

Meeting:	Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board
Date:	13 th July 2026
Title:	Agenda Item 5 – New higher education representative on HPPB
Appendices:	n/a
Report From:	Economy & Skills
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Purpose of this paper

1. This paper follows recent changes to membership on the Hampshire Skills Partnership (HSP) that have implications for the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board (HPPB).
2. The paper provides some background and presents a recommendation to HPPB for their agreement on 13th July.
3. HPPB is asked to consider the background and agree to the recommendation at paragraph 7.

Background

4. Earlier this year, Professor Sarah Greer (Vice-Chancellor, University of Winchester), the Higher Education representative on HPPB and the Chair of HSP, announced that she was retiring and would therefore step down from both roles in July.
5. It was agreed that the HSP meeting on 11th June would be her last and at that meeting proposals would be put forward to amend the HSP Terms of Reference to introduce a new Chair and a proposed new Higher Education representative for HPPB.
6. As reflected in the Minutes and Terms of Reference documents for the HSP meeting on 11 June (<https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/hampshire-prosperity-partnership/hampshire-skills-partnership>), the following changes were put forward and agreed:
 - a. **Julie Milburn** (Principal and CEO, Sparsholt College Group) becomes the new Chair of HSP – this made the HSP Vice-Chair role vacant.
 - b. Julie will also maintain her role as Further Education representative on HPPB.
 - c. **Professor James Knowles** (Vice-Chancellor, Southampton Solent University) becomes the Interim Vice-Chair of HSP.

- d. James Knowles' role will be reviewed by the University Vice-Chancellors' group when the two Vice-Chancellor vacancies (at University of Southampton and University of Winchester) have been filled.
- e. The University Vice-Chancellors' group had proposed James Knowles as the new Higher Education representative on HPPB, replacing Sarah Greer. This was supported by the HSP. As above, this will be reviewed by the University Vice-Chancellors' group when the two Vice-Chancellor vacancies have been filled.

The request to HPPB

- 7. **HPPB is asked to agree to Professor James Knowles joining HPPB as the new Higher Education representative**, with the understanding that this will be reviewed by the University Vice-Chancellors' group when the two Vice-Chancellor vacancies (at University of Southampton and University of Winchester) have been filled.