

Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board

Date: Monday 1 June 2026

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Location: Hampshire County Council, Chute Room

Present:

Cllr Nick Adams-King – HCC (Chair)	Simon Watson – M Group
Alastair Welch – ABP (Vice Chair)	Nicola Kildunne – FSB
Cllr Gareth Williams – Rushmoor BC	Sarah Greer – University of Winchester
Cllr Martin Tod – Winchester CC	Natalie Wigman – HCC
Fiona Stilwell – PETA	Stephen Martin – HCC
Julie Milburn – Sparsholt College Group	Teresa Hogsbjerg – HCC

Apologies: Cllr Zoe Huggins – HCC
 Paul West – Marketing Consultant
 Cllr Phil North – Test Valley BC
 Ross McNally – Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
 Laura Read – Marwell Wildlife
 Joanna Butler – Butler Farms

		Action
1.	Welcome	
1.1	NAK welcomed the Board members and introduced Dr Ruth Adams, CEO of the Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA).	
2.	Minutes of last meeting	
2.1	Minutes from 9 March 2026 were agreed.	
3.	Action points from last meeting	
3.1	Completed.	
4.	Conflicts of interest (excluding item 7)	
4.1	Conflicts of interests relating to agenda item 7 are addressed below. No other conflicts were declared.	

5.	Ruth Adams, Chief Executive of the Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority	
5.1	RA delivered a presentation on the emerging approach to developing the HSCCA, including: • Vision, policy and readiness • The route to Established Status • Investment fund opportunities • Local Growth Plan This was followed by a Board discussion covering • Collaboration in the development of skills strategies and plans • Devolution of skills funding and its implications for delivery • Future governance arrangements • The pathway to the election of a Mayor and the potential impact of this on strategy • Funding, and achieving value for money for the region through connected programmes	
6	Update on 2025/26 delivery and look ahead to 2026/27	
6.1	SM presented the paper. Board members made the following points. Business Support Landscape: • FSB is conducting a review of business support including the work of private sector providers and offered to support HCC work in this area. • Having reviewed the business support landscape, considering how to deliver a 'no wrong door approach' is a really useful next step. Inward Investment: • Work in this area needs to be done in collaboration with partners. The Board were advised that the proposed focus on clusters and sector propositions was intended to complement other work, including the future role of the HSCCA. Construction Partnership: • The Board expressed interest in this work, and requested further information about the timings of the project and when to expect outcomes, at a future meeting. Sector Based Roundtables: • It would be important to remember education terms and holidays when organising the roundtables. • A potential concern regarding 'roundtable fatigue' was raised. The Board were reassured that the Super Cluster and education partners had requested this work. General Considerations:	

	• The Board asked the team to ensure that they were not committing to too many new activities. • The Board also requested further consideration of how the team measures success and reports on the impact of the programmes.																											
7	Call for projects in Hampshire seeking capital funding from the LEP legacy reserves																											
7.1	Conflicts of interest, as set out in Part 2 of the paper for this item, were noted. It was noted that Mark Smith had now stepped down from HPPB. Additionally, NAK declared an interest in Project No. 42. The three District Leaders had declared an interest in projects in their respective areas at the previous HPPB meeting. SM introduced the paper to the board. The further information provided about each project, and the recommendation, was considered, with the following outcomes: <table><tr><td>Project No. 2</td><td>Hampshire Fare Digital Futures Programme</td></tr><tr><td>Applicant</td><td>Hampshire Fare (HF)</td></tr><tr><td>Overview</td><td>Delivering digital platforms to improve productivity, connectivity and market access, for over 350 food, drink, farming and hospitality businesses.</td></tr><tr><td>HPPB recommendation</td><td>Recommended for funding.</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2"></td></tr><tr><td>Project No. 6</td><td>Aerospace, Defence and Security Curricula Development</td></tr><tr><td>Applicant</td><td>ADS</td></tr><tr><td>Overview</td><td>Developing industry-validated apprenticeship and training curricula in aerospace, defence and security, and licensing this to Hampshire FE and HE institutions.</td></tr><tr><td>HPPB recommendation</td><td>Recommended for funding.</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2"></td></tr><tr><td>Project No. 12</td><td>Test Valley Community Construction Academy</td></tr><tr><td>Applicant</td><td>Sparsholt College</td></tr><tr><td>Overview</td><td>A mezzanine extension to the existing Future Skills Construction Centre at the Andover College campus, with multi-trade, electrical, and retrofit and green skills bays.</td></tr></table>	Project No. 2	Hampshire Fare Digital Futures Programme	Applicant	Hampshire Fare (HF)	Overview	Delivering digital platforms to improve productivity, connectivity and market access, for over 350 food, drink, farming and hospitality businesses.	HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding.			Project No. 6	Aerospace, Defence and Security Curricula Development	Applicant	ADS	Overview	Developing industry-validated apprenticeship and training curricula in aerospace, defence and security, and licensing this to Hampshire FE and HE institutions.	HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding.			Project No. 12	Test Valley Community Construction Academy	Applicant	Sparsholt College	Overview	A mezzanine extension to the existing Future Skills Construction Centre at the Andover College campus, with multi-trade, electrical, and retrofit and green skills bays.	
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HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding.
Project No. 13	IncuHive Farnborough
Applicant	Rushmoor Borough Council
Overview	Refurbishment of The Meads Business Centre to create 19,000 sq ft of affordable, flexible workspace for start-ups and SMEs.
HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding.
Project No. 23	Leigh Park Skills Centre
Applicant	Havant Borough Council
Overview	Building a construction training centre in Leigh Park, providing skills development opportunities for individuals at risk of becoming NEET, and acting as a community hub.
HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding.
Project No. 26	Bacteriophage and Biologics Manufacturing and R&D Facility
Applicant	UHS NHS Trust
Overview	Building the UK's first GMP-certified bacteriophage and biologics manufacturing facility, to supply the NHS and global private industry, and boost leading-edge research.
HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding, conditional on a satisfactory, legally-binding agreement being in place between the project partners, within three months of approval by HCC Cabinet.
Project No. 28	BRIDGE - Workforce and Innovation Centre
Applicant	University of Winchester
Overview	A collaborative, industry-partnered centre, training health and social care professionals in homecare and digital delivery and enabling the development of new technology.
HPPB recommendation	Not recommended, due to budget constraint.

