

Strategic Economy - Clusters

Prosperity, Growth Hubs and Business Engagement

Prosperity, Growth Hubs and Business Engagement

The **Strategic Economy** team is dedicated to creating an environment where businesses can thrive in Hampshire.

This involves ensuring the necessary infrastructure and skills are available to deliver targeted business support that facilitates businesses to start up and grow across two teams:

Prosperity

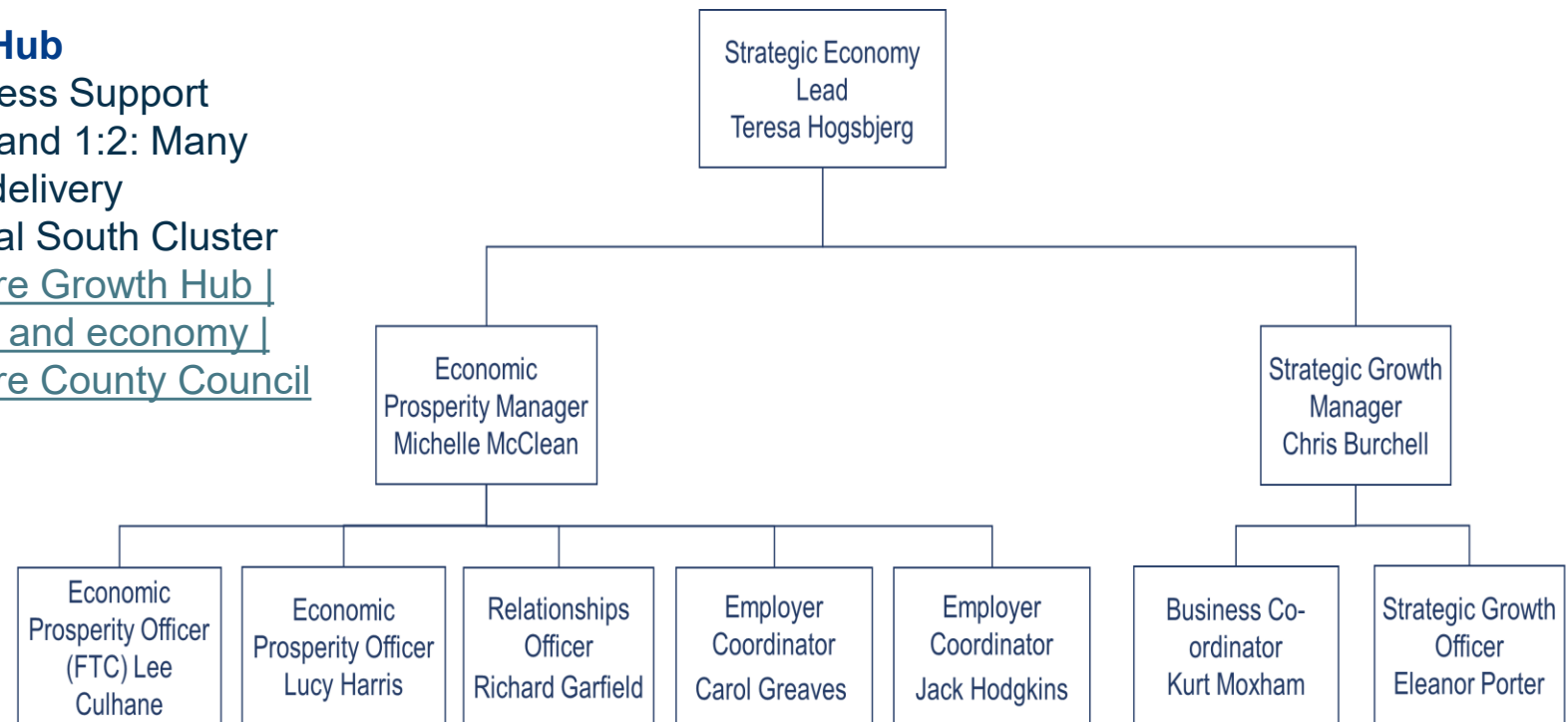
- Business Engagement and Account Management
- Inward Investment and links with Department of Business and Trade
- Prosperity Board Priorities

