

£27.1M EXPANSION OF GROWTH DEAL BOOSTS LOCAL PLAN FOR THE SOLENT ECONOMY

The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership has agreed an expansion to its Growth Deal with the Government which will see an extra £27.1m invested in the Solent area between 2016 and 2021. This is in addition to the £124.8m of funding committed by the Government on 7 July 2014. Over the lifetime of its £151.9m Deal (2015-2021) the Local Enterprise Partnership estimates that up to 6,000 new jobs could be created, 11,000 new homes built and that it has the potential to generate £400m public and private investment.

The additional proposed projects include:

- The next phase of work to improve transport and infrastructure in the Fareham and Gosport Peninsula, which will cut journey times, attract new businesses to the area and support the Solent Enterprise Zone and new housing delivery at Welborne.
- Bringing forward a National Maritime Systems Centre of Excellence in Portsmouth, creating up to 95 jobs and developing skills in a key sector for the area.
- Improving access to Southampton Western Docks, one of England's largest trade ports.
- A flexible programme of skills and innovation projects, to improve skills and promote innovation in the Solent area.

The Solent Growth Deal is part of a long term plan to devolve at least £12 billion from central government to local economies. The plan aims for every part of the country to be a motor of growth for the national economy – building on the strength of the Solent area.

Quotes

The Prime Minister said:

Giving local communities the power and the money to unlock growth and development and make the spending decisions that work for them is a key part of our long-term economic plan to secure a brighter future for Britain and ensure a recovery for all.

“And this is happening right here in the South, with more money announced today for key projects to boost the local economy as part of the multi-million pound expansion of the Government's Growth Deals.

“And because the money will be in the control of a partnership of local community, business and civic leaders it means it will go on the things that really matter to people and businesses here.”

“That is what Growth Deals are all about, backing local people and investing in the infrastructure, housing and skills that will drive forward local economies, create more jobs and opportunities for hardworking people and supercharge all parts of our country.”

The Deputy Prime Minister said:

“A quiet revolution is underway on the Solent and across the country, as Growth Deals signal the death of the culture where Whitehall calls the shots. I’ve seen for myself the difference it makes to give Southampton, Portsmouth and the rest of the region more power over skills, over business support, over infrastructure spending.

"I am delighted to announce the expansion of the Solent Growth Deal today.

“The Coalition Government has been relentless in our efforts to sort out the public finances and set firm foundations for growth. Growth Deals help create a stronger economy and a fairer society by boosting local economies, and providing more jobs, better transport and affordable homes.”

Gary Jeffries, Chair of the Solent LEP, said:

“We are delighted that the Government has backed our ability to deliver transformational growth locally by devolving funds to the area. The funding announced brings the total secured through our Growth Deal to over £150m and this additional money will allow us to build on our initial deal with a further 1000 jobs and 1000 homes. That's on top of the 5,000 jobs and 10,000 homes already announced and is another milestone for us in helping the Solent realise its true potential.”

Cllr Simon Letts, Solent LEP Director and Leader of Southampton City Council said:

"The Port of Southampton is a major strategic asset for the Southampton, Solent and wider UK economy and the funds announced today will build on the recent good news the city has seen in the Autumn Statement for major road improvements at Redbridge and on the M3 by ensuring that that we can also enhance the access routes to the western docks. Together, this package of upgrades will have a big impact by allowing us to facilitate the projected growth at the Port and keep the City infrastructure running for Southampton businesses and residents alike."

Cllr Donna Jones, Solent LEP Director and Leader of Portsmouth City Council said:

"The additional funding announced today is the latest in a series of wins for Portsmouth and our world class defence cluster. It builds on Portsmouth Minister, Matthew Hancock's opening of the UK Centre for Maritime Intelligent Systems at Portsmouth Technology Park and Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon's announcement

of a new programme to upgrade the Spearfish Torpedo at the BAE UK Centre for Torpedoes. All of these are great successes in their own right, but together, they are making our ambition to establish Portsmouth as the global centre of excellence for the Defence industry of the future a reality."

