

AI Growth Alliance (AIGA)

**Hampshire Prosperity
Partnership Board**

13.07.2026

David Patterson, Chair

(Director KN-I)

Sally Thompson, Coordinator

(Strategic Funding Manager,
Hampshire County Council)





What is the AI Growth Alliance? (AIGA)

- A regional partnership accelerating practical, responsible, AI adoption
- A ‘network of networks’ connecting industry, education, public sector and communities
- A convenor, catalyst and connector, aligning activity and unlocking collaboration
- Focused on real-world impact – skills, innovation, investment and inclusive growth

Why AIGA is needed



- Confidence and capability gaps are limiting AI adoption
- Lack of trust and inclusion risks widening inequality
- Infrastructure and investment are uneven and inaccessible
- Fragmentation is preventing coordinated regional impact



AI as a Cross-Sector Enabler

AI is now a foundational capability across all sectors

Sector competitiveness is increasingly defined by effective AI adoption

AI is already reshaping key regional strengths:

- Health – diagnostics, pathways, workforce productivity
- Defence – autonomy, data intelligence, security
- Aerospace and Marine – predictive maintenance, simulation, supply chains

Regions that embed AI fastest will lead in growth, investment and innovation

AlGA positions Hampshire and the Solent to lead this transition

Who is involved?



Governance and Structure:

Steering Group – David Patterson, Chair & cross-sector members

Working Groups and Chairs:

Leadership and Skills – Mandy Boughton, Hampshire Chamber

Ethics and Inclusion – Cllr. David Conquest, Basingstoke & Deane BC

Ecosystem Coordination – Dr Philip Alford, University Soton

Infrastructure and Investment – Neil Brown, XLB Property

+ Fawley Forum (Quadrant, NFNPA, NFDC, Cadland, BSTH)

Regional Partnership Network

Industry and Employers

Universities, Colleges and Training Providers

Public Sector and Local Authorities - Communities

Innovation Hubs and Networks

Strategic Partner – Farnborough International

AI Growth Alliance – Steering Group Members

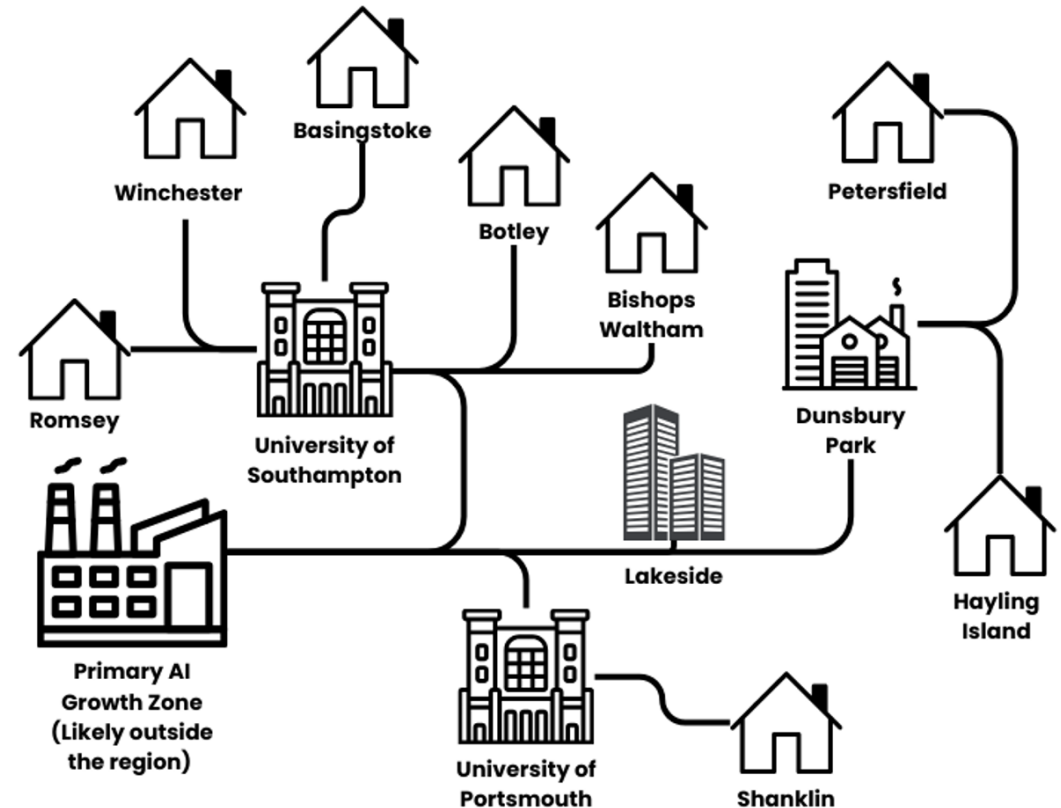
David Patterson	AI and Data Director	Know Now Information
Vasilij Nevlev	Managing Director / Founder and Managing Director	Analytium / AiGentic Lab
Lauren James	Operations and Engagement Manager	Spectrum IT / Hampshire AI
Angat Ahluwalia	External Affairs Manager	Farnborough Int
Arshan Shroff	Strategic Development Analyst (DSO)	SSE
Geoff Glover	Founder Partner / Academic Tutor Masters Degree Programme	Tech Solent / SSU
Katie Creighton	Local Government & Further Education Account Representative	Lenovo
George Scott-Welsh	Chief Executive Officer	Incuhive
Neil Brown	Partner	XLB Property
Tom Rushby	Senior Enterprise Fellow	Future Towns Innovation Hub
Dr. Matt Webster	Pro Vice-Chancellor	University of Winchester
Dr Richard Gomer	Lecturer in Computer Science (Web, AI and Society)	University of Southampton
Prof. Lois Farquharson	Dean, School of Business, Law & Society	Southampton Solent University
Alexander Gegov	Associate Professor of Computational Intelligence	University of Portsmouth
Suzanne Grant	Chief Operating Officer and Deputy CEO	Sparsholt and Andover College Group
Jodi Fair	Regional Growth and Partnerships Manager	Solent Growth Partnership
Courtney Lee (representing Dame Prof Wendy Hall)	AIGA Patron representation	Web Science Institute, UoS
Christine McGrath	Managing Director	Wessex Health Partners
Sally Thompson	Strategic Funding Manager / AIGA Coordinator	Hampshire County Council