[Business in Hampshire | Business and economy | Hampshire County Council](#)

Growth Hub

- Business Support
- 1:2:1 and 1:2: Many
- DBT delivery
- Central South Cluster

[Hampshire Growth Hub | Business and economy | Hampshire County Council](#)



South Central Regional Defence & Security Cluster

Our aim is to:

- Grow a community dedicated to developing innovative, long-term advancements to the security and protection of our communities
- Promote regional skills and prosperity, working with other regional bodies

We do this by:

- Building a membership of regional SMEs, universities, primes and associates
- Organising events that inform and promote collaboration, networking and engagement
- Increase understanding of regional dual use technology and innovation for defence and security applications, and future requirements
- Sharing ideas and identifying routes to market through exploitation and commercialisation
- Promoting diversity and inclusion to ensure a welcoming environment for all



Defence as an Engine for Growth

2025 – a renewed focus on National Security, Defence and sovereign capability:

Strategic Defence Review:

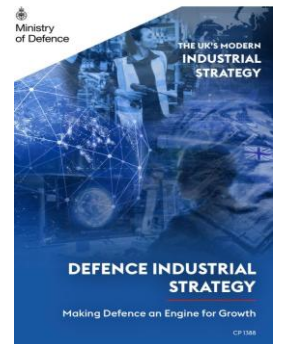
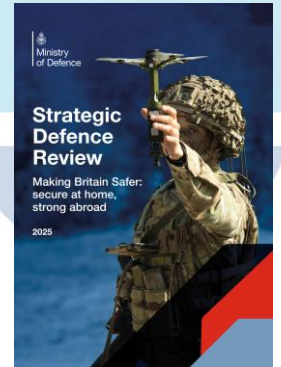
- The world has changed – move to warfighting readiness
- Investment in innovation

The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy:

- Supporting frontier industries
- Supporting regions and clusters
- Defence as one of the 8 highest potential growth sectors

Defence Industrial Strategy:

- Defence as an engine for growth
- Focus on innovation & SMEs: create UKDI and Office for Small Business Growth
- Procurement modernisation
- Seedcorn funding for the Regional Defence and Security Cluster Network (RDSCs)





Industry Steering Group

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Steering Group:

- ◆ Matt Odell – MilUX
- ◆ Alan Fisher – Farnborough Aerospace Consortium
- ◆ Kevin Watkins – NOVA Systems Engineering
- ◆ Andrew Barnett – Barnbrook Systems Ltd (Chair)
- ◆ Anna Ralls – Thorn SDS Limited
- ◆ Claire Hemmings – Force Development Services (FDS) Ltd
- ◆ Andrew Burton – University of Southampton
- ◆ Stuart Yalden – G W Martin & Co Ltd
- ◆ Matthew Albans – Roke
- ◆ Andrew Brimson – KHIPU Networks

They join our founding members:

- ◆ Sharon Jones – The Royal Navy
- ◆ Nick Fuller – Airbus Aircraft
- ◆ Tonino Amorelli – QinetiQ
- ◆ Mark Helliker – UKDI Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA)
- ◆ Mark Ward – Dstl
- ◆ Richard Smith – Airbus Aircraft
- ◆ Jane Hardy – Fareham Borough Council

NEW SCRDC STEERING GROUP MEMBER



INTRODUCING SCRDC'S NEW CHAIR
ANDREW BARNETT

Managing Director of Barnbrook Systems

With over 45 years in Defence and Aerospace, Andrew brings deep expertise in frontline tech, strategic leadership and SME growth.

A passionate advocate for innovation, Andrew is committed to nurturing future talent and unlocking the South Central region's full potential in UK defence and security.



