



Solent Local Industrial Strategy Prosperity Review Panel

DRAFT Terms of Reference

Revision: v_3.0

1. Background to the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is a partnership organisation between the business community, the Higher Education sector, three unitary authorities, five district councils, and one county council, all of whom are actively working together to secure a more prosperous and sustainable future for the Solent area. These make up a fully-elected Board of 15 directors.

For further information on the Solent LEP, please visit the [Who we are](#) section of the Solent LEP website.

2. The National Industrial Strategy

The [Industrial Strategy White Paper](#) was published by Government on 27th November 2017. Its stated ambition is to provide the UK with:

- the world's most innovative economy
- good jobs and greater earning power for all
- a major upgrade to the UK's infrastructure
- the conditions to be the best place to start and grow a business
- prosperous communities across the UK

The Industrial Strategy sets out our vision for the future economy and the strategy to boost the productivity, earning power and quality of life of the British people.

The aim is that by 2030 the UK will have transformed productivity and earning power across all areas of the UK to 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. The strategy is for the long term and seeks to provide a policy framework against which major private and public sector investment decisions can be made with confidence.

Five Foundations of Productivity are identified, as shown in the below figure:



The strategy recognises that the fourth industrial revolution is of a scale, speed and complexity that is unprecedented and is characterised by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological worlds. It will disrupt nearly every sector in every country, creating new opportunities and challenges for people, places and businesses to which we must respond. It is within this context that there is a desire to make preparation for the economy we need to become.

There is an ambition for the UK to lead the global technical revolution and Four Great Challenges, to put the UK at the forefront of the industries of the future, have been identified:

 AI & Data Economy We will put the UK at the forefront of the artificial intelligence and data revolution	 Clean Growth We will maximise the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth
 Future of Mobility We will become a world leader in the way people, goods and services move	 Ageing Society We will harness the power of innovation to help meet the needs of an ageing society

The Grand Challenges are developments in technology that are set to transform industries and societies around the world, and in which the UK:

- Should muster our forces across sectors
- Has the opportunity to play a leading global role.

3. The Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)

Government has set LEPs and Combined Authorities the task of developing evidence-based Local Industrial Strategies (LIS) that sets out a long-term economic vision for their area based on local consultation. They aim to promote a step change in productivity growth in local areas through a strategic plan to maximise their region's contribution to national economic growth over the coming decades. These strategies must be built from the bottom-up and be based on clear evidence and insight from local stakeholders to help develop a distinctive vision for the surrounding area.

The LIS will build on existing strengths, help businesses to flourish, and grow skills and opportunities for people living and working across the area. This process needs to be underpinned by a robust evidence base, highlighting the area's unique strengths and challenges. Ultimately, this will better position local partners to have their say on how they will achieve economic growth and meet the Grand Challenges. The LIS is a major opportunity for the Solent to set an uninhibited pathway for the area to realise its potential as a world-renowned economic cluster through to 2050.

The [Local Industrial Strategies Policy Prospectus](#) provides guidance on how a Local Industrial Strategy should be developed and what they should include.

Three "Trailblazers" were established by Government (Greater Manchester, West Midlands, and the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Corridor), and of these the following are now published:

- [Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy](#)
- [West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy](#)

The Key principles guiding the development of the LIS for the Solent will:

- Include a robust, granular and open evidence base that draws out the relative strengths and weaknesses of the of the Solent economy, with an emphasis on increasing productivity;
- Address the foundations of productivity across Ideas, People, Infrastructure, Business Environment and Places;
- Prioritise specific, achievable and long-term ambitions, based on evidence;
- Not be exhaustive, but set a strategic course, supported by complementary policies and actions;
- Optimise the potential of the Solent's distinctive and world-leading assets and sector strengths to capitalise on emerging technologies and new global markets;
- Clearly articulating the global potential of the Solent;
- Develop Solent's leadership in critical emerging sectors, which will have both UK and international impact for trade and investment growth;
- Ensures that the Solent strengthens the role it plays in supporting the wider UK economy;
- Identify opportunities and challenges brought about by the UK's exit from the EU;
- Strengthen the innovation ecosystem of the Solent and deepening industry / academic collaboration in support of scale-ups;
- Build pathways and mechanisms for young people in order to nurture, retain and develop local talent;
- Respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by our complex geography;
- Set out interventions to address the Solent's productivity gap and securing a renaissance of our coastal communities;
- Be based on extensive consultation across the full spectrum of organisations that have a role to play in transforming the Solent economy;
- Set out a clear plan to evaluate progress and set out what success looks like with an ambitious vision for the Solent in 2050.

