worked with Innova to accelerate growth at the business. Supported by an £18,000 funding award from the LEP, Innova has established a new in-house pre-treatment and spray painting service. This new facility has enabled Innova to meet aerospace and the latest environmental standards, growing the company's market



**Solent Manufacturing in action: Aluminium enclosure deburred by hand at Innova Design and Build**

share in the sector, developing a new service offer for Solent-based manufacturers and creating three new jobs at the firm.

# SKILLS



## CETC ENGINEERING TRAINING CENTRE

**TRADE ESSENTIALS:** A £4.1 million training centre for civil engineering, CETC, opened on the Solent Enterprise Zone. It features a purpose-built, two-acre mock construction site, dedicated to delivering a specialist apprenticeship in civil engineering and groundworks.

Students use the site to learn about brickwork, drainage,

survey equipment and other essential aspects of construction. There is also a dedicated classroom for theory work. We have contributed to the development of the site to help respond to a recognised skills shortage hindering civil engineering growth and expansion across the south of England.

## REGION-WIDE CAREER HUB LAUNCHED

Careers Hubs involve local schools and colleges working together with universities, training providers, employers and career professionals.

This year we were able to extend our already established Solent East Careers Hub so that it covers the whole of the region, and includes the west of the Solent and the Isle of Wight.

This regional-wide Careers Hub builds on the early success of our Enterprise Adviser Network, sharing the aim of transforming careers education. Now we are covering the area completely, we will ensure that all secondary schools and colleges in our region can access resources and receive relevant information and signposting to employer connections on behalf of their students. Our aim is that by August 2020, 74 schools and colleges will be engaged with the Hub.

Nationally, areas with careers hubs have been shown to out-perform the national average across all aspects of careers education.

## SKILLS ADVISORY PANEL

**WORKFORCE FIT FOR THE FUTURE:** Skills are at the heart of growth and prosperity. We have already invested more than £30 million to enhance employer-led skills provision across the area.

To build on this progress, we have established a Skills Advisory Panel, bringing together business leaders, training providers and employers with a range of expertise across our key industries.

They include marine and maritime, the visitor economy, high technology manufacturing, secondary, higher and further education, transportation and logistics, construction, and digital and creative. The aim of the panel is to shape a workforce skills strategy by pooling knowledge on labour market needs and addressing local skills challenges.



## PUPILS MEET THE PM AT LONDON INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING WEEK

**INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS:** Schoolchildren from Gosport and Fareham met Prime Minister Boris Johnson during London International Shipping Week.

We invited the students to the Maritime UK Careers Hub, an all-day careers event, to promote the idea of working in the sector. As well as learning something of the

practical and academic skills the industry will require in the future, pupils had fun meeting the PM; 11-year old Robert described the day as “Awesome!” Georgina Mulhall, Executive Head Teacher at Gomer Junior School, said: “The visit provided a fantastic insight for our young people. Experiences like these are critical in enthusing the next generation.”

## VOLUNTEER ADVISER NETWORK



**ENTERPRISE ADVISERS:** In partnership with the Careers & Enterprise Company, we have recruited a network of volunteer Enterprise Advisers to help students at more than 60 secondary schools become better prepared for the fast-changing world of work. The advisers come from local businesses and organisations and liaise directly with the schools’ senior management teams. They evaluate existing careers and enterprise provision in the schools and develop activity plans to ensure the best local input can be accessed.

We continue to expand the Enterprise Adviser Network, focusing on programmes and activities that are most effective in motivating young people, supporting independent choice and bringing about positive outcomes for young people. We are also a sponsor of the education charity EBP South’s annual ‘big bang’ event, highlighting career pathways in STEM subjects.

## MATHS IN ACTION AT AIRBUS

**STEM:** To help strengthen links between business and education, we bring employers together with schools, colleges and universities.

During one such event we collaborated with the aerospace and defence giant Airbus on a maths-in-action workshop, aimed at teachers from six local schools. The group attended the company’s Portsmouth site to see practical examples of how maths is applied in the workplace, especially in the design and construction of satellites.

On their tour delegates heard from an Airbus graduate and apprentice and discussed Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) career pathways and apprenticeships for students. The aim was to inspire new teaching ideas for the classroom and encourage more young people to consider a career in STEM.

We encourage more businesses to follow in Airbus’s footsteps.



# MARITIME

## PORT ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

**STRONGER LINKS:** During the London International Boat Show in September, the Port of Southampton was announced by Government as the UK's first Port Economic Partnership (PEP).

This designation underscores how strategically significant the Port of Southampton is to the ability of the UK to get its goods to market – now and in the future. Strategically located in the centre of the South Coast of England, the Port of Southampton is on the critical shipping super-highway between the growing markets of the Far East and mainland Europe.

Associate British Ports (ABP) are working with the Department for Transport (DfT) to agree the details of the PEP so that the whole country can optimise the UK's key trading gateway.

PEPs are innovative initiatives to create stronger links between ports and Government. The announcement of the Port of Southampton as the UK's first, delivers on a commitment set out in *Maritime 2050 – Navigating the Future* as one way of creating a strong business environment for ports to thrive, in turn, boosting trade and driving the regional and national economy.

## SOLENT LEP LAUNCHES MARITIME UK SOLENT



# MARITIME UK SOLENT

**INNOVATION:** Working in partnership with Maritime UK, we launched a new, business-led body, Maritime UK Solent.

This will bring together the array of maritime assets based in the Solent region, to promote and strengthen them, so that the area continues to be at the forefront of pioneering developments in the sector.

