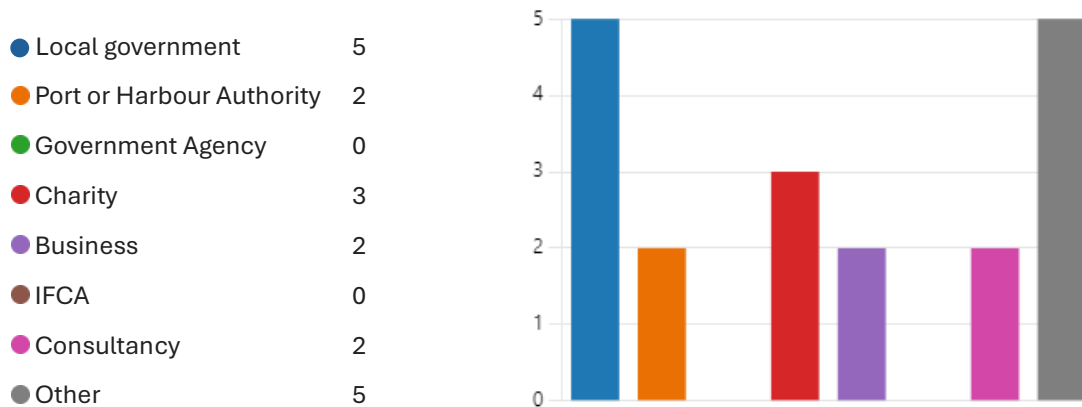


Business Planning 2025 - 2030

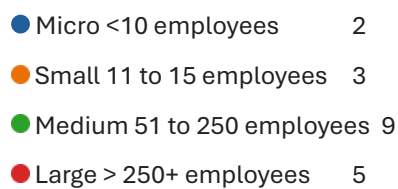
Members' Survey July 2024

Summary of Findings

1. Type of Organisation who Responded

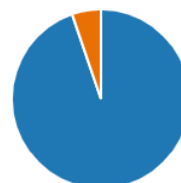


2. Size of Organisation



3. Are you happy with the Solent Forum's Aims and Objectives?

● Yes	18
● No	1



I wonder if there is an opportunity for the Solent Forum to take a more active role in nature restoration projects locally (in a similar way that Coastal Partners does pooling resources and taking a regional lead role in flood and coastal erosion management)?

4. What are the three most important coastal and marine issues in the Solent that you believe the Solent Forum should support?

What are the most important coastal and marine issues in the Solent that you believe the Solent Forum should support?

Issues	No. Responses	Additional Detail
Environmental & Biodiversity Enhancements	10	Nature Based Solutions, conserve existing habitats, restore those lost, support for birds, awareness raising
Clean water	7	Nutrient enrichment and pollution
Adaptation and resilience to Climate change	6	Decarbonisation, coastal squeeze, flooding, impacts of warming seas on ecology
Sustainable management of resources e.g. fisheries	3	
Partnership/ collaboration	3	
Economics of coastal communities	2	Coastal development and squeeze
Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management	2	Investment in protecting historical landfill sites from coastal erosion
Recreational pressures	2	
End of life boats	1	Disposal of GRP boats
Heritage	1	
Develop wildlife tourist destinations	1	Langstone Harbour and Hayling Island
Promotion of the maritime opportunities careers for young people	1	Promotion of apprenticeships specifically in maritime
Freedom of navigation	1	
Legislative / regulatory barriers to habitat restoration	1	
Damaging effects of increased shipping	1	

5. Please detail any coastal and marine partnership working that you are involved with in the Solent or would like to develop?

Please also see additional comments in appendix 1.



6. Please detail any significant coastal or marine policies, strategies, research projects, plans or events that are likely to be published/launched in the medium term that our Business Plan should take account of?

Please also see additional comments in appendix 2.



7. Are you happy with the frequency, format and content of the Forum Members' Meetings (held biannually in person)?

- Yes 19
- No 0



Very valuable opportunity to network face to face with colleagues - a lot of which has been lost since pandemic lock down.

Excellent, informative events, best place for Solent networking

8. Are you happy with the frequency, format and content of the Forum Steering Group Meetings (held biannually on-line)?

- Yes 14
- N/A 5



Perhaps face to face meetings are sometimes a better way to gain understanding of others thinking within the group and so subsequently bonding with colleagues is much improved.

9. Are you happy with the frequency, format and content of the Solent Marine Sites Scheme of Management (SEMS) Meetings (held annually on-line)?

- Yes 13
- No 0
- N/A 6



10. If SEMS management group member, Are you satisfied with the way the scheme is run and that it meets your duties for non-licensable activities under the Habitats Regulations?

- Yes 8
- No 0



The scheme meets our duties but it has to deal with a variety of issues that are only partly under the authorities control. The extent to which the Relevant Authorities use their influence actively between the management meetings is variable and depends on resource and members priorities. How can we get more consistent action?

