

Meeting:	Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board
Date:	24 March 2025
Title:	<b>Agenda Item 6</b> <b>Economy and Growth Plan</b>
Appendices	Appendix A – Draft content for Economy and Growth Plan
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### The Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide HPPB with an update on the development of an Economy and Growth Plan for Hampshire, for discussion and comments on the approach.
2. Subject to agreement by HPPB of its priorities and proposed workstreams at this meeting (see agenda item 5), we will produce a complete draft of the Economy and Growth Plan and share this with HPPB by correspondence for approval.

### Background

3. In 2024, the HPPB approved the publication of the updated Economic Strategy for Hampshire, and as part of that publication, the HPPB pledged to publish an Economy and Growth Plan outlining the priorities and projects it would focus on during 2025-2027.

### Proposed Approach

4. The purpose of the Economy and Growth Plan is to set out the actions that we will take, in support of the Economic Strategy for Hampshire. The plan will be structured around the priority areas agreed with HPPB, and will include:
  - The priority workstreams agreed with HPPB (see agenda item 5).

- Other projects and programmes which Hampshire County Council’s Economy and Skills team is committed to delivering e.g. Growth Hub, Careers Hub, Skills Bootcamps, development of a Hampshire Skills Strategy.
  - Key actions being delivered by other teams in Hampshire County Council which support the priority areas e.g. transport planning and projects.
5. The timeframe for the Economy and Growth Plan will be the two-year period 2025-27. We expect that some workstreams in the plan will continue into 2026-27, but that some will be completed during 2025-26. Also, in 2026 we may need to incorporate some additional workstreams – for example, arising from the development of the Hampshire Skills Strategy. We will therefore update the Economy and Growth Plan towards the end of 2025-26.
6. The main purpose of the Economy and Growth Plan is to provide stakeholders with a clear and simple statement of what we are going to deliver. It will therefore be a relatively short, concise document, consisting of:
- Foreword by the Hampshire County Council Leader / HPPB Chair
  - About the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership
  - A brief recap of the Economic Strategy for Hampshire, and other strategies to which the plan is also aligned
  - About the Hampshire Economy and Growth Plan (purpose, contents etc.)
  - For each of the priority areas, a brief narrative about its importance, followed by an action plan in table form:
    - High potential sectors and clusters
    - Business support
    - Energy
    - Infrastructure
    - Skills, employment and careers
7. See Appendix A below for first drafts of the action plan tables. Proposed HPPB priority workstreams are subject to agreement by HPPB (see agenda item 5) and are shaded in blue. Other actions are shaded in green.

## Priority 1: High Potential Sectors and Clusters

No.	Project	Objective	Partners	Status	Delivery Timetable
1.	South Central Regional Defence and Security Cluster	To grow a community dedicated to developing innovative, long-term advancements to the security and protection of our communities. This is achieved through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitating collaboration between the Ministry of Defence, Armed Forces, businesses, charities, academia, and government agencies.</li> <li>Sharing ideas and identifying routes to market through exploitation and commercialisation.</li> <li>Promoting diversity and inclusion to ensure a welcoming environment for all.</li> </ul>	DASA, Airbus, MOD	Launched	Ongoing
2.	Creative Cluster	Linking already strong clusters to form a coalition to raise awareness and recognition of the strength of the creative industries in Hampshire.	Businesses, Academia, Clusters, Boroughs and Districts	TBC	2025
3.	Digital Cluster	Understanding the industry need for a Digital Cluster in Hampshire and implementing an appropriate response, linked to Industrial Strategy Sector Plans.	Businesses, Academia, Clusters, Boroughs and Districts	TBC	2025
4.	Life Sciences Cluster	Working with partners to support the delivery of a Life Sciences Cluster for Hampshire.	Wessex Health Partners, Health Innovation Wessex, The Institute for Life Sciences, UHS Health Research	In development	2025
5.	Super Cluster	Bringing together Hampshire clusters and other industry groups to form a “Super Cluster”, to engage a wider range of businesses in the work of the	Cluster and industry representation from across Hampshire	In development	Formalise structure June 2025

		Hampshire Prosperity Partnership, and strengthen the voice of Hampshire’s business community.			
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## Priority 2: Business Support

