



SOLENT  
LOCAL  
ENTERPRISE  
PARTNERSHIP



# INVESTING IN THE SOLENT: SOLENT LEP **ANNUAL REPORT**



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Solent LEP  
Business Director



**Vacancy**  
Solent LEP  
Public Sector Director

# FOREWORD

“THE PAST YEAR HAS SEEN A MOMENTOUS STEP CHANGE IN THE SOLENT LEP’S PERFORMANCE



**Gary Jeffries**  
Solent LEP Chairman

With the introduction of the Local Growth Deal capital programme we have been able to invest and spend over £40m on key infrastructure projects to support the area and enable it to reach world class potential, including new investment in key transport interchanges at Station Quarter in Southampton and The Hard Interchange in Portsmouth, the creation of two new world class skills centres in Eastleigh and on the Isle of Wight as well as the development of a new global Centre of Excellence for Cancer Immunology.

In addition, we continue to support our SME base and our business support programmes have directly supported over 130 local businesses and helped to create or safeguard over 1,200 jobs and enable over £30m private sector leverage. There has also been complementary investment from the LEP to support innovative work, including £4.5m to bring forward the first dedicated Cancer Immunology Centre in the UK.

We are also continuing our work with partners to find new ways of improving connectivity in the Solent and I am delighted to say that in May 2016 we were able to publish our Strategic Transport Investment Plan which highlights our new and ambitious approach to investing in transport, looking at transformational schemes to shape the economy, including a Solent Metro.

Additionally, we continue to work with all stakeholders in the Solent and with the government to secure local growth, funding and autonomy, to allow the local area to support the aspirations of residents and businesses in the Solent. Although it has been a fantastic year for the Solent, we know that there remain challenges that the LEP need to work through. With the country's decision to leave the EU and the uncertainty in the current economic climate the LEP want to play a leading role in working with the private sector to explore new opportunities in a global marketplace and build on our track record as a globally attractive area to invest in.

Therefore in 2017 we want to work with you all to build a new strategy for the Solent that will allow it to achieve its full economic potential. We will also prioritise delivering on the aspirations set out in our Transport Investment Plan this year, including the development of our Solent Metro proposal. This investment is critical to addressing barriers to growth in the Solent and we want to collaborate with partners to secure this much needed investment which will address the long standing concerns of our businesses and residents regarding connectivity, journey times and congestion.

We look forward to building on our successes and this Annual Report summarises some of these key achievements over the past year. I hope it encourages you to work with us as we take forward these ambitions.

# OUR INVESTMENT PARTNERS

- Solent Growth Hub
- Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
- WSX Enterprise
- British Marine
- X-Forces
- Natural Enterprise
- Hampshire County Council
- Southampton City Council
- Portsmouth City Council
- IOW Council
- Fareham Borough Council
- BAE Systems
- MHI Vestas
- Formaplex
- Fareham College
- Eastleigh College
- IOW College
- Cheetah Marine
- GKN Aerospace
- University of Portsmouth
- University of Southampton
- The Careers and Enterprise Company
- Tidebank Ltd
- Southampton Solent University
- Defence Growth Partnership
- Thales
- Education Business Partnership
- QinetiQ
- PUSH
- Social Enterprise Link
- Community Empowerment
- ABP Southampton
- Fareport Training Organisation
- Homes and Communities Agency
- Griffon Hoverwork
- Cherrytech Ltd
- Datum Electronics
- Harvest Fine Foods
- Jack Tighe Ltd
- Vikoma International
- Business South
- GTV Partnership
- IOW Chamber of Commerce
- Hampshire & IOW Community Foundation Trust

# THE SOLENT LEP AREA: KEY FACTS



A population of **1.3m**



**50,000** Businesses



**290 miles** of coastline



**3 global** gateways  
The Port of Southampton, The Port of Portsmouth and Southampton Airport



A **globally leading** Marine & Maritime sector which supports more than **3,000** businesses



**3 World Class** universities



Local GVA of **£27.8bn**



GVA of **£45,645** per worker

Source: Oxford Economics Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Baseline Forecasts and the Implications of BREXIT January 2017

## EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY DATA

| ALL PEOPLE          | SOLENT  | SOLENT (%) | SOUTH EAST (%) | ENGLAND (%) |
|---------------------|---------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| Economically active | 635,000 | 80.6       | 80.6           | 78.1        |
| In employment       | 601,900 | 76.3       | 77.2           | 74.1        |
| Employees           | 516,900 | 66.3       | 65.5           | 63.1        |
| Self employed       | 82,500  | 9.7        | 11.4           | 10.7        |

| QUALIFICATIONS  | SOLENT  | SOLENT (%) | SOUTH EAST (%) | ENGLAND (%) |
|-----------------|---------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| NVQ 4 and above | 245,600 | 32.4       | 39.8           | 36.8        |

| EMPLOYEE JOBS BY INDUSTRY | SOLENT | SOLENT (%) | SOUTH EAST (%) | ENGLAND (%) |
|---------------------------|--------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| Manufacturing             | 43,000 | 8.3        | 6.2            | 8.2         |

| EARNINGS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE (GROSS WEEKLY PAY) | SOLENT (£) | SOUTH EAST (£) | ENGLAND (£) |
|---|------------|----------------|-------------|
| Full-time workers                                 | 536.5      | 582.0          | 544.7       |

Source: NOMIS February 2017

# SKILLS

“SKILLS ARE ESSENTIAL TO A MODERN, PRODUCTIVE AND GROWING ECONOMY”



Image: Eastleigh College

## EASTLEIGH COLLEGE

The Solent LEP have invested £9m into a £12.4m project to refurbish existing facilities and complete estates renewal including the completion of a new teaching block and a new Advanced Technology building. The project will create over 1,000 new apprenticeship opportunities at Eastleigh College.

Jan Edrich, Principal of Eastleigh, said:

“The investment is critical to ensuring that the Solent’s future workforce have the STEM skills our key growth sectors will need. Working with our partners at the LEP we have been able to greatly accelerate the delivery of this investment on the ground.”

## THE CAREERS AND ENTERPRISE COMPANY

The Solent LEP is working with the Careers and Enterprise Company, an employer-led organisation set up to inspire and prepare young people for the fast-changing world of work, to deliver the Enterprise Adviser Network. Enterprise Advisers are being recruited from local businesses and organisations and will be working at a strategic level alongside the schools’ senior management teams to better prepare students for the world of work.

So far 27 Enterprise Advisers are working in 32 schools across the Solent.

To find out more please visit

[www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/enterprise-adviser-network](http://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/enterprise-adviser-network)

**OVER £25M**

skills capital investment to support three new world class skills facilities

**£1.5M**

invested to support local employers

**CREATION**

of the Solent Enterprise Adviser Network linking employers with education across the Solent region.

# BUSINESS SUPPORT

“SUPPORTING NEW BUSINESSES, ENTERPRISE AND ENSURING OUR SMALL BUSINESSES SURVIVE AND GROW IS KEY AS OUR BUSINESSES SIT AT THE HEART OF OUR ECONOMY”



Image: Solent LEP beneficiary Solent Composite Systems

## SOLENT COMPOSITE SYSTEMS LTD ISLE OF WIGHT

Solent Composite Systems (SCS) is a world leader in the design and manufacture of high performance composite solutions for technically demanding applications and engineering projects, with a special focus on the Energy sector – Oil & Gas and Renewables.

The company were awarded £75,000 Bridging the Gap funding to support the set-up of their new premises.

Matthew Chalk, Operations Director at SCS, said:

**“Solent Composite Systems on the Isle of Wight were able to move to new premises and secure 25 jobs with the help of the LEP funding”**

# £7.5M

committed to support Solent businesses

# 70

new businesses created to date

# OVER 1,200

jobs expected to be created/  
safeguarded

## NATURAL ENTERPRISE

In January 2016 the Solent LEP launched the Isle of Wight Rural SME Fund in partnership with Natural Enterprise, who manage this fund on behalf of the LEP, to support the Isle of Wight’s rural community. The IOW has the largest rural sector in the Solent and the LEP knows how critically important these businesses are to the Island’s economy. Natural Enterprise offer a wide range of services from economic development work, extensive project delivery, through to managing European and other Rural & Economic Development Funding Programmes. Based on the Isle of Wight and as part of the Island 2000 Trust charity, Natural Enterprise’s profits are reinvested for the sole benefit of the Isle of Wight, its communities and countryside.

