

REPORT OF THE  
Cabinet / Leader  
PART II

**134. HAMPSHIRE ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT**

1. The Cabinet at its meeting on 24 January 2011, approved changes to the Hampshire Economic Assessment following consultation. The final document would be signed off by the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Economic Development and Rural Affairs.

2. The statutory duty for upper-tier authorities to produce a Local Economic Assessment (LEA) came into force in April 2010. The purpose of the assessment, as set out in a report to the Cabinet Hampshire Economic Board in October 2009, is to be a common evidence base for local authorities and their partners, enabling robust local responses to economic development challenges.

3. The draft Assessment was sent directly to a wide range of key stakeholders across a broad spectrum of businesses and organisations in Hampshire, accompanied by a questionnaire, and the consultation was hosted online to ensure access by a wider audience. The comments and feedback provided were taken into account, where appropriate, in the final version. This includes an additional chapter which draws out the key conclusions. Through the consultation process, the County Council has had reassurance that the Assessment will be used widely by a large number of stakeholders, as well as Council departments, to aid policy-making and inform strategic planning. The final document will be published and made available to the public by the end of February 2011.

4. The document will be updated on an annual basis, taking into account new data that becomes available. A more thorough review is envisaged when data from the next Census is published in 2013.

5. This report arises from consideration of a report by the Cabinet on 24 January 2011, which is on Hantsweb at:  
[http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item\\_ID=2509&tab=2](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item_ID=2509&tab=2)

COUNCILLOR KEN THORNBUR, CBE,  
Leader.