Maritime regions must work closely together in order to perform outstandingly well on the international stage, and the LEP is looking forward to continuing to forge strong alliances, both in the Solent and further afield.

This year, we produced an economic review of the maritime sector in the Solent in collaboration with Maritime UK. This is a key tool to monitor and analyse relevant economic figures and data, so we can foresee potential future challenges and opportunities.

## UK/USA MARITIME NATIONS FORUM

**INTERNATIONAL FORUM:** As a significant player in the second UK/USA Maritime Nations Forum trade mission that took place in Washington DC in November 2019, we were able to take the opportunity to highlight what a significant player the Solent region is when it comes to the maritime sector.

Our continued involvement – following our being part of 2018's Forum event in New York – firmly positions the Solent on the global maritime stage. This was verified by our US-based partners being hosted aboard the Queen Elizabeth-class carrier which calls the Solent, and more specifically Portsmouth, its home.



© Crown copyright

## WE HOST THE INAUGURAL MARITIME UK AWARDS



The winners of the first-ever Maritime UK Awards. Solent LEP teamed up with the national marine and maritime sector body, Maritime UK, to enable the Solent to host the inaugural national awards. The aim is to recognise and celebrate the innovative companies and organisations involved in what is now a £46 billion-a-year industry, supporting more than one million jobs.

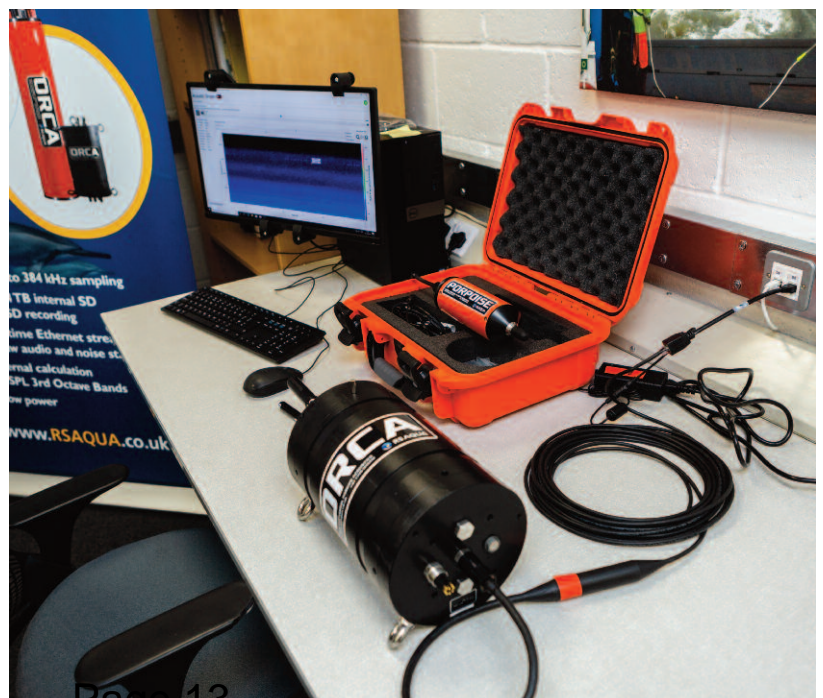
More than 400 guests attended the awards ceremony, which took place at the Leonardo Royal Southampton Grand Harbour Hotel during the Southampton International Boat Show. The awards will become an annual event, held at different locations around the UK.

## CASE STUDY: RS Aqua

**RELOCATION FUNDING:** RS Aqua, suppliers of high-specification marine instrumentation and submersible systems, relocated to the Solent region after being provided with funding by the Solent LEP to support their move and expansion.

Martin Stemp, Managing Director at RS Aqua, explained: "To sustain our growth, RS Aqua had to relocate and this meant a move to Port Solent in Portsmouth, within the Solent LEP area. Investment in the new premises and facilities have enabled expansion of the RS Aqua Technical Services division, which provides new research and development (R&D) capacity, product innovation and systems integration capabilities.

"This in itself has meant that we have created three new jobs this year, plus an additional one in 2020, along with two engineering apprenticeships posts."





The bridge simulation centre at the Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering

## WARSASH INVESTMENT

**CUTTING-EDGE TRAINING:** The UK's biggest and one of the world's most sophisticated maritime simulation centre was opened at the Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering.

The school, part of Solent University, is the world's leading maritime training provider, helping to train cadets and officers for roles in the Royal Navy, cruise ships, tankers,

offshore and bulk carriers, and other industry activities.

Forty years after the school's first simulator went live, the new centre features eight full-mission bridge simulators, as well as engine room, crane and 50 'part-task' scenarios. The Solent LEP provided the centre with nearly £7.5 million in funding, directly supporting better training and improved safety for everyone at sea.



## NEW NATIONAL MARITIME SYSTEMS CENTRE

**MISSION CRITICAL:** We are working with defence company QinetiQ to provide a £5 million contribution to the new National Maritime Systems Centre, a £23 million redevelopment project at Portsdown Technology Park near Portsmouth. This year construction of the facility is well under way.

A key focus is mission systems engineering, including for unmanned or autonomous systems, with the centre

reinforcing the Solent's ability to collaborate internationally and build export opportunities.

As well as Ministry of Defence (MOD) systems integration work, the centre will help with test and evaluation activities for organisations such as the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and the Civil Aviation Authority. It will also enable small and medium-sized businesses to engage with large contractors for the MOD.