4. Purpose of the Prosperity Review Panel

The purpose of the Prosperity Review Panel will be to act as an advisory board and critical friend in the development of the Solent Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).

The members represent a wide range of views and bring a wealth of experience, and as such represent a variety of perspectives and are drawn from business, academia and professional services from, mainly, outside the Solent LEP area who Solent LEP have identified as having expertise that will support the development of the LIS.

The Panel's role will commence with a review of the available evidence base (data, literature and consultation), brought together by the LEP and/or its consultant, critically evaluating and recommending further work and research that may be needed.

The second stage will be to consider the emerging strategy direction, considering such questions as:

- Has Solent identified the appropriate strategic advantages?
- Are the opportunities and challenges appropriately articulated?
- Does the strategy reflect the momentum underway as well as being innovative and addressing the appropriate “Grand Challenges identified by the Government?
- Is the strategy sufficiently ambitious and does it address the key foundations of growth as set out in the national Industrial Strategy?

The third stage will be to review and advise on the draft LIS document before this goes forward to the Solent LEP Board and, ultimately, to Government.

5. Operation, Membership and Structure

The Prosperity Review Panel is a task and finish group charged with providing advice and guidance to the Solent LEP (and its appointed consultant) on the development of the Solent Local Industrial Strategy.

The membership of the Prosperity review Panel will comprise:

- Brian Johnson - Chairman
- Stuart Hill
- Dr Martin Hurst
- Amarjit Singh
- Hannah Clipston
- Professor Seamus Higson
- Professor Peter White
- Harriet Ramsey
- Dr Nasser Siabi

Ex-officio support will be provided by:

- Anne-Marie Mountifield, Chief Executive, Solent LEP
- Stuart Baker, Head of Strategy and Programme Development, Solent LEP
- Pam Baker, Solent LIS Project Director
- The LEP's appointed consultancy support

6. The Role of the Chairperson

The Chair of the Panel will be the Deputy Chair and Strategy Champion for the LEP, as this sits under the strategy workstream.

The Chair will be responsible for agreeing the agenda for each meeting and deciding the order of matters to be discussed.

The Chair will chair all the meetings of Prosperity Review Panel. If the Chair is unable to attend a meeting, the Chair will nominate a Deputy Chair from amongst the Panel membership to stand in their absence for the duration of the meeting.

The Chair will decide the order in which members will be called to speak ensuring that all members present, who wish to, are given an opportunity to speak and also seeking to ensure that all views are fairly represented.

7. Accountability

The Solent LEP is committed to transparency, and to ensuring that the fora operating within the context of its [assurance framework](#) remain accountable for their actions and have the required legitimacy in order to provide advice. Steering Group members will have due regard for this commitment to transparency in all activities of the Steering Group, whilst from time-to-time be expected to consider commercial in-confidence information.

8. Support and Administration Arrangements

The Solent LEP Executive team will provide the secretariat for the Panel. Details on current members of the LEP team are available here. The primary contacts in the Executive will be pam.baker@solentlep.org.uk and stuart.baker@solentlep.org.uk.

Portsmouth City Council is the accountable body for the Solent LEP and a protocol and service support agreement is in place between the accountable body and Solent LEP which is available [here](#).

Independent support will be commissioned by the Solent LEP and Portsmouth City Council to support the development of the Solent LIS. The Solent LEP and Portsmouth City Council will welcome, consider and respond to any advice from the Panel in relation to future commissions which have the potential to support future phases of work to develop the Local Industrial Strategy.

9. Working Arrangements and Meeting Frequency

The Panel shall meet up to 3 times and it is anticipated this will indicatively include meetings during June, August, and autumn 2019.

10. Declarations of Interest

Due to the nature of this advisory group, it is recognised that it is unlikely that conflicts of interest will arise. However, in the unlikely event that this were to be the case, in accordance with Article 46 of the Solent LEP Articles of Association and the Local Enterprise Partnership Governance and Transparency Best Practice Guidance a register of interest has been established by the Solent LEP and all Directors have a statutory duty to declare their interests (direct or indirect) in transactions or arrangements involving the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership. This requirement has been extended to all Chairs and Members of dedicated advisory sub-panels of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership. For further information or queries on this please contact Richard Jones; richard.jones@solentlep.org.uk.

11. Management of Confidential Items

It is recognised that some of the information provided and conveyed within this group may be of a confidential and / or sensitive nature. All members of the group are expected to highlight where information is of a confidential and / or sensitive nature and treat such information confidentially. For further information, please refer to the Solent LEP's policy on the Management of Confidential Items: <https://solentlep.org.uk/media/2246/confidential-items-policy.pdf>.