Graham Biss, Managing Director of Natural Enterprise, said:

**“Interest in the IW Rural Fund has exceeded our expectations. Since its launch in February 2016 the Fund has supported 18 businesses to create 30 new jobs and safeguard a further 35. The Fund has already made a difference to the Island’s economy. Whilst the key reason for the success of the Fund is the quality of the businesses applying, great credit should go to the Local Action Group, the team at Natural Enterprise and the partnership with the Solent LEP.”**

## X-FORCES

In October 2015 the Solent LEP launched the Bridging the Gap Armed Forces Fund in partnership with X-Forces, who are well known in the business and military community for their work in supporting service leavers, veterans, spouses, reservists and cadets through mentoring, training, access to finance and linking up with partners and charities providing welfare and support for military families. The fund is for the Armed Forces community in the Solent - service leavers, veterans, family members, spouses, reservists and cadets - and will support both new start-ups and established businesses with grants of between £5,000 - £75,000 to create jobs and secure investment.

Ren Kapur, Founder and CEO of X-Forces, said:

**“Solent LEP has been our flagship LEP Partner working seamless on our joint initiatives to get the right provision on the ground, and we are delighted that together we have helped reach more beneficiaries and deliver effective Enterprise Training and Start Up / Scale Up support. Enterprise Skills are so important to the UK Economy, and X-Forces is proud to be working with Solent LEP to help the Armed Forces Community to launch, start and scale-up their businesses. Through collaboration with Solent LEP we are able to cultivate the skills that individuals from the Forces community already have, and together we are able to build and deliver a service where is it needed, at the heart of local small business community.”**

# SOLENT GROWTH FUND

Launched

## NEW

strategic partnerships with  
Natural Enterprise and X-Forces

# SOLENT GROWTH HUB

“SUPPORTING BUSINESS SUCCESS IN THE SOLENT.”



Image: Denise Barlow, Head of Projects and the Solent Growth Hub

## SOLENT GROWTH HUB

The Solent Growth Hub is a ‘one stop shop’ business support service, helping businesses to seek free help, expert advice and signposting to funding opportunities. The Solent LEP put its weight and financial backing behind this Solent Business Support Hub in February 2015 and has to-date invested over £450,000 in this service. Through this investment the Solent Growth Hub has been now able to support over 22,000 businesses. The Solent Business Support Hub team provides information on everything from funding and finance to skills and employability through an online portal. Users are able to download free resources and guides as well as search for funding opportunities they may be eligible for. In addition to the website, the hub runs a telephone helpline where experts are on hand to offer free help and advice.

Stewart Dunn, Chief Executive of Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, commented:

**“We are delighted to be working alongside the LEP, with the Solent Growth Hub being at the very front of business support. As we move forward post BREXIT the Growth Hub is ideally placed to help business develop and grow with bespoke support for access to funds via grants or low cost loans. Growth from small and medium size enterprise is key to supporting both the Government and the Solent LEPs new strategy to boost economic growth and productivity in the Region.”**

## £455,000

invested to establish the Solent Growth Hub which, to-date, has supported 22,988 businesses

# SOLENT ENTERPRISE ZONE

“ENTERPRISE IS A KEY DRIVER OF PRODUCTIVITY AND GROWTH AND THE SOLENT ENTERPRISE ZONE HAS BEEN A CATALYST FOR GROWTH ON THE FAREHAM AND GOSPORT PENINSULAR.”