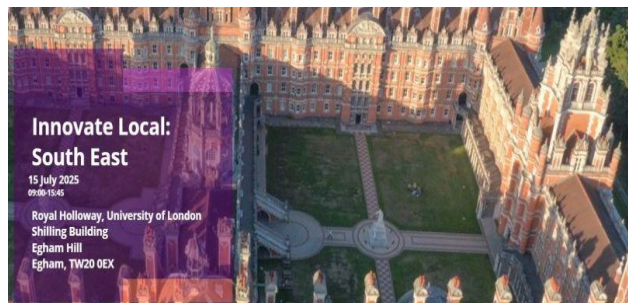
One Year Later...

- Official launch – 6 November 2024 and now have **500 members** in the cluster
- Meaningful connections have been made across defence and security domains, and at every level
- New suppliers are being connected with the defence supply chain for the first time
- Giving the MOD and primes much better visibility and access to the wealth of defence and security capabilities which exist across the region



SCRDSC Events Programme

- The perfect chance to see the ecosystem in action and understand the opportunities firsthand



Life Sciences South Innovation Cluster



Dear Life Sciences Sector Stakeholders,

As a priority for the [Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board](#), we are beginning work on developing a Life Sciences Cluster for the region, in partnership with Wessex Health Partners and Health Innovation Wessex.

Given your leadership and expertise in the sector, we would like to invite you to participate in an exploratory meeting to discuss the development of the proposed cluster on Thursday 11 September at 2pm.

The meeting is a chance for organisations, academia and research facilities across the Life Sciences sector to have an open conversation, sharing goals, exploring where priorities align, and discussing both the opportunities for growth and challenges of building this cluster to create sustainable economic prosperity within the sector.

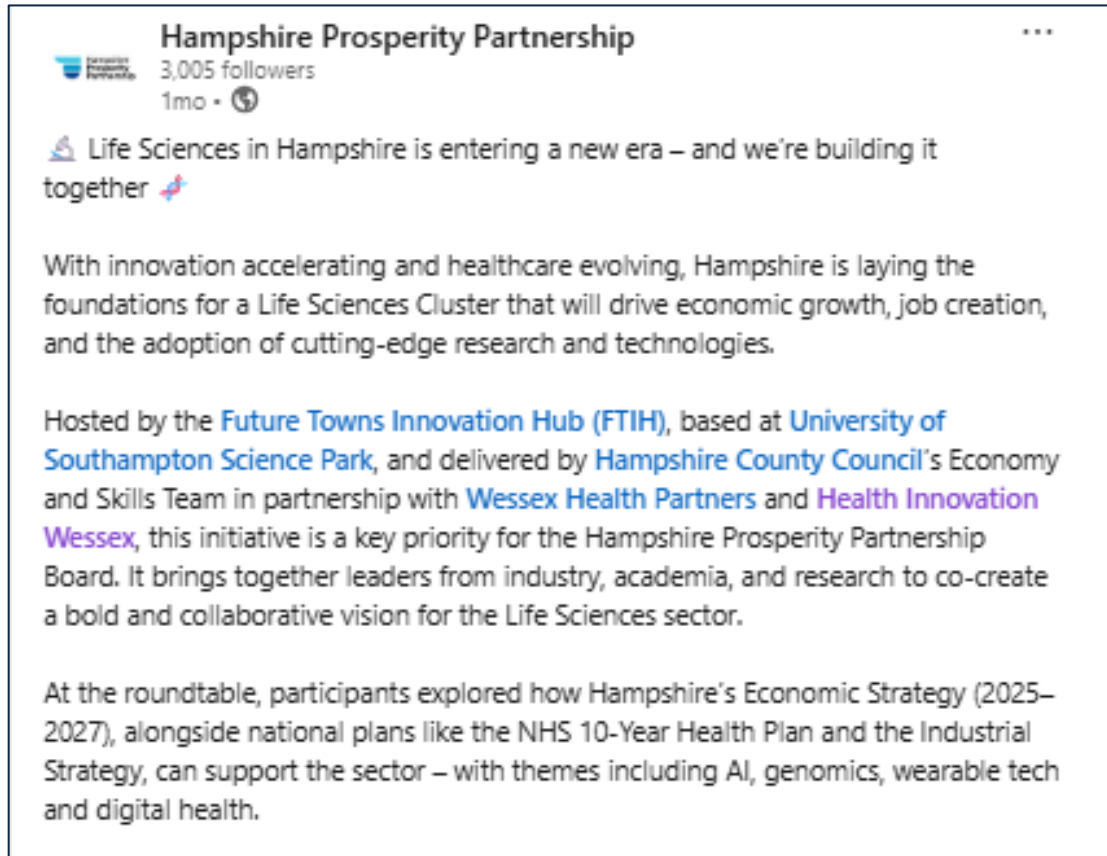
Please find below agenda for the meeting:

