

Item Number: 4
Item Title: Overview and Scrutiny of Solent 2050 Strategy to Date
Meeting Date: 30 January 2020
Purpose: For Overview and Scrutiny

1. Introduction

This report summarises the work the LEP has undertaken to develop a Solent 2050 economic strategy to date.

2. Recommendations

2.1. SGF Members will be asked to:

- **Note** the update provided in relation developing the Solent 2050 Strategy, and;
- **Provide advice** to the executive to inform the future development of the Strategy, and;
- **Note** the update provide in relation to engagement to date and planned consultation activity, and;
- **Provide advice** to the executive to inform the future consultation activity.

3. Draft Solent 2050 Strategy

In November 2017 the Government published the [Industrial Strategy White Paper](#), which set out a pathway to transforming productivity and earning power across the UK so that it would become the world's most innovative economy and the best place to start and grow a business, with upgraded infrastructure and prosperous communities across the country. Five foundations of productivity were identified: Place, Infrastructure, Ideas, People, and Business Environment, whilst four grand challenges that respond to global forces that will shape the rapidly changing future were also identified: Artificial Intelligence and Data; Clean Growth; Future of Mobility; and Ageing population.

In October 2019 Government published the [Local Industrial Strategy Policy Prospectus](#), which provided guidance for LEPs and Combined Authorities on developing Local Industrial Strategies that aim to enable areas to increase productivity and realise their potential, building on well-evidenced and distinctive strengths aligned with the national Industrial Strategy. They will set out the spatial impacts of national and local policy across cities, towns and rural areas, informing priorities and choices and demonstrating how they will allow all communities to contribute to, and benefit from, economic prosperity.

In February 2019, the LEP commissioned PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to support work to develop a Solent Local Industrial Strategy. The initial phase of activity focused on developing a compelling evidence base, underpinned by data analysis, a policy review, and wide-ranging consultation.

Work, in earnest, kicked-off informally at the Solent Leaders Forum on the 11th March 2019 and formally at the LEP's Annual Conference the next day. This was followed-up by an intense period of consultation activity across March to June 2019.

Solent LEP has planned, completed and participated in a number of consultation events. This engagement with local stakeholders has enabled the LEP to draw upon local intelligence to develop a distinctive vision. The breadth of the consultation is set out below:

- Solent Leaders Forum Meetings where all Solent Local Authorities have been represented
- Solent LEP AGM
- Solent LEP Annual Conference

- 4 area workshops (Isle of Wight, Southampton, New Forest, and Portsmouth)
- Disruption workshop
- Coastal Renaissance workshop
- Meetings with 13 Solent MPs
- Transport and Future Mobility Workshop
- Visitor Economy workshop
- FE and Sixth Form Workshop
- University Students Session
- HE Vice Chancellor Briefing
- PfSH Chief Executives Meetings
- Solent Regenerations Leads meetings
- Disruption workshops with schools
- Community and Voluntary Sectors Workshop
- Hampshire Rural Forum
- Southampton Connect and Business Strategy Group
- Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

In addition, the LEP has held a number of dedicated dialogues including with: Creative Network South, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, Carnival UK, New Forest Business Partnership, Transport for South East, Green Halo Partnership, Southampton Connect, Business South Infrastructure & Transport, Business South Regeneration South, Southern Policy Centre, and a range of meetings with the Solent's Local Authorities. Through this work to date the LEP has engaged with over 1,600 people, over 500 businesses, academia, all Local Authorities and 13 MP's from the area. We have also leveraged off our membership of Maritime UK to convene a meeting of LEPs and Maritime Cluster and business representative organisations to discuss the role of the Maritime sector in emerging economic strategies with BEIS, enabling the LEP to show national leadership in collaboration across boundaries. A summary of the consultation feedback is available [here](#).

