

# AGENDA

**Business South Annual Conference – Time for Change**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 | 09:30 – 15:30**

**Hilton Southampton - Utilita Bowl, Botley Road, West End, Southampton**

09:30	Badge pick up, refreshments and connections
10:15	Welcome – <b>Emily Hudson</b> Senior Broadcast Journalist, BBC South
10:25	Opening Keynote – <b>Sir Andy Street</b> , How the business community can collaborate with their Mayor and have a strong mutually beneficial relationship – Q&A with Slido
10:55	<b>Mayoral Office</b> – What do our businesses expect? <i>Table discussion.</i>
11:10	<b>Prof Dame Wendy Hall</b> , University of Southampton – Southampton AI City of Excellence
11:40	<b>Rachel Randall &amp; Mark Bretton</b> , Solent Growth Partnership – Solent’s AI Skills Pilot
12:00	Lunch and connections
13:00	Welcome back – <b>Emily Hudson</b> BBC South
13:05	<b>Leigh-Sara Timberlake</b> , Group CEO, Business South – A Business South update and the importance of our activities across the globe
13:15	<b>Leigh-Sarah Timberlake</b> ( <i>on behalf of Kate Pearce</i> ) Group CEO, Business South followed by <b>Gavin Hall</b> , Chair of Regenerate South Action Group & <b>Emily Hudson</b> in conversation – An update on the work of the Business South Action Groups
13:35	<b>Luke Murphy MP</b> – Recognising time for change in our region and the opportunities.
13:55	Break and connections
14:30	Welcome back
14:35	<b>Kate Beal-Blyth</b> , CEO, Woodcut Media – Why invest in the Central South
14:55	Closing keynote – <b>Henri Murison</b> , CEO, Northern Powerhouse - Q&A with Slido
15:25	Closing remarks and thanks – <b>Emily Hudson</b> BBC South
15:30	Ends