1. Welcome
2. Introductions and overview of organisations present
 - A quick introduction from all attendees, with a short overview of their business.
3. Economic Strategy for Hampshire & the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board
4. The role our stakeholders: Why you are here
5. Which areas need priority focus over the coming 12 months?
6. Current sector opportunities and challenges
7. Agreement on follow-up actions, timelines, and points of contact
8. Any other business
9. Date of next meeting

Following the meeting we will look to set up a steering group who will play an active role in shaping the strategic direction of the cluster.

- **Roundtable:** Held on 11 September with 18 organisations, from SMEs to major companies in the region.
- **Next Steps:** Positive outcome has led to key meetings with Health Innovation Wessex and Wessex Health Partners to develop the cluster.
- **Networking Event:** Health Innovation Wessex will host on 3 December – a chance to build connections and discuss cluster development.
- **Future Plans:** Next roundtable scheduled for late January to agree priorities and objectives.

Life Sciences South Innovation Cluster



Hampshire Prosperity Partnership
3,005 followers
1mo • 🌐

📍 Life Sciences in Hampshire is entering a new era – and we're building it together 🚀

With innovation accelerating and healthcare evolving, Hampshire is laying the foundations for a Life Sciences Cluster that will drive economic growth, job creation, and the adoption of cutting-edge research and technologies.

Hosted by the [Future Towns Innovation Hub \(FTIH\)](#), based at [University of Southampton Science Park](#), and delivered by [Hampshire County Council](#)'s Economy and Skills Team in partnership with [Wessex Health Partners](#) and [Health Innovation Wessex](#), this initiative is a key priority for the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board. It brings together leaders from industry, academia, and research to co-create a bold and collaborative vision for the Life Sciences sector.

At the roundtable, participants explored how Hampshire's Economic Strategy (2025–2027), alongside national plans like the NHS 10-Year Health Plan and the Industrial Strategy, can support the sector – with themes including AI, genomics, wearable tech and digital health.

“Really pleased to be working with you all on this important initiative for the South. There is clearly a rich and diverse ecosystem doing fantastic work. We need to shout more about it!!!!”

Christine McGrath, MD Wessex Health Partners

“Often the adoption and implementation elements of innovation are the weakest links. This is a very holistic and integrated approach that I'm certain will reap multiple rewards including many healthcare objectives.”

Mark Dudd, Healthcare Partnership Director Oberoi Consulting

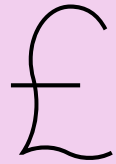
“Brilliant to see great minds and expertise coming together to showcase and map out the fantastic life science assets we have in Wessex.”

