



SOLENT
LOCAL
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT



#solent2050

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1. FOREWORD

Survival, stability, growth

Anne-Marie Mountifield,
Chief Executive



Despite the pandemic, and the uncertainties of Brexit, we can be confident. Since 2015, we have secured almost £183 million for our region through the Local Growth Deal (LGD) and unlocked further investment of £140 million from the public and private sectors. We expect around £700m of economic output to be added in the next ten years through job creation alone.

The investment funds we secure play a direct role in projects that enable green growth, environmental innovation and development. These include green infrastructure, connectivity, housing, training, research and innovation facilities.

Among the many projects that have been funded so far are: the Solent mitigation programme supporting the creation of new green spaces in areas such as the Alver Valley; the Dunsbury Business Park in Havant; the Centre for Cancer Immunology at the University of Southampton; the Warsash Maritime Centre, and CECAMM, the Isle of Wight's Centre of Excellence for Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine Technology.

It is truly encouraging and inspiring to see the positive difference that LGD and our other investment funds are making to the essential underpinning infrastructure of the Solent and the skills development of our people.

One of the best performing LEPs in the country, we are here to drive green growth and job creation. We remain a catalyst for development and prosperity during these uniquely challenging times.

We have never been more in demand than we were in 2020. The pandemic crisis prompted a huge rise in enquiries for business support, especially our advice services and financial help such as grants and loans. We are acutely aware that a rapid, properly targeted response can make the difference between a business staying afloat or going under. We have refocused our resources around the most pressing needs of businesses in all sectors and we expect to stay in demand.

At the same time, Covid has accelerated the urgency of tackling longer-term priorities we had already identified, such as bridging skills gaps and securing more

digital inclusion. While the pandemic has inevitably led to business ambitions being dampened and public projects delayed or reduced, we continue to seek strategic value in delivering assets and services that support long-term growth and recovery.

It is precisely because of these reasons that we have launched the **Solent Economic Recovery Plan**. Building on existing support available at national and local levels, the Plan sets out the actions and interventions that we and our partners will bring forward to help our economy navigate the challenges facing us now and in the future.

Short-term, it involves an unrelenting focus on meeting acute need, including essential cashflow and safeguarding jobs. Longer-term, we aim to position our region for recovery and growth in line with the objectives of our emerging **Solent 2050 strategy**.

2. INTRODUCTION

Together. Stronger

Brian Johnson,
Chair



Like everywhere in the UK, the economic impact of Covid-19 in the Solent during 2020 has been unprecedented. However, alongside the challenges facing all parts of our nation, the Solent's coastal economy and communities have been impacted particularly badly.

Our ports, cruise industry and associated visitor economy, creative and cultural sectors are amongst those industries that have been hardest hit by the pandemic and the associated response measures.

Our latest forecasts underline the scale of economic shock and recovery challenge the Solent faces. It equates to a short-term impact of around £4.5 billion and nearly 27,000 job losses.

No single organisation could ever deal with an economic shock of this magnitude and the Solent LEP was founded in the belief that the Solent is Together Stronger.

2020 has required us all to remain apart from one another – following social distancing, tier systems and lockdown requirements – yet it has also been a year which has seen the Solent working together like never before.

I have been incredibly proud to see so many people from local communities, businesses, academia and councils working hand-in-hand to respond to challenges such as PPE production, support for lifeline services and provision of funding to safeguard local jobs.

I am also proud of the part the LEP has

been able to play in this, and our Annual Report includes examples of how our support has made a real difference to local businesses this year; from our advice, mentoring and networking services, through to funding programmes to support rural resilience, or those exploring crowdfunding for the first time.

Despite this most challenging of years, the spirit of the Solent remains stronger than ever and I am optimistic that the partnerships forged in response to the pandemic will enable us to take advantage of new opportunities on the horizon.

International trade, travel and tourism will return and our ports, airport and other assets remain a core strength of our area. The LEP stands ready to work with our local partners to ensure that they not only survive, but that their recovery and growth acts as a catalyst for the future green recovery of our wider economy.

We have already made great progress in this regard, with investments including a new, world-leading zero emissions facility for cruise vessels and the Centre for Enzyme Innovation to develop green solutions for the breakdown of plastics.

The investments described in this annual report are just the start of our journey to ensure that the Solent has the strongest platform possible for recovery and growth. I hope you will join us on this journey and I look forward to the coming days when we can work together, in person, once again.

3. THREE STAGES – OUR ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

Survival: The immediate activities needed to help the economy function while some degree of restriction on normal activities remains in place. These include many of the emergency support measures we have already introduced. Some may need to be extended as ongoing critical support to our businesses and communities.

Stability: Adjustment to the 'new normal' over the next year or two as we increase the region's adaptability and future resilience. We and our partners aim to protect the Solent's productive capacity during what is likely to be a national recession while ensuring we are better placed to respond to any future disruptions.

Growth: Building the strongest possible platform for recovery by accelerating progress on our ambitions for transformation, productivity and prosperity set out in our Solent 2050 strategy. This includes maximising the opportunities for growth arising from the pandemic in a way that helps achieve a more resilient and innovative Solent and supports 'levelling up' within our region and with the rest of the UK, while pioneering new approaches to green growth, and cementing the position of the region as a global maritime time hub, leading the way in autonomy and decarbonisation.

Our three-stage approach will help ensure our activities and resources can be deployed in the most effective way as lockdown restrictions are lifted and the economy restarts.

The Plan recognises that the timing and pace of recovery may be different for individual sectors and locations. We will also be flexible and responsive to real-time changes in circumstances; for example, the potential for any further periods of national or local lockdowns, and how government support packages evolve. This means that the three stages will overlap and, practically, some activities will take place in parallel. We will keep this under review. Likewise, we will continually monitor our Solent 2050 priorities to take account of progress with the Economic Recovery Plan.

By numbers - Getting Building Fund

£15.9m – our government allocation to help deliver 'shovel ready' projects

68 – number of Solent projects identified in the fund portfolio to support jobs, skills and infrastructure

£900m – total value of projects

£8m – contribution towards the Port of Southampton's fifth cruise terminal

£1.7m – cost of Centre for Enzyme Innovation (CEI) to develop green recovery solutions for the breakdown of plastics, enabling their re-use, tackling one of the world's greatest pollution challenges

£1.5m – total cost of project to improve the Waterside's digital network

42 – number of affordable homes plus commercial space at a "rural employment hub" at Branstone Farm on the Isle of Wight

4. SOLENT 2050 – LONG-TERM GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

Solent 2050 is our long-term action strategy. Due to be published during 2021, its aim is to unleash the Solent's distinctive strengths through sustainable transformation and achieve our vision of a more prosperous and productive regional economy.

We want to protect our environment from the effects of climate change and secure the renaissance of our coastal towns and communities. There is scope to strengthen the links between our illustrious maritime history and the present-day research going on in our world-class universities and colleges to shape the future.

