

Join Us

Become a SevernNet member and enjoy the benefits for a small contribution (based on business size). To join please go to www.severnnet.org or call/email kate.royston@severnnet.org (07969-569-444)

If you'd like to discuss further with any of our Board members or Champions¹² let us know and we can put you in touch.

Membership Levels

Type of organisation	Definition (*)	Annual membership (£)
Large	more than 100 employees	800
Medium	less than 100 employees	400
Small	less than 10 employees	150
Charities / not for profit		25

* Number of employees is based upon the employees within the local 'branch' where relevant.

Benefits of SevernNet Membership	
Communication	
	Monthly e-newsletter
	News Updates
	Post articles for inclusion in e-newsletter e.g. company announcements
Website Public Area Access:	
	Local information e.g. travel services, case study information
	Job searches
	Events calendar
	Business directory searches for local companies & services
	Resource forum searches
Website Members Area Access:	
	Membership list
	Members' business profile & publicity: individual page for each member
	Support tools, information, case studies etc. from working groups
	Risk management helpline service (provided by Bond Dickinson)
	Post job vacancies
	Post resources in forum (haves and wants) e.g. by products, waste materials, specialist skills and knowledge, under-utilised facilities
	Post events in calendar
Events	
	Business networking and promotional events
	Peer to Peer networking / CPD / Company visits
	Quarterly topical seminars (from Bond Dickinson)
	Strategic Briefing sessions
Strategic influence	
	Invitation to join SevernNet Working Groups
	Influence policy / position on the Big Issues

¹ ADM Milling, Ambition Lawrence Weston, Asda, Avonmouth Community Centre, Avonmouth Work Club, Avon & Somerset Police, Bond Dickinson, Bristol City Council, Business West, Children's Scrapstore, DS Smith Packaging, GKN Aerospace, John Lewis, Massey Wilcox Transport, Nisbets, North Somerset Council, Professional Hygiene Services, Siniat Limited, South Gloucestershire Council, The Bristol Port Company, Toyota, Warburtons

SevernNet



SevernNet – A new enterprise bringing together businesses and community enterprises from Portbury, Avonmouth and Severnside

SevernNet is a not-for-profit enterprise, run by, and working for the benefit of the businesses, organisations and the community extending from Royal Portbury Dock through Avonmouth, Severnside to Western Approach Industrial Park.

SevernNet was born from an initiative started in 2009, building upon the links developed between businesses, community organisations and other stakeholders over the last 5 years. Working with over 150 businesses/organisations it has already achieved significant results:

1. **Cost savings** through improved resource and energy efficiencies e.g. over £280,000 cost savings between 2009 and 2011 through landfill diversion and CO2 reduction.
2. **Involving 150 + businesses** and organisations in **over 30 events** that provide **quick, actionable ways** to implement new knowledge as well as business development opportunities
3. **High level influence with policy-making** for the West of England on key strategic issues such as skills and transport e.g.
 - Investment in M49 junction and links to N. Bristol
 - Low carbon funding and business support for local businesses and SMEs
 - Availability of local skills training and courses
 - Flood management across the area



4. **Making the case for improved transport** across Portbury Avonmouth and Severnside with grants to employers, an area wide car sharing scheme, higher priority for improving safety on Kingsweston Lane and a community and business led proposal for a shuttle bus service across the area and more.
5. **Improving health, safety, security and environmental practices** across businesses through sharing expertise and reducing costs of risk e.g. Siniat's support of The Bristol Port Company's ISO 14001 implementation reduced project time by two thirds.
6. **Getting local people supported into local jobs** and skills development e.g. through Work Club mentoring and vacancies notification; and backing development of the **local not for profit employment agency** (Ambition Employment)
7. **Strengthening community groups** through targeted business support e.g. Avonmouth Community Centre and Lawrence Weston Development Trust (Ambition Lawrence Weston)

Key Aims

Our key aims are:

- To **work together** to transform our **challenges into opportunities**, stimulating local jobs and skills and enabling more sustainable growth. Principally:
 - Improving transport facilities across the area
 - Supporting community engagement and improving access to work for local people
 - Promoting resource efficiency and development of a circular economy across the area
 - Enabling engagement with the strategic development of the area through the Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area
- To **facilitate networking** across the area through organising events, providing tools such as the website, a business directory of members and opportunities for peer to peer development
- To **act as advocates**, promoting the area (too long viewed as a backwater to Bristol) through representation and engagement at key stakeholder forums; and seeking to secure a share of West of England investment for Portbury-Avonmouth Severnside.
- To provide a range of **information services** to facilitate connection across the area including:
 - maps and links to available transport and travel services
 - best practice case studies
 - a regular newsletter
 - a resource forum enabling offer and exchange of a wide variety of resources across the area from cardboard to specialist skills to surplus accommodation and job vacancies.
- To support businesses wishing to develop their **corporate social responsibility** in a way that best benefits the local area

Key benefits to businesses and organisations

Involvement in SevernNet has brought unexpected benefits to many businesses such as:

- a **better understanding of neighbouring businesses** and their practices leading to risk reduction
- **improved security** as local knowledge and neighbourliness improves
- opportunities to **develop arrangements such as business continuity** agreements with neighbours;

Additionally:

- **reduced costs** through working together and e.g. gaining economies in scale
- **more resilient supply chains from** strengthening local links
- a more flexible and loyal **locally employed workforce**

Sue Turner, The Bristol Port Company: “All of the issues we face here are too big for any one organisation to tackle on its own. As companies, local community organisations, the Councils and charities we have come together as SevernNet – to tackle these big issues. Call it enlightened self-interest. Each stakeholder may have a different perspective on which problems are the most important, but by working together to see the big picture – too big for any one of us to address on our own –we can pull together for the good of all our neighbours.

To continue our work we need your support to sustain SevernNet as an organisation and continue working for positive change across the area”.

Mechanisms for working together

Area of Interest	Mechanisms for working together
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Transport Core Businesses Group • Sustainable Transport Stakeholder Forum meeting quarterly • Local Sustainable Transport Fund activity plan for Portbury Avonmouth Severnside • Supported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ local transport information on website, local case studies and access to support and tools e.g. travel planning ○ representation at relevant Bristol/West of England forums e.g. Bristol ways to work travel network and Northern Arc working group
Community engagement and local skills and services development support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement Working Group • Avonmouth Employment and Enterprise working group • Supported by local information and representation at relevant Bristol/West of England forums e.g. Ways to Work Network
Resource/energy efficiency and development of circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Efficiency Working Group • Supported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local resource efficiency case studies and access to support and tools e.g. resource sharing ○ Representation at relevant Bristol/West of England forums e.g. LEP Low Carbon Industries Group • Resource Forum enabling offer and exchange of a wide variety of resources across the area from cardboard to specialist skills to surplus accommodation and job vacancies available in Q2, 2014
Strategic Development through ASEA and other engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area Work Leaders Planning Group • Supported by consultation and information on local developments
General information and knowledge exchange and networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User friendly website providing access to local information • Business Directory for members with search functionality, and a page for each member organisation to customise available in Q2, 2014 • Peer to peer networks between professionals and businesses across the area e.g. HR, Health and Safety, resource efficiency and lean production being developed through 2014 • Specialist seminars and helpline offered by Bond Dickinson – a set of quarterly seminars and a risk management helpline free to members to be launched in 2014 • A range of events including business promotion, strategic briefing sessions, peer to peer networking, company visits and resource speed dating supported by an area wide events calendar