FACTSHEET

1. How much is the Government investing in the Solent area as part of the Growth Deal?

	Initial Growth Deal (July 2014)	Expansion – additional funding awarded (Jan 2015)	Total Expanded Growth Deal
Local Growth Fund	£124.8m	£27.1m	£151.9m

2. What proposed projects will this new tranche of funding deliver?

The additional funding will deliver the following projects:

- Structural work to repair and stabilise the carriageway at Millbrook roundabout, a key junction to access Southampton Western Docks, allowing the growth and upgrade of the dock to take the new generation of container vessels.
- Enabling infrastructure and strategic transport interventions in Fareham and Gosport to facilitate further development of the Solent Enterprise Zone and support new housing delivery at Welborne.
- The development of a National Maritime Systems Centre of Excellence in Portsmouth, creating up to 95 new jobs and developing hi-tech skills.
- A flexible programme of skills and innovation projects, to promote innovation and improve skills, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

This adds to the projects that were announced in July 2014, including:

- A package of enabling works in Fareham and Gosport to support strategic sites at Welborne (a new housing development) and the Solent Enterprise Zone (1) Preliminary works associated with the Stubbington Bypass; and (2) A Local Road network improvement package (including Peel Common Roundabout); and (3) initial site preparation work/land remediation at Welborne) and in addition a provisional allocation to M27 Junction 10 upgrade to “all moves” starting beyond 2016.
- Whiteley Way - route to join the existing community of Whiteley and the planned new development to the north of Whiteley to the existing highway network
- Cross-Solent connectivity – to modernise and relocate the ferry terminals in East Cowes and Southampton
- Isle of Wight College – building a centre of excellence for composites, advanced manufacturing and marine technology

- Eastleigh College – upgrading existing college facilities, including a new Advanced Technology block
- Solent Growth Fund – extending an existing programme to provide further business start-up grants, support for young entrepreneurs and expansion funds for existing businesses.
- Solent Mitigation and Itchen Package – a package of measures working with Defra and its agencies to take a more strategic approach to environmental disturbance mitigation across the Solent area and to specifically address flooding risk in Itchen Riverside, releasing land for housing and business.
- Better use will be made of public land, which will be either reused or sold where appropriate. Government will work with the LEP and local partners to create a Strategic Land and Infrastructure Board to take a more strategic view of public land and property in the area, and to support the joint planning and delivery of transport. The Cabinet Office Government Property Unit will chair the Board, which will prepare a joint asset strategy and a programme for the disposal and re-use or redevelopment of surplus land and property. The Homes and Communities Agency, Ministry of Defence, Department for Transport, Highways Agency and Network Rail will be members of the Solent Land and Infrastructure Board and the Defra agencies. Membership will be extended to other key public and private sector bodies.

3. How does this benefit the people of the Solent area?

The Growth Deal will promote growth in the Solent area through: improving transport and enabling a strategic site for housing with the Fareham/Gosport multi-year project; supporting the growth potential in Southampton port; enhancing the skills base in the area (including delivering 300 new Apprenticeships); and investing in innovation with the National Maritime Systems Centre of Excellence.

According to estimates by the LEP, the Growth Deal could bring to the Solent area:

- Up to 6,000 Jobs
- Up to 11,000 Homes
- Up to £400m public and private sector investment

4. What is the benefit for local businesses?

As well as much needed infrastructure improvements, the Growth Deal confirms additional funding to ensure that the skills capacity in the future matches the needs of local employers. The Deal also invests in innovation to build on existing knowledge assets and stimulate growth in high growth sectors.

5. Facts and figures

The Growth Deal builds on significant recent investment in growth opportunities in the Solent area including:

Growing Places Fund total allocation: £18m, which is being invested in projects that unlock new jobs and homes in the Solent.

Enterprise Zone funding: The Solent LEP was awarded £7m for Daedalus Enterprise Zone on the Gosport Peninsula from the Department for Communities and Local Government's Building Foundations for Growth fund.

Portsmouth and Southampton City Deal: £953 million of public and private sector funding was committed in the City Deal signed in November 2013, to facilitate the growth and diversification of the maritime sector in the Solent and enable two key sites around the Southampton/ Portsmouth waterfronts.

RGF: Solent LEP area has to date received £53.7m investment from the Regional Growth Fund. The Solent LEP secured £24m for Solent Futures, The Solent Enterprise Zone, the Isle of Wight Business support fund and Bridging the Gap from the Regional Growth Fund.