We believe the Solent can become a leading hub for

decarbonisation and environmental innovation, and an international centre for the incubation and application of ground-breaking technological solutions. This will help deliver an ambitious and innovative local economy while protecting our natural capital and ensuring opportunities for all our communities.

Covid brought challenges for our economy unlike any that have been seen before, but alongside our Economic Recovery Plan, we remain committed to Solent 2050. It is an ambitious vision, a major opportunity to put our region on the path to realise its potential as a world-renowned economic cluster within the next 30 years.



5. 2020 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

£400k +

ERDF* Visitor economy funding and wider economic impact support during Covid crisis



* European Regional Development Fund

1,900

SMEs** receiving Coronavirus support



** Small to medium-sized enterprises

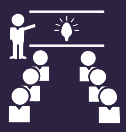
£20m

Invested in training and education in the marine and maritime industry, resulting in a Maritime UK Future Skills Award



68

Number of projects identified to deliver jobs, skills and infrastructure



SURVIVAL

180

responses from businesses answering our call for help with frontline PPE



77%

share of LEP funding targeted towards training and education and transport projects



90,000

business engagements via our Coronavirus support hub



85

Number of projects helped by our crowdfunding support.



STABILITY

12,000

Number of new homes expected to be built with help from the Solent Growth Deal



52

Isle of Wight/ New Forest projects approved for rural resilience funding



6

Number of months people have been on Kickstart work placements



121

Businesses engaged with the peer-to-peer networking programme



GROWTH

£26m

Investment unlocked for the Island Line railway project



£1m

Investment towards the Centre for Enzyme Innovation



£8m

Investment towards the new Southampton cruise terminal



£840m

Generated from the first tranche of Solent Growth Deal projects in the next 10 years



6. SOLENT LEP 2020 - AT A GLANCE



Further details regarding our investments in creating an outstanding business environment, developing world-class talent, driving a coastal renaissance that includes the visitor economy and the marine & maritime sector, plus details of Local Growth Deal projects appear on the following pages

7. AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Our outstanding coastal geography is the natural asset that underpins our economy and our ambitions for green growth. It's a magnet that draws people to want to live here and make a contribution. We actively back the local businesses that our residents work in because of the huge economic dividend to be realised through job creation and greater prosperity.

Both the pandemic and the UK's transition from the European Union have required business leaders to think and act differently. Companies have had to reframe their operations, both immediately in terms of survival and for the longer term to regain efficiency and productivity. Through the work of our Solent Growth Hub team, we moved quickly in response to Covid to help businesses do this essential reframing work including making the leap to remote working.

We have partnered on crowdfunding solutions, provided direct one-to-one input, facilitated new peer-to-peer networks, and delivered a range of other support to help businesses look to the future with confidence.

Underpinning this are initiatives to boost skills, such as the on-site experience for civil engineering apprentices at Fareham College, and a massive investment in maritime training, recognised with a Maritime UK Future Skills Award. At the same time, we ensure that business support operates in the wider context of dealing with climate change.

Latest strategies include new flood defences in Southsea, proactive management of nitrate pollution in coastal housing developments and supporting research on enzymes to break down single-use plastics at the University of Portsmouth.

FREE ADVICE FOR BUSINESS



THE SOLENT LEP GROWTH HUB: Finance, marketing and people management are among the main activities businesses cite as challenging when they call the team for free help.

We aim to simplify the whole idea of business support, whether the enquirer is a start-up or already trading. We provide one-to-one advice and signpost businesses to resources and potential funding opportunities.

We welcome approaches from all sectors. Priority areas tend to include marine and maritime, advanced manufacturing, digital technology, creative industries, life sciences, green tech, defence and aerospace.

Business support in 2020

£195K - grant funding to SMEs

1,914 - businesses receiving support, including 261 start-ups

16 - number of businesses receiving 12 hours of tailored, expert advice via the Growth Accelerator Programme

121 - businesses engaged with the peer-to-peer facilitated sessions

13 - number of companies which have taken part in the Be the Business mentoring scheme

3 - support hubs set up for Funding, Covid and Brexit Transition & Export

7. AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

CASE STUDY: Crowdfunding

SUPPORTING THE ARTS: Blackbox, a Fareham-based professional touring theatre company, was a recipient of our crowdfunding support.

Chris Hawley, Artistic Director, explained: “The monies donated to us through the crowdfunding appeal allowed us to employ a number of local artists to record two radio plays for broadcast online during the first Coronavirus lockdown.

“It also meant we could meet some of our ongoing costs and in turn secure the longer-term viability of the company.

“Without our supporters’ generosity we would almost certainly have gone under. We have used Crowdfunder successfully a number of times, but the extra boost from the LEP match-funding made all the difference to us in these very trying times and for that we are forever grateful.”

Likewise, Geoff Priestley from the Wedgewood Rooms music venue in Southsea said: “We are pleased that Solent LEP has chosen to support us, and our community, by match-funding our Crowdfunder, and it is great to see them supporting live music.

“The extra funds will go a long way to help us keep going in these most difficult of times.”

Among other recipients, Raz Wright from the Trenza Braid Bar in Southampton wrote us a message saying: “Thank you for your lovely support. Your kindness for me and my business means everything.”

The Portsmouth martial arts club Gym 01 shared a similar sentiment, explaining: “Without crowdfunding and Solent LEP we wouldn’t have been able to re-open.”

PAYING IT FORWARD: Lockdowns have had a substantial impact on small businesses, with many

struggling to access essential cash flow. To help, we have redirected funding from other sources and invested it in crowdfunding solutions. The move has proved highly popular. Many recipients have combined our support with innovative ways to keep going. Examples included doing more trade online and increasing cash flow with commitments of goods and services to paying customers at a later date.

Our Pay it Forward fund, operated in partnership with Crowdfunder, is based on a pledge of up to £2,000 per micro business (fewer than 10 staff) and up to £5,000 per small business (fewer than 50 staff). To access our funding, businesses need to raise at least 50% of their target from at least ten different backers. This requirement helps to ensure our funding reaches those businesses that matter most to local communities. We match this community investment, pound for pound, up to the maximum pledge value.

BY NUMBERS

Crowdfunding

133 – applications

85 – projects supported

£900k – financial value of crowd pledges

£195k – Solent LEP pledges



7. AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

COVID-19 SUPPORT

ROADMAP: We have launched a free online toolkit to help Solent businesses develop their own roadmap to restart, restore and recover following the pandemic.

The Covid-19 Business Support Tool enables users to review their current position in a range of key areas, including business strategy, operations, sales and marketing, supply chain, people management and finance. We have also established a dedicated Coronavirus Support Hub, send latest information to circa 7,500 contacts and have developed a new support helpline for any business based in the Solent.

TASKFORCE: We are working with partners to maximise support in the wake of the pandemic. We are a member of the Solent Coronavirus Business Support Taskforce, joining with local authorities, other business support organisations and intermediaries. Together we develop joint approaches, gather intelligence on key initiatives and impacts, and report to government.

