

Arup**Economics+Planning**

Isle of Wight Economic
Partnership

**Isle of Wight Area
Investment Framework**

Overview of Investment
Priorities and Forward
Strategy

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This note provides an overview of the recommendations from the Isle of Wight Area Investment Framework (AIF) project on the main areas and key priorities for securing and coordinating investment for the Isle of Wight. This note summarises the recommendations from the AIF main report, which is currently being finalised.

The aims of the AIF are to:

- analyse socio-economic trends and indicators, geographical patterns of need and deprivation, main economic development opportunities, and key investment requirements on the Island;
- identify current and future patterns of investment by the public (including mainstream public programmes as well as area-based regeneration funding) and private sectors;
- undertake a 'gap analysis' to assess current and future investment patterns against the main regeneration priorities and areas of need for the Island; and
- provide a strategic policy framework for:
 - **Investment Planning** - the AIF will act as a practical tool and aid the investment planning of relevant organisations;
 - **'Island Governance'** – an agenda for the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), the Isle of Wight Economic Partnership and other agencies; and
 - **Securing Funding** - the AIF will provide an important tool to assist in and support the development of funding bids as part of a strategy-led (rather than bidding-led) approach to implementing the Island's regeneration strategy.

There are **three main components** to the project:

- **Socio-Economic Baseline Report** - baseline analysis of social and economic conditions and trends on the Island;
- **Investment Audit** - this report, outlining the main investment patterns on the Island; and
- **Main Report**, incorporating:
 - **Gap Analysis** - comparison of the baseline and investment audit –to identify current and future gaps between areas of social and economic need and priority, and patterns of investment; and
 - **Conclusions and recommendations**– identification of main areas, priorities and delivery mechanism for better targeting and / or coordination of investment.

Method:

The analysis has been informed by:

- An detailed assessment of socio-economic data on the Isle of Wight (this data is outlined in the Socio Economic Baseline Report);
- a review of relevant published reports, strategies and investment plans;
- a review of other investment information and budgets made available by relevant organisations, including information provided by the Isle of Wight Council Policy and Strategy team on projects supported by main regeneration programmes;
- 25 interviews with main stakeholders, service providers and businesses; and
- a series of workshops to discuss main findings and issues.

1.2 Context

The analysis for the AIF project has considered the implications for the Island of changing policy, funding and organisational context and structures in key policy areas. Some main points in terms of the context for the AIF are outlined below.

Changing Policy Context. Government policy is increasingly emphasising the need to develop wide-ranging and integrated approaches to regeneration and economic development. This includes developing improved coordination and synergies between different funding programmes. There is also increasing recognition of the importance of regeneration initiatives addressing problems and priorities across a wide range of policy areas, such as economy, housing, health, education and training, crime reduction, community development, physical regeneration and transport. There has also been significant policy and organisational change in the area of learning and skills. Other important recent developments at the national level include policy and organisational change in relation to rural development, tourism, and Regional Development Agencies (RDAs).

Changing Funding Context. Changes in regeneration and economic development funding programmes are resulting in a shift away from a bidding-led funding regime to a more strategic, needs-led and partnership based approaches to identifying and tackling funding priorities. In particular, the transition to 'Single Pot' funding for the SEEDA (replacing previously separate funding programmes, including SRB) will have significant implications for the Island. There is also increasing recognition of the importance of targeting and coordinating mainstream funding programmes and service delivery alongside special area-based programmes to tackle regeneration priorities.

Changing Organisational and Partnership Context. Over the past two years there have been changes in the structure of the Isle of Wight Economic Partnership. The Island's Local Strategic Partnership, *Island Futures*, has been formed and has published a Community Strategy for the Island. New funding and delivery mechanisms have been introduced for the Health Service. Partnership groups have been formed to help coordinate and take forward strategies and action in the areas of rural development and learning and skills.