# INFRASTRUCTURE



## NORTH WHITELEY DEVELOPMENT

**HOMES:** Construction work began on much-needed homes at North Whiteley, part of a flagship sustainable community scheme that will ultimately see more than 3,500 homes built alongside three new schools, a care home, community centre and shops.

Our investment in 2019 of £3.2 million helped with the

commencement of the work. Whiteley Meadows will create more than 600 jobs, with £77 million invested overall to support local infrastructure.

As well as improvement works to local roads, the scheme features allotments, playparks, fields and the retention of existing woodland.

## ISLAND LINE

**MODERNISING RAIL:** We helped unlock £26 million in government investment for an upgrade to the Island Line, a major boost to public transport on the Isle of Wight.

Running 8.5 miles (13.7km) from Ryde Pier Head to Shanklin on the east coast, the Island Line can trace its origins back to 1864. It was taken over by South Western Railway in 2017. The new investment promises more punctual, reliable trains and better connections to ferry services, supporting residents, business and tourism.

We have funded the new infrastructure, including a passing loop at Brading Station, which will result in simpler timetables and services more aligned with other public transport options.





## SOLENT ENTERPRISE ZONE

**LINK ROADS:** The Solent Enterprise Zone at Daedalus near Lee-on-the-Solent, Gosport, is a major employment hub, with hundreds of people travelling in each day to work for resident companies in sectors such as aerospace, marine and engineering.

We have invested £55 million in a comprehensive programme of local road improvements to improve access links between the Enterprise Zone, Fareham town centre, the Gosport waterfront and Junction 11 of the M27. This includes a £9 million scheme at Newgate Lane South.

The success of the Zone is leading directly to the provision of new housing on the Gosport peninsula, where more than 300 homes are currently under development nearby.



## FUTURE COMMUNITIES

**PARTNERSHIP WORKING:** We have continued to support the development of transformational opportunities for the region, working with partners to help realise their ambitions to bring forward new communities such as the Garden Village in Welborne and the new Merchant City at Fawley Waterside.

This year we have been able to unlock £2.5m for Hampshire County Council to help accelerate work on the business case for a new junction turn-off on the M27, to enable delivery of Welborne. In addition, we have approved a grant of over £5.6m to transform eight junctions on the A326 – the critical road connecting the coastal communities along the New Forest Waterside of Southampton Water, leading to Fawley Waterside.

## STUBBINGTON BYPASS

**PENINSULA:** Work has begun on a transformational 3.5 km road scheme to relieve congestion on the Fareham and Gosport peninsula.

The Stubbington bypass has been made possible thanks to a government investment of £35.7 million. It will improve access to the peninsula and key strategic growth sites, including the Solent Enterprise Zone.

We provided advance funding to the scheme promoter Hampshire County Council to facilitate the land assembly and preliminary works phase of the scheme.

## CENTENARY QUAY

**PUBLIC REALM:** New housing is a key priority of our economic strategy. We secured government funding of £7.6 million to bring forward the next phase of development at Centenary Quay, a major housing project earmarked for Southampton.

The money is contributing to essential public infrastructure, including river works, public realm improvements, ecological works and a district heating network.

This investment will unlock more than £64 million in additional private sector investment and enable the delivery of more than 340 new homes and 500 m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floor space.



# GET INVOLVED WITH THE SOLENT LEP



**MEMBERSHIP:** We work with a wide range of partners, including business leaders, local authorities, the education sector, not-for-profit organisations and local community groups.

Our business members shape the work of the LEP by voting on proposed changes to the way we work, electing

our board directors, and inputting to our overall strategic direction.

Membership is free and open to any business with activities in the LEP area in return for a commitment to support us by, for example, volunteering time, donating services or hosting meetings and events.

**ENTERPRISE ADVISERS:** We aim to partner all the secondary schools and colleges in the Solent with a volunteer Enterprise Adviser.

Delivered in partnership with the employer-led Careers & Enterprise Company, our Enterprise Adviser Network is recruited from local businesses and organisations.

Advisers work at a strategic level alongside school and college senior management teams. Together they evaluate existing careers guidance and enterprise activities and develop plans to access the best local provision to help prepare students for the world of work.



For more information on the many ways you can get involved with Solent LEP, visit

[solentlep.org.uk](http://solentlep.org.uk)



Simon Jack, Business Editor for the BBC, speaking at the Solent LEP Annual Conference

**BUSINESS SUPPORT:** Our Growth Hub Team offer a free one-stop-shop service for businesses, signposting and simplifying access to a range of information, loans, grants, advice and support.

To date, we have invested over £11 million in more than 300 businesses, including in excess of 80 new enterprises, and creating and safeguarding more than 1,600 jobs.

Our input has unlocked a further £40 million in private sector investment.

Our SME Ambassador, Brian Johnson, is keen to hear directly from individuals running SMEs in the Solent on the opportunities and challenges they feel will impact on our economic strategy for the area.

