

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	8 February 2022
Title:	Learning to live with Covid-19 and working towards Economic Recovery
Report From:	Chief Executive

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1. The decision:

That Cabinet

- 1.1. Note the position on economic recovery action taken and the opportunities that arise for the region through the prospects of a County Deal and the potentially significant contribution a Deal could make to both the strength and nature of that economic recovery as outlined in the report, as well as an opportunity to secure wider public services reform and enhanced place leadership at different spatial levels.
- 1.2. Notes the opportunities that were set out in the Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper and endorses the continuing work and direction of travel of a Pan Hampshire County Deal, and aligned devolution opportunities potentially beyond the Pan-Hampshire geography involving bordering areas, as set out in the White Paper, the draft County Deal Prospectus attached at Annex 4 and the further opportunities developed through workshops with key stakeholders in November and December and recommends that the County Council note and endorse the continuing work and direction of travel of a Pan Hampshire County Deal, and aligned devolution opportunities potentially beyond the Pan-Hampshire geography involving bordering areas, as set out in this report and in line with the White Paper.
- 1.3. Following the publication of the Government's White Paper for Levelling-Up, the Cabinet endorses the continued work and direction of travel for a Hampshire County Deal, to include the Unitary Authorities should they wish. In addition, that the County Council will continue the work that has been carried out towards the creation of an Economic Prosperity Board which will ideally include Surrey and the Unitary Authorities.
- 1.4. Note that through the implementation of the COVID vaccination programme the link between infection rates and hospitalisation and

deaths has been largely broken. Nevertheless, as a society and in our role as the public health authority there is a need to manage rates of infections.

- 1.5. Note the contents of this report as a further summary of the exceptional events and recovery actions taken by the County Council concerning the COVID-19 crisis, bearing in mind that this remains a high-level analysis of what continues to be such a substantial and potentially fast changing crisis.
- 1.6. Continue to recognise the on-going exceptional commitment and flexibility of the staff of the County Council as the crisis has progressed.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. To provide Cabinet with an update on the Covid crisis as it is affecting the County Council, as an organisation and for the residents of the county and the progress on economic recovery, particularly with respect to the County Deal.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. None.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

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:

8 February 2022

**Chairman of Cabinet
Councillor Keith Mans**