Changing Economic Context. The project has been undertaken at a time of major economic re-structuring. Economic shocks to the agriculture and tourism sectors have been caused by the Foot & Mouth Disease crisis. There has also been significant restructuring and job losses in the Island's aerospace sector. Levels of employment and incomes on the Island remain well below the regional averages. There have also been investment successes in leading-edge sectors such as composites and marine industries

1.3 Rationale for identifying investment priorities

The following criteria were applied to identify areas for investment and investment priorities:

- Geographical or thematic areas with high levels of need and deprivation;
- Areas of policy and investment where there is a particular need for improved coordination of investment across different funding streams and initiatives;
- Investment priorities necessary for the successful implementation of the strategies of service providers and partnerships on the Island;
- Areas for action necessary to respond to changing funding structures; and
- Issues and priorities identified in the interviews and workshops undertaken for this project.

2 Securing and Coordinating Investment in the Isle of Wight – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong track record in securing programme funding. • Area covered by one local authority – facilitates area-wide coordination. • Strong partnership structures for securing funding and delivering projects (IoWEP). • Partnerships and strategies for ensuring coordination of strategy and investment in key policy areas (e.g. Rural, Learning and Skills) • IoW identified by SEEDA as a priority area for regeneration • Broad cross-sector consensus amongst stakeholders on key issues and priorities • Enterprise Hub, and recent investments in composites and marine sectors provide springboard for attracting business investment • Strong delivery capacity provided by voluntary and community sectors. 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Island Factor' weakens the Island's competitive position in attracting and retaining business investment, and leads to increased costs in delivering services • The level of population causes dis-economies in scale in delivering public services • The IoW has not been designated a Neighbourhood Renewal priority area • Fragile and narrow economic and employment base and low wage levels • Recent dis-investments by major employers • poor quality infrastructure is a barrier to attracting business investment • Limited major recent investment in enhancing the Island's tourism product • Aged population profile leads to increased pressures on key public services: housing, health, care, transport
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in infrastructure to attract high-value added business investment to E&W Cowes and Medina Valley • Transition to the 'Single Pot' provides an opportunity to deliver a more integrated and strategy-led approach to funding • Strengthening of the role and capacity of the LSP to help target and coordinate investment across policy areas • Strengthening of the Council's corporate planning process and introduction of PSA targets to improve investment planning across services • Investment in the tourism product • Implementation of the recommendations of the Tertiary Strategy to deliver improved coordination of 14-19 learning and skills • Development of new local delivery mechanisms to secure, coordinate and deliver regeneration funding for deprived areas 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transition to the SEEDA Single Pot poses threats (as well as opportunities) to the Island's ability to secure funding • Further dis-investment / restructuring by businesses and major public sector employers • Failure to respond to structural changes in the tourism industry, • Decline and restructuring in agriculture and the land-based sector • Potential threat to investment in mainstream services if the Council is unable to secure adequate resources • Failure to coordinate and target adequately different programme funding streams and investment in mainstream services

3 Main Areas for Investment

3.1 Regeneration

Investment Priorities	Lead Delivery and Coordination Bodies	Lead Funding Bodies and Sources
Main Investment Priority:		
Develop new funding and delivery structures to secure and deliver investment for the regeneration of the Islands most deprived areas: Ryde; Pan Estate, Newport; Sandown, Shanklin, Lake and Ventnor; Cowes and East Cowes; and West Wight (see below).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Economic Partnership SRB Partnership / SRB Forward Strategies Isle of Wight Council Local Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEEDA Single Pot Current SRB Programmes Other Area-Based Programmes Mainstream Service Providers
Other Investment Priorities:		
Strengthen partnership structures for securing and managing the delivery of regeneration investment in the context of a more strategic and needs-led funding regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Economic Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEEDA
Strengthen the capacity and role of the Local Strategic Partnership, Island Futures, in coordinating investment across programmes and service providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council LSP Members
Overall Coordination:	Isle of Wight Economic Partnership	

