

Meeting:	Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board
Date:	9 th June 2025
Title:	Agenda Item 7 – Get Hampshire Working Plan
Appendices:	None
Report From:	Economy & Skills
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Purpose of this paper

1. This paper provides background information about the Government’s request to areas across England to produce local Get Britain Working Plans. The Get Hampshire Working Plan is being developed by the Strategic Skills team within Economy & Skills.

Background

2. The Get Britain Working white paper, published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) with other government departments, set out reforms to employment, health and skills support to tackle six key issues:
 - a. too many people are excluded from the labour market – especially those with health conditions, caring responsibilities or lower skill levels
 - b. too many young people leave school without essential skills or access to high-quality further learning, an apprenticeship or support to work so that they can thrive at the start of their career
 - c. too many people are stuck in insecure, poor quality and often low-paying work, which contributes to a weaker economy and also affects their health and wellbeing
 - d. too many women who care for their families still experience challenges staying in and progressing in work
 - e. too many employers cannot fill their vacancies due to labour and skills shortages, holding back economic growth, driving up reliance on overseas labour, and undermining living standards
 - f. there is too great a disparity in labour market outcomes between different places and for different groups of people
3. Reforms will bring together different government departments to offer employment and training support to individuals as well as support for employers to recruit, retain and develop staff.

4. Government has committed to support and enable local areas in England to take the lead in shaping a coherent offer of support across work, health and skills and engage local people, employers and providers in that offer.
5. This means every area will have new funding for supported employment (Connect to Work, presented at the May HPPB meeting) and a plan to tackle economic inactivity (a local Get Britain Working Plan).

Objectives, governance and timeframes

6. For Hampshire and the Solent, there will be two local plans – one for each Connect to Work delivery area. Hampshire County Council (HCC) has been designated by DWP as the Accountable Body responsible for leading the development of the plan for the HCC administrative area – the **Get Hampshire Working Plan**. Portsmouth City Council has been designated as the Accountable Body responsible for leading the development of the plan for the Solent Growth Partnership area, covering Isle of Wight, Portsmouth City and Southampton City Council areas – the **Get Solent Working Plan**.
7. Each area must submit a plan that identifies local labour market challenges; sets out the roles, provision, and current support offer of key stakeholders; and outlines a coordinated approach to tackling the challenges for the first 12-24 months. The plan should also include steps towards longer-term objectives.
8. The Get Hampshire Working Plan will be signed off by the Accountable Body (HCC), the Integrated Care Boards (Hampshire & Isle of Wight + Frimley) via the Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board, and Jobcentre Plus (JCP).
9. The plan is being developed in association with other stakeholders including representatives from voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations, housing associations, education and skills providers, and employer and business representative groups.
10. We are required to submit an initial outline of our proposed plan by 30 June 2025, followed by publication of a detailed plan by 30 September 2025. The plan is due to be approved on the Hampshire County Council Executive Member Decision Day on 18 September. HPPB will be asked to review the plan at its meeting on 3 September.

The asks of HPPB

11. Further information about our approach to developing the Get Hampshire Working Plan will be presented at the HPPB meeting on 9 June. To help in the development of the plan, we welcome your input on the following in particular:
 - a. What role(s) do your organisations play in helping to address the six key issues?
 - b. Do you have any feedback on our approach to the development of the plan?
 - c. Are there any significant challenges we should consider / be aware of that may result in more people becoming unemployed?