

Solent Waterfront Strategy commended at South East RTPI Awards

27 November 2009

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)-led Solent Waterfront Strategy has been commended in the Spatial Strategies' category of the South East Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) Awards. The Strategy has already been shortlisted for the national RTPI awards taking place in February 2010.

The Solent Waterfront Strategy focuses on the marine sector, a key industry for the Solent and South East. The development of the Strategy has inspired business engagement from different sectors and stakeholders, working together to tackle some of the difficult issues affecting our ability to retain and grow the marine sector. It is the first such strategy to unite all planning authorities in the Solent area in a common and sector-led approach.

The marine industry is critical to the economy of the Solent area, employing around 38,000 people. The number of jobs is expected to rise to 58,600 by 2026. The Strategy sets out a range of recommendations that will drive future collaborations to support growth in the industry and safeguard sites that are essential for the marine sector.

Kathy Slack, SEEDA's Area Director for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, said: "The RTPI commendations is a great endorsement of the excellent work by Adams Hendry, the partnership approach taken by the private and public sector and the engagement of SEEDA's sector consortium, Marine South East.

"The Solent is home to waterfronts of national and international economic importance. This Strategy identifies, for the first time, the key industry sites and makes the case for retaining and enhancing them. The consensus we have achieved means we will be working together in the most effective way possible to develop the economy of the Solent and the potential of the marine sector.'

Jonathan Williams, Chief Executive of Marine South East, said: "Operating within a dynamic global market, our marine industries have the potential to bring increasing prosperity and high-value employment into the Solent area. This growth is dependent on businesses having access to the premises, finance and skilled human resources that they need. The Waterfront Strategy is already helping to address these ingredients for growth and Marine South East is delighted to contribute towards its implementation."

Cllr George Beckett, PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) Economic Development Delivery Panel and Leader of Winchester City Council, said: "The Solent Waterfront is a huge economic asset for South Hampshire, which we are carefully planning to develop, and I'm delighted that our Strategy is in the running for this prestigious national award."

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Notes to Editors

- **SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency**, is the Government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development of the South East of England – the driving force of the UK's economy. Through supporting businesses, encouraging innovation, developing skills and engaging with public and private partners, we aim to create a successful, sustainable future for the region.
- **SEEDA's support helped deliver the following** over the period 2005-2008:
 - 17,500 jobs created or safeguarded
 - 32,500 people helped to get work
 - 10,000 businesses created or attracted to region
 - 137,500 businesses assisted
 - £638m investment, 45% levered from private sector
 - 200ha Brownfield land remediated
 - 148,500 people assisted in skills development
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