11. Are you happy with the frequency, format and content of the Natural Environment Group (NEG) Meetings (held biannually on-line)?

- Yes 14
- NA 5



Although I have been a fan of online meetings, perhaps NEG needs one face to face per year due to its nature and importance of discussion.

I would like it if one of the biannual meetings were in-person.

12. If NEG member, Are you satisfied with the way the group and the project funding awards are run?

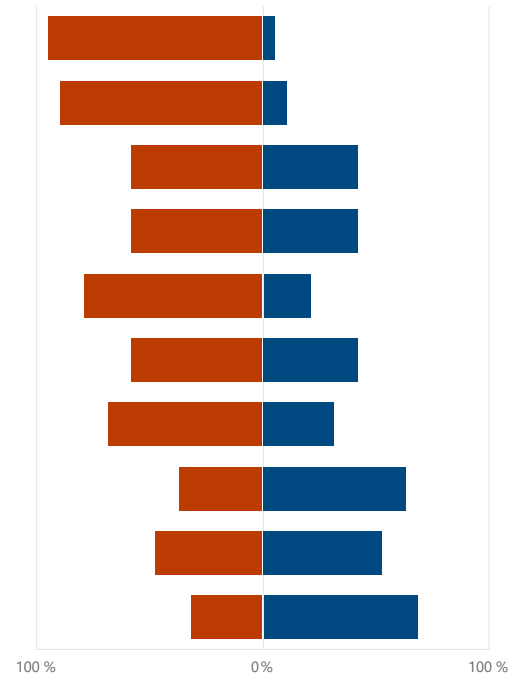
- Yes 7
- No 0



13. Which of the Forum's existing core services do you think are essential and which are desirable?

■ Essential ■ Desirable

- Solent Forum biannual members meetings
- Solent News service (monthly enews and biannual and Solent Newsletter)
- Natural Environment subgroup
- Solent Information Database
- Resources on Solent Forum website, e.g. hubs of information
- Supporting members' with project work
- Horizon scanning
- Annual student placement
- Professor Mike Clark Award (student dissertation funding)
- Solent Bathing Water Quality Awards



14. Do you have any comments to make about any of these services?

Hopefully we can keep them all!

The core functions of bringing people together and keeping them well informed on current and future issues for the Solent are key.

Some of these services are not widely advertised.

Do you look at funding opportunities to support habitat creation initiatives, etc?

Do you consider how this could potentially apply within the Solent to check whether anybody is following up the opportunity / needing support?

I am still trying to understand them fully.

core functions understand them fully support creation initiatives fine
 horizon provisional answers **Solent answers** potentially apply
 informed issues for the Solent current funding opportunities view from CDC
 people future habitat 'corporate useful

15. Do you think that any of the information on the Solent Forum website should be for members access only?

No, it should remain a public forum

No, Important to keep the information freely available. Membership gives the opportunity to influence direction & to network; the website helps achieve the overarching aims & objectives, its better by being open

I think it should all be open access

Discussion stakeholders direction potential projects Membership
 information public forum Yes **No** open access
 development overarching aims open correct order
 available aims & objectives website expectations
 opportunity important

16. Do you think membership of the Solent Forum offers good value for money for your organisation?

● Yes 19
● No 0



Achieves a large amount with the available resources. Longevity, consistency and providing a source of information and network of experience to assist new or developing projects.

I would agree that as a small business it is a cost effective way of remaining engaged with activities within the Solent.

We don't utilise the Solent Forum enough, and we tend to engage at the fringe of local activities. Reflects older priorities to engage elsewhere (which is still the case) to the detriment of local engagement.

The Solent Forum does all of the strategic work and pulls together all of the information, opportunities that individual LPAs or officers could never have the time to do.

*Provides a comprehensive source of information.
Opportunity to network with other Solent based organisations.*

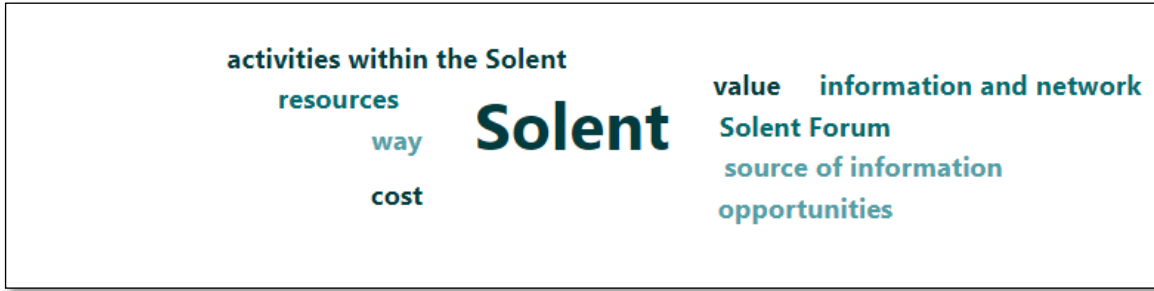
Yes, in my view, it is good value for money.