The LEP has established an Independent [Prosperity Review Panel](#) to provide an external lens and advice to the LEP and PwC as the work develops. The Panel has convened twice, with the first meeting taking place in June 2019 and the second on 18th September 2019. At the first meeting, the Panel were presented with the findings from the initial review of the evidence base as well as the key areas that have emerged from the consultation work. At the second meeting the panel considered an updated evidence base, including a bespoke analysis of the Solent's Creative Sector, some initial economic modelling to consider the impact of future policy interventions across the Solent and the presence of a Solent growth multiplier. The panel also requested that a bespoke analysis of the visitor economy be undertaken and they considered the emerging strategic framework.

A Solent 2050 page has been set up on the LEP website [here](#), and, in addition to the summary of consultation feedback, we have published the following documents:

- [Solent Economic Strategy emerging evidence base](#)
- [Solent economic profile](#)
- [Solent economic baseline and forecasting](#)
- [Solent 2050 Progress Statement](#)

Publication of the Solent 2050 Progress Statement, which was reported to the Board in October 2019, was delayed until December due to Purdah. The publication of the Progress Statement is timely, as it provides a summary of the work that has been done to date, and the emerging strategic framework, and recognises that work may need to pivot to reflect the local growth agenda of the new Government. With this in mind, the LEP Board intend to publish a draft Solent 2050 Strategy for consultation with associated activity to socialise and obtain feedback on the draft document. A draft programme for consultation activity is set out below to take place between February and March 2020:

- Online survey
- 4 Public Consultation events (one in Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, New Forest, and Southampton).
- Meeting of Solent MPs in Westminster

- Solent Leaders Forum
- Solent Economic Regeneration leads meeting
- School engagement sessions, utilising our Enterprise Coordinators and Enterprise Advisers
- University student engagement session
- Engagement with the Solent Skills Advisory Panel
- Engagement with the Maritime UK Solent

The above activity will be supported by a social media campaign aimed at promoting participation in the consultation, a summary consultation document and Board members have been invited to promote participation through their networks.

The consultation period on the draft Solent 2050 Economic Strategy will provide an opportunity for the work to reflect any new local growth policy that emerges from the new Government. The consultation activity will need to be alive to a dynamic policy environment, and pivot accordingly. The consultation events will look to deploy innovative methods to engage in a meaningful way that focusses on listening, not talking.

As part of the consultation period, the Solent Prosperity Review Panel will be reconvened to secure their feedback and to report to them the emerging feedback from the consultation.

Alongside this our engagement with government on the Solent 2050 continues and we will shortly be attending a review panel to secure feedback on the work to date, including the evidence base to ensure there is a clear linkage between the evidence base and the development of the priorities within the strategy. This will form an integral part of the feedback on the draft Solent 2050 strategy.

A report, summarising the consultation feedback will be published on the Solent LEP website, and subject to the outcome of the consultation the final Solent 2050 Economic Strategy will be signed off by the LEP Board 2020 by the end of March 2020 for publication.

A copy of the progress statement is attached at Annexe A for the information of Solent Growth Forum Members. A presentation on the emerging strategy will be provided at the meeting.

Solent Growth Forum Members will be asked to:

- **Note** the update provided in relation developing the Solent 2050 Strategy, and;
- **Provide advice** to the executive to inform the future development of the Strategy, and;
- **Note** the update provide in relation to engagement to date and planned consultation activity, and;
- **Provide advice** to the executive to inform the future consultation activity.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

An EIA has been prepared in relation to this work and this is provided at Annexe B, and it is considered that there are no negative impacts on groups identified in the EIA.

5. Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report to the SGF Members. Any legal considerations arising out of the work streams pursuant to the new strategy going forward will be reviewed separately as and when required.

6. Financial comments from the S151 Officer of the Accountable Body

The costs of producing the Solent 2050 Economic Strategy are allowed for within the approved LEP budget. Any initiatives that arise from the strategy that have cost implications will be subject to future reports to the LEP Board and this Forum.