



Strategic Coastal Opportunities Workshop (Coastal Funding)

Outputs Report

The Solent Forum held a workshop on 11 November 2018, as a service for its members to help them understand more about coastal funding streams and help to prepare them to Bid.

Two presentations were on held on past successful projects; Shaping the Bay at Sandown on the Isle of Wight and the Dorset Coast Forum's Coastal Connections project. This is a portfolio project of 18 different projects around Dorset's coast.

- Shaping the Bay - <https://en-gb.facebook.com/shapingthebay/>
- Dorset Coastal Connections - <https://www.dorsetcoast.com/projects/dorset-coastal-connections/>

The Forum will continue to inform its members about developments with coastal funding streams through its news service. We have also established a webpage on this topic to record information and link to useful resources. See:

http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member_Services/Coastal_Funding_Streams/

This paper provides a record of the workshop discussion and is broken down into two sections; key findings and future actions.

Key Findings

Preparing to Bid

- There is a need to align potential bids, with key coastal documents like the Portsmouth Seafront Master Plan (currently being updated). This sets out aspirations to improve coastal infrastructure and the public realm.
- It is very important to determine timescales at the outset so that potential bids are considered/made during the production of development documents. Bids need to be finalised at the design stage, for example, to fund improvement of the public realm on coastal defence schemes the money would need to be secured at the design stage.

- It would be useful for Solent Forum members to work in partnership with each other when developing bids to ensure all relevant information is acquired upfront to produce a good application. Government strongly supports such partnership working.
- Legacy should be considered at the beginning of the application process, to determine whether projects require long term ongoing funding and how this could be met.
- Local authorities could look at small scale bids, for example, expanding small-scale green infrastructure improvements, such as the planting of trees, at coastal locations.
- It could be considered a waste of time and resources if a bid is unsuccessful, however if an idea is strong and has multiple parties interested there is a possibility that a project can evolve and apply for future funding pots.
- There is no need to create a new economic strategy for the Solent. This information currently exists, within local authorities and the Solent LEP, but it needs to be brought all together.
- CCF projects should start with local ideas that people want to develop and then be joined afterwards to make a partnership project if appropriate. Ideas need to be developed properly over time and be ready prepared to meet bid timing cycles. Lead partners will need to allocate adequate staff capacity.

Bid Themes

- The concept of net environmental gain was suggested as a theme for a possible future portfolio bid. On an urban coast, such as the Solent, this topic is becoming ever increasingly important. It should include improvements to social, natural and cultural capital all of which are important to the local economy and the well-being of the people of the Solent. This concept should also include work on ecological enhancements that is already beginning around the Solent.
- 'Defence of the Realm' was a suggested theme; historic military sites are of great interest and significance in the Solent and could bring in tourist revenue.
- Delegates raised coastal defence and flooding as a potential theme for partnership bidding, with all the new coastal defence schemes being proposed/developed in the Solent.

Coastal Community Teams (CCT)

- The Dorset Coast Forum has an overarching Dorset wide CCT in addition to smaller local CCTs. A connective Local Economic Plan shows how the CCTs work together to address their priorities. See: <https://www.dorsetcoast.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Dorset-Coastal-Community-Team-Connective-Economic-Plan-2018-1.pdf>.
- The Solent is not homogenous in terms of communities, for example the western Solent (Southampton Water to Hurst) has its own characteristics. If CCTs were to be considered, a separate team for this area is desirable. There is real interest from New Forest District Council to lead a team, bringing in contributions for the Hurst to Lymington Coastal Defence Scheme; in particular access to Milford-on-Sea promenade. The Waterside area, on the west of Southampton Water, should also be considered.
- It was questioned whether there is a need to form a CCT (in areas where they don't exist) when applying for the Coastal Community Fund (CCF). It is not thought to be imperative but

support from any existing CCTs is required. CCTs and local economic plans facilitate access to funds.

- Dorset Coast Forum have put in place a legal partnership agreement regarding the Dorset wide connective CCT which, if one authority folds, then another is able to assist and step in. This was made a pre-requisite from the beginning.
- The eastern Solent has cohesion in terms of harbour management, and the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP) driving schemes forward. They have an interest in establishing a CCT, to bring about greater partnership working. Ideas include watersports development at Hayling Island, Lee on Solent public realm and beach management improvements, and tourism and recreation improvements in Seafield, Gosport.

Other Funding Streams

- Section 106 (developer contributions) can be used for public realm work. Other sources include supermarket bag levies and Arts Council funding.
- NERC could be a funding source for ecological enhancement and net environmental gain projects.

Future Actions

- It would be helpful for the Solent Forum to prepare a scoping paper on the topic of net environmental gain and show how this this could link to economic regeneration and the health and well-being agenda.
- Delegates asked whether the Solent Forum could establish a mechanism for the sharing of ideas for future bids.
- Delegates would like a nominated Solent Forum Officer who could be trained/skilled in bid writing to assist Solent Forum members with bid development.
- A paper should be prepared to map ideas out and reflect back key findings to workshop delegates.
- Delegates would like the Solent Forum to provide a 'partnership facilitation service' on request to help them with networking for future bids. This service could also help with identifying delivery partners and match funding for projects.
- We need to contact the existing Coastal Community Teams (CCT) in the Solent to see if they are still actively pursuing Bids and what their future priorities may be.
- There is a need to identify other funding streams that can complement larger funding sources such as CCF, for example, NERC funding for ecological enhancements. The Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership has already begun to do this work.
- Would the Solent Forum have/be able to obtain the resources to take on the initial funding application process and to assist with the management of a Portfolio Bid if funding was awarded? The Dorset Coast Forum currently employ 2 FT Project Coordinators and 1 PT Support Officer which gives them the capacity to be at all meetings and manage all aspects of the Coastal Connections Portfolio project.