



SOLENT
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Building Our Industrial Strategy

Solent Growth Forum

Fareham Borough Council

Tuesday 14th March 2017

www.solentlep.org.uk





01 Schedule of Engagement

Theme	Venue	Date
Developing Skills	CEMAST, Solent EZ	14 th February, 2017
Driving growth across the whole country; and Creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places	Solent Hotel, Whiteley	1 st March, 2017
Encouraging Trade and Inward Investment; and Cultivating World-Leading Sectors	Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth	6 th March, 2017
Investing in Science, Research & Innovation; and Supporting Businesses to Start and Grow	Winchester Guildhall	9 th March, 2017
Infrastructure and Housing	Royal Southampton Yacht Club, Southampton	15 th March, 2017
Driving growth across the whole country; and Creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places	LandRover BAR, Portsmouth	16 th March 2017
	Northwood House, Isle of Wight	22 nd March 2017
	The Spark, SSU, Southampton	23 rd March, 2017

In addition, advice has been sought from:

- Employment and Skills Board
- Solent Marine and Maritime Steering Group
- Land, Property and Innovation Delivery Panel
- Innovation and Business Support Delivery Panel

02 Interim Feedback (i)

Theme	Emerging Headlines
Developing Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business would like to see a system which builds in a measure of the profile / suitability of the candidate alongside educational attainment - to reflect importance of the behaviours, values and competencies that have been highlighted as equally vital. • Employers recognised that automation will impact on a range of existing jobs within their organisations, requiring different and more advanced skill sets. Technical and interpersonal skills were cited as equally important. For key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, businesses highlighted the shortage of technical skills in the existing and potential workforce.
Driving growth across the whole country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business see a need for a tactical plan in the short term, recognising the dynamic operating landscape, with a longer term strategy to put in place the structures required to support long term productivity growth. • It is recognised that the south east is not homogenous and that there are a range of areas that have specific economic challenges. Businesses see the benefits in devolved budgets to local areas to enable locally-specific responses to local challenges and opportunities.
Creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brokering role to support businesses to business collaboration and business to academic collaboration is seen as required at the local and national levels to better exploit commercial opportunities. • Business felt that there is a need to better join clusters of sectoral activity across the country to enable them to optimise the UK offer to foreign markets.
Encouraging Trade and Inward Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business felt that inadequate connectivity within the Solent and between the Solent and London is an impediment to attracting Inward Investment. Business felt that the Solent needs to better market its assets, sectoral strengths, and broader quality of life offer. • To support exporting, business felt that access to expertise (whether at the national and local level) is required. Again, a brokering role was mentioned to make best use of expertise.



03 Interim Feedback (ii)

Theme	Emerging Headlines
Cultivating World-Leading Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was a feeling that the approach to Sector Deals should extend to technologies, recognising that the development of new technologies can support growth across a number of sectors and help to develop <u>new</u> sectors.• It was felt that Government have a good handle on the 'big-ticket' sectors, but there should be a focus on identifying new areas of research / innovation that have commercial potential. A localised version of the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) was seen as a good idea.
Investing in Science, Research & Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Businesses see the need for local 'accelerators' supporting businesses to develop ideas, commercialise, and scale-up.• There was a view from business that the funding being made available under the National Productivity Investment Fund for Science and innovation should not solely flow through the centre, but also through local institutions such as the LEP. There was also a hope that the weighting of this funding would be more balanced between science and innovation (with the former, historically seeing a greater level of funding).
Supporting Businesses to Start and Grow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business identified access to finance - and in particular the speed at which finance can be accessed - as a barrier to securing deals. There was a feeling that sufficient expertise was not available in banks with an understanding of export deals and the impact of the volatility of ForEx.• SME's, in particular, felt that they do not have access to sufficient expertise in relation to exporting and finance, and would like to see a more coordinated and responsive facility providing expert advice that they could tap into.



04 Driving Growth Across the Whole Country

Government principals for driving Growth across the whole country:

- Backing local connectivity with strategic infrastructure investment.
- Raising skill levels nationwide, but particularly in areas where they are lower.
- Investing in local science and innovation strengths.
- Getting the institutional framework right to support local industries.

Discussion Questions

- Do you agree the principles set out above are the right ones? If not what is missing?
- What are the most important new approaches to raising skill levels in areas where they are lower?
- Where could investments in connectivity or innovation do most to help encourage growth across the country?





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Thank you

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