



Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board

14 September 2026

Item 6 – Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority governance

The Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board (HPPB) is asked to:

NOTE the information provided below regarding the governance structure of the Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA), and in particular the forthcoming establishment of a Business Advisory Board

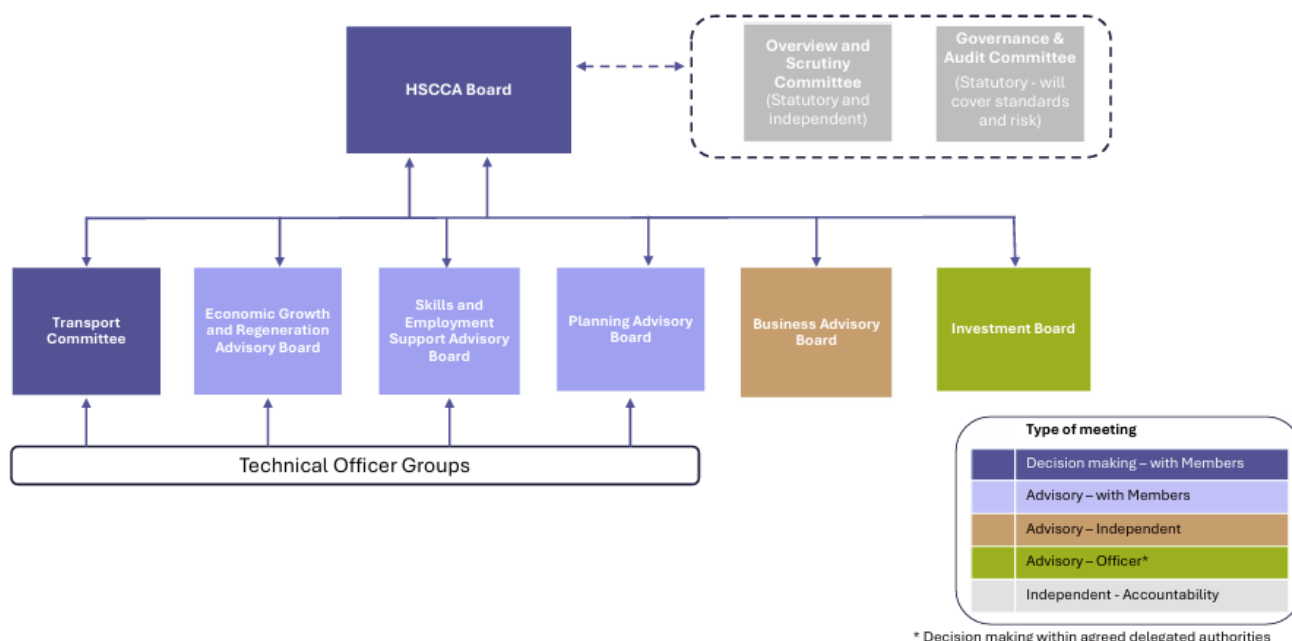
CONSIDER the potential implications of this for the role of HPPB, in future

CONSIDER how HPPB can help to ensure that the HSCCA Business Advisory Board becomes an effective mechanism for engaging business in the work of HSCCA

DISCUSS the questions set out in section 3 below

1. Overview

- 1.1. The governance structure for HSCCA is set out in HSCCA's [Constitution](#), which was approved at the first meeting of the HSCCA Board on 13 July 2026, and in its [Local Assurance Framework](#). The following diagram (from the Local Assurance Framework) provides an overview of that structure.



1.2. The following features of the structure are of most direct relevance to the work of HPPB:

- Economic Growth and Regeneration Advisory Board.** This Board will advise the HSCCA Board on the development of the Local Growth Plan, the development of a strategic investment portfolio for the region, and other matters relating to economic growth and regeneration. Its voting membership (including the Chair and Vice-Chair) will consist of Councillors from the HSCCA's constituent authorities (Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, Isle of Wight). A member of the Business Advisory Board (see below) will be a non-voting member. The terms of reference allow for the appointment of additional non-voting members from partner and stakeholder bodies relevant to the remit of the committee (including District and Borough Councils) but decisions about this have not yet been made.
- Skills and Employment Support Advisory Board.** This Board will advise the HSCCA Board on priorities for Adult Skills Funding (ASF), the ASF commissioning process, the development of a regional skills strategy and a single Get Britain Working Plan for the region, and other matters relating to skills and employment. Its voting membership (including the Chair and Vice-Chair) will consist of Councillors from the HSCCA's constituent authorities. A member of the Business Advisory Board (see below) will be a non-voting member. The terms of reference allow for the appointment of additional non-voting members from partner and stakeholder bodies relevant to the remit of the committee (including District and Borough Councils) but decisions about this have not yet been made. Additionally, the terms of reference state that representatives of skills providers may be invited.