AIGA: Orchestrating the Future of AI in Hampshire & The Solent



Regionally equitable delivery requires a regionally distributed capability

- We will get nowhere if we lack access to infrastructure, resources and skills.
- Interconnected campuses create resilience and reduce dependence on a single site *or owner*.
- Enables our regional strengths according to place. Maritime, Defence, Creative Industries, Advanced Manufacturing.
- A shared infrastructure including sovereign compute, trusted data, high-speed connectivity and skills according to hyperlocal capability.
- Create the opportunity to nationalise our regional innovation.



Bringing AI skills, trust and innovation into the heart of our communities

- **Citizen AI skills as a competitive advantage**
 - Build confidence across the whole population, creating a workforce that differentiates the UK and our region
- **Proven methodology**
 - Just as cyber cafés introduced people safely to the internet. Community AI hubs provide a trusted space to learn and experiment.
- **Net-zero by design**
 - Micro-generation and local energy technologies enable hubs as net-zero demonstrators
- **Revitalising the high street**
 - Transform vacant retail sites into vibrant centres for innovation and community engagement.





Opportunities – Route Map

Unlock	Unlock seed funding to enable delivery at pace
Develop	Develop a sustainable operating model and structure
Position	Position AIGA as a regional-to-national platform
Leverage	Leverage anchor partners to secure matched investment
Progress	Progress the AIGA Discovery platform and brokerage model
Align	Align with Mayoral Combined Authority and national policy priorities
Establish	Establish AIGA as a recognised model for AI-enabled regional growth



What's next?

- Directory (what exists?)
- Delivery through partners (not duplication)
- Brokerage (connecting needs to solutions)
- Future Discovery Platform (if funded)

AIGA will enable organisations across all sectors to find what they don't know and access what they need more easily – rather than creating new layers of provision.

AI Leadership and Skills Strategy – Hampshire and the Solent

Completed June 2026

Pillar 1 Digital Foundations for All		Pillar 2 Workplace Digital and AI Readiness		Pillar 3 AI Awareness and Applied Skills		Pillar 4 Advanced Data and AI Skills		Pillar 5 Leadership and CEO Confidence		Pillar 6 Connected Learning Ecosystem		
Foundation		→	Adoption		→	Specialisation		→	Leadership		→	Ecosystem
Pillar 1 Digital foundations			Pillars 2–3 Workplace readiness and applied AI			Pillar 4 Advanced AI and data skills			Pillar 5 Decision-making, governance and culture			Pillar 6 Single front door
Inclusive access, core digital confidence, community delivery and removal of barriers to participation.		Essential workplace capability, digital tools, collaboration, cyber awareness, data literacy and productivity skills.		Practical AI use, prompting, automation, sector applications, SME onboarding and AI Champions.		Specialist technical pathways in data analytics, machine learning, cloud, cyber, AI engineering and innovation.		Board, executive and senior leader confidence, governance, risk, ethics, ROI and organisational transformation.		A single front door, mapped provision, guidance tools, employer resources and coherent regional pathways.		

AIGA Leadership and Skills Working Group

Name	Role / Organisation
Carla Modley	Business Growth & Investment Manager, Solent Freeport
Claire Gevaux	Deputy CEO, Southampton Forward
Geoff Glover	Founder Committee member - TechSolent
Jodi Fair	Regional Growth & Partnerships Manager, Solent Growth Partnership
Justine Clements	Head of Business Development, University of Winchester
Lois Farquharson (Professor)	Dean, School of Business, Law & Society, Southampton Solent University
Mandy Boughton	President, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, Interim Chair LSWG
Matt Johnson	Director, South Coast Institute of Technology
Matt Webster	Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Winchester
Michelle Merry	Deputy Head for Business, Solent University
Nicola Kildunne	Regional Business & Stakeholder Manager, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
Richard Gomer (Dr)	Lecturer in Computer Science, University of Southampton
Suzanne Grant	Deputy Principal and Deputy CEO, Sparsholt College Group, Interim Deputy Chair LSWG
Sally Thompson	Strategic Funding Manager, Hampshire County Council



AI GA launch – a key opportunity to establish AI GA at a national and regional level

**AI Growth Alliance –
official launch at
Farnborough
International Airshow on
23 July**

**Regional platform to
engage national leaders,
industry and investors**

<https://www.farnboroughairshow.com/visit>

Engage and Connect

Website

AIGA – AI Growth Alliance [AIGA - AI Growth Alliance](#)

LinkedIn Group

AI Growth Alliance – Hampshire and the Solent [\(28\) AI Growth Alliance - Hampshire and the Solent | South Central UK | Groups | LinkedIn](#)

Community Hub

Future Towns Innovation Hub [AI Growth Alliance - Future Towns Innovation Hub](#)

Chair

David Patterson, Director, KnowNow Information

Email: chair@aigrowthalliance.co.uk

Secretariat

Tom Rushby (Future Towns Innovation Hub, University of Southampton)

Email: secretariat@aigrowthalliance.co.uk

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