Emma Williams, Associate Director Health Innovation Wessex



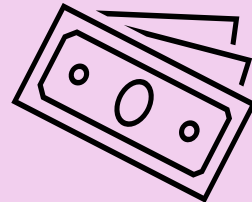
Life Sciences South – Good News Stories

Funding



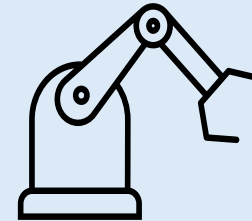
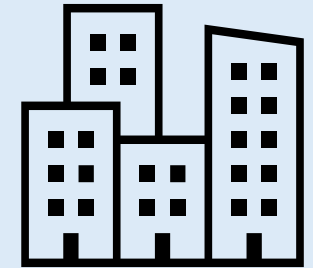
£16.3 million granted to University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Southampton, to support applied health research across the South of England.

Petersfield-based Zeus Sleep has secured a £150k investment from British Design Fund to help accelerate the development of its innovative product designed to alleviate the symptoms of snoring and sleep apnoea.



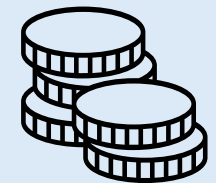
Facilities and Research Centres

£1.2 billion Oxford North flagship global innovation district opened in October 2025, in major boost to UK science, technology & AI sectors



The UK's largest robotic-assisted surgery training centre has been opened near Reading in October 2025.

Blatchford announce £15 million investment to build a state-of-the-art operations centre in Basingstoke.



The Creative Sector

National Perspective (UK Industrial Strategy & Sector Plan)

- Creative industries contribute £124bn GVA and employ 2.4m people (DCMS, 2023).
- Government vision: UK as global leader by 2035, backed by £380m investment.
- Priorities: R&D, high-growth sub-sectors, regional clusters, and skills pipeline.
- Growth drivers: Createch (AI, immersive tech) and improved finance access for SMEs.

Regional Perspective (South-East, South-Central & South-West)

- South-East & South-Central form a major creative supercluster with London, generating £71bn GVA.
- South-West creative economy worth £2.7bn GVA, fastest job growth in UK (4.1% since 2019).
- Arts Council investing £111m (2023–26) into cultural infrastructure and innovation.
- Regional strategies focus on Creative Corridors to connect clusters and scale innovation.

Note: *Hampshire sits across these regional definitions – South-Central for economic strategy and South-West for cultural funding – reinforcing the need for alignment under the Prosperity Partnership.*

Hampshire & Solent Creative Economy (2024–2025)

- The creative economy across Hampshire and Solent is valued at ~£5bn GVA, supporting around 80,000 jobs and thousands of enterprises.
- Includes major clusters in North Hampshire (gaming, design, digital) and South Hampshire (screen, maritime-linked creative, cultural hubs).
- Represents one of the largest creative presences outside London, with strong links to tech, tourism, and cultural sectors.
- Multiple strategies (Hampshire Prosperity Partnership, Solent Cultural Plan, Arts Council priorities) are converging to align fragmented initiatives into a single regional vision, requiring cross-sector collaboration.



South Central Creative Cluster Exploratory Roundtable – 20 November



South Central Creative Cluster Exploratory Roundtable Invitation

We are pleased to invite you to a Creative Cluster Exploratory Roundtable on Thursday 20 November from 9.30am at Farnborough International Studios. We are bringing together creative leaders, practitioners and enablers across the South Central to explore the current landscape, challenges and opportunities for the regions creative industries

The creative industries – including film, television, gaming, digital media, performing arts and cultural enterprise – are a key focus in Hampshire's updated Economic Strategy. This roundtable is part of a wider commitment led by the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board to support innovation-led, inclusive and sustainable growth within high-potential sectors, especially where existing networks are less developed.

The creative sector offers significant opportunity to drive productivity, unlock talent and grow the region's economy. This roundtable forms part of a wider effort to better understand the sector's needs, strengths and potential across the region.

This session will provide space for open dialogue around the current landscape, shared challenges and emerging opportunities across the region's creative industries. It will also be a chance to consider how we might better connect, collaborate and grow together.

