

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Decision Report**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Hampshire Economic Board
<b>Date:</b>	21 September 2010
<b>Title:</b>	Hampshire Business Conference
<b>Reference:</b>	2032
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economic Development

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**1. Executive Summary**

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to outline a proposal for the first Hampshire Business Conference held by the Hampshire Economic Board.

**2. Contextual information**

2.1. At the meeting of the Hampshire Economic Board on 25 February, Members agreed that an annual business conference be held by the Board, to include representatives of business organisations, and asked for a further report on its format.

2.2. This event can be used to illustrate the future collaborative working for local authorities and businesses within the structure of the new Local Enterprise Partnerships. An LEP proposition has been submitted to government by Hampshire County Council in conjunction with business support organisations to include all areas of the county, but which will to allow options for cross-border collaboration with neighbouring county councils.

**3. Proposed Format of the Business Conference**

3.1. It is planned to hold this event in the autumn in Elizabeth II Court West Ashburton Hall. A provisional date has been set of 27 October 2010. This event is planned to take place over a two and a half hour period in the afternoon (start 4.30 pm) consisting of presentations followed by a workshop session.

3.2. It is suggested that presentations include:

- (i) a welcome speech from the Leader of Hampshire County Council to cover the purpose of the event and the role of Hampshire County Council in supporting the economy and the county's future prosperity. Reference should also be included on the implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review, Hampshire County Council future budget plans, and the Local Enterprise Partnerships, in particular the close collaboration on their development with business support organisations in Hampshire;
- (ii) an external speaker – eg from the Institute of Directors, Confederation of British Industry, or Bank of England on future economic prospects; or a Hampshire-based MP with ministerial responsibilities; and
- (iii) a presentation from the Director of Economic Development to cover the key messages for business from the Local Economic Assessment, including thoughts on the priorities for Local Enterprise Partnerships to address.

3.3. It is envisaged that a representative from one of the key business support organisations in Hampshire will outline plans for the future collaboration with business and business support organisations, including the purpose and current position on the Local Enterprise Partnership.

3.4. The Director of Economic Development will then introduce the workshop session.

3.5. The Workshop Session will explore the priorities for intervention, including any issues not found through the Local Economic Assessment, and a response from Government to the Local Enterprise Partnership proposals submitted from Hampshire. The session will seek feedback on the Economic Assessment from each table, solicit views on how the Council should respond to issues, and any other points they would like to make to the Council on conditions required for business to flourish and their priorities for improvement. It is proposed that each table at the workshop session will be hosted by a Hampshire Economic Board Member and supported by Economic Development departmental leads.

#### **4. Target Audience**

4.1. The target audience is all major employers, a selection of small to medium-sized businesses, and all Hampshire's business support organisations. Anticipated number of attendees is 100.

#### **5. Recommendation**

5.1. That the Business Conference be organised on the basis of this report.

Rpt/2032/FS

**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):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u> Engagement with Business Hampshire Economic Board	<u>Reference</u> 1368	<u>Date</u> 25 February 2010
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

**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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

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

1.1. An impact assessment will be undertaken prior to the event taking place.

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

2.1. The event will not have any impact.

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

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.