If you have views you wish to share, email [brian.johnson@solentlep.org.uk](mailto:brian.johnson@solentlep.org.uk)



For more information on the many ways you can get involved with Solent LEP, visit

[solentlep.org.uk](http://solentlep.org.uk)

# SOLENT LEP BOARD

## BOARD MEMBERS



6/6\*

ANNE-MARIE  
MOUNTIFIELD

Solent LEP Executive  
Director



3/6\*

GARY JEFFRIES

Solent LEP Chairperson



6/6\*

BRIAN JOHNSON

Solent LEP Deputy Chair  
& SME Business  
Ambassador



1/2\*

GRAHAM GALBRAITH

Solent LEP Higher  
Education Director



5/6\*

KEVIN GEORGE

Solent LEP Business  
Director



2/2\*

CLLR JUDITH  
GRAJEWSKI

Solent LEP Local  
Authority Director



2/6\*

CLLR CHRISTOPHER  
HAMMOND

Solent LEP Local  
Authority Director



5/6\*

STUART HILL

Solent LEP Business  
Director\*\* FPPMG Chair

\* Attendance at 2019 Board Meetings

\*\* Independent Non-Executive Directors, as outlined in the Corporate Governance Code 2018.

## How we are run

The Solent LEP Board of Directors are committed to helping this world-class area achieve its full potential.

Our work to support the region's socio-economic growth continues and we continue to strengthen the business leadership on our Board, as well as our strategic relationships with local stakeholders, including our Local Authority partners, to ensure our investments continue to deliver the high levels of transparency, accountability and value for money that our local residents and businesses deserve.

## The role of the Board

Solent LEP is led by people working together to secure a more prosperous and sustainable future for the Solent area. The LEP Board keeps us focused on our objectives, ensuring that we fund the right projects and that our internal controls are effective. Our executive and non-executive directors provide strategic leadership, challenge and support and contribute to the development of one of the

most successful LEPs in the country. The Chair is responsible for the Board's overall effectiveness in directing the LEP. Under risk management, the Board carries out a robust assessment of emerging and principal risks and an update is reported and acted on at each Board meeting. In 2019 there were six Board meetings.

## Oversight and accountability

We have established extremely robust and transparent governance arrangements to ensure our investments deliver value for money and tangible economic outputs. That means new jobs, housing, employment space, improved skills and infrastructure, and increased levels of private sector investment.

Portsmouth City Council (PCC) is our accountable body, responsible for ensuring the proper use and administration of funding, all of which fall under the annual audit of the local authority's accounts. PCC also ensures that decisions are made in accordance with the National Local Growth Assurance Framework.

The formal annual accounts for each financial year are typically signed off by the Board each autumn. We have agreed timescales and operating practices to support the effective implementation of decisions, which are described in the protocol and service support agreement between Portsmouth City Council and the Solent LEP.

## BOARD MEMBERS

 <p><b>5/6*</b></p> <p><b>SJ HUNT</b> Solent LEP Business Director**</p>	 <p><b>1/1*</b></p> <p><b>NICK LOADER</b> Solent LEP Business Director**</p>	 <p><b>6/6*</b></p> <p><b>RACHAEL RANDALL</b> Solent LEP Business Director** SAP &amp; SERCOM Chair</p>	 <p><b>6/6*</b></p> <p><b>CLLR DAVID STEWART</b> Solent LEP Local Authority Director</p>
 <p><b>3/6*</b></p> <p><b>PAULA SWAIN</b> Solent LEP Business Director**</p>	 <p><b>4/6*</b></p> <p><b>CLLR GERALD VERNON-JACKSON</b> Solent LEP Local Authority Director</p>	 <p><b>6/6*</b></p> <p><b>CLLR SEÁN WOODWARD</b> Solent LEP Local Authority Director</p>	 <p><b>4/6*</b></p> <p><b>DAVID YOUNGS</b> Solent LEP Business Director**</p>

## Equality and Diversity

We listen, engage and champion our local people, from all parts of our area and without bias. We are very mindful of the obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the impact of proposals on groups with protected characteristics. We have adopted the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Toolkit, which forms part of the LEP's assessment prior to awarding funding.

Our Diversity champion, Rachel Randall, says "The LEP itself was founded in the belief that our local community and area is *Together Stronger*."

The Solent LEP's Board is currently made up of 16 members. We welcome Jo Sawford from Airbus Defence and Space to the Board at our 2020 Annual General Meeting, bringing our percentage of women on the Board to 38%.

## Monitoring our values

Our Board continually assesses and monitors our culture, policies, practices and behaviour to ensure they are aligned with our purpose, values and strategy.

In support of this, we operate a number of decision-making and advisory panels, which make sure that we spend