	Project No. 31	Hampshire Creative Business Escalator
	Applicant	Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
	Overview	Creating an online platform that will connect creative businesses with the people, advice and resources required to fuel their growth.
	HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding.
	Project No. 37	Havant Maths and English Hub
	Applicant	Havant & South Downs College (HSDC)
	Overview	Creating a hub from which to deliver roll on / roll off, modular Maths and English provision, to re-engage post 16 NEETs.
	HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding, conditional on confirmation that HSDC's "enhanced supervision" status has been removed.
	Project No. 38	Faraday Connect
	Applicant	Fareham Borough Council
	Overview	Enabling additional business space at Daedalus (Solent Enterprise Zone) through a new link road with junction improvements, and an accelerated power upgrade.
	HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding.
	Project No. 39	Seascape Restoration and Innovation Centre
	Applicant	University of Portsmouth
	Overview	Creating a collaborative facility for marine ecosystem restoration, regenerative aquaculture and technological innovation to scale nature-based solutions.
	HPPB recommendation	Not recommended, due to budget constraint.
	Project No. 42	South of Romsey Town Centre (SoRTC)
	Applicant	Test Valley Borough Council
	Overview	Regeneration of the Romsey bus station and Crosfield Hall sites, delivering a new bus station,

	community facility, public car parking and public realm.
HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding, subject to further work to assess the business case demonstrating that the project represents acceptable value-for-money. This further work should be carried out as quickly as possible and reported back to HPPB by correspondence, in advance of the HCC Cabinet meeting on 7 July.
Project No. 44	Microbial Innovation Centre
Applicant	University of Southampton
Overview	Creating a Microbial Innovation Centre that will provide specialised testbeds and services, to support the validation and commercialisation of advanced microbial technologies.
HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding.
Project No. 45	Securing the Future of the New Forest Tour
Applicant	New Forest National Park Authority
Overview	Securing the long-term future of the New Forest Tour by investing in a new generation of modern, accessible, low-emission open-top buses.
HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding.
Project No. 47	Alton Adult Learning Hub
Applicant	Havant and South Downs College
Overview	Creating a hub focused on tackling worklessness among the over 50s, by connecting them with high local demand in manufacturing, logistics and healthcare.
HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding, conditional on confirmation that HSDC's "enhanced supervision" status has been removed.
Project No. 48	Tech + Tour Hampshire Rollout
Applicant	South Hampshire College Group
Overview	Acquiring a second mobile unit, to enable the proven, Solent-based Tech+Tour outreach

		project to extend its delivery across the whole of Hampshire.	
	HPPB recommendation	Recommended for funding.	
	Action: The Board requested further advice regarding the extent to which the Local Government Reorganisation process, and in particular the issuing of a Section 24 Direction, might represent a risk to the delivery of the shortlisted projects, to be provided to HPPB by correspondence in advance of the HCC Cabinet meeting on 7 July.		SM
8	AOB		
8.1	James Knowles (Vice Chancellor of Southampton Solent University) has been nominated by the four universities to replace Sarah Greer on HPPB on an interim basis. This will be revisited when new Vice Chancellors for the universities of Winchester and Southampton are in post. The Chair and the Board expressed their gratitude to Sarah for her contribution to the Board and the Hampshire Skills Partnership, and wished her well for the future.		