3.2 Business Investment

Investment Priorities	Lead Delivery and Coordination Bodies	Lead Funding Bodies and Sources
Main priority for investment:		
Invest in sites and infrastructure to create the conditions for business investment in the East and West Cowes and Medina Valley area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Wight Economic Partnership • Isle of Wight Council (Transport and Planning) • SEEDA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEEDA • Isle of Wight Council • Private Sector
Support and initiatives for promoting innovation and business development in key target sectors: composites, marine industries, IT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Wight Economic Partnership • Enterprise Hub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEEDA • DTI
Improve the coordination of advice and support to small businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Wight Economic Partnership • Business Support Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEEDA • Small Business Service
Investment in promoting the Island as an attractive business location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Wight Economic Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEEDA
Integrate investment in infrastructure and delivering business investment with wider regeneration, skills, and community development initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Wight Economic Partnership • SEEDA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEEDA • LSC
Overall Coordination:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Wight Economic Partnership • SEEDA 	

3.3 Learning and Skills

Investment Priorities	Lead Delivery and Coordination Bodies	Lead Funding Bodies and Sources
Main Investment Priority:		
14-19 Restructuring. Strengthen funding, delivery and coordination of post-14 education and training provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tertiary Strategy Group • Isle of Wight Learning Partnership • Isle of Wight College 	LSC
Other Priorities:		
Isle of Wight College. Strengthen the role and position of the Isle of Wight college as the primary provider of high quality education and training that meets the needs of the Island's residential employers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Wight College • Tertiary Strategy Group 	LSC
Adult Learning. Improve the coordination and funding of adult learning to address deficiencies in both Basic Skills and higher-level skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Wight Learning Partnership. • LEA • Isle of Wight College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSC • LEA • ESF • Basic Skills Unit • SEEDA
School-level attainment. Raise levels of attainment in the Island's schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Education Authority • Educational Development Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEA • EYDP funding • Standards Fund • New Opportunities Fund
Early Years. Raise levels of investment and service delivery in Early Years and childcare provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Partnership • Local Education Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEA funding • Sure Start • Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative Funding • Other DfES funding
Overall Coordination:	Isle of Wight Learning Partnership	

3.4 Rural Development

Investment Priorities	Lead Delivery and Coordination Bodies	Lead Funding Bodies and Sources
Support for farming revival and diversification to be integrated with wider economic development, tourism and regeneration initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Issues Group NFU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFRA/GOSE SEEDA
Initiatives to strengthen the role of market towns and large villages in providing key facilities and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Issues Group Rural Community Council Market Towns Partnerships Isle of Wight Economic Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEEDA (RDP/SRB Single Pot) Countryside Agency LEADER+
Projects to develop and promote rural tourism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Issues Group Isle of Wight Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEEDA DEFRA Countryside Agency
Projects and capacity building to tackle social and economic exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Community Council Rural Issues Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEEDA Countryside Agency DEFRA LEADER+
Land and landscape management initiatives and investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Issues Group AONB Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFRA/GOSE LIFE Funding Main Land Owners (e.g. National Trust)
Ensure better delivery and coordination of business support, advice and training services for businesses in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Issues Group Small Business Service LSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Business Service LSC Countryside Agency DEFRA Farm Business Advisory Service
Identify the long-term investment implications for the Island of CAP reform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Issues Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFRA/GOSE
Undertake 'rural proofing' of mainstream investment programmes to ensure they meet the needs of rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Issues Group Countryside Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All relevant public funding bodies
Overall coordination:	Rural Issues Group	

3.5 Housing and Social Services

Investment Priorities	Lead Delivery and Coordination Bodies	Lead Funding Bodies and Sources
Increasing capacity in care services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council Voluntary & Community Sector Private Care Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council
Investment and coordination of initiatives in child services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council Voluntary & Community Sector Early Years Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council Sure Start
Increasing the range and quantity of affordable housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSLs Isle of Wight Council (Housing and Planning) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSLs Isle of Wight Council (HIP) Housing Corporation
Ensure investment in housing and social services are targeted and coordinated with other programmes to address regeneration priorities in most deprived areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSP Isle of Wight Council Local Delivery Partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council

3.6 Health

Investment Priorities	Lead Delivery and Coordination Bodies	Lead Funding Bodies and Sources
Enhance community care capacity to improve the quality of treatment and address the mismatch between primary and community care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCT Isle of Wight Council LSP Voluntary & Community Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCT Isle of Wight Council
Ensure investment in health services on the Island reflect the increased costs and diseconomies of scale of delivering health services due to the age structure of the population and the 'Island Factor'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Authority LSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Authority
Target investment in health services and ensure coordination with other programmes to address regeneration priorities in most deprived areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCT aHAZ LSP Isle of Wight Economic Partnership Local Delivery Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCT Sure Start

