

Solent Local Skills Development Plan (LSIP) & A Sustainable Future for Skills by the Screen Sectors Skills Task Force Analysis & Actions

Introduction to the reports

1. Solent Local Skills Development Plan (LSIP)ⁱ:
 - 1.1. Developed by the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, it aims to make post-16 technical education and training more responsive to employers' needs in the Solent region.
 - 1.2. It focuses on addressing persistent skills challenges and supporting local economic growth, with particular emphasis on enhancing employability and career progression.
2. A Sustainable Future for Skills by the Screen Sectors Skills Task Forceⁱⁱ:
 - 2.1. This document proposes a cohesive approach to skills development in the screen sectors.
 - 2.2. It emphasizes long-term strategies for skills shortage resolution, sustainable career growth, and work-based training.

Needs & Purposes Analysis

3. Addressing Creative Industries' Needs:
 - 3.1. The LSIP supports clusters including the creative and cultural sectors, focusing on skills like production, set design, and digital capabilities.
 - 3.2. "A Sustainable Future for Skills" specifically targets the screen sectors, proposing training initiatives and career development paths in creative fields like filmmaking and content creation.
4. Contributing to the Creative Economy:
 - 4.1. The LSIP coordinates business-responsive learning solutions, aiming to develop a talent base that drives an innovative, knowledge-based economy.
 - 4.2. The Screen Sectors document advocates for work-based learning and sustainable career paths, essential for nurturing a robust creative economy, especially in screen-related industries.
5. Impact on Higher Education Institutions:
 - 5.1. The LSIP encourages HEIs to align educational offerings with regional skills needs, fostering collaboration with industry stakeholders.
 - 5.2. The Screen Sectors document's emphasis on work-based learning and sustainable careers in creative industries suggests that HEIs in the Solent region might focus more on practical training and industry collaborations, ensuring their curricula meet the evolving demands of the creative sectors.

Both documents collectively advocate for a responsive, dynamic approach to education and training in the creative industries, underscoring the importance of aligning educational frameworks with industry needs to drive regional economic growth and innovation.

Recommended Responses

Based on the analysis of both the Solent Local Skills Development Plan (LSIP) and "A Sustainable Future for Skills" by the Screen Sectors Skills Task Force, a higher education institution (HEI) in the Solent region should consider the following actions:

6. *Aligning Curricula with Industry Needs:* HEIs should update their curricula to align more closely with the skills needs of the creative and screen sectors, as identified in the LSIP and the Screen Sectors document. This includes integrating courses on production, set design, digital capabilities, and other relevant skills.
7. *Emphasizing Practical Training and Work-Based Learning:* Increase focus on practical training and work-based learning opportunities. Collaborate with industry partners to offer internships, apprenticeships, and real-world project experiences that reflect the current needs of the creative industries.
8. *Strengthening Industry Partnerships:* Develop and strengthen partnerships with local businesses, creative industries, and screen sector organizations. These partnerships can provide valuable insights into industry trends and skills requirements, and also facilitate better job placements for graduates.
9. *Fostering Sustainable Career Paths:* Guide students towards sustainable career paths in the creative sectors. This involves providing career counseling that focuses on long-term career development in these industries, including emerging opportunities in the screen sectors.
10. *Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Efforts:* Both reports emphasize the importance of diversity and inclusion. HEIs should work to create more inclusive education and training environments and expand outreach to underrepresented groups in the creative sectors.
11. *Research and Development Initiatives:* Engage in research and development initiatives that support the growth and evolution of the creative and screen sectors. This can include collaborative research projects with industry, exploring innovative technologies and methodologies.
12. *Responsive Program Development:* Be responsive to the evolving nature of the creative and screen sectors. Regularly review and adapt academic programs to ensure they remain relevant and forward-looking, meeting both current and future skills needs.

By taking these actions, HEIs can effectively respond to the findings and recommendations of both documents, ensuring their students are well-equipped for successful careers in the creative industries and contributing to the overall growth and sustainability of these sectors in the Solent region.

Conclusion

In conclusion, considering the insights from both the Solent Local Skills Development Plan (LSIP) and "A Sustainable Future for Skills" by the Screen Sectors Skills Task Force, the one key priority action a higher education institution (HEI) in the Solent region should take at this stage is:

13. Establish and Strengthen Industry Collaborations: HEIs should prioritize establishing and strengthening collaborations with industry partners, particularly in the creative and screen sectors. This involves not only aligning curricula with industry needs but also facilitating practical, work-based learning opportunities for students. Such collaborations are essential for ensuring that educational programs are directly relevant to the current and future needs of the workforce, providing students with the skills, experiences, and networks necessary to thrive in their careers.

This action will enable HEIs to be proactive and responsive to the dynamic needs of the creative industries, ensuring their graduates are well-prepared for the evolving job market and contributing significantly to the regional economy's growth and innovation.

ⁱ <https://www.hampshirechamber.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Solent-Local-Skills-Improvement-Plan.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.bfi.org.uk/industry-data-insights/reports/sustainable-future-skills-report-screen-sectors-skills-task-force>