

Local Innovation Partnership Fund

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Local Innovation Partnership Fund UK Research and Innovation

what we know so far...

- New government funding opportunity [Pre-announcement: Local Innovation Partnerships Fund – UKRI](#)
- £500m over 5 years to develop and scale **high potential innovation clusters** to drive **economic growth**
- **Two strands**
 - Earmarked strand £30m to each 7 x MCA and 3 Nations
 - **Competed strand up to £20m**
- **Triple Helix** collaborations – civic institutions, business and universities
- Clusters must be defined by a **clear functional economic boundary** to reflect local concentration of innovation assets, capabilities and firms
- Places should prioritise clusters with greatest growth potential aligning to local and national priorities ([Industrial Strategy](#))
- Proposals need to leverage **private investment 2:1** (1:1 during programme) and self-sustaining by end

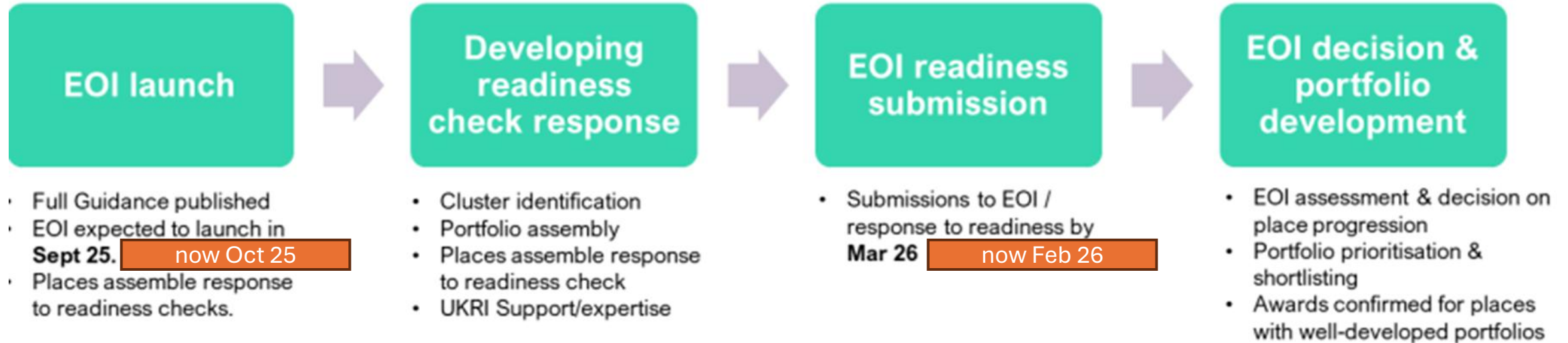
[UKRI-280725-LIPF-InitialGuidance.pdf](#)

University Working Group

- The forthcoming Local Innovation Partnership Fund is looking for proposals co-created between UKRI and locally led triple-helix partnerships/consortia of civic authorities, industry and research organisations.
- All four Hampshire universities have come together to form a working group to represent a collective response to work with local government and businesses to best meet the need the economic growth needs of the regional clusters.
 - University of Southampton
 - University of Portsmouth
 - Southampton Solent University
 - University of Winchester



Indicative Timescales



- All applicants will be required to complete an early readiness check.
- UKRI has published an initial guidance document to set out the proposed framework, principles, and indicative process for the LIPF, and to provide places with an early opportunity to plan their response.

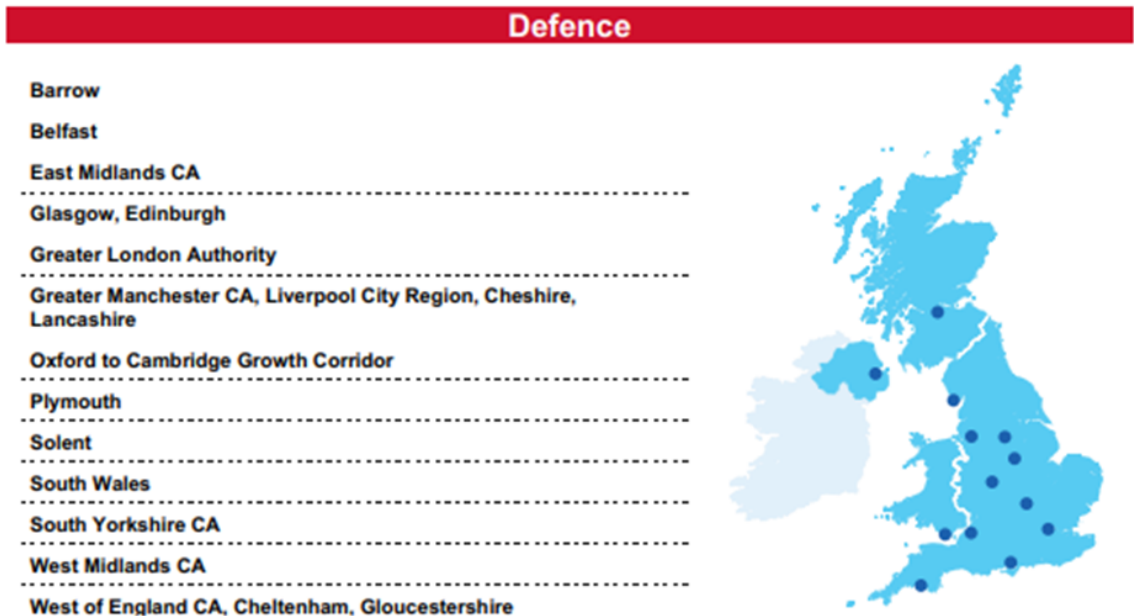
- **Further guidance to follow in the autumn**