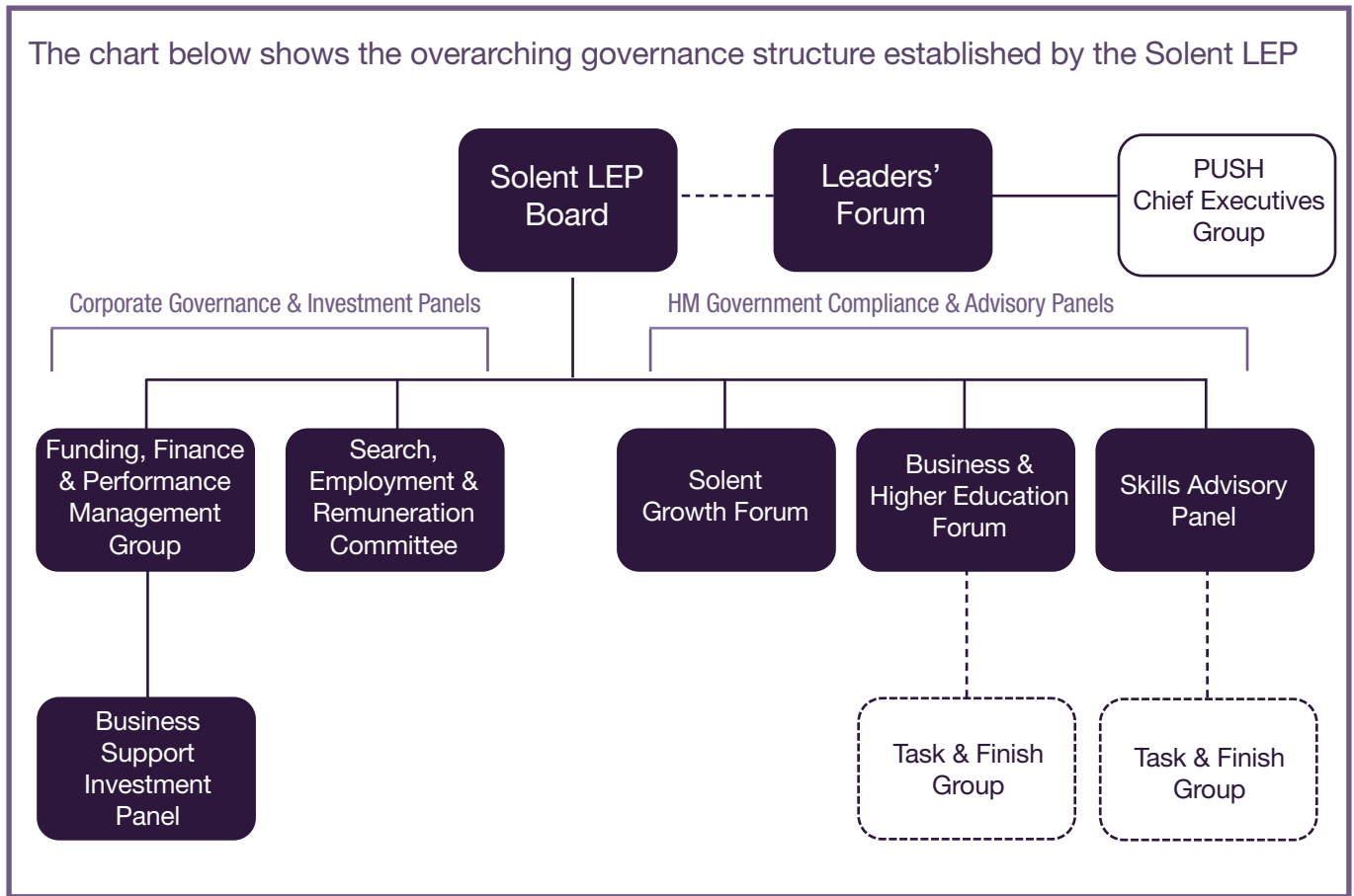


**Nusrat Ghani, Maritime Minister, with Solent pupils during London International Shipping Week 2019**

funding in the areas that need them most. These panels bring business leaders together to take forward priority areas of work. We work hard to promote a culture of openness, fairness and debate. The LEP and PCC have agreed a risk management framework for funded schemes, to inform monitoring in line with central government standards. This framework is available in section 5 of the Solent LEP's 'Advice to Scheme Promoters on the Development of Business Cases' and is monitored at each Board Meeting.

Continued overleaf

# SOLENT LEP GOVERNANCE



From overleaf

## Workplace

Our Search, Employment and Remuneration Committee is in charge of all in-house employment issues, including organisational structure, appointments, performance targets, pay, bonuses, service contracts and succession. Information about salaries is published on our website.

The committee plays a vital role in supporting our executive team by ensuring formal and transparent procedures are in place for developing employment policy. The committee's remit has been broadened this year and we have published an equality and diversity policy to include a stronger search capability for non-executive expertise.

## Championing the Growth Deal

Through the game-changing Solent Growth Deal we have, so far, invested £120 million in a wide range of projects in our economy, supporting businesses, creating and maintaining jobs, and attracting additional private sector investment.

To champion and scrutinise our work under the Solent Growth Deal, we have established an external panel, the

Solent Growth Forum, which offers expert advice, recommendations and guidance. It supports the optimal delivery of the many priorities across our programmes, while reviewing progress with our multi-year strategic economic plan.

## Investment guidance

Our Business Support Investment Panel underpins our approach to funding support and take decisions on our small business investment programme.

The Business Support Investment Panel met six times in 2019.

## Finance focus

Our Funding, Finance and Performance Management Group reports and provides advice to our directors. Appointed by the Board, the group helps to co-ordinate operational matters including our annual internal audit plan.

The Funding, Finance and Performance Management Group met four times in 2019.

## Democratic mandate

To strengthen our local authority engagement and enhance democratic accountability in our growth agenda, we operate a Leaders Forum made up of the leaders and senior officers of all the local authorities within the Solent LEP area.

The Solent Leaders' Forum met three times in 2019.

## Skills advice

Launched this year, our Skills Advisory Panel pools the leadership and knowledge of employers and education providers to help shape our approach to skills and labour market needs. Members work together to understand and address key local challenges, both immediate and longer term, across our key industries.

The Skills Advisory Panel met once in 2019.

## Our green actions

Solent LEP is committed to improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area. We recognise the impacts of our decisions on society and the environment, above and beyond our legal obligations, through transparent and ethical behaviour.

At all levels, the LEP has participated in fundraising and charitable activity, ranging from our Chair and Chief Executive's participation in the CEO sleepout, through to the LEP Executive Team members' participation in a range of fund raising activities for charitable causes.

