

Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board

Date: Tuesday 9 September 2025

Time: 2 – 4pm

Location: PETA, 1 Access Point, Northarbour Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire,
PO6 3TE

Present:

Cllr Nick Adams-King – HCC	Ross McNally – Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
Barney Ely – Hays	Sarah Greer – University of Winchester
Fiona Stilwell – PETA	Simon Watson – Milestone Infrastructure
Joanna Butler – Butler Farms	Natalie Wigman – HCC
Julie Milburn – Sparsholt College Group	Stephen Martin – HCC
Mark Smith – University of Southampton	Jamie Mackay – HCC
Cllr Martin Tod – Winchester CC	
Nicola Kildunne – FSB	

Apologies: Alastair Welch – ABP
Cllr Gareth Williams – Rushmoor BC
Laura Read – Marwell Wildlife
Paul West
Cllr Phil North – Test Valley BC
Cllr Zoe Huggins – HCC

		Action
1.	Welcome	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Julie Milburn as the new representative for Further Education. Apologies were noted, as listed above. The Board thanked Fiona Stillwell and PETA for hosting the meeting.	
2.	Minutes of last meeting	
2.1	These were noted as an accurate reflection.	

3.	Action points from last meeting	
3.1	There was an outstanding action point about considering risk, as part of the next implementation update to the Board. Stephen Martin proposed that this should be included in the November meeting.	SM
4.	Conflicts of interest	
4.1	No conflicts of interest were declared.	
5.	Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation	
5.1	<p>The Chair provided a verbal update on devolution and local government reorganisation.</p> <p>In respect of devolution, the Government has now confirmed that we can proceed with our plans for a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA). The first mayoral election will take place on 7 May 2026. Work is underway on the Statutory Instrument that will create the MCCA. Also, a joint programme is now in place across the upper tier local authorities to prepare for devolution, including putting in place the structure that will be in effect from day one of the Mayor taking office.</p> <p>In respect of local government reorganisation, the Chair confirmed that local authorities were required to submit detailed proposals to the Government by 26 September. The proposal developed by Hampshire County Council and East Hampshire District Council was for three unitary councils on the mainland plus one on the Isle of Wight. There was a second proposal, developed by 12 local authorities, for four mainland unitaries plus the Isle of Wight. Following the submission of proposals, the Government would decide how to proceed.</p> <p>[Note – Hampshire County Council published its final proposal on 16 September: https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250916LGRproposal]</p> <p>The Chair noted that one effect of these processes had been closer working between local authorities across Hampshire and the Solent.</p> <p>The Board asked how they might be able to support these changes. There was a role for them to play in helping to communicate what was happening. It was also anticipated that once elected, the Mayor would want views on how to engage with the business and education sectors.</p>	
6	Get Hampshire Working Plan	
6.1	The Chair introduced Jamie Mackay to give an overview of the draft Get Hampshire Working Plan and explain what the ask was of HPPB.	

	<p>Jamie presented some slides (circulated in advance of the meeting) and asked HPPB to comment on the draft Plan, and to recommend it for approval by HCC.</p> <p>The group welcomed and commended the draft Plan and provided some feedback that they would like to see applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure there are cross-reference points to the DWP's six key issues through the Plan.</i> • <i>Highlight the focus on challenges for women, especially in Priority 1.</i> • <i>Tone - soften the point about those economically inactive & retired early - recognition that for some, they are able to and don't need to return to labour market</i> • <i>How do we measure [effective] success? (This will be picked up in workstream groups)</i> • <i>Communication is key: LinkedIn campaign to businesses to raise profile, create volunteering opportunities as well as jobs.</i> <p>It was agreed to endorse the work and recommend approval by Hampshire County Council, subject to the feedback being applied.</p>	JaM
7	Approach to use of LEP legacy reserves	
7.1	<p>The Chair invited Stephen Martin to talk through the proposed approach to the use of the LEP legacy reserves, and in particular the proposed approach to an initial call for projects. Key points made by Board members in response were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper proposed that business organisations would be eligible to be the lead bidder for funding, but that individual businesses would not. Given this, it would be important for lead bidders to be able to put forward proposals for projects that would benefit groups of individual businesses. • The assessment criteria for project proposals should more strongly incentivise collaborative approaches. • It would be important to ensure that the use of these funds: (a) was clearly differentiated from other existing funding streams; and (b) was used to leverage new funding from other sources e.g. relating to the Industrial Strategy. • The proposed £10m limit on the funding to be distributed through the initial call for projects should be reconsidered. There was a good argument for having the flexibility to allocate any amount of funding up to the total currently available, subject to project proposals being of high quality. 	

	The HPPB paper for this agenda item would also be discussed with the Districts and Boroughs at the next meeting of the Joint Leaders Board, on 22 September. HPPB would then be presented with a final proposal for approval at the next meeting, on 6 October.	
8	AOB	
8.1	Connect to Work update – Stephen Martin briefly referenced the update paper, circulated ahead of the meeting.	
8.2	Ross McNally mentioned the upcoming ‘SO GROW’ event on 8 October – a business symposium that will bring together 200 of Southampton’s most forward-thinking leaders to explore new opportunities, drive collaboration, and set a strategic course for Southampton’s economic development.	

Next Meeting: Monday 6 October, 11am – 1pm at Hampshire County Council.