

Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board

Date: Wednesday 14 May

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Location: University of Southampton, Office of the President and Vice-Chancellor, Building 37, Highfield Campus

Present:

Alastair Welch – ABP (Vice Chair)	Fiona Stilwell – PETA Limited
Cllr Martin Tod – Winchester CC	James Hassett – Solent Freeport
Cllr Gareth Williams – Rushmoor BC	Natalie Wigman – HCC
Mike Gaston – HSDC	Stephen Martin – HCC
Nicola Kildunne – FSB	Teresa Hogsbjerg – HCC (minutes)
	Rob Nash – HCC (guest speaker)
	Fiona Maxwell – Public Health (guest speaker)

Apologies:

- Nick Adams-King – HCC (Chair)
- Carolyn Williamson – HCC
- Gary Westbrook – HCC
- Cllr Phil North – Test Valley BC
- Joanna Butler – Butler Farms
- Paul West – Independent marketing consultant
- Ross McNally – Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
- Mark Smith – University of Southampton
- Sarah Greer – University of Winchester
- Laura Read – Marwell Wildlife
- Barney Ely – Hays
- Simon Watson – Milestone Infrastructure

		Action
1.	Welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW (Chair for this meeting) welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies • AW thanked University of Southampton for hosting 	
2.	Minutes of Last meeting	
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments were made on the previous minutes 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes agreed 	
3.	Action points from last meeting	
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All actions were completed, and the outcome of the following actions were proposed to come to the June meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online Business Support Hub ○ Public Health – Year of Health and Wellbeing 	
4.	Item 4 - Conflicts of interest – any verbal declarations	
4.1	None	
5.	Item 5 - Devolution and local government reorganisation – verbal update	
5.1	<p>NW introduced this item covering the latest position on Devolution and the Government response to the Local Government Reorganisation submission earlier in the year.</p> <p>Devolution working groups are being established by the upper tier authorities. This includes working out who else needs to be a part of the groups. Each group will cover the issues and opportunities across Hampshire and the Solent which should have priority for going forward into the MCA. The working groups are aligned with each policy area set out in the Devolution White Paper – with an additional policy area on Creative, Culture and Visitor Economy.</p>	
6	Item 6 - Draft Economy and Growth Plan	
6.1	<p>SM Introduced the paper to the board and provided the following key information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economy and Growth Plan flows from the economic strategy for Hampshire and incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Priority workstreams agreed with HPPB ○ Business as usual actions e.g. Growth Hub and Careers Hub ○ Other key HCC activities that support economic growth e.g. Public Health • Final sign-off of the plan by HCC is expected towards the end of June. <p>The board discussed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was clarified that the Joint Leaders Board will have an opportunity to review the document before publication. • Work is being undertaken now to create the foundation for future engagement with a Mayor, whilst also continuing to deliver business-as-usual. • Emphasis on understanding and responding to Hampshire's needs even where funding is not currently available, as devolution will enable tailoring of local solutions over time. • FE Colleagues are seeking clearer information about how HE partners will engage with local authorities post 	

	<p>devolution and LGR, and the respective roles of the Mayoral Combined County Authority and the upper-tier authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for clearer messaging about the geographical scope of our sector/cluster work, recognising that business-led clusters operate across local authority boundaries. <p>Action: Update the board on the approach to implementation of the Economy and Growth Plan, at a future meeting.</p>	HCC
7	Item 7 - Connect to Work – initial briefing and approach to employer engagement	
7.1	<p>RN introduced the item and provided an overview of the Connect to Work programme.</p> <p>The Board raised the following points about the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The link between Connect to Work and the Armed Forces Covenant. • Whether there are any financial incentives for employers to participate in the programme. • The approach to commissioning and procurement – this will be via an established skills procurement framework which is open to new suppliers. • The approach to engaging employers. The Connect to Work Team are working with different networks to engage with businesses as well as going out on a roadshow to get in front of employers. The programme will create marketing materials, including case studies and peer contributions. • The need to raise small businesses' awareness of social value. • The longevity of support for businesses participating in the programme, and what further support might be put in place. <p>The Board were happy to support the programme, and in particular to support business engagement.</p>	
8	Item 8 - Super Cluster update	
8.1	<p>TH introduced the item to the board providing an update from the exploratory meeting of the Super Cluster, and an overview of the proposed approach.</p> <p><u>What Are We Delivering?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Business Forum that acts as a bridge between strategic leadership (e.g., HPPB) and the broader business ecosystem. • A platform for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing updates and strategic direction. ○ Gathering insights and feedback from businesses. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Co-developing initiatives (e.g., skills, innovation, growth). <p><u>How Are We Delivering It?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular, structured meetings (e.g., quarterly) with clear agendas and outcomes. • Small, focused working groups for the identified projects to ensure meaningful dialogue. • Cross-sector representation to reflect the diversity of the business landscape. • Integration with existing structures (e.g., Chambers, Skills Partnership, clusters). <p><u>Governance & Participation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A core team or steering group to coordinate and set direction. • Broad range of members to cover the breadth of industry across Hampshire and the Solent. • A representative from HPPB to attend. Ensures strategic alignment and feedback loop to the board. <p><u>Principles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a talking shop – focused on action and outcomes. • Inclusive and representative – engaging a broad range of voices. • Transparent and responsive – clear mechanisms for follow-up and accountability. • Map and gap – identify overlaps and opportunities across existing groups. <p>The board discussed the need for the forum to be clear as to its scope to avoid duplication of work.</p> <p>The following next steps were agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft terms of reference for the forum, including a clear set of objectives to ensure that there is no risk of duplication. 2. Confirm Chair. It was agreed that an HPPB member should attend meetings of the forum, but that it was not necessary for the Chair to be an HPPB member. 3. Establish working groups for the forum’s proposed projects. 	
9	Item 9 - HPPB and Economy and Skills – overview of 2024/25	
9.1	<p>SM presented the paper to the board.</p> <p>ACTION: SM to contact Board members to request feedback on how the Board is working 12 months in, either via email or a one-to-one discussion.</p>	HCC
10	Item 10 - LEP legacy reserves	
10.1	SM presented to the board the sources of the LEP legacy reserves and the 2024/25 year-end position. Key points from the discussion were as follows:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was confirmed that the LEP legacy reserves have been ringfenced by HCC for spend associated with economic development, and that HPPB's role was to make recommendations relating to their use, as set out in the report for the Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Decision Day in December 2024: Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board-2024-12-05-EMH2050 Decision Day • The board welcomed the transparency around the figures, and the opportunity to discuss what the priorities should be and move to the delivery of activities. • The board requested a forecast of income in future years. It would also be helpful to understand the success of past and current investments, and other funding sources that might be available, alongside the LEP legacy reserves. The forthcoming Spending Review should provide more information about the latter. • The implications of forthcoming devolution and LGR would also need to be considered. <p>SM proposed as a next step bringing a broad options paper to the June board meeting for discussion. This would enable development of a proposed approach for agreement in September. ACTION</p>	HCC
11	Item 11 - AOB	
11.1	None	

Next Meeting:

9 June – 14:00 – 16:00 Mitchell Room, Queen Elizabeth II Court, Winchester