Alongside the taskforce, support includes the Rapid Response Mentoring Programme, run in partnership with leadership guidance specialist Be the Business. The programme is aimed at business owners and

senior managers. We are also delivering webinars and remote support sessions with law firm Paris Smith LLP, e-commerce site eBay, professional services giant EY, accountants and business advisers BDO and the British Business Bank.

RURAL RESILIENCE: We have launched two programmes through our investment partners Natural Enterprise to support rural businesses on the Isle of Wight and in the New Forest.

Thirty-five projects on the Island have been approved for £71,000 of rural resilience grant funding. These are expected to safeguard around 110 jobs. So far, 17 projects in the New Forest have been approved for more than £33,000, protecting 19 jobs. The resilience funding involves capital investment grants starting at £2,500.

Graham Biss, Managing Director of Natural Enterprise, said: "We are keen to support rural businesses which are investing for the future. The success of the fund is due to the strength of the projects we have been able to support and we are keen to receive further quality applications from rural businesses."

LEAVING THE EU

A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EU: As we approached the end of 2020, businesses knew they had to prepare for significant changes at the end of the Brexit transition period.

Among the support we offered was a series of free workshops with specialist, expert advice on offer. Businesses have also attended one-to-one meetings with international trade advisers, covering subjects such as import and export documentation and the rights of EU employees. We established a free online toolkit with a virtual adviser able to identify the best actions for businesses to take, given their specific circumstances.

We also launched a dedicated programme of help during the transition period in partnership with the enterprise support company Newable. It featured three hours of tailored one-to-one advice along with webinars, dedicated account management, follow-up and aftercare.

CALL FOR ADDITIONAL PPE SUPPLIES

HELPING THE FRONTLINE: The pandemic quickly triggered a global shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE). Suddenly it became a challenge for health services to source enough ventilators, respirators and medical face masks.

In response, we worked with Portsmouth and Southampton city councils, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and our extensive network of business contacts to help increase the supply of PPE. We used social media and e-newsletters to put out a specific call for companies who could help with producing ventilators.

We received more than 180 responses from businesses and individuals looking to create consortia and offer ready-made products. INDO Lighting in Millbrook, a previous beneficiary of funds from us, began making powered, air-purifying respirators for NHS staff. It followed a commission from Brockenhurst-based engineering and manufacturing firm Baynham's.



8. WORLD-CLASS TALENT

We are committed to developing a world-class talent base. That means helping people at all stages of their careers to build the skills they need to apply new technology and drive an innovative knowledge-based economy. Ensuring businesses can access skills from our local communities has never been more important as we strive to come out of the pandemic with the best foundations in place for future growth and prosperity.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

PANDEMIC IMPACT: The Solent Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) brings employers together with education and training providers. The aim is to share knowledge on skills and labour market trends so we can understand and address key challenges and make sure businesses have ready access to the talent they need. Given the pandemic, the SAP's work has never been more essential. Its latest analysis supports an action plan designed to champion skills that will sustain our maritime industry and other vital sectors.

The analysis will be updated as data emerges on the full impact of Coronavirus on skills supply and demand.

WORK PLACEMENTS

KICKSTART: We help to deliver the government's Kickstart scheme. This involves six-month work placements for people aged 16-24 who are on Universal Credit and facing long-term unemployment.

We also work with the National Careers Service to deliver Solent Fuse, a targeted support programme for people at risk of redundancy or who are newly redundant.

Other employability initiatives include Solent Jobs, supporting people with health conditions to get back into work, and Get Back On Track, targeting school and college leavers at risk of becoming NEET (not in employment, education or training).

VIRTUAL SUMMITS

CAREERS GUIDANCE: Under our partnership with the Careers and Enterprise Company, we help provide careers information and guidance across all Solent schools and colleges.

We have held a series of virtual career summits for careers leaders during the pandemic. They typically featured keynote speakers, workshops and break-out rooms, with one summit in summer 2020 attracting more than 80 attendees. We have also updated the resources we offer to support apprenticeships, career pathways and employability skills.

We delivered three online broadcasts in autumn 2020, each for audiences of more than 150 young people. Content included a focus on maritime careers and how to prepare for online interviews for jobs and apprenticeships.

CIVIL ENGINEERING

ON-SITE SKILLS: Opened in September 2020, Fareham College's Civil Engineering Training Centre (CETC) helps ensure that apprentices are work-ready before going out on-site.

James Tunney, a groundworks apprentice at Christchurch building firm Mildren Construction, said: "If you want to work in civil engineering, I would highly, highly recommend CETC. It really prepares you for what it is like working for an employer and you learn all the skills you need."

Mark Wells, Chief Executive at Southampton-based civil engineering firm Blanchard Wells, said: "CETC will give us even greater leverage to expand our offering and continue to pioneer high-quality training in a live environment to take the industry forward." We have invested £2.8m in CETC through the Solent Growth Deal.



9. UK'S COASTAL RENAISSANCE CAPITAL

The coast defines much of the Solent's heritage, culture and potential. Yet our coastal communities face some of the greatest challenges in responding to de-industrialisation, changes in tourism and globalisation.

FLOOD DEFENCE

SAFEGUARDING THE COAST: We are investing £5 million to help Portsmouth City Council implement vital flood defences in Southsea.

The work will protect 10,000 homes, 1,311 business premises and 4.5km of promenade, as well as historic sites, ancient monuments, waterfront facilities and public open space.

ISLAND TRANSPORT BOOST

TRAIN SERVICE: Serving passengers since 1938, the Island Line railway on the Isle of Wight links Ryde Pier Head in the north with Shanklin on the east coast.

In a major boost to the Island's connectivity, we have helped unlock £26 million of Department of Transport investment and contributed £700K towards improve railway infrastructure, simplify timetables and make train services better aligned with other public transport options. We are also working in partnership with operator South Western Railway to secure further funding for a new passing loop at Brading Station.



CENTENARY QUAY

DOORS OPEN: The Solent has a chronic shortage of housing and so the delivery of new homes features very prominently in our economic strategy.

In 2017 we secured government funding of £7.7m towards the next phase of the Centenary Quay housing development in Woolston Southampton. Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent site shutdown for part of 2020, construction restarted in the latter part of the year. We have continued to work

with developers to bring forward the 340-plus housing units unlocked by the LEP funding.

The funding will unlock more than £64 million in additional private sector investment to enable the delivery of the homes alongside a new retail and leisure space, and a multi-storey car park. Centenary Quay makes a significant contribution to the city of Southampton's housing need and its aim to provide excellence in the design quality of new developments.

9. UK'S COASTAL RENAISSANCE CAPITAL

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

CONNECTING THE

WATERSIDE: Covid-19 has brought challenges for our economy unlike any we have seen before. Our response includes immediate work to support businesses and guide recovery, plus longer-term investments to support our communities.

A prime example is our £5.6 million capital investment in the upgrading of the A326, the key road serving the Waterside Peninsula and its 70,000 residents. The Peninsula is home to major economic assets such as the ExxonMobil Fawley Petrochemical Complex and the Solent Gateway port, the former Marchwood MOD sea mounting facility.

