

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Economic Development and Rural Affairs
<b>Date:</b>	28 June 2012
<b>Title:</b>	Business Solent
<b>Reference:</b>	4078
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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### 1. Executive Summary

1.1. This paper seeks agreement for Hampshire County Council to become a Champion of Business Solent, at a cost of £3,000, which will be reviewed on an annual basis.

### 2. Contextual information

2.1. Business Solent is a not-for-profit business engagement organisation, connecting business leaders to drive economic prosperity, with the aim of recognising and promoting the Solent region as *the* place to work, invest, study, live and enjoy.

2.2. Business Solent was formed from Business Southampton which was created in 2006 from the identified need to listen to, inform, unite and engage the local business community in issues affecting the SO postcode region. A pioneering group of founder organisations lent their support to the not-for-profit organisation that connected business leaders and the City Champion programme was developed, providing direct and indirect benefits. A range of high profile events kept City Champions informed of local issues and enabled business leaders to network at the highest level.

2.3. Action Groups and Alliances were established providing the platform for business leaders to have more of a say in the way the city region develops and business links with the Local Authority were strengthened. Having been established with the help of SEEDA funding, Business Southampton became fully self-funded in 2011 through contributions from Champions. As a result of the success of Business Southampton and listening to Champions needs, the decision was made to develop into the wider Solent area to encourage more

links between businesses in the region and to promote the Solent both nationally and internationally. This resulted in the creation of Business Solent.

2.4. Business Solent is actively working with businesses across the Solent region. Here is a snapshot of what Business Solent is doing in the region:

- empowering business leaders to unite, influence and take action;
- creating commercial value to businesses through the Champion network and model;
- planning and delivering best in class events, networking and occasions that connect business leaders;
- enabling Action Groups made up of active representatives of business to achieve change, create new connections and be a strong collective voice for business;
- identifying and leading on specific campaigns, programmes, initiatives and partnerships for the benefit of the Solent region; and
- facilitating connections, ideas and projects.

2.5 Business Solent undertakes this work to

- provide the platform for business engagement;
- provide a proactive catalyst for economic development in the Solent region;
- increase business, investment and jobs;
- promote the Solent region as a great place for businesses, residents and visitors;
- retain and attract leadership and talent in the Solent region;
- influence positive outcomes for the skills, workforce development and corporate impact agendas in the Solent region;
- influence public policy and drive forward measurable positive economic change; and
- give the Solent region a national and international presence.

2.6 By becoming a Business Solent Champion, Hampshire County Council can lend its support to the aims, objectives and activities of Business Solent, which help to increase economic prosperity in the Solent area of Hampshire.

**3. Finance**

3.1. To become a Business Solent Champion for a year will cost £3,000.

**4. Performance**

4.1. The value of becoming a Business Solent Champion will be reviewed on an annual basis.

**5. Recommendation**

5.1. That Hampshire County Council become a Business Solent Champion, at a cost of £3,000 per annum, to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Rpt/ref/CS

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): no	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): no	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): no	

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1 It is considered that the issues covered by this report will not have impacts requiring further specific actions by the Council above those already established in its existing policies and working procedures.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

- 2.1. The proposals in this report are not considered to have any direct impact on the prevention of crime.

### **3. Climate Change:**

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? n/a

No specific proposals.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? n/a

No specific proposals affecting adaptation to climate change.