

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	28 October 2013
Title:	The Hampshire Partnership
Reference:	5296
Report From:	Chief Executive

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1. Background

1.1. The Hampshire Senate is a group of local authorities and other public agencies, together with the voluntary sector and business representatives, who come together on a regular basis to consider issues on a Hampshire wide basis. The rationale behind the arrangement was that the County Council needed to work with partner agencies and other organisations that make up the different communities of interest in Hampshire, to best shape its policies and to respond to different communities. Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Armed Forces have also played a part in the Senate in the past. Partnership working, particularly among public organisations, but increasingly with the private sector and with other elements of the business community, is now well established as an effective way of bringing together different communities of interest that play a part in public life.

2. The Hampshire Partnership

2.1. The report identifies recent work that has been done to refresh and rebrand the partnership arrangements. The proposed working title for future arrangements is The Hampshire Partnership.

2.2. The County Council is part of many established groups. These range from collaborations with County Councils, Unitary Authorities, District Councils, LEPs and other agencies. The County Council also has many established business partnerships such as the Police and Fire shared service arrangements and emerging partners such as the Isle of Wight Council for Children's Services, The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Authority Association, the South East Seven, the South East Strategic Leaders, PUSH

and other groups. These are all recognised partnership arrangements where the County Council come together with like minded organisations to look to achieve issues that may cross its boundaries, become more effective with a greater critical mass or simply recognise that some issues require combinations of authorities for effective solutions. Transport would be a good example.

There is however only one arrangement that looks exclusively at Hampshire and the organisations within its boundaries. The (new) partnership is looking to coordinate activities with the District and Borough Councils in Hampshire County Council with the public and other agencies that make up the wider communities of interest in the County. Education and higher education institutions would also be part of the partnership. So this partnership is not designed to duplicate or undermine any of those other legitimate partnership arrangements. It is designed to fulfil a critical requirement that there has to be a single arrangement which is dedicated to the county of Hampshire.

- 2.3. A recent workshop was held with Leaders of the District and Borough Council's, Chief Executives and representatives from the other agencies to establish how the partnership could be refreshed. It was recommended that the partnership be renamed as The Hampshire Partnership and given a working title while it looked to develop a forward agenda of issues, projects and tasks that would help improve public service outcomes for the people who live and work in Hampshire as a place amid on-going financial pressures. The current position of public sector finances, especially at local government level, should only serve to reinforce the duty upon all agencies to explore the efficiencies as well as the opportunities that arise from these issues.
- 2.4. To a large extent this provides the only focus in terms of partnership arrangements in Hampshire itself, giving a unique opportunity to bring together the organisations that work within the County to best secure improvements to public services, policy formulation and improved outcomes. It has been widely recognised that arrangements of this sort are common throughout local government and encouraged by the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities. It is not anticipated that the partnership will require significant budgets as it will be involved with existing services and their developments that are already budgeted for in the Council's and partners' main workstreams and departmental spending plans.
- 2.5. The Leader of the Council has given a strong commitment to partners that the County Council will work assiduously within the two tier system to improve outcomes for the people who live in Hampshire. It was noted in the workshops and in the discussions about refreshing the partnership that significant progress had been made on countywide projects involving 'Insulate Hampshire' to help improve fuel economy for domestic dwellings, the rollout of extensive fibre optic cable in a new countywide broadband project and to a lesser extent in activities such as in bringing forward Council land for affordable housing. The Leader has written to all of the partners and agencies involved and consideration has been given to how the Universities and other groups such as young people, the farming and faith communities can play a part in shaping the Council's policies and services.

2.6. Cabinet is asked to endorse the approach and note the progress that has been made. In due course a further report will be made on how the partnership contributes to Transformation to 2015, improvements to public services as part of the approach identified earlier on the agenda and how best to collaborate to make a difference to public sector outcomes. It is anticipated that the new partnership could consider how best to improve working arrangements in the two tier model of government, improvements to develop shared services amongst Councils, developments around caring for Hampshire's ageing population, issues impacting on criminal justice and youth offending and more generally those issues with the Constabulary, the Police & Crime Commissioner and Fire and Rescue Service that impact on making Hampshire safer and more secure as a place to live. The County Council's intention is to further extend the rollout of broadband into more rural communities would also be a subject for consideration. Acknowledging the wider role that the community has in safeguarding vulnerable adults and children could be another theme for the partnership.

3. Recommendation

3.1. It is recommended that Cabinet endorse the action taken so far and approve of the new Hampshire Partnership and the direction of travel identified in the report.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

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. No adverse impact.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. No adverse impact.

3. Climate Change:

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

- 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