Our investment in eight junctions along the A326 will not only bring about benefits for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, it will also help to bring forward plans to transform the old Fawley power station site into a thriving residential and commercial waterside community.



Artist's impression of the development at the former Fawley power station site

UPDATING HAVANT'S INFRASTRUCTURE TO STIMULATE GROWTH

PRIORITY TARGETS: The Borough of Havant, which includes the towns of Havant and Waterlooville and the resort of Hayling Island, exemplifies the challenges our coastal communities face.

A unique constellation of islands and peninsulas, the Borough has a distinguished maritime history but is in need of modern infrastructure improvements to stimulate investment and economic growth.

The pandemic has expedited the urgency of our programme. From a 'long list' of 33 projects, we have prioritised four strategic investments for renewed attention before 2025.

Dunsbury Park, a 45-acre business park near Junction 3 of the A3(M), will host an advanced manufacturing innovation centre. We have identified funding to replace Warblington Farm, on the edge of Emsworth Harbour, with a nature reserve to help mitigate rising nitrate levels and ease the pressure on proposed, much-needed housing schemes elsewhere in the Solent. Also in the top four priorities for Havant is a package of essential road infrastructure improvements at South Leigh on the eastbound Emsworth Road/A27.

Sailing off Hayling Island



10. PIONEERING ANSWERS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

GREEN SOLUTION TO PLASTICS PROBLEM

COMBATING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC: Through the government's Getting Building Fund we are supporting plans for the £1.7 million Centre for Enzyme Innovation (CEI) at the University of Portsmouth.

The aim of CEI is to develop ways to recover and reuse plastics, alongside an industrial engagement hub to help

companies test out and harness the science for themselves.

Single-use plastics are widely recognised to be causing a worldwide pollution challenge and CEI's 'super-enzyme' approach involves green recovery solutions for their breakdown and re-use.

CUTTING EMISSIONS IN PORT

SHORE POWER: Associated British Ports is developing a £7.6 million project to enable shore power for cruise ships at the Port of Southampton. The LEP has contributed £4.4m in funding. It will be the first major commercial berth and cruise port to use this technology in the UK.

As shore power allows compatible vessels to switch off their engines and 'plug in', they will release no emissions while docked in Southampton.



An artist's impression of the new Terminal 5 building for cruise ships

HOUSING MITIGATION

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: We are investing £1.35 million from the government's Getting Building Fund in green infrastructure. Working with PfSH, the Partnership for South Hampshire, and the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP), we are accelerating the delivery of more than 1,500 planned new homes to meet housing needs and support the economy, with around 3,000 construction jobs.

Without investment in strategic green infrastructure, housing delivery would be severely delayed while individual mitigation measures were implemented to meet relevant legislation.

Five sites have benefited from investment through this programme. They are Alver Valley in Gosport, Manor Farm in Hamble, a new country park at Horsea Island, Portsmouth, and in Southampton, the Shoreburs Greenway and Itchen Valley Country Park.



NEW NATURE RESERVE

RE-WILDING SOLUTION: In a similar vein, our infrastructure plan for the Borough of Havant includes an innovative mitigation scheme involving the coastal Warblington Farm.

By changing its use from dairy farm to nature reserve, we can dramatically reduce the amount of nitrates leaking into the sea through fertiliser and cow waste. This ultimately accelerates the growth of algae and kills other wildlife. The rewilding solution creates a means for Solent housing developers to offset their own nitrate pollution, a hurdle that has traditionally left proposals for new coastal homes blocked in the planning system.

11. VISITOR AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

GRANT FOR UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH'S NEW FACILITY

EXTENDED REALITY: Our first major capital investment after the Covid outbreak was a £3.6 million contribution towards the development of a purpose-built, £5.1 million Centre for Creative and Immersive eXtended Reality (CCIXR) at the University of Portsmouth.

Part of the Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries, CCIXR will be the UK's first fully integrated facility for driving innovation in virtual, augmented and extended realities. It will house 12 laboratories with specialist equipment for business engagement, technical support, applied research and skills training.

CCIXR will support 800 businesses, create four new jobs and support 500 new learners through courses and workshops. Services provided by the CCIXR will be vital for businesses, especially while innovation and remote working remain themes of the economic recovery.



HELPING HAND FOR HOSPITALITY & LEISURE INDUSTRY



URGENT GRANTS: The hospitality, leisure and tourism sectors are among those hardest hit by the economic impact of the pandemic. As a result, businesses in the visitor economy have been receiving grants and loans we made available via the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

We secured an urgent allocation of nearly £160,000 in ERDF grants for the visitor economy and £250,000 for SMEs in the wider economy. There were more than 150 applications for help under the first round of the ERDF's Restart and Recovery & Kick-starting Tourism Grant Fund.

At the same time, we secured a bridging facility under the Restart, Restore and Recover Loan Fund, making £2.75 million available to successful applicants.

This fund provides bridging loans for businesses providing essential or 'economic lifeline' services and which cannot access other government support such as the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS).

Among the businesses we have helped through our Loan Fund support are Vectis Ventures, parent company of the Isle of Wight tourist attractions Blackgang Chine near Ventnor and Robin Hill Country Park in Newport.

12. MARINE & MARITIME



NEW CRUISE TERMINAL FOR SOUTHAMPTON

TERMINAL 5: A new cruise terminal is set to open in the Port of Southampton during 2021. It will be the fifth terminal for cruise passengers using Southampton and will let suitably equipped ships plug in to a local power supply while in port, rather than using onboard generators. It will also harness energy from roof-mounted solar panels.

An £8 million grant contribution was secured from the government's Getting Building Fund. Associated British Ports (ABP) is partnering on the development with MSC Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd.

Alastair Welch, Regional Director at ABP Port of Southampton, said: "This major advance in our cruise infrastructure at the port will deliver further access to Southampton for the industry while supporting our commitment to accelerate improvements in local air quality. This investment is a huge vote of confidence in the future of cruise in Southampton."

Before 2020, more than two million cruise ship passengers travelled through Southampton each year.

NATIONAL ACCOLADE

SKILLS AWARD: We have invested more than £20 million in world-class education and training facilities to support our maritime sector. We work with industry partners such as GKN, BAE Systems, MHI Vestas, QinetiQ and the Royal Navy, and alongside schools, colleges and universities.

This contribution to the future of the sector has gained us a prestigious national accolade, the Maritime UK Future Skills Award. On the judging panel were international maritime leaders. We are thrilled that our pioneering activities to help match available skills to the emerging and future requirements of the industry has been recognised at such a high level.

MARITIME UK SOLENT

SECTOR LEADERSHIP: We partner with the industry association Maritime UK on a regional cluster organisation called Maritime UK Solent. Together we provide sector leadership while helping members to develop ways to grow their businesses. We encourage collaboration and the sharing of best practice to improve knowledge, reach and understanding.