Event Details:

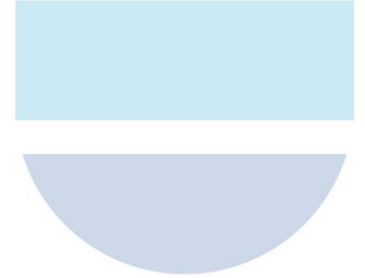
Date: Thursday, 20 November 2025

Time: 9:30am arrival for a 10am start, concluding at 12pm

Venue: Farnborough International Studios, GATE D, ETPS Road, Farnborough, GU14 6FD



boomerang



culture connects



Portsmouth Creates

Zap!
CREATIVES



CREATIVE ISLAND

THE HANDMADE CYCLIST



STUDIOS

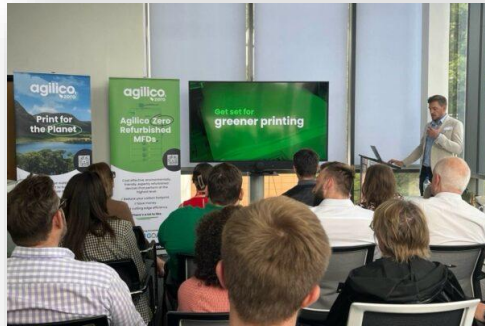


November 2025

Hampshire Sustainable Action Network (HSAN)

The Hampshire Sustainable Action Network (HSAN) is a practical support network for small and medium-sized businesses across the county who want to make progress on sustainability in a way that fits with their day-to-day operations.

Sessions are designed to be practical and engaging, and can include structured networking, a tour of the host business, an expert-led talk, and dedicated time for discussion and problem-solving.



Kicking off the Hampshire Sustainability Action Network was a brilliant moment for the Chamber and Agilico—and seeing so many businesses dive in with real energy and purpose was inspiring. This is just the beginning, and I can't wait to see what we build together.

Ross McNally, CEO – Hampshire Chamber of Commerce

It was a pleasure to host Hampshire Chamber of Commerce at our Agilico head office for the first Hampshire Sustainability Action Network (HSAN) event earlier this week. As a Chamber member and partner of HSAN, Agilico are keen to educate businesses in how they can make a valuable environmental contribution, whilst fitting within often stretched IT, Infrastructure, and Facilities budgets.

Mike Salmon - Senior Account Manager, Agilico

Hampshire Sustainable Action Network Meet Up

Thursday 4th December

13:00-15:30

New Place Hotel,
SO32 2JY

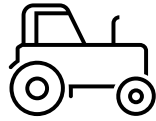


Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



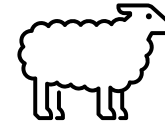
Hampshire Growth Hub Rural Project

Strategic Aims:



Support rural businesses in agriculture, forestry, and ecological services to develop new products, services, and revenue streams.

Collaborate with Sparsholt College and other partners to harness expertise in animal health, welfare, and land-based innovation, with potential for joint ventures, pilot projects, and knowledge exchange that benefit rural enterprises.



Explore commercial applications of ecological services such as biodiversity net gain, and sustainable land management, to create new market opportunities for rural businesses.



Hampshire Growth Hub 2025 Highlights:

- **Growth Accelerator Programme** – intensive workshops and 1:1 mentoring for SMEs.
- **Business Mapping Exercise** – comprehensive analysis of Hampshire’s business landscape
- **Scale up event** with guest speakers from ScaleUp Institute, FSE Group, and the Department for Business and Trade
- **AI Agents Webinar** – practical applications of AI for business efficiency.
- **Engagement & Outreach** – active presence at B2B expos and regional events.
- **Cross-Cluster Collaboration**
- Hosted **Advisor Day** with Berkshire, Surrey, West Sussex, Brighton & Hove, and Hampshire Growth Hubs. Focused on improving advisor-client engagement and sharing best practice.