Industrial Strategy

- 1) Advanced Manufacturing
- 2) Clean Energy Industries
- 3) Digital & Technology
- 4) Creative Industries
- 5) Professional & Business Services
- 6) Financial Services
- 7) Life Sciences
- 8) Defence – inc maritime

- [The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy](#)

City region and cluster prioritisation process



[Industrial Strategy Technical Annex](#)

Potential Activities (1)

Activity	Description
Research Commercialisation	Technology transfer to industry; new product development; industry collaboration; Intellectual Property (IP) protection; securing patents, copyrights, or trademarks for research outcomes
Adoption & diffusion of new technologies	Support for approaches that enable the adoption and diffusion of cutting-edge technologies by businesses including enabling access to innovation assets to enable collaborative R&D with industry
Business Growth / development initiatives	Support for high growth SMEs and spinouts to boost company growth, including access to private finance to support local scaling.
Translational R&D	Support for high growth SMEs and spinouts to boost company growth, including access to private finance to support local scaling.
Cluster development, networking and leadership	Sharing and embedding best practice, including collaboration agreements which enable subject matter experts to share knowledge, develop skills and solutions, and attract investment

Potential Activities (2)

Activity	Description
Talent & Skills	Support for research fellowships and knowledge transfer partnerships which are strongly focused on building collaborative relationships between research organisations and businesses
R&D Infrastructure	Including investment into scale-up infrastructure and equipment critical for building capabilities of the innovation ecosystem. Proposals for new ‘centres’ will be evaluated on the basis of future sustainability
Knowledge Exchange and R&I networking	Activities that strengthen and build relationships between stakeholders across research and innovation
Seed corn funding	Operational or early-stage funding that build on existing cluster strengths, building resilience of the business base by supporting technology adoption and support growth of the cluster.
Access to / attracting overseas business and investment	Activities including collaborative research, business relocation, and growing local supply chains. Programme funding for non-UK businesses will only be eligible if a clear case is made for how, it will anchor business activity in the UK with demonstrable local benefits

LIPF Geography - Hampshire & Solent Mayoral Combined Authority

MHCLG consultation calls out

- Diverse economy 90,000 businesses GVA £70bn pa
- Maritime sector & Solent Freeport
- Defence & Aerospace
- Culture & creative ecosystem – digital design, sound, film and heritage
- Space – Space South Central
- Clean energy, carbon capture & storage, hydrogen production and sustainable aviation fuel



Readiness Check criteria

1. Strategic Vision and Priority Clusters

Assessing the clarity of strategic vision for innovation, the strength of identified cluster opportunities, and the plan for maximising impact of investment

- Is there a strategy that sets out a vision for the role of innovation in driving economic growth and is this integrated with wider spatial and infrastructure plans?
- Are priority cluster opportunities well-defined and evidenced in terms of growth potential, functional economic geography and maturity (established vs emerging)?
- Are these cluster opportunities aligned with the local and national strategic objectives and is there a credible plan to coordinate local funding, assets, and levers (for example Investment Zones and Freeports) to maximise their impact? Is this demonstrated within a theory of change and logic model with clear outputs and outcomes?

2. Innovation Strength and Opportunity

Assessing the maturity of the innovation ecosystem and proposed areas of intervention to accelerate R&D and commercialisation within priority clusters

- Is there evidence of a mature innovation ecosystem with the infrastructure, assets and capabilities that will support the long-term development the identified priority clusters?
- Are there clearly defined areas for intervention – such as market failures, industry challenges, or successful models/assets suitable for scale – that LIPF investment could address to increase R&D? Are there already projects identified to support this activity?
- Do key ecosystem actors work in local partnership around shared objectives? Are there clear linkages between research, commercialisation and market application?

3. Governance and Leadership

Assessing whether governance structures are clearly defined, robust, and enable fair, effective decision-making across a balanced local partnership

- Is there established, or nascent governance structures that can be adapted, to oversees local innovation priorities, with clear mechanisms for strategic decision-making on investment, portfolio development, and project prioritisation?
- Does this governance reflect a triple helix approach in a collaborative and accountable way and does it have capacity to co-create with UKRI around resourcing and delivery?
- Are there robust processes in place to manage conflicts of interest, ensure quality assurance, and provide clear lines of accountability?

4. Operational Capability

Assessing the capacity, experience, and systems in place to deliver innovation programmes effectively and at scale.