- **Business Advisory Board.** The terms of reference of the Business Advisory Board are attached at Annex A, and are considered further in section 2 below.

1.3. The above Boards have not yet met, but are required to do so for the first time before the end of the current financial year.

2. Business Advisory Board (see terms of reference at Annex A)

- 2.1. The Business Advisory Board seeks to ensure that the HSCCA is guided by a strong, independent and diverse local business voice. It will provide advice and recommendations to the HSCCA Board, representing the perspective of business across the region. It will represent key sectors, different geographies and different types of enterprise, across Hampshire and the Solent.
- 2.2. The Board will consist of between 10 and 20 members, all of whom will be voting members. The membership will be confirmed following further engagement with the business community and the HSCCA's constituent councils. Whether the membership will all be drawn from the business community, or will include representatives from some other sectors, is still to be determined.
- 2.3. The Chair of the Business Advisory Board will be a business representative, recruited through an open recruitment process, and confirmed by the HSCCA. They will be an associate member of the HSCCA Board.
- 2.4. The terms of reference describe the Business Advisory Board as "evolving from the Solent Growth Partnership Business Board and the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Business Board". What this means in practice is still to be determined.

3. Questions for discussion

3.1. HPPB are invited to consider and discuss the following questions:

- A. What are the potential implications of the establishment of the HSCCA Business Advisory Board for the future role of HPPB?**
- B. What lessons from HPPB's experience might usefully be applied to the HSCCA Business Advisory Board?**
- C. How can HPPB help to ensure that the HSCCA Business Advisory Board becomes an effective mechanism for engaging business in the work of HSCCA?**

Stephen Martin
Head of Economy and Skills

Annex A – HSCCA Business Advisory Board Terms of Reference

Source: [Constitution - HSCCA Website](#)

Business Advisory Board

4.4.1 The Business Advisory Board is a business-led body, evolving from the Solent Growth Partnership Business Board and the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Business Board. It seeks to ensure that the Hampshire & Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA) is guided by a strong, independent and diverse local business voice.

Membership

4.4.2 The membership of the Business Advisory Board shall consist of between 10 and 20 members. All members are voting, with any recommendations to be agreed by majority vote.

Voting Membership:

4.4.3 The membership will be determined following further to engagement with the business community, the constituent councils and the HSCCA.

Chairing the Committee

4.4.4 The Business Advisory Board Chair will be a business representative, recruited through an open recruitment process, and confirmed by the Combined County Authority.

4.4.5 In the absence of the appointed Chair, the Business Advisory Board will appoint a Chair for the meeting.

4.4.6 The Chair of the Business Advisory Board will be an associate member of the Combined County Authority Board.

Representing the Business Voice

4.4.7 The Business Advisory Board will nominate a representative to sit as an embedded non-voting member of the following Combined County Authority governance bodies:

- i. Skills & Employment Support Advisory Board
- ii. Economic Growth & Regeneration Advisory Board

Quorum

4.4.8 The quorum will be half the membership of the board.

Frequency

4.4.9 The board will meet once the Chair of the Business Advisory Board is in post and within the financial year in which the HSCCA is constituted. Meetings are not required to be held in public or have provision for public participation.

Functions

4.4.10 The Business Advisory Board will have a strong, independent and diverse local business voice. It will represent key sectors across Hampshire & the Solent, the different geographies and the different types of enterprises across the region.

4.4.11 The role of the BAB will be to provide advice and recommendations to the HSCCA Board, representing the perspective of business across the region.

4.4.12 The focus of the BAB will be to inform HSCCA decisions and priorities by developing and shaping strategy on a range of topics relevant to the regions business base and its economic growth. The BAB will also play a role in sharing business intelligence to inform the HSCCA approach to relevant activity, including business support, skills development and delivery of digital and physical infrastructure. The BAB will also provide a forum for debate, highlighting issues affecting the business community that the HSCCA and in time the Mayor may need to address. The BAB may also be asked to comment on aspects of policy developed through other forums in the HSCCA.

4.4.13 To facilitate effective stakeholder engagement, the Business Advisory Board may engage with relevant business sectors, representative bodies and wider stakeholder networks, as required, to inform its advice to the Combined County Authority, including providing sector-specific insight, guidance and coordinated responses to consultations.

Review

4.4.15 The terms of reference of the will be reviewed annually by the Combined County Authority.