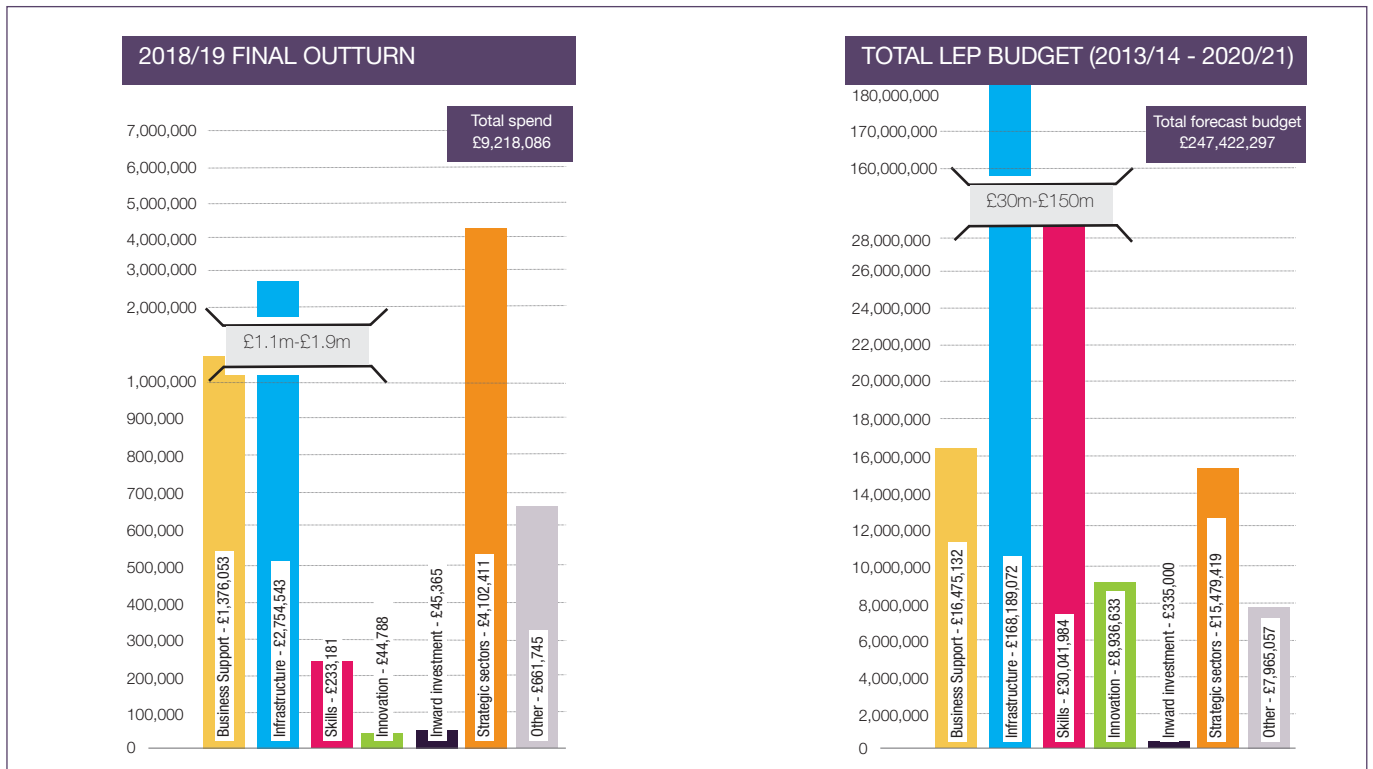
The Solent LEP is also committed to ensuring its activity is sustainable and has made a range of pledges to formalise this commitment, including:

- Ensuring marketing collateral is sustainable and plastic-free wherever possible, including utilising digital delegate packs to support LEP events;
- Calculating and offsetting emissions for all international travel of LEP Board and staff members for LEP travel;
- Prioritising the use of event and meeting venues that are easily accessible by public transport and have a commitment to reducing single-use plastic.

We encourage the Solent business community to make their own sustainability pledges.



# Financial Forecasts to 2020/21



## Sources of funding

Source of Funding – £	2018/19 Actual Expenditure	2013/14 - 2018/19 Actual Expenditure	Total LEP Budget (2013/14 - 2020/21)
Other Government Funding Programmes	£31,396	£29,268,616	£30,096,445
Solent Growth Deal	£7,804,531	£93,758,277	£178,257,261
Solent Growing Places Fund	£629,994	£14,574,299	£31,228,890
Central Government Funding	£577,643	£2,897,164	£5,202,330
Other	£167,110	£963,724	£2,293,471
Local Government Funding	£0	£343,900	£343,900
European Funding	£7,412	£84,446	£(0)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£9,218,086</b>	<b>£141,890,426</b>	<b>£247,422,297</b>

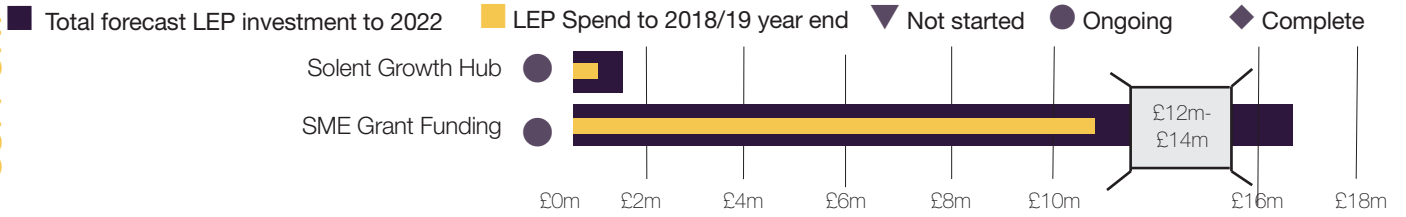
Financial Summary	2018/19	2013/14 - 2020/21
<b>Budget:</b>	<b>£46,872,240</b>	<b>£247,422,297</b>
<b>Total committed to external organisations through grants and loans</b>	£44,864,381	£232,053,465
<b>Total committed to suppliers to purchase goods, works or services</b>	£794,536	£5,895,323
<b>Total running costs</b>	£1,213,323	£9,473,509

