

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	18 July 2023
Title:	Driving Towards Economic Strength
Report From:	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 confirm that supporting the Hampshire Economy remains a 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 Continues to note the steps the County Council is taking to engage in the national Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) disaggregation exercise by April 2024, following the budget statement earlier this year. In particular, the County Council is now taking steps to develop a Hampshire Skills and Growth Board and Business Forum during this timeframe.
- 1.4 Continues to endorse the County Council's commitment to engage with Government for a Pan-Hampshire County Deal, and notes the positive progress to get clarity on Ministerial expectations on a single Pan-Hampshire geography for any devolution Deal for Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council and Isle of Wight Council.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1. 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 and sub-region economic recovery going forward.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. 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.

4. Conflicts of interest:

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

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

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

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

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date:

**Chairman of the Cabinet
Cllr Rob Humby**

18 July 2023