More than 550 maritime professionals subscribe to our newsletter and we hold regular meetings on themes such as advanced technology, risk management and the value of apprenticeships. Around 170 pupils at seven Solent schools have also received an hour-long lesson on maritime careers.

OUR MARITIME INVESTMENTS INCLUDE:

- £1.8 million to Portsmouth Naval Base Marine Engineering Centre for apprentice training and up-skilling and re-training the existing workforce



- £11 million for CECAMM, Isle of Wight College's Centre of Excellence for Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine
- £7.5 million for Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering to secure its world-leading training status.



- £6 million for Fareham College's Centre of Excellence in Engineering, Manufacturing and Advanced Skills Training (CEMAST).
- More than £300,000 towards employer-led training in leisure marine and offshore wind, in partnership with MHI Vestas and British Marine
- Partnering with Maritime UK to run our first virtual maritime careers fair. It enabled more than 500 students and teachers from across the country to engage with 25 different employers and discover more about careers in the industry.

13. LOCAL GROWTH DEAL: IMPACT SUMMARY

Triggering positive long-term change

Since it was launched in 2015, the Local Growth Deal (LGD) has contributed almost £178 million to the Solent economy.

Some 27 projects have been funded, all of which help create jobs, support businesses and enable growth. They include vital infrastructure improvements, medical research facilities and support for learning.

As well as securing direct LGD funds, we have sourced match-funding from both the public and private sectors, amounting to around £230 million worth of new financial investment.

For every £1 invested by us, another £1.60 has been unlocked from partner organisations. Estimates put the economic output created by new and safeguarded jobs from the 27 projects as standing between £610 million and £790 million over the next ten years.

All the projects support the long-term objectives of our Solent 2050 strategy by enhancing the region's distinctive strengths. They also help the goals of our Economic Recovery Plan for survival, stability and growth in the aftermath of Covid-19 and the transition from the European Union.

Just a few of the projects funded



14. SOLENT LEP BOARD

BOARD MEMBERS



9/9*

ANNE-MARIE MOUNTIFIELD
Solent LEP Executive Director

Anne-Marie has been our Chief Executive since 2012, a member of the Maritime UK Council and a Fellow of the Institute of Directors. In September 2020, she was named the Institute of Directors (IoD) London and South Chartered Director of the Year. She later became one of just three candidates internationally to be shortlisted for the IoD's overall Chartered Director of the Year Award.



9/9*

BRIAN JOHNSON
Solent LEP Chair & SME Business Ambassador

Appointed Chair in October 2020, Brian is the UK Business Development Director at BAE Systems Maritime and works in Portsmouth Naval Base. He has more than 20 years' experience in the Marine and Maritime sector, including at the electronics multinational Thales and the telecommunications and engineering company Marconi. Brian is also on the Board of the Society of Maritime Industries.



7/9*

GRAHAM GALBRAITH
Solent LEP Higher Education Director



8/9*

KEVIN GEORGE
Solent LEP Business Director



9/9*

CLLR JUDITH GRAJEWSKI
Solent LEP Local Authority Director



6/9*

CLLR CHRISTOPHER HAMMOND
Solent LEP Local Authority Director



8/9*

SJ HUNT
Solent LEP Deputy Chair and Business Director**
FFPMG and Business Taskforce Chair



9/9*

NICK LOADER
Solent LEP Business Director**



9/9*

RACHAEL RANDALL
Solent LEP Business Director** SAP & SERCOM Chair



8/9*

JO SAWFORD
Solent LEP Business Director**



8/9*

CLLR DAVID STEWART
Solent LEP Local Authority Director



8/9*

PAULA SWAIN
Solent LEP Business Director**



6/9*

CLLR GERALD VERNON-JACKSON
Solent LEP Local Authority Director



7/9*

DAVID YOUNGS
Solent LEP Business Director**

* Attendance at 2020 Board Meetings

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

15. SOLENT LEP GOVERNANCE

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

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 2020 there were nine Board meetings. The Solent LEP Chair is elected to the Board by businesses in the Solent area that have joined the LEP as business members.

SME representation

Currently the Solent LEP Board has three SME business representatives appointed from the business membership. They are SJ Hunt, Rachael Randall and David Youngs. While appointments are made at the discretion of our membership in line with our Articles of Association, the Board has agreed to establish by-laws in relation to Business Director appointments to ensure there is always at least one direct SME representative. In addition to direct representation, the Board has identified a Board Director to represent and engage with the SME business community. That Director is Brian Johnson.

Oversight and accountability

We have 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 us and PCC.

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 welcomed 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%. We are also working with the government and NatWest through the Expert in Residence programme, which aims to increase the number of women intending to start a business in the UK to actually doing so.