Image: Fareham Innovation Centre



Image: Centre of Excellence in Engineering, Manufacturing and Advanced Skills Training (CEMAST)

Richard May, Incubation Director at Fareham Innovation Centre, said:

**“The Fareham Innovation Centre has already created its own special identity within the local area and business community. A place where businesses are truly welcomed, encouraged and supported by each other, the centre team and the well-ushered supportive ecosystem. Those visiting the centre, for meetings or valuable business events, are amazed at the sense of purpose and camaraderie that is clearly visible in this award winning workspace.”**

## INVESTMENT IN A £12M

Centre of Excellence in Engineering, Manufacturing and Advanced Skills Training - CEMAST - which is now training over 1,000 students per year

## £5.8M

secured to support the creation of a new facility for small businesses - Fareham Innovation Centre is now fully occupied and home to 29 businesses, providing over 100 jobs. These businesses are in the Marine, Aerospace, High-Tech, Leisure Products, Gaming and IT Services sectors.

## OVER £15M

invested in infrastructure that has secured the development of Daedalus East, Daedalus Park and Daedalus Drive

We are working in partnership with Fareham Borough Council to invest £7m from retained business rates to support the development of Daedalus West

# INFRASTRUCTURE

“IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY REQUIRES TARGETED AND SUSTAINED INVESTMENT. THE SOLENT LEP PRIORITISED CAPITAL SPENDING IN 2015/16 TO SUPPORT KEY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.”



Image: Dunsbury Park

## DUNSBURY HILL FARM WATERLOOVILLE

Dunsbury Hill Farm (DHF) is a strategically positioned development site with strong links to London via the A3 and wider Solent area.

Despite this huge potential, the DHF site had no means of vehicular access and, as a result, the site has remained out of economic use for the last decade.

The Solent LEP invested £4,540,000 of Local Growth Deal Funding to bring forward a link road to the site which has proved the critical piece of infrastructure to catalyse wider investment and development totalling 67,534m<sup>2</sup> of employment-land and the creation of some 3,400 new jobs.

This project has now been completed and Fat Face are expected to be operational by early 2017.

Simon Ratcliffe, infrastructure director at FatFace, said:

**“For some time we have been exploring options to expand our distribution facilities in order to support the company’s ambitious growth plans. Having considered a number of locations across the UK, we have decided to maintain our commitment to the Havant region. The new site will support our expansion plans whilst allowing us to better serve our customer base. We also look forward to continuing our support for local employment in the Havant area where our excellent staff, which now total 300 people in both Head Office and our existing distribution facilities, continue to drive this business forward.”**

## OVER £9.4M

invested to improve connectivity across the Fareham/Gosport peninsular

## OVER £9M

invested in our key transport interchanges in the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton



Image: Fareham and Gosport Programme phase 1



Image: Solent Enterprise Zone

## OVER 4.5M

invested to unlock new employment land for development adjacent to the A3M in Havant

## £1.5M

investment in new green infrastructure including Alver Valley Country Park

## PHASE 1 INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

### FAREHAM AND GOSPORT

Under our existing Growth Deal, the Solent LEP has accelerated work at St Margarets Roundabout and Peel Common Roundabout which are key elements within a wider Fareham and Gosport Infrastructure package to unlock new jobs and homes. Within the wider package of works including improving access to Fareham and Gosport and unlocking new housing developments, the investment will improve access to the Solent Enterprise Zone at Daedalus - a flagship site being supported by the Solent LEP.

This investment compliments existing investment through the Growing Places Fund in onsite infrastructure by improving access to the site.

**“This investment package is excellent news for future jobs and growth in our area. This will secure the Solent Enterprise Zone’s place as a leading centre for advanced manufacturing in the long term and enhance the prospects of young people in our local area.”**

Caroline Dinenage - MP for Gosport

# MARINE AND MARTIME

“AS THE ENGINE OF BRITISH TRADE AND WITH A WORLD LEADING MANUFACTURING CLUSTER, THE MARINE AND MARITIME SECTOR SUPPORTS 3,000 BUSINESSES AND ACCOUNTS FOR 20.5% OF THE SOLENT’S GVA.”



Image: Cheetah Marine

## CHEETAH MARINE ISLE OF WIGHT

Cheetah Marine is a long established family run business that went into production in 1991 designing and building bespoke catamarans based on each customer's specific requirement. The company has gone from manufacturing small fishing catamarans to a range of internationally recognised power catamarans and are now in their 25th year of production and continue to lead Europe in the specialist design and construction of power catamarans.