3.7 Tourism

Investment Priorities	Lead Delivery and Coordination Bodies	Lead Funding Bodies and Sources
Enhance the level of research and intelligence on tourism market trends and customer perceptions. Undertake a 'tourism audit' to assess the quality of the Island's tourism offer against changing customer demands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council Isle of Wight Tourist Industry Association
Maintain/enhance levels of investment in the marketing and promotion of the Island as a tourism destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council Isle of Wight Tourist Industry Association
Identify priorities and develop a strategy for investment in improving the Island's tourism product: its accommodation, services, visitor attractions and landscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Tourism Isle of Wight Economic Partnership Rural Issues Group SEEDA/RTB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council Isle of Wight Tourist Industry Association SEEDA/RTB
Identify priorities and take action for attracting commercial investment in major new tourism facilities and attractions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Tourism Isle of Wight Economic Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Economic Partnership SEEDA
Understand the implications of new regional arrangements for tourism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEEDA/RTB
Overall Coordination:	Isle of Wight Tourism	

3.8 Transport

Investment Priorities	Lead Delivery and Coordination Bodies	Lead Funding Bodies and Sources
Major capital projects to improve integration, including new interchanges at Ryde, Cowes and Yarmouth. Ensure projects of regional significance are incorporated into the RTS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council Cross-Solent operators Bus and train operators Quality Transport Partnership. SEERA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTP Capital Funding (GOSE) Ferry, rail and bus operations
Improvements and maintenance to the road network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTP Capital Funding (GOSE) Isle of Wight Council Highways Agency (Major projects)
Projects to promote and provide new infrastructure for walking and cycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council Quality Transport Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTP Capital Funding (GOSE) Isle of Wight Council DEFRA Countryside Agency
Infrastructure and service improvements on 'Island Line' railway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council Quality Transport Partnership Relevant TOC SRA Passenger User Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRA (Re-franchising) SRA (RPP Grants) Relevant TOC
Improving rural bus services and community transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council Bus Operators Rural community Council Rural Issues Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTP Funding (GOSE) Rural Bus Challenge Countryside Agency Bus Operators
Identify and take-forward infrastructure investment priorities to deliver site development and attract business investment in East and West Cowes and the Medina Valley. Ensure investment proposals are incorporated into the LTP, UDP and (if appropriate) the RTS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council Isle of Wight Economic Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Wight Council SEEDA

3.9 Crime and Community Safety

Investment Priorities	Lead Delivery and Coordination Bodies	Lead Funding Bodies and Sources
Target investment and coordinated action on addressing the main priorities outlined in the Isle of Wight Crime and Disorder Strategy 2002-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Wight Crime and Disorder Strategy • Hampshire Constabulary • Youth Offending Team • Drug Action Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampshire Constabulary • GOSE / Home Office • Isle of Wight Council
Area-based crime reduction projects including CCTV projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime & Disorder Partnership • Hampshire Constabulary Local Delivery Partnerships • LSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOSE (Home Office) • Area-based regeneration programmes
Integrate crime reduction measures and funding within wider initiatives to deliver regeneration at a local level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime & Disorder Partnership • Hampshire Constabulary Local Delivery Partnerships • LSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOSE (Home Office) • Area-based regeneration programmes
Overall Coordination	Crime and Disorder Partnership	

4 Main Priorities for Investment

4.1 Overview

The main priorities for investment are:

- Create the conditions to deliver new business investment in East and West Cowes and the Medina Valley;
- Develop new funding and delivery structures for most deprived areas;
- Strengthen the funding, delivery and coordination of post-14 education and training; and
- Build capacity and attract and coordinate investment in rural development to strengthen the economies of rural areas.

1. Create the conditions to deliver new business investment in East and West Cowes and the Medina Valley

Deliver improvements in sites, infrastructure, and delivery mechanisms to enhance the attractiveness of West and East Cowes and the Medina Valley as a location for business investment.