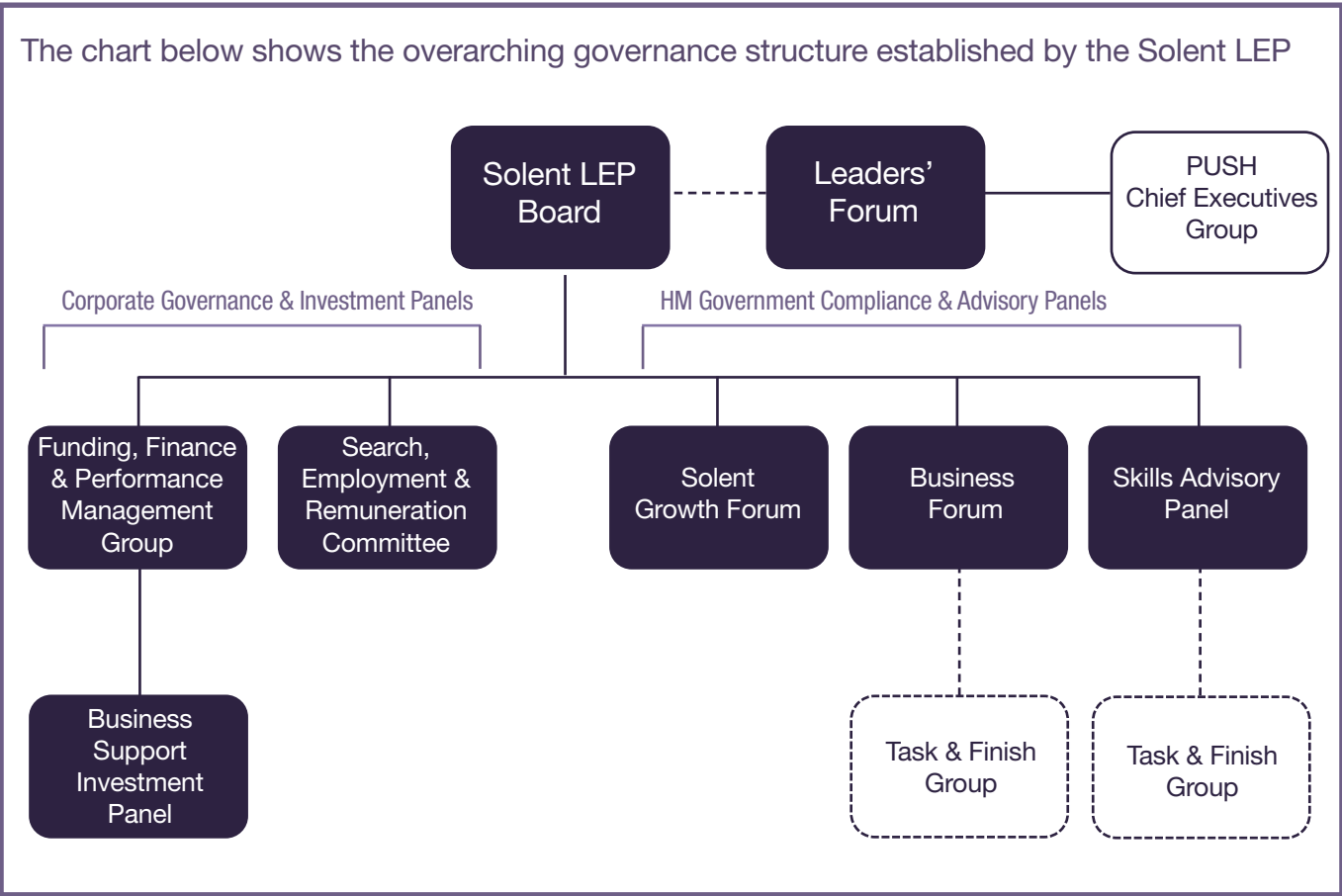
Monitoring our values

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 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 

15. SOLENT LEP GOVERNANCE



 From overleaf

Workplace

Our Search, Employment and Remuneration Committee plays a vital role in supporting our executive team by ensuring formal and transparent procedures are in place for developing employment policy. It 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 makes recommendations to the Board in relation to the recruitment process for Board members. Recommendations also ensure there are robust succession planning processes in place.

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. The forum met three times in 2020, each one being a public meeting. Associate membership of the forum is available to all neighbouring local authorities recognising the contribution that these areas make to the Solent economy.

Investment guidance

Our Business Support Investment Panel underpins our approach to funding support and takes decisions on our small business investment programme. The panel met six times in 2020.

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 group met three times in 2020.

Continued overleaf 

15. SOLENT LEP GOVERNANCE

 From overleaf

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 in our region. The forum met three times in 2020.

Skills advice

Launched last 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 panel met five times in 2020.

Green team

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

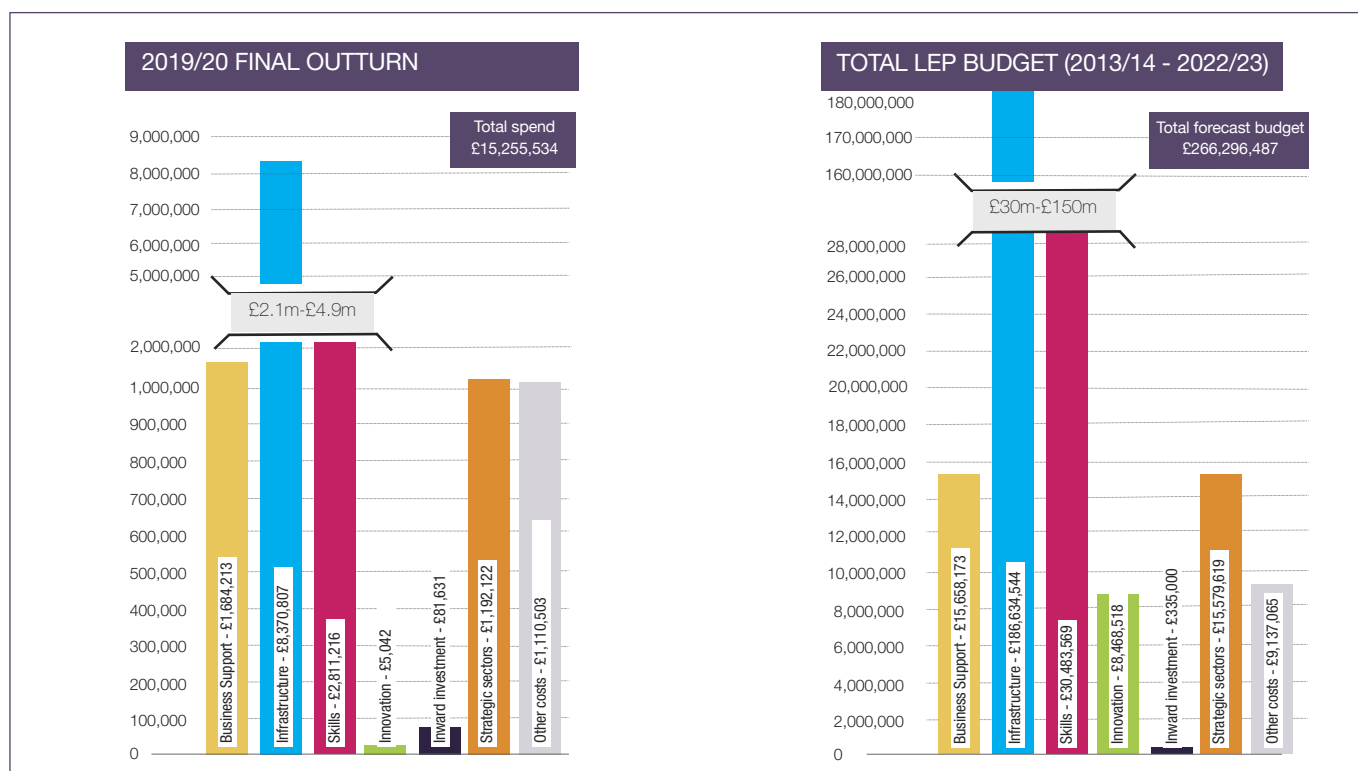
We are also committed to ensuring our activity is sustainable and have made a range of pledges to formalise this commitment, including:

- 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 work travel of LEP Board and staff members;
- 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.