The company requested funding to support the planned growth of the business.

Sean Strevens, Founder and Partner of Cheetah Marine, said:

**“The LEP 20% grant towards a capital investment has given us the confidence to go ahead with a project which will increase our manufacturing efficiency as well as give us more space to invest into new developments. We are continuously developing our catamaran designs to suit wider global market potential and with the LEP help this becomes more realistic.”**

OVER  
**£900,000**

invested to support skills initiatives in the Solent marine industry

**£1.8M**

invested to establish a BAE Marine Engineering Centre and Skills Development Centre to enable over 100 apprenticeship opportunities and also provide support for local SMEs

Work underway on a £10.9m Centre of Excellence for Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine (CECAMM) on the Isle of Wight

# INNOVATION

“BUILDING ON OUR SUBSTANTIAL KNOWLEDGE ASSETS TO SUPPORT INNOVATION AND INCREASE OUR RESEARCH CAPACITY IN THE SOLENT IS A KEY DRIVER OF OUR GROWTH STRATEGY.”



Image: Cancer Immunology Centre. Artist's Impression

## CANCER IMMUNOLOGY CENTRE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL SOUTHAMPTON

Through the Local Growth Deal the LEP has provided £4.5m of as part of the University of Southampton's £25 million campaign to build a new Centre for Cancer Immunology, the first of its kind in the UK to advance research into an innovative and effective treatment for cancer. The Centre is being delivered at Southampton General Hospital and is expected to open in 2017 and will bring world leading cancer scientists under one roof and enable interdisciplinary teams to expand clinical trials and develop lifesaving drugs.

Sir Christopher Snowden, vice-Chancellor at the University of Southampton, said:

**“Despite an extremely successful campaign raising more than £13.5m to bring forward this project, we were still left with a funding gap of £9.5m. The LEPs investment of £4.5m from its skills and innovation fund has de-risked the project sufficiently to allow the University to underwrite the remaining funding gap while it completes its fund raising campaign and, together, secured the commencement of construction in 2015. Without Solent LEP support, Southampton's lead in this ground-breaking research would be jeopardised by the delay.”**

Continued working with the Universities to commercialise new ideas and improve links between Higher Education sectors and SMEs

**£1M**

funding allocated for a University of Portsmouth Future Technology Centre to enhance the centre to provide a space for SMEs to use and leverage off the assets of the University

**£4.5M**

invested in a new global Centre of Excellence for Cancer Immunology at the University Hospital Southampton

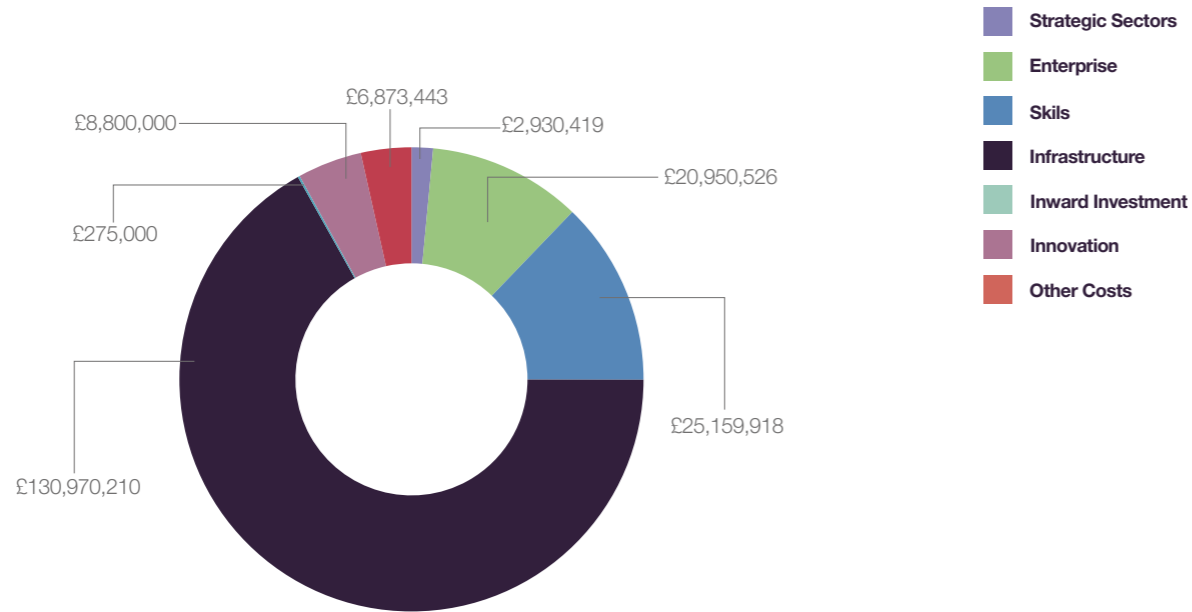
Launch of a new dedicated Innovation Programme Fund