Rationale:

Several leading edge businesses have been attracted to invest in Cowes and Medina valley. It is where most of the companies are located in the Island's composites, marine engineering, and IT sectors. The area has several potential major development sites, although many of these are not currently market-ready. There is the potential to develop and promote the area as an attractive and competitive business location.

However, there are site assembly, decontamination issues, access problems, and planning constraints / issues to be overcome. The recent investment in Cowes by GB Global Challenge, and the likely availability of new sites as a result of restructuring at GKN provides opportunities. There is a need for a development framework for the area to guide investment.

Areas for Action:

- Production of a planning and development framework for the area's development sites;
- Identifying infrastructure investment priorities required to bring-forward site development and meet the needs of firms currently located within the area and potential inward investors;
- Taking forward investment and action in site assembly, preparation and supporting infrastructure to provide a range of high quality sites and premises;
- Improving transport infrastructure, including funding of new transport interchange(s) and investigation of the need for and feasibility of a fixed link between East and West Cowes;
- Targeted support and action to develop key business sectors: marine industries, composites (building on the Enterprise Hub), software development, and aerospace;
- A major marketing and promotion initiative to enhance the area's (and the Island's) image and profile as an attractive place in which to invest; and
- Investment and action (beyond the life of the JSRB2 programme) to address issues of deprivation, unemployment, and exclusion, to ensure local people benefit fully from new economic opportunities.

Funding and delivery mechanisms:

- Lead: Isle of Wight Economic Partnership
- SEEDA – site assembly, preparation and infrastructure; sector development; marketing and promotion
- Isle of Wight Council – planning and development framework; transport investment
- Investigate potential of a development company for the area.

2. Develop new funding and delivery structures for most deprived areas

Develop new delivery mechanisms to bring together relevant organisations and integrate both mainstream and programme funding to tackle deprivation and regenerate priority areas.

Rationale:

The changing frameworks for regeneration funding will require new approaches to securing investment and delivering area-based regeneration, and tackling deprivation at the local level. The option of bidding for major single programmes (such as SRB) is unlikely to be available in the future. There will be a need to put together packages of programme funding from a variety of different sources. Priorities for regeneration and tackling deprivation should also be targeted for investment through mainstream programmes in areas such as housing, health, education, social services and transport. There will be a need to build levels of capacity and integration for local delivery.

Area priorities:

- **Pan Estate, Newport.** Pan is the second most deprived ward on the Island. The area has major problems in relation to unemployment, poverty, housing, and social exclusion. The area has not received major levels of programme funding in recent years. There is a need to build cross-agency and community capacity to identify main local investment priorities, and to address these through securing programme-funding and targeting mainstream programmes.
- **Ryde.** Ryde has the most deprived ward on the Island. It has secured £6.25million of SRB (round 6) funding, and Sure Start (round 2) funding. The SRB-funded physical improvements to the town centre will be complemented by the planned £4.5 million Ryde interchange project. Over the short to medium-term there will be a need for close joint working between the SRB partnership, Sure Start partnership, and relevant mainstream service providers. In the longer-term, it will be necessary to develop forward strategies for the period following the end of the SRB and Sure Start programmes.
- **Sandown, Shanklin, Lake and Ventnor.** There are areas of need and deprivation in this area, particularly in terms of unemployment, housing and skills. Physical regeneration and economic development projects have been supported through Market Towns Initiative funding. This has comprised modest levels of investment relative to major SRB programmes elsewhere on the Island. It has developed organisational capacity, which can provide a basis for leveraging in additional funding.
- **Cowes and East Cowes.** Ensure delivery mechanisms and investment in physical infrastructure and attracting business investment is integrated closely with investment (beyond the life of the SRB2 programme) in skills and community development to enable local people to benefit from new economic opportunities.
- **West Wight.** Whilst the West Wight towns do not contain the same level of deprivation as other areas of the Island, there are problems in relation to unemployment, skills levels and access to services. The area has received modest levels of funding from the 'Island Inclusive' SRB programme and the regional rural towns and villages programme.