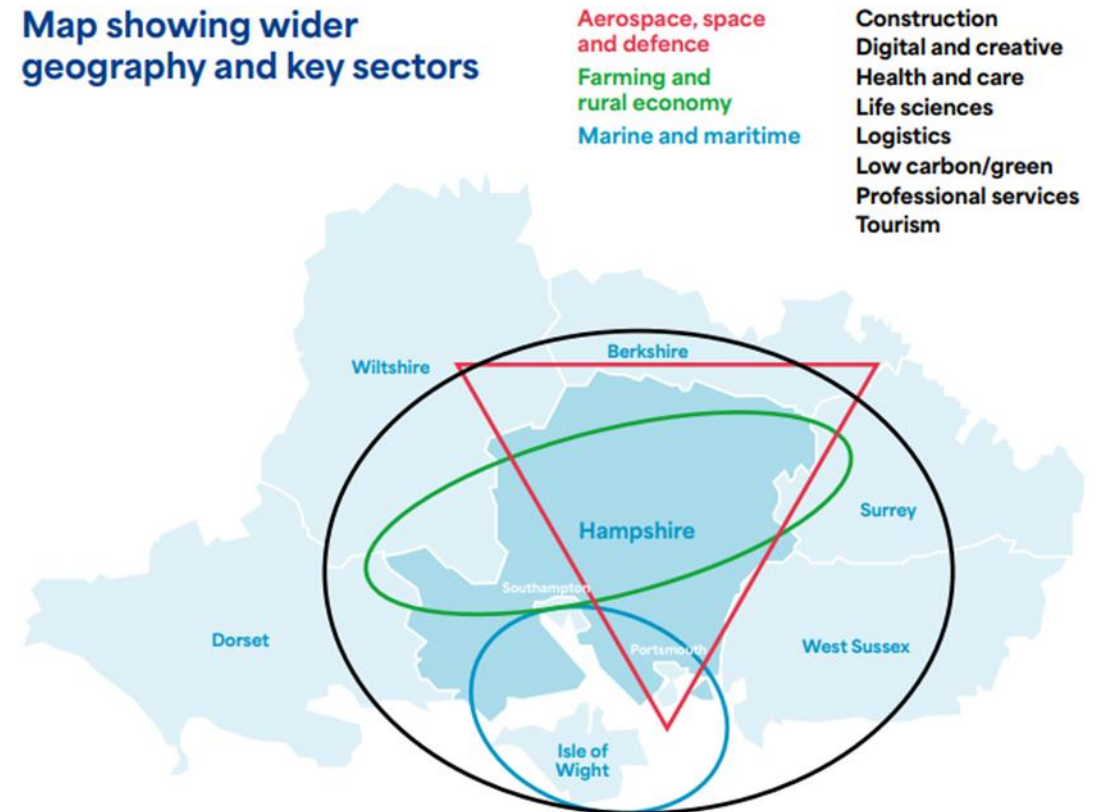
- Is there a demonstrable track record of managing and delivering innovation programmes at scale, on time, and with strong levels of matched funding?
- Is there a defined set of projects, a managed project pipeline, or a structured process for identifying and assembling new projects, to create a portfolio that is ready for investment and aligned with strategic innovation objectives?
- Are there existing resources, systems, and processes in place to implement LIPF effectively, including delivery monitoring, risk management, and progress reporting?

Economic Strategy for Hampshire

Existing Clusters

- Farnborough Aerospace Consortium
- Jet Zero
- Maritime UK Solent
- Solent Cluster
- South Central Regional Security & Defence Cluster
- Space South Central
- **Solent Freeport**

Map showing wider geography and key sectors



Getting Solent Working Plan

[Get Solent Working](#)

Target Sectors

- **Marine and Maritime:** cross over into green economy, technology and international logistics sectors
- **Green Energy:** Renewable Energy, Decarbonisation and Green-tech and Retro-fit
- **Technology:** Advanced Manufacturing, Marine technology, Life sciences, Defence, Space, IT, AI
- **Cultural, Creative and Visitor Economy:** Creative industries, Film, Heritage and Tourism
- **Natural Capital and Nature Based Solutions**
- **Foundational Economy:** Transport, Logistics, Retail, Health and Social Care



Working together to define LIPF proposal

- Universities are working together – Southampton, Portsmouth, Solent, and Winchester
- Regular convening with Upper Tier authorities in MCA region
- Collaborating in engagement with clusters in the region

Contact details

- For questions related to this specific funding opportunity please contact:
sip@soton.ac.uk

Discussion points for the Board

- Endorse **Hampshire and The Solent** as region for LIPF to focus on.
- Align and combine the economic strategies and vision for whole area.
- Be ready with an Innovation Strategy and Governance structures.
- **If have to focus on one sector or priority area, what should this be?**
- Identify **key projects** that could be included as part of an LIPF programme and could crowd in investment.
- Link interested **businesses and/or industry clusters**.



**Thank you for your
time and attention**