Figures from: 2018/19 Final Outturn – Solent LEP Finance Report, Appendix B, May 2019 Meeting

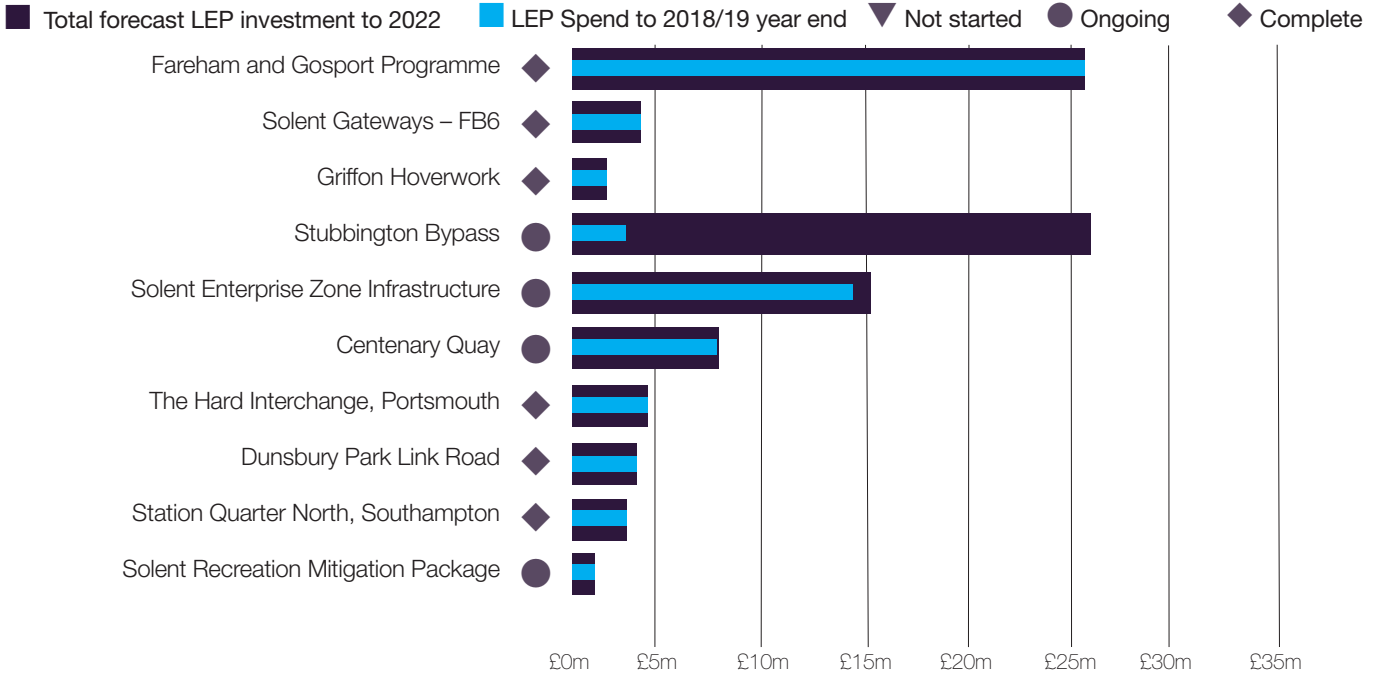


# SOLENT LEP - PROJECT DASHBOARD

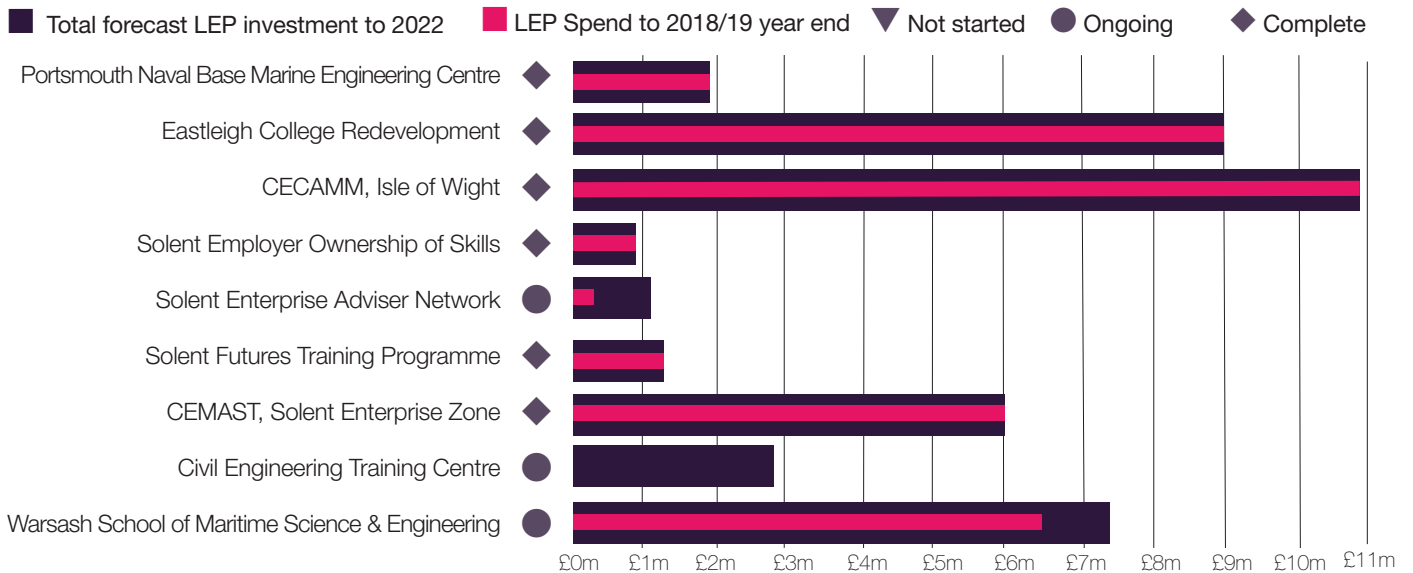
## BUSINESS SUPPORT



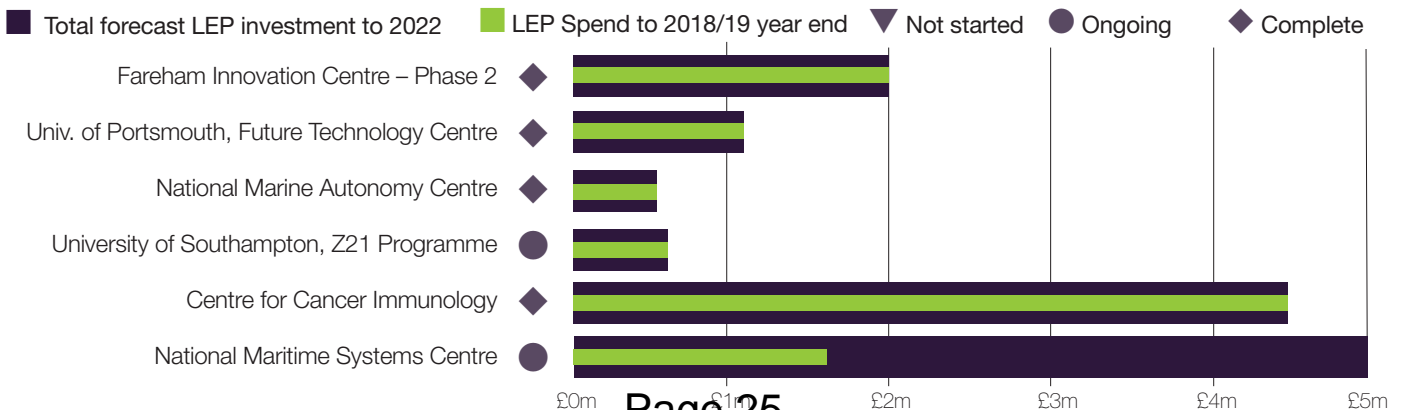
## INFRASTRUCTURE



## SKILLS



## INNOVATION



# OUR VALUES



## CORE VALUES

	<b>S</b> upport	We <b>Support</b> businesses to grow, individuals to succeed and communities to flourish
	<b>O</b> pen	We are <b>Open</b> , transparent and honest and work without bias, ensuring that an evidence-based approach drives our decision-making
	<b>L</b> eadership	We lead by example and value <b>Leadership</b> which is ambitious, fair and objective
	<b>E</b> mbrace	We <b>Embrace</b> diversity as an essential component in the way we work
	<b>N</b> urture	We <b>Nurture</b> the talent, innovation and creativity of those we work with
	<b>T</b> eamwork	We believe trust and mutual respect are essential for <b>Teamwork</b> and collaboration

[solentlep.org.uk](http://solentlep.org.uk)

## Our aim is to continually improve

Our area requires a new ambitious and future-facing strategy to realise its vast economic potential. We have worked with and consulted extensively with local stakeholders during 2019 to develop *Solent 2050*, a bold new 30-year plan for the region highlighting its distinctive strengths and world class environment. We will publish *Solent 2050* during 2020. Our Board is committed to ensuring the Solent LEP is a leading force for promoting this dynamic, vibrant and innovative economy in an inclusive way, ensuring that we play our part in providing an environment in which businesses, communities and individuals can flourish and succeed.

The Solent LEP has a longstanding record of good governance. We continue to maintain a very close oversight of the work of our LEP to ensure that it is fully meeting all of its governance and transparency responsibilities, and continues to demonstrate best practice in the context of both public and private sector governance. In addition,

we remain committed to continual improvement and have appointed our Chair as LEP Governance Champion to continue driving this forward.

During 2019 we have further strengthened the business leadership of our Board, agreed a new organisational structure to facilitate enhanced engagement with our public and private sector partners and reconstituted our Solent Growth Forum to enable even greater levels of scrutiny on the work of the LEP in the years to come. We are also steadfast in our commitment to boosting Board diversity and, having surpassed the Government's 2020 target of one-third of members of the LEP Board being women, we are now working towards securing equal representation by 2023.

Our commitment to continuous improvement will remain, ensuring our investments continue to deliver the high levels of transparency, accountability and value for money our local residents and businesses deserve.





SOLENT  
**LOCAL**  
ENTERPRISE  
**PARTNERSHIP**  
[#solent2050](#)

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