Delivery and Funding Mechanisms:

- Lead - devolved delivery and management of funding programmes: Isle of Wight Economic Partnership
- Lead - strategy and coordination for the Island: LSP, *Island Futures*
- Funding - SEEDA Single Pot, other government area programmes (i.e. Sure Start)
- Mainstream service providers: housing, health, education, social services, crime prevention, transport
- New forms of local delivery partnerships

3. Strengthen the funding, delivery and coordination of post-14 education and training

Strengthen funding and delivery structures and improve coordination of provision for post-14 education and training.

Rationale:

Funding and organisational structures for post-16 education and training are particularly complex. A recent review of 14-19 provision on the Island has identified the need for better strategic planning and coordination between providers to deliver better-targeted and more needs-led provision. There is also recognition of the need to strengthen funding and delivery structures for adult learning to address both Basic Skills and higher-level skills needs.

Businesses and others have identified the Isle of Wight College as the key delivery mechanism on the Island for delivering high quality post-16 education and training. Action is being taken forward to strengthen the role and financial position of the college. Partnership structures are in place (the Isle of Wight Learning Partnership and the Tertiary Strategy Group) for improving coordination between key agencies and providers and securing funding and facilitating action to address main learning and skills priorities.

Areas for Action:

- Identify the funding and investment implications of the conclusions of the review of 14-19 education provision on the Island, and the recommendations of the 14-19 working group. Take forward actions to improve the strategic planning and coordination and funding of the 14-19 curriculum and range of provision on the Island.
- Strengthen the role and position of the Isle of Wight College as the main provider of high quality post-16 courses, adult education, and vocational training that meets the needs of the Island's residents and employers.
- Improve the coordination and funding of adult learning on the Island to address more effectively priorities for raising Basic Skills levels, as well as addressing deficiencies in higher-level professional and technical skills.

Funding and delivery mechanisms:

- Lead - strategy and coordination: Isle of Wight Learning Partnership
- Lead - funding: Hampshire and Isle of Wight
- Restructuring of 14-19 provision: Tertiary Strategy Group
- Other key delivery partners: Isle of Wight College; Local Education Authority; Training Companies.

4. Build capacity and attract and coordinate investment in rural development to strengthen the economies of rural areas

Build capacity and attract and coordinate investment in rural development to strengthen the economies of rural areas and to deliver rural regeneration as an integral part of the Island's investment strategy.

Rationale:

The Island is a predominantly rural area. It has benefited from substantial rural development funding from a wide variety of sources. In the future Rural Development Programme funding will be subsumed within the SEEDA Single Pot. Following the Foot and Mouth Disease crisis, there is increasing recognition of the need to strengthen the economies of rural areas. The Isle of Wight Rural Issues Group has outlined a strategy for realising the economic potential of the Island's rural areas.

There is recognition of the need to support agriculture and the land-based sector as an integral part of wider initiatives to regenerate and strengthen the economies of rural areas. There is significant untapped potential for developing rural tourism.

Areas of Action:

- Deliver and help coordinate financial support to integrate agriculture and land-management into wider economic development, tourism and regeneration initiatives, including investment in a rural resource centre, local abattoir, local produce initiatives.
- Continue to develop and secure funding for initiatives and delivery mechanisms to strengthen the role of market towns and large villages in providing key economic and social facilities and services.
- Secure investment in projects to develop and promote rural tourism.
- Invest in projects and building capacity to tackle economic and social exclusion in rural areas, including investment in village services, community facilities, community projects, and affordable housing.
- Identify and address investment needs and priorities in land and landscape management.
- Assess the long-term investment implications for the Island of CAP reform.
- Work through the Isle of Wight Rural Issues Group to ensure integration and coordination of investment and action across different stakeholders, agencies and funding streams.

Delivery Mechanisms:

- Strategy and Coordination: Isle of Wight Rural Issues Group
- Delivery of funding: Isle of Wight Economic Partnership
- Funding bodies: SEEDA, Countryside Agency, GOSE / DEFRA, LEADER+
- Mainstream public service provides
- Rural Community Council