

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
Date:	14 March 2024
Title:	Corporate Office Accommodation Strategy
Report From:	Director of Hampshire 2050

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves the proposed medium-term strategy to consolidate the use of office accommodation across wider Hampshire and to make more flexible use of retained assets across multiple service areas as set out in paragraphs 57 to 62 of the supporting report and supported by the information provided in the exempt appendices.
- 1.2. That the Director of Hampshire 2050 and Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services or, in their absence, the Deputy Leader, and the Director of Corporate Operations, is authorised to confirm the individual assets within the scope of the review that are surplus to the County Council's future requirements and approve their release, subject to an appropriate business case confirming the proposals for relocation of staff and services.
- 1.3. That the Director of Hampshire 2050 and Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services or, in their absence, the Deputy Leader, and the Director of Corporate Operations, is authorised to determine the most appropriate disposal strategy for freehold assets identified as surplus to the County Council's future requirements, supported by a suitable options appraisal, and to commence the process for disposal of these sites at the appropriate time.
- 1.4. That the Director of Hampshire 2050 and Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services or, in their absence, the Deputy Leader, and the Director of Corporate Operations, is authorised to accept offers for surplus freehold assets, where these can be evidenced to be in line with market values.
- 1.5. The Director of Hampshire 2050 and Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services or, in their absence, the Deputy Leader, and the Director of Corporate

Operations, is authorised to surrender any leases and/or take any other action reasonably necessary for the implementation of the agreed strategy.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1. Hampshire County Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) sets out a vision for the County Council's estate, including that:

- County Council property is planned and managed as a corporate resource for the people of Hampshire;
- the size of the estate is reduced to fit what we need;
- optimal financial return and commercial opportunities from the rationalisation and disposal of surplus land and buildings is achieved.

2.2. This decision supports that vision by taking a strategic approach to address the underutilisation of the County Council's office accommodation and associated facilities across wider Hampshire resulting from changes in ways of working. The strategy seeks to consolidate the use of corporate office accommodation, making more flexible use of retained assets across multiple service areas and enabling the release of a number of older and less suitable assets to realise ongoing revenue savings and capital receipts.

2.3 It represents a considered decision providing a medium-term strategy that is aligned to the SAMP and the County Council's "Serving Hampshire - Strategic Plan 2021 to 2025", which sets out to target resources to continue to support the most vulnerable residents in Hampshire, whilst building healthy, resilient, and prosperous communities for years to come.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. **Do Nothing.** No changes to existing assets. No disruption to service delivery. Increasing asset liabilities, number of properties are no longer fit for purpose, underutilised space.

3.2. **Do Minimum.** Reduce leased space where feasible with minimum service impact. Let surplus space where possible. Increasing asset liabilities, number of properties are no longer fit for purpose, underutilised space. Some localised service disruption. Disposal of any already vacated buildings.

3.3. **Create regional hubs.** Reduce provision to 5 regional hubs: Northwest, Southwest, Southeast, Northeast and Central. Maintains a strong local presence. Time to deliver and cost is hard to predict at this stage and a high level of new investment would be required to secure appropriate assets.

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: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

14 March 2024

**Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050
and Corporate Services
Councillor Rob Humby**