16. Financial Forecasts to 2022/23



Sources of funding

Source of Funding – £	2019/20 Actual Expenditure	2013/14 - 2019/20 Actual Expenditure	Total LEP Budget (2013/14 - 2022/23)
Other Government Funding Programmes	£323,670	£29,744,616	£31,014,945
Solent Growth Deal	£12,982,742	£106,741,020	£178,257,260
Solent Growing Places Fund	£633,566	£15,002,865	£31,228,887
Central Government Funding	£916,564	£3,836,398	£6,093,917
Other	£399,259	£1,355,571	£2,741,714
Local Government Funding	£0	£343,900	£343,900
Getting Building Fund	£0	£0	£15,995,000
European Funding	-£267	£91,591	£660,864
Outturn and Forecast Totals	£15,255,534	£157,145,961	£266,296,487

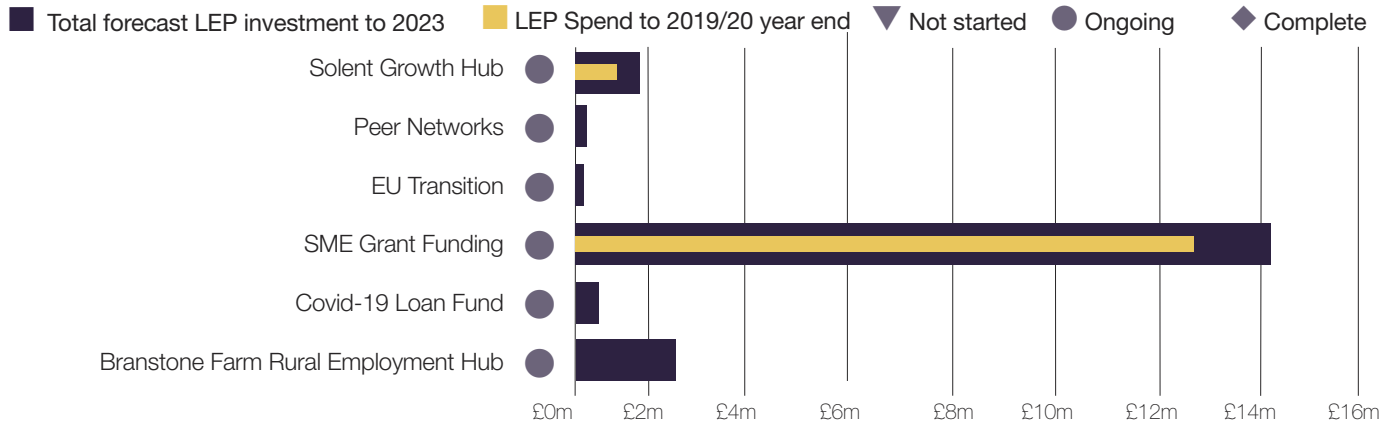
Financial Summary	2019/20	2013/14 - 2022/23
Original Budgeted Expenditure:	£50,759,118	£266,296,487
Total committed to external organisations through grants and loans	£48,154,698	£248,724,390
Total committed to suppliers to purchase goods, works or services	£1,265,737	£6,648,002
Total running costs	£1,338,683	£10,924,095

Figures from: 2019/20 Final Outturn – Solent LEP Finance Report, Appendix B, May 2020 Meeting
2020/21 Projected Outturn – Solent LEP Finance Report, Appendix A Jan 2021 Meeting

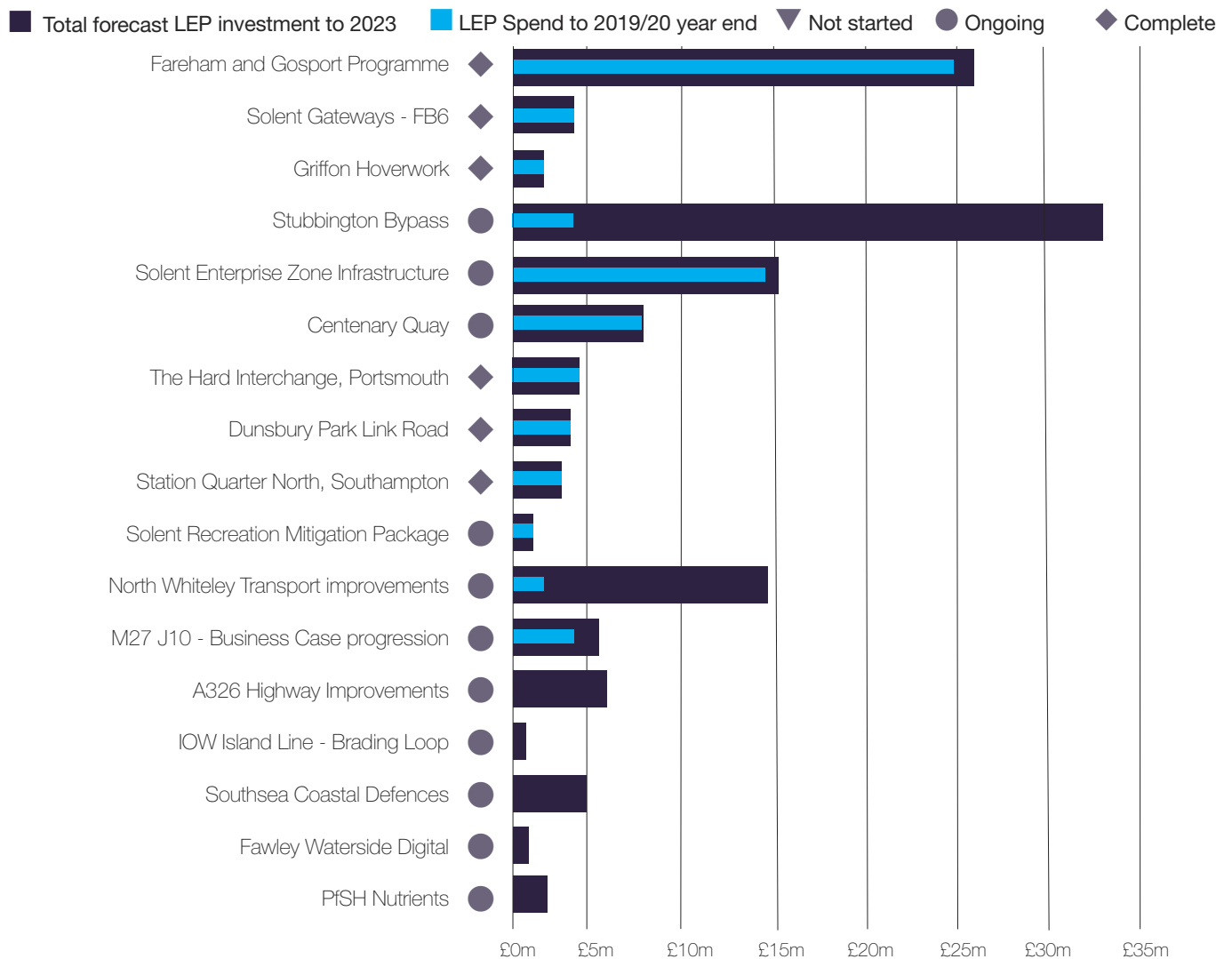
Full financial forecasts are available at solentlep.org.uk