# HOW WE ARE FUNDED

## TOTAL

### WHERE WE ALLOCATE THE FUNDING

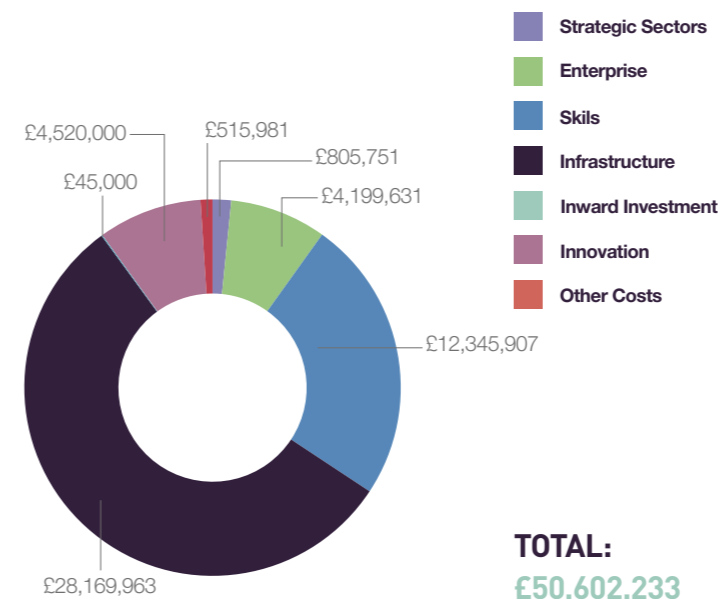


**TOTAL:**  
£195,959,516

## 2015/16 & 2016/17

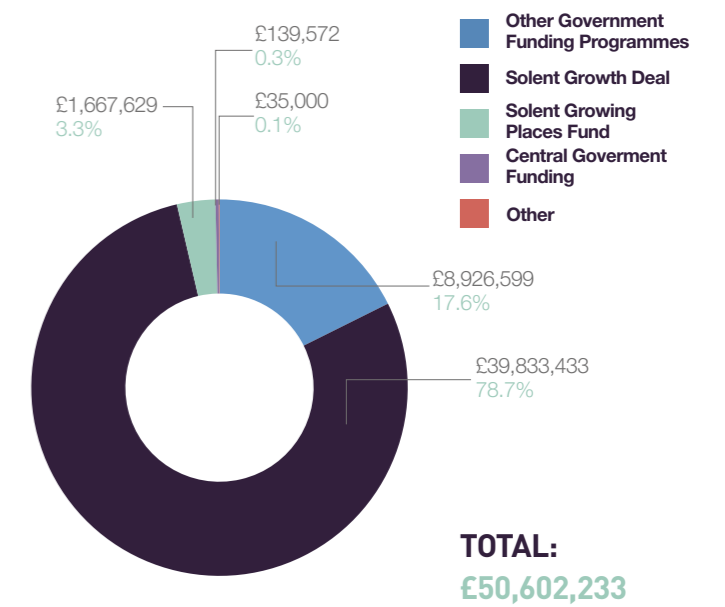
### 2015/16 ACTUAL OUTTURN

#### WHERE WE ALLOCATE THE FUNDING



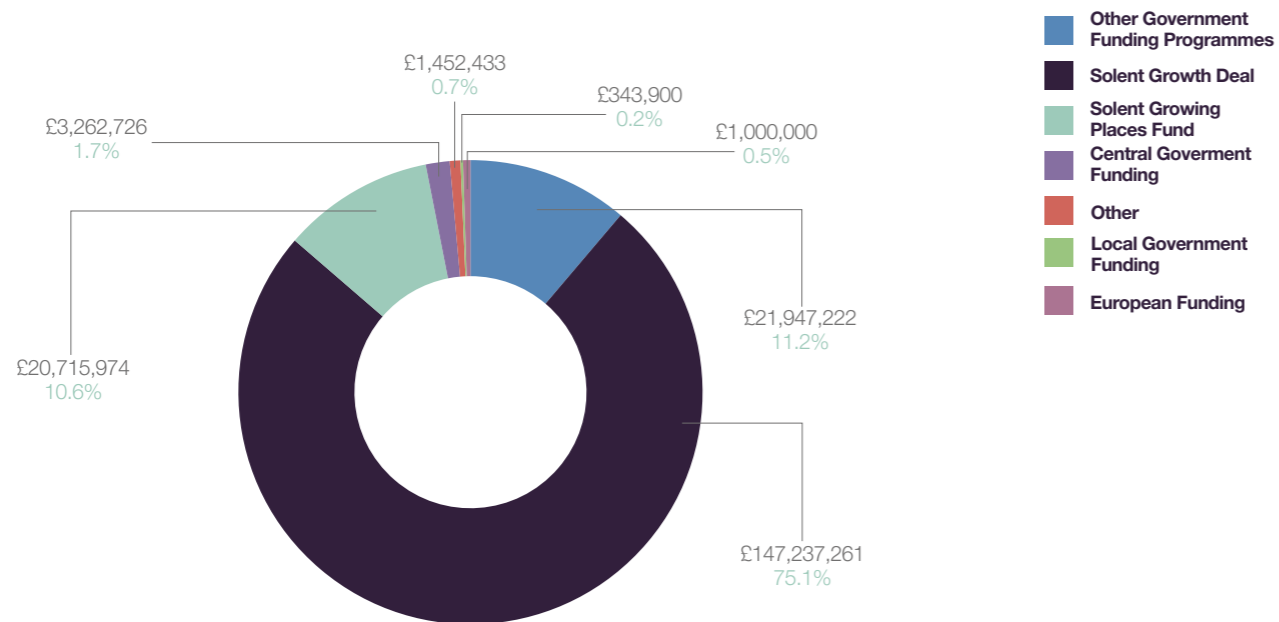
**TOTAL:**  
£50,602,233

#### WHERE THE FUNDING COMES FROM



**TOTAL:**  
£50,602,233

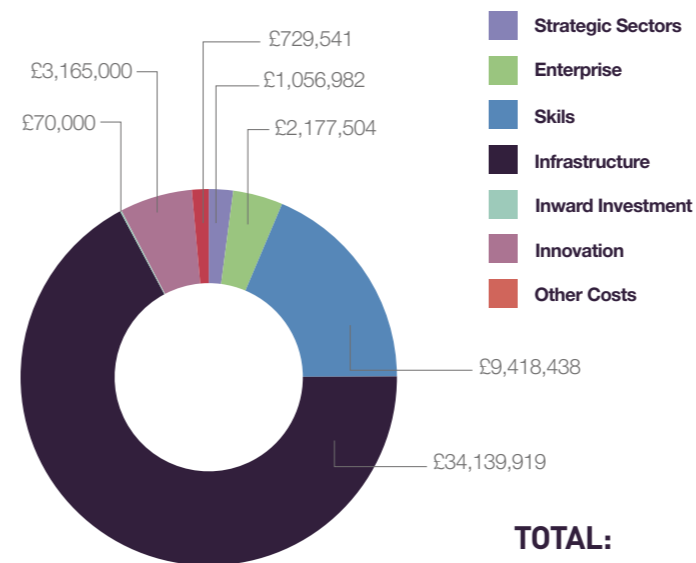
### WHERE THE FUNDING COMES FROM



**TOTAL:**  
£195,959,516

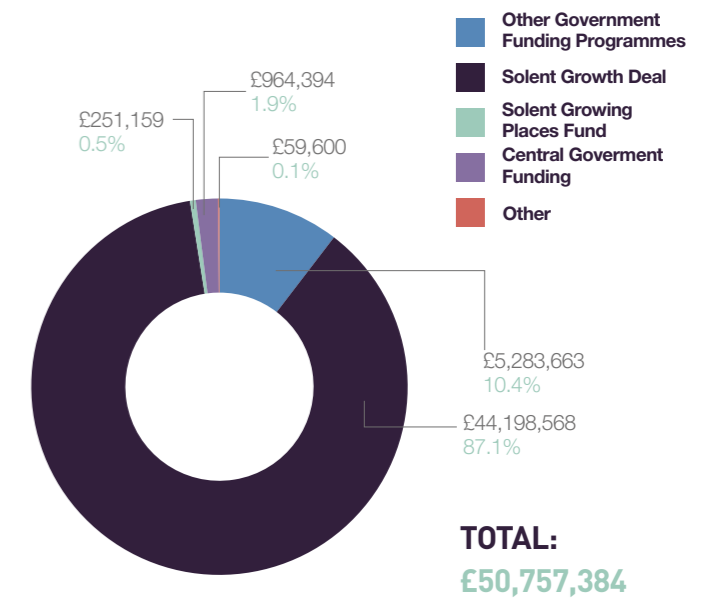
### 2016/17 PROJECTED OUTTURN

#### WHERE WE ALLOCATE THE FUNDING



**TOTAL:**  
£50,757,384

#### WHERE THE FUNDING COMES FROM



**TOTAL:**  
£50,757,384

Note: Not including Local Growth Deal 3 allocation announced on 2nd February 2017

# THE SOLENT LEP TEAM

## LOCAL GROWTH



**Stuart Baker**  
Head of Local Growth



**Chloe Giles**  
Enterprise Coordinator



