

AT A MEETING of the HAMPSHIRE ECONOMIC BOARD of the HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Tuesday, 21 September 2010.

PRESENT:

Chairman:

p Councillor T.K. Thornber, CBE

p Dr. R.J. Ellis

p J.K. Glen

p M.J. Kendal

p R. Perry

p Mrs M.D. Snaith-Tempia

35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should, normally at the time of debate, declare their interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 12 of the Code. The declaration to be made at the time of the relevant debate.

37 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

38 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked the Director of Economic Development and her team for valuable work on preparation of the Local Enterprise Partnership submission.

39 SKILLS COMMISSIONING AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Board considered the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 5 in the Minute Book) on current commissioning and funding arrangements for the development of skills. The Director of Children's Services explained that this followed on from the abolition of the Learning and Skills Council, and that in terms of commissioning, things continued to change. Local Authorities now had no powers in terms of performance of providers, other

than the exertion of influence. The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) was the main body and skills funding agency main body post 18 education. The Local Authority role was as commissioner only. The Director also explained that the figures for young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) was 5.3% which was below national average which was good. Apprenticeship provision for young people was good in Hampshire and formal qualifications (GCSE and A levels) were also very good in Hampshire.

The Board agreed that a much tighter, better focussed skills audit be undertaken to establish how the qualifications and skills impact on the economy. It was noted that the County Council's influence was strong, and that work could progress quickly, with Brockenhurst, Totton and Sparsholt colleges to be approached for their involvement.

The recommendations set out in the report were agreed, subject to the additional of a resolution that the Council continues to exert its influence at all levels of government in relation to the changes to commissioning and funding for colleges and other training providers. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

40 HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS CONFERENCE

The Board considered and approved the report of the Director of Economic Development (Item 6 in the Minute Book) outlining the proposal for the first Hampshire Business Conference held by the Hampshire Economic Board.

The recommendations set out in the report were agreed and the decision record is attached to the minutes as Appendix 2.

41 TOWARDS AN ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The Board considered the report of the Director of Economic Development (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on the key issues for the Hampshire economy, that will form the basis for a Sustainable Economic Development Strategy.

In discussing the proposals, the Board agreed that a similar report be presented to the Hampshire Senate in order to gain comments from Hampshire district councils. This would provide an opportunity for more in-depth discussions with the district councils to help to work better and smarter collaboratively.

The Board agreed the six key sections of the proposed strategy, which were;

1. Nurturing an innovative, entrepreneurial and globally competitive knowledge-based economy.
2. Investing in the skills of the current and future workforce.
3. Investing in key infrastructure.

The Board acknowledged that the County Council did not have the authority to decide where employment land should be, or what type of industry/commerce should be encouraged into Hampshire. The Board also emphasised the good facilities in terms of skills, universities, road and rail links that existed within Hampshire.

4. Addressing persistent worklessness, improving economic participation and encouraging greater attainment, particularly among young people.

5. Defining, and investing in, key economic roles for cities and towns within the Hampshire Economic Area.

The Board agreed that villages should be included within this section.

6. Exploiting the Hampshire Economic Area's locational and environmental assets and the quality of life it provides... and the implications.

It was agreed that the County Council should take a proactive role in marketing Hampshire as a whole to attract new to business to the area.

The Board also discussed the potential for partnership working with universities within Hampshire to reach out to the knowledge-based industries.

The recommendations set out in the report were agreed and the decision record is attached to the minutes as Appendix 3.

42 **BROADBAND STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT (LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX)**

Cllr Kendal declared a personal interest in this item as he lived in a village that was badly affected by the lack of broadband provision.

The Board considered the report of the Director of Economic Development (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on the progress to identify the action the County Council could take to stimulate and influence broadband speeds in Hampshire, particularly in rural areas.

During the discussion the Director of Economic Development explained that following the last meeting of the Board, she had met several major broadband providers to discuss future provision of superfast broadband. The options for improving access to broadband were outlined in section 4 of the report, and further work was required on exploring potential models to encourage private sector investment, with local government support which could include demand stimulation and investigation of local funding streams. The Board agreed that the options outlined in the report should continue to be explored and reported to a future meeting.

The Board adopted the recommendations set out in the report and the decision record is attached to the minutes as Appendix 4.

43 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That in relation to the following items the press and public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if a member of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exempt information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

44 **BROADBAND STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT (EXEMPT APPENDIX)**

The Board considered and approved the exempt appendix (Item 10 in the Minute Book) to the progress report on the Broadband Strategy.