November 2025



Hampshire Growth Hub – Case Study

Gambledown Farm is a diversified rural business in Hampshire, offering farm stays and local produce.

Challenge

The business needed strategic support to expand its offering and improve marketing reach.

Support Provided

- Accessed Growth Hub mentoring and advice on diversification.
- Guidance on funding opportunities and digital marketing strategies.

Outcomes

- Increased visitor numbers and revenue through enhanced farm stay experiences.
- Developed new income streams via direct-to-consumer sales and events.



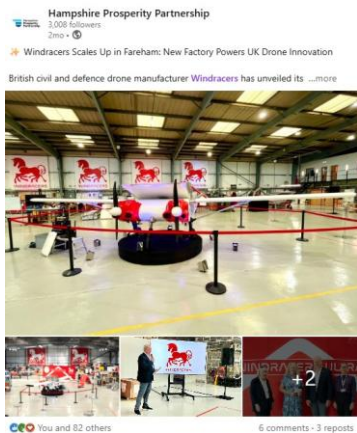
“The Growth Hub helped us identify opportunities and gave us the confidence to grow.”



LinkedIn – Driving Engagement & Visibility

The Hampshire Prosperity Partnership LinkedIn page has grown to 3,009 followers – an increase of 1,000 over the past 12 months.

Published over the last two months, these three examples rank among our best-performing content, demonstrating high engagement and visibility. They showcase our success in connecting with local businesses, promoting key initiatives and amplifying Hampshire's economic voice.



Impressions: 2,600
Engagements: 735
Engagement Rate:
28.27%



Impressions: 797
Engagements: 262
Engagement Rate:
32.87%



Impressions: 1,121
Engagements: 89
Engagement Rate:
7.94%

Organic impressions on LinkedIn refer to the number of times content is displayed naturally in the feeds of users, without any paid promotion or advertising.

Engagement refers to how users interact with our content through actions like likes, comments, shares, and clicks.

Engagement rate indicates how the content is engaging and relevant to the audience. Generally, an engagement rate of around 3% or higher is considered good according to LinkedIn.



Hampshire and Solent SuperCluster

The aims of the Hampshire and Solent SuperCluster are to:

- Ensure that Hampshire's business community can speak with a single voice on issues of common concern, increasing its influence with Government
- That collectively, Hampshire's clusters and other industry groups can increase their effectiveness through sharing best practice and innovation, networking and collaboration

Four actions have been agreed to be delivered in the first year of the SuperCluster:

- Cross Sector Collaboration
- Skills Intersection Across Sectors. Unlocking Career Pathways in Green, Creative, Engineering, Digital, Technical, Aerospace & Maritime
- Investment for Hampshire Businesses
- Inward Investment – The Southern Forge



Hampshire & The Solent
SuperCluster



Membership and Policy

New and Emerging Clusters

South Central Regional Defence and Security Cluster
Aerospace and Defence - Farnborough
Life Sciences South
Creative and Digital
Hampshire Sustainable Action Network
AI Growth Alliance
Hands C3 (Cyber Security)

Established Regional Clusters

Maritime Solent
Solent Cluster
Space South Central
Farnborough Aerospace Consortium
Central South
ADS

Hampshire and The Solent SuperCluster

Business Representative Organisations

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
Business South
Federation of Small Businesses
South-East BIDs

Central Government, Policy and Funding

Department of Business and Trade
Modern Industrial Strategy and Sector Plans
Local Growth Fund
Local Innovation Partnerships Fund
Devolution and LGR

Stay Connected

Hampshire Prosperity Partnership - [Hampshire Prosperity Partnership: Overview | LinkedIn](#)

Hampshire Growth Hub - [Hampshire Growth Hub: Overview | LinkedIn](#)

SCRDSC - [South Central Regional Defence & Security Cluster \(SCRDSC\): Overview | LinkedIn](#)

Thank You