No.	Project	Objective	Partners	Status	Delivery Timetable
1.	Hampshire Growth Hub	Continue to deliver a successful Growth Hub supporting businesses across Hampshire.	Boroughs and Districts	Ongoing	2025/26 (yearly funding agreement)
2.	Joining up the business support system	Increasing the impact of Hampshire’s business support system, by bringing providers together to map provision, reduce duplication, and increase cross-referrals.	Boroughs and Districts, Business Representative Organisations, Businesses	TBC	April – September 2025
3.	Online Business Support Hub	Establish a self-service online platform to provide an offer that responds to less complex enquiries to the Growth Hub.	HCC ICT, Providers	TBC	July 2025 onwards
4.	Making the system work for rural businesses	Develop a clear understanding of the needs of rural businesses and if they are different from or aligned with the needs of urban businesses. Improved delivery of support services to rural businesses in Hampshire where needed.	Industry Representatives, Rural Businesses	TBC	July to December 2025

## Priority 3: Energy

No.	Project	Objective	Partners	Status	Delivery Timetable
1.	Climate Change Strategy Review	Develop a new Climate Change Strategy for 2026-2031 that remains relevant, effective, and aligned with HCC's place-shaping role.	Expert Forum	In progress	February 2026
2.	Residential and Energy (Generation, Distribution, Efficiency)	To support the net zero transition of the county's energy landscape by supporting programmes to increase energy efficiency and renewable generation.	Community Energy, Retrofit, Businesses and Communities	In development	Multiple projects
3.	Public engagement	To engage the Hampshire public to help build awareness on how they can contribute to carbon reduction and resilience, and to provide inclusive opportunities for individuals and communities to be involved in shaping the policies and decisions that affect them.	tEc, Greening Campaign, Community Energy Groups, Solar Together	In development	Multiple projects
4.	Grid capacity review	Developing a clear understanding with partners of the grid constraints on delivery of energy infrastructure and other development, and recommendations for how these constraints can be overcome.	Local Authorities, Businesses, Developers	TBC	July to December 2025

## Priority 4: Infrastructure

No.	Project	Objective	Partners	Status	Delivery Timetable
1.	Local Transport Plan 4 schemes	<p>LTP4 proposes transformational changes which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shift away from planning for vehicles, towards planning for people and places</li> <li>• meet national priorities to decarbonise the transport system</li> <li>• reduce reliance on private car travel</li> <li>• give people a choice of high-quality travel options</li> <li>• support sustainable economic development and regeneration; and promote active lifestyles</li> </ul>	TfSE, DfT, Districts, Parishes, Other Stakeholders	LTP4 was adopted in February 2024	Ongoing
2.	Infrastructure gap and opportunity analysis	Commissioning a study to identify Hampshire's highest priority infrastructure needs in three areas – transport, digital, and business space – in order to make the case for investment in these priorities.	Local Authorities, Businesses, Developers	TBC	July to December 2025

## Priority 5: Skills, Employment and Careers

No.	Project	Objective	Partners	Status	Delivery Timetable
1.	Skills Bootcamps	Skills Bootcamps empower individuals and employers to develop valuable, sector-specific skills. Based on local employer demand, the Skills Bootcamps provide a direct path to employment upon completion, with a guaranteed job interview at the end of each course for unemployed individuals.	Businesses, Local Authorities	On-Going	2025/26 (yearly funding agreement)
2.	Careers Hub	To support schools and colleges across Hampshire to improve their careers programmes and create opportunities for young people.	Schools and Businesses	On-Going	2025/26 (yearly funding agreement)
3.	Supporting the implementation of Local Skills Improvement Plans	Putting employers at the heart of the skills agenda. The plans also seek to build stronger and more dynamic partnerships between employers and further education providers	Hampshire Chamber of Commerce	On-Going	September 2025
4.	Hampshire Skills Strategy	To ensure the County has a workforce that meets the needs of local businesses and supports economic growth, by aligning skills development with employer demands, while also promoting an inclusive and adaptable workforce.	Hampshire Skills Partnership	On-Going	December 2025
5.	Connect to Work	Aimed at people who are currently not working or face barriers to employment, such as disabilities and health conditions. The programme also supports those who are employed but at risk of losing their job. Connect to Work integrates	Businesses, Skills Providers	In Development	Launch in Autumn 2025

		work, health, and skills support using the supported employment “place, train, and maintain” model, to help people move into and sustain work.			
6.	Get Hampshire Working Plan	A plan developed across partners to tackle economic inactivity, support individuals into good work, and create a more inclusive labour market.	Hampshire Skills Partnership, Integrated Care Board, Jobcentre Plus	Commencement April 2025	September 2025