

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	18 April 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Driving Towards Economic Strength
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of H2050 and Assistant Chief Executive

**Contact name:** Gary Westbrook, Director of H2050 and Assistant Chief Executive

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### 1. The decision:

That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Continues to note the potential impacts of the prolonged economic slowdown and confirms that supporting the Hampshire Economy remains a top priority for the County Council, including continuing to invest in infrastructure and support businesses, during an extremely challenging time in which unemployment is expected to rise, business failures increase and living standards are expected to fall nationally.
- 1.2 Notes the analysis of the economic impact and issues highlighted which emphasises that the County Council continues to use its scale and influence to drive towards long term economic strength in Hampshire, through shaping and influencing the key priorities set out in the Economic Strategy approved by Cabinet in December 2022. This also includes the County Council's role in promoting place-based Regeneration and Growth Partnerships and a new Strategic Asset Management Plan.
- 1.3 Notes the March-23 budget statement in which Government have stated the intention for the functions of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to be delivered by Local Government in the future. The County Council will feed into the consultation, and continues work constructively with all stakeholders during a transitional period, and continue to develop governance proposals for the future including a Hampshire Skills and Growth Board and Business Forum, aligned to the County Deal devolution proposals as well as wider pan-regional collaboration with Surrey County Council.
- 1.4 Continues to endorse the County Council's commitment to engage with Government for a Pan-Hampshire County Deal as part of the next Wave of national negotiations, and notes the early engagement with Government Officials. This recognises the significant opportunity for a Deal to enable the County Council's economic ambition, catalyse significant investment and benefit the lives of residents and communities.

**1. Reasons for the decision:**

1.1. To provide Cabinet with an analysis of the economic impact and outline those issues that the County Council continues to use its scale and influence to contribute to the county's and sub-region's economic recovery going forward.

**2. Other options considered and rejected:**

2.1. Not to note the issues raised or endorse the County Council's ambition for a Pan-Hampshire County Deal. This option was rejected as it would be against the best interests of the Hampshire economy.

**3. Conflicts of interest:**

3.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

3.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

**4. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: N/A**

**5. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: N/A**

**6. Statement from the decision maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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Chairman of Cabinet  
Councillor Rob Humby

18 April 2023