AGENDA

Business South Annual Conference – Shaping Tomorrow Together

Thursday 5th November 2026

Hilton Southampton – Utilita Bowl, West End, Southampton, SO30 3XH

08:30	Mayoral Candidates Meet and Greet Badge pick-up, refreshments and connections
09:20	Welcome – **Emily Hudson**, BBC Journalist
09:30	**Leigh-Sara Timberlake**, Group CEO, Business South – Celebrating 20 Years and what is to come.
09:40	**Dr John Flackett**, Co Founder, AI Lab – Beyond the Headlines: The Real Future of AI and Business
09:50	Keynote – **Trevor Williams**, Author, Academic, and former Chief Economist for Lloyds Bank – Economic Outlook and Prospects for the Central South.
10:20	Defence & Aviation: Driving Growth, Innovation and Opportunity hosted by **Stephen Anderson -** Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson **Jeremy Greaves** – Head of Strategic Engagement, Airbus **Hugh Griffiths** – Former CEO & Founder, Inzpire Ltd; Chair, Maiar Ltd; Former Cabinet Office SME Panel Member; Chair of Metis Aerospace **Chrissie Miller** – Head of Defence & External Business, NATS **Sir Julian Young** – Retired RAF Air Marshal; Former RAF Chief Engineer; Past-President of the Institution of Engineering and Technology **James Knowles** – Vice Chancellor, Southampton Solent University **John Boughton** – Managing Director, Kier Construction, Southern Discussion themes will include • *The economic importance of the sector to the region* • *Skills, talent and future workforce* • *Supply chain and opportunities for business & collaboration* • *Innovation and technology* Send your questions to the panel Slido.com #BSTHAC26
11:05	Break and connections

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11:35	**Emily Hudson** – Welcome back
11:40	**Joe Gowers,** Action Group Co-ordinator, Business South **–** Action Group round up and what's next.
11:47	**Katie Bruce,** Enterprise Co-ordinator, Hampshire County Council **–** Build your future talent pipeline.
11:50	**Skills Workshop.** An interactive group activity exploring challenges and potential solutions for your business. The session intends to identify solutions for talent and retention in the region. Co hosted by **Alice Gray** - Senior Manager for Apprenticeships and Employer Relations, University of Portsmouth and **Cliff Kinch**, Area Director, Morgan Sindall Construction. Allocate one lead per table to use their own smart device to scan the QR code for Mentimeter on the screen and work in collaboration with those around your table to complete the discussion points digitally.
12:20	**Richard Quigley MP,** MP for Isle of Wight West and Chair of Central South All Party Parliamentary Group **–** An overview of the group's work and achievements.
12:35	**Ruth Adams,** CEO, Hampshire & The Solent Combined County Authority **–** An overview of the Combined Authority's roles and responsibilities and how this will benefit the businesses and the region.
12:50	**Nicola Millard,** Principal Innovation Partner, BT **–** Humans Still Required: Reimagining the future world of work
13:15	Round up and close **Emily Hudson**
13:20	Lunch and connections
14:00	Ends

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