**Siobhan Flynn**  
Local Growth Programme Manager  
Employment and Skills



**Alarna Harris**  
Enterprise Coordinator



**Jade Fuller**  
Enterprise Coordinator



**Matthew Hill**  
Inward Investment Manager

## CAPITAL & INFRASTRUCTURE



**Jeff Channing**  
Programme Manager  
Solent Enterprise Zone  
and Infrastructure



**Margaret Fisher**  
Programme Officer



**Steve Futter**  
Local Growth Programme Manager  
Capital and Infrastructure



**Marc Griffin**  
Head of Capital and Infrastructure



**Fiona McMurray**  
Local Growth Project Manager  
Capital and Infrastructure

## POLICY, COMMUNICATIONS AND EXECUTIVE SUPPORT



**Briony Biddle**  
Policy, Communications  
& Events Officer



**Richard Jones**  
Head of Policy, Communications  
& Partner Engagement



**Nicola Twiddy**  
Office Manager and PA



**Jessica Willmott**  
Office Administrator  
Apprentice

## STAY IN TOUCH

**Call:** 023 9268 8924

**Email:** [info@solentlep.org.uk](mailto:info@solentlep.org.uk)

**Tweet:** @solentlep

**Subscribe:** [www.solentlep.org.uk](http://www.solentlep.org.uk)

**Write:** Solent LEP Office, Second Floor,  
Building 1000, Lakeside North Harbour,  
Western Road, Portsmouth PO6 3EN



**SOLENT  
LOCAL  
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PARTNERSHIP**

## GET INVOLVED

We rely on volunteers from across the Solent business community to provide the strategic direction and leadership which drives forward the work of the Solent LEP.

Help us transform the Solent economy by joining the Solent LEP as a Business Member, volunteering on one of our Delivery Panels or standing for election as a Business Director on the Board of the LEP.

Visit [solentlep.org.uk](http://solentlep.org.uk) or get in touch with us to find out more.