17. SOLENT LEP - PROJECT DASHBOARD

BUSINESS SUPPORT



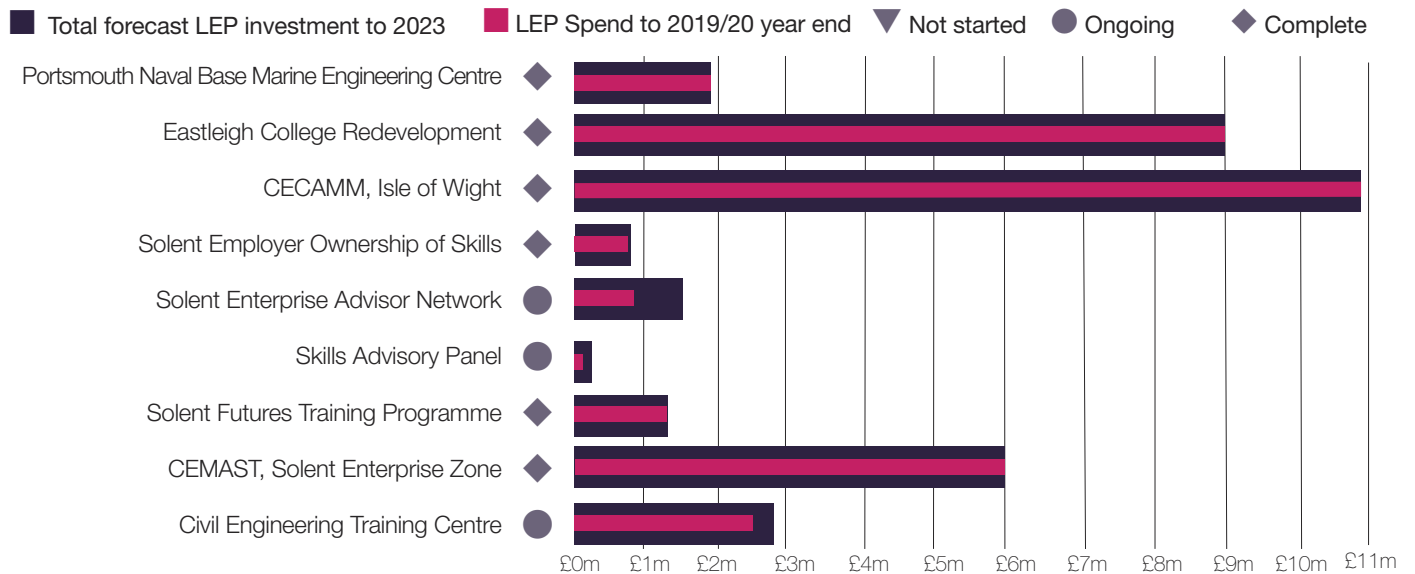
INFRASTRUCTURE



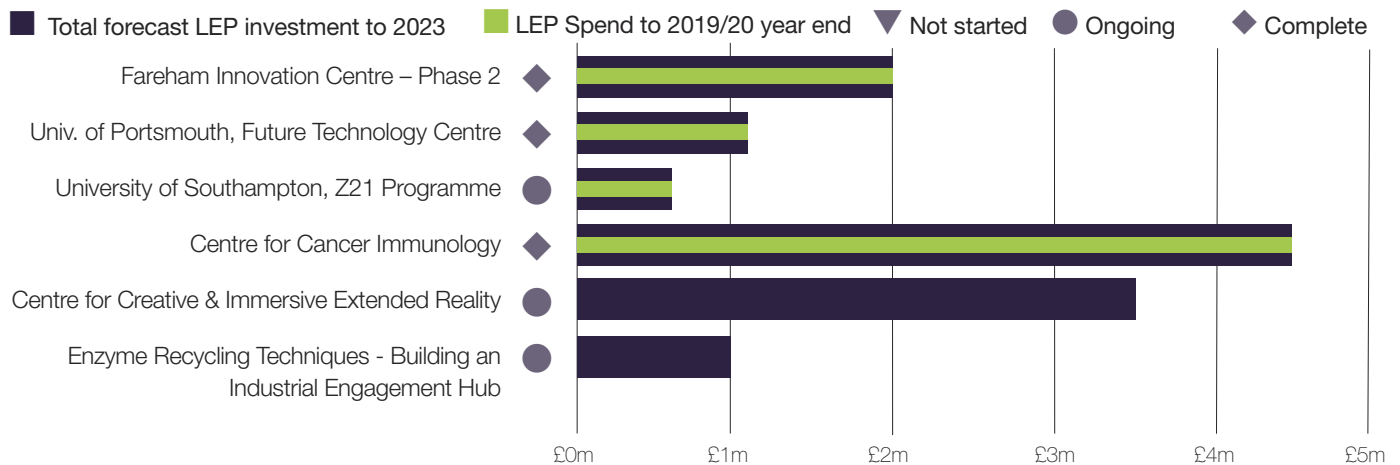
Data taken from Solent LEP FFPMG Report, Appendix B, January 2021

17. SOLENT LEP - PROJECT DASHBOARD

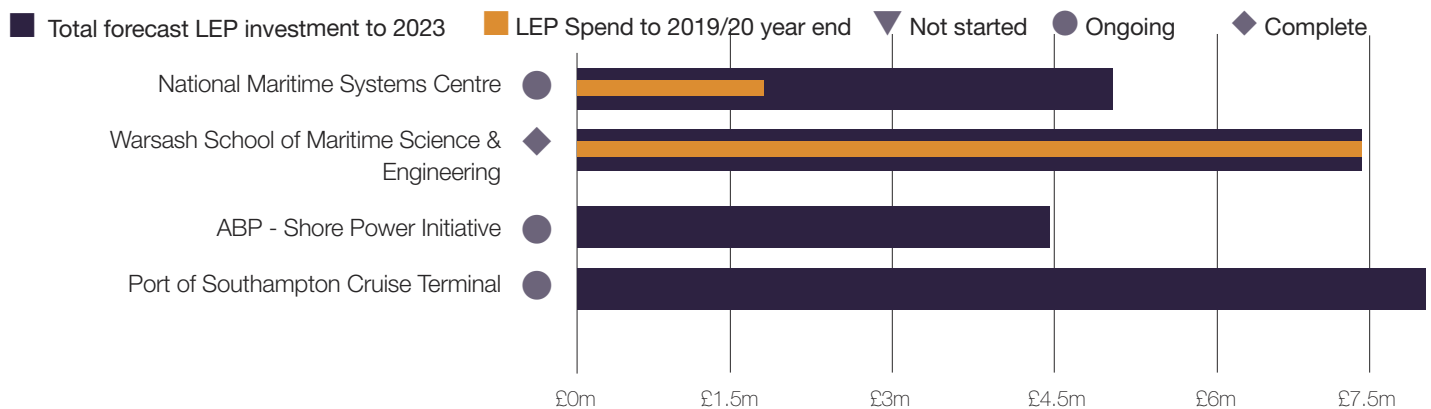
SKILLS



INNOVATION



STRATEGIC SECTORS



18. OUR VALUES



CORE VALUES



Support

We **Support** businesses to grow, individuals to succeed and communities to flourish



Open

We are **Open**, transparent and honest and work without bias, ensuring that an evidence-based approach drives our decision-making



Leadership

We lead by example and value **Leadership** which is ambitious, fair and objective



Embrace

We **Embrace** diversity as an essential component in the way we work



Nurture

We **Nurture** the talent, innovation and creativity of those we work with



Teamwork

We believe trust and mutual respect are essential for **Teamwork** and collaboration

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 2021. 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 2020 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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