Mainly due to SEMS, which would be difficult to fulfil our duty another way. NEG is very informative and interesting, but it would be difficult to justify if it was on its own.

Forum staff know everyone in the Solent, and everything going on in all sectors. They are incredibly helpful, driven, and resourceful.

A truly valuable resource for Hants and the Isle of Wight which each rely on their coastlines & marine space for a myriad of reasons including recreation, the economy, wellbeing, tourism and many many more.

17. Why do you think the Forum does/does not offer value for money?



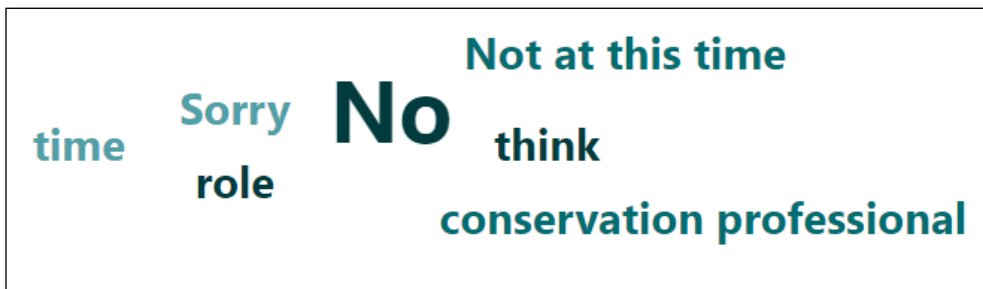
18. As a member, do you hope to remain financially committed to the Solent Forum over the next 5 years?

- Yes 17
- No 2



19. The Forum will be looking for a new chair in 2025 as the current chair retires. Is there an individual that you would like to nominate for consideration as the Chair of the Solent Forum?

I would like to see a conservation professional in the role.



20. Please make additional comments positive or negative about the Forum and the way it operates.

We all need to think about succession planning for the partnerships.

The team does a fantastic job and should be commended for all the hard work over the 25 years. Well done!

Thanks to Karen and Kate for continuing to drive the group in a positive way in spite of the current funding challenges.

A very important and worthwhile Forum - thank you to the hard working staff for their diligence and determination.



Appendix 1. Coastal and marine partnership working that people are involved with in the Solent or would like to develop

Partnership	N° Responses
Solent Seascape Project	4
Solent Forum	3
Coastal partners	2
Three Harbours	2
Dorset Coast Forum and the Studland Bay Marine Partnership	
More coordinated research across the whole Solent region	
Hamble River Authority on planning issues	
Hamble Estuary Partnership	
Supporting NE with the Voluntary No Anchoring Zone in Osborne Bay	
CHaPRoN	
Island Rivers (Catchment Partnership)	
Southern Coastal Group / SCOPAC	
Research into seagrass decline in harbours	
Promotion of careers in the maritime sector	
Clean Water - Sports Alliance	
Solent Protection Society	
Also work closely with EA and NE on Habitat Compensation and Restoration Programme.	
Partnership for South Hampshire also has strategic projects across the Solent.	
IW Estuaries Partnership	
Coastal Partnerships Network	
Coastal Biosphere Partnership	

Appendix 2. Coastal/Marine Policies, Strategies, Research, Plans and Events

Please details any significant coastal or marine policies, strategies, research projects, plans or events that are likely to be published/launched in the medium term:

- Solent Seascape State of Nature Report and data portal
- Hurst Spit to Lymington Strategy
- Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan
- Langstone Harbour Environmental Management Plan. Last published in 1997. Well overdue refreshing and raised as a priority within the Three Harbours Partnership.
- Chichester District Local Plan 2021-2039 (submitted to the planning inspectorate for examination)
- The Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy is expected to be published within the next 12 months
- Applying for funding to develop a Chichester Harbour Investment and Adaptation Plan
- Chichester Harbour Management Plan (2025-2030)
- We have a partnership with Cambridge University to measure the long term impact of our maritime careers training with young people
- Clean Water - Sports Alliance
- Christchurch Bay FCERM Strategy (neighbouring)
- SCOPAC Sediment Transport Study
- Habitat Compensation and Restoration Programme, hosted here: <https://southerncoastalgroup-scopac.org.uk/hcrp/>
- Policy changes to support increased offshore renewables may impact the area, though likely less so than in other areas of the country.
- Clearly the Freeports approach needs to be tracked carefully to see what changes under the new Government. Significant changes to planning rules are anticipated.
- On-going work to decarbonise the marine sector and to protect wider areas of biodiversity will both be significant drivers of change in the area.