

The Green Halo – ‘Towards 2030’

Opportunities for growth and a Green Recovery

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Solent 2050 – A long term strategy and vision



Solent 2050 sets out a long-term strategy to unleash the Solent's distinctive strengths that can power the local economy to increase productivity and support our communities to prosper in a fast-changing world.

*Our vision for the Solent in 2050 is: **to be the globally leading maritime cluster and at the forefront of innovations to adapt to climate change, with towns and cities that are fantastic places to live, trade and with opportunities for all our communities to flourish.***



Solent 2050 – Key priorities

Underpinning this overall vision are **seven strategic priorities** around which our plan for future activities to transform the Solent is framed:

- A **world-leading marine and maritime economy**, building on our existing assets and global competitive advantages to strengthen the UK's international trading relationships.
- **Pioneering approaches to climate change adaptation and decarbonisation**, linked to our coastal setting, and establishing real expertise which other regions – nationally and globally – can learn from.
- The **UK's capital of coastal renaissance**, harnessing new technologies and approaches to revitalise and level up economic opportunity across all of our coastal communities.
- A **thriving visitor, creative and cultural economy**, capitalising on the Solent's superb natural beauty and rich maritime history.
- **Developing a world-class talent base**, helping people at all stages of their career build the skills they need to respond to new technology and drive an innovative knowledge-based economy.
- **An outstanding business environment** that encourages innovation, fosters collaboration and enables businesses of all sizes and sectors to thrive.
- **Health and wellbeing** at the heart of economic success, through a focus on building strong healthy and resilient communities that can prosper in a fast- changing world.



Economic Recovery and the longer term implications of COVID-19



- As we reflect on the short to medium term impacts of Covid-19 on our economy, it becomes increasingly apparent that the pandemic will have lasting effects
- ‘life after Covid’ will instigate some longer term ‘paradigm’ shifts and opportunities for local economic development here in the Solent, and we want to be ready to capture and facilitate these opportunities as we chart a course to economic recovery and growth.

**Rediscovery of
“proximity” and
“local”**
Towards a more self-
sufficient economy

**Increased
environmental
awareness & “green
recovery” focus**
Adapting our economy
around technologies of the
future and the pathway
to Net Zero

**Digital
transformation**
Re-defining our use of
'space' and delivering
digital inclusion

**Embedding health
and wellbeing into
our economic plan**
Innovation opportunities as
we re-define a 'new
normal' of economic
wellbeing

**Levelling up
economic
opportunity**
Tackling deprivation and
raising productivity

**Towards a more
dynamic
workplace**
Implications of remote
working and training
for our traditional
economic hubs and urban
centres



Green recovery and growth – key challenges



The Solent has an exceptionally strong natural capital offering, equipped with a coastal location and a world-class environment. Natural capital is central to our existing USP as an internationally renowned marine and maritime cluster which is highly dependent on, and influenced by, the region's natural environment, including outstanding coastline with sheltered havens and double tides sets.

The Solent's unique coastal geography is a great strength but also means that the Solent is exposed to the impacts associated with climate change in more acute ways than other parts of the UK. Challenges include:

- Coastal erosion and flooding
- Air quality
- The carbon footprint



Green recovery and growth – key opportunities and the race to net zero



There is an opportunity for the Solent to become a world leader in the **area of climate change mitigation**.

Air quality issues can be tackled by signing up to a **Green Charter** with a range of partners all focusing towards the same goal of improving air quality- Southampton 2019.

A Solent Hydrogen cluster – demand across multiple sectors and users in the Solent offers the opportunity to develop an ecosystem across transport, shipping, aviation, industry and buildings.

Strengthened Natural Capital - The Solent's outstanding natural capital sets us apart from others and a number of our strategic priorities (such as maritime and visitor economy) depend on the region's natural environment.

Clean maritime and green shipping - pioneering marine and maritime innovation



Driving a green recovery and fostering innovation

Combining the region's existing strengths within the Government's plan, there are 3 major strategic opportunities for the Solent



Ensure the Solent becomes an integral part of the UK's low carbon energy supply chain



Position the Solent as the preeminent low carbon maritime cluster in Europe



Establish the Solent as a pioneer in piloting innovative programmes for environmental management

The UK's hosting of COP26 next year creates an opportunity for the Solent to **showcase** local innovations and **establish** itself as a leading region within the UK and globally



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Priorities for green recovery and progress update



- Leading the way in pioneering shore power technology to deliver a zero-emissions cruise facility at the Port of Southampton
- Working with Maritime UK Solent to develop a green print for maritime decarbonisation
- Exploring opportunities for carbon capture with EA, HLOWWT and New Forest
- Pioneering new innovations in enzyme technology – The University of Portsmouth Centre for Enzyme Innovation aims to provide novel enzyme-based recycling solutions for plastic waste through an integrated research and innovation pipeline. This technology paves the way for establishing a truly circular economy for plastics, which in turn addresses one of the world's greatest challenges - plastic pollution.
- Adopting new nature-based solutions to tackle some of the most pressing environmental, social and economic issues as part of green recovery
- Exploring the development of a natural capital assessment of the area, starting with the New Forest - developing a baseline natural capital audit in order to identify areas of importance for wildlife conservation and areas of wildlife risk.
- Solent Freeport and the Green Growth Institute



The Solent Green Growth Institute

The Solent Freeport Green Growth Institute (SFGGI) will enable the Solent to build on past progress in becoming a world leader in maritime decarbonisation



Provide seed funding for innovation

- Seed funding competitions
- Targeted toward innovation supporting maritime decarbonisation and offering high growth potential



Create testbeds for low carbon maritime technologies

- Pilot technologies such as multi-modal autonomous operations and low carbon propulsion mechanisms
- Work in partnership with the Royal Navy and New Forest National Park



Train the green leaders of tomorrow

- Run training programmes to build knowledge on green growth in the region



Develop tools for businesses

- Translate existing knowledge into actionable tools for SMEs
- Work with local universities, research institutes, and private businesses



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