

Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board

Date: 14 November 2024

Time: 15:45 – 17:30

Location: Galahad, HCC

Present:

Cllr Nick Adams-King – HCC	Nicola Kildunne – FSB
Gary Westbrook - HCC	Ross McNally – Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
Natalie Wigman - HCC	Sarah Greer – University of Winchester
Cllr Phil North – Test Valley BC	James Hassett – Solent Freeport
Cllr Martin Tod – Winchester CC	Joanna Butler – Butler Farms
Alastair Welch – ABP	Paul West
Barney Ely – Hays	Stephen Martin - HCC
Mike Gaston – HSDC	Teresa Hogsbjerg – HCC
Simon Watson – Milestone Infrastructure	

Apologies: Fiona Stilwell – PETA Limited
 Cllr Zoe Huggins, Carolyn Williamson - HCC
 Cllr Gareth Williams – Leader, Rushmoor BC
 Laura Read – Marwell Wildlife
 Mark Smith – University of Southampton

		Action
1.	Welcome	
	NAK welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.	
2.	Minutes of Last meeting	
2.1	NAK asked if there were any comments to be made on the minutes from the last meeting. RM missed off attendance list. Minutes agreed, with the following amendment: 4.1 – why government should * here... please change to *invest here	HCC

3.	Action points from last meeting	
3.1	NAK provided an overview of the actions from last meeting All actions complete	
4.	October Budget – Key Announcements	
4.1	<p>SM presented an update on the Government’s Budget 2024</p> <p>MG – one year left of LSIF which is instrumental in connecting FE and the skills sector – FE sector concerned about devolution, how this is taken forward. Loss of LEP funding for major projects is a concern too.</p> <p>SM – Regarding the LSIP/LSIF framework, we are awaiting information from government on what is next as this work is only funded to March</p> <p>RM – Correct, we are still waiting for confirmation from DfE / Skills England</p> <p>MG – Risk of loss of momentum for Hampshire linked to skills devolution</p> <p>SM – Significant lead time to the implementation of devolved skills commissioning. Next year (25/26) devolution unlikely to impact</p> <p>RM - Budget did not land very well with businesses – impact on them is significant and likely to affect growth</p> <p>CllrPN – Devolution is likely to delay improved funding for local government. What happens to social care and other local services in the meantime?</p> <p>JH – Previous experience in Somerset was that when the Districts couldn't agree reorganisation after 18 months the Secretary of State made the decision</p> <p>CllrMT – Scale of Hampshire is an issue, Hampshire as a whole is too big to be a single unitary. The majority of the money will go into adult social care with nothing left for discretionary things which are often locally important. There needs to be a focus on deprivation, to make it clear there are some real social issues in the South East and it isn't all affluent. Current views of the South East mean that the area is at the back of the queue.</p>	
5.	Industrial Strategy consultation paper	
5.1	<p>TH presented an update on the Industrial Strategy consultation paper and proposed some areas of focus for Hampshire’s response.</p> <p>JH – Clear and concise response needed</p>	

	<p>RM – Agreed with the focus areas and outlined the Hampshire Chamber view</p> <p>Aim to get Hampshire “on the map” in the final version of the Industrial Strategy due in Spring 2025</p> <p>Full consultation response to be circulated to HPPB</p>	TH
6	HPPB Priorities	
6.1	<p>SM presented the work undertaken so far and the draft prioritisation process.</p> <p>The difference between HPPB priorities and business as usual activities carried out by the Economy and Skills team was explained.</p> <p>The Board considered the proposed prioritisation process, including the proposed criteria. It would be important to identify gaps where HPPB could make a difference. In some cases, HPPB might conclude that an issue was a high priority for Hampshire, but that HPPB would not be focusing its work, or would only have limited influence, in this area.</p> <p>There was a discussion about whether to bring in stakeholders at this point, and what that process might look like. It was decided it would be better to engage specific stakeholders on the priorities once identified, as engaging too many people from the start would make it far harder to pin down specific priorities.</p> <p>CllrPN – Funding – how can the Board make interventions with limited funding of its own? Need to try and secure other public funding and consider our own resources. One of the key benefits of the Board is lobbying government through harnessing the business voice.</p> <p>We need to create hooks for Government investment. What are we doing or want to do locally that meets with Government priorities and how do we articulate that?</p> <p>RM – We need to understand what outcomes we want to achieve and how to achieve them. We also need to promote the region. Government needs to understand the challenges we are facing. Skills and employment are a big priority – ensuring the right skills and knowledge locally is part of the key infrastructure for growth.</p> <p>AW – We need to create an environment where businesses can flourish – we should focus on creating an environment where businesses are going to invest.</p> <p>CllrPN – Support for rural businesses is important – it would be good to have a rural business hub.</p>	

	<p>JH – We need to focus on our bedrock industries and attract inward investment.</p> <p>SG – Looking at the capitals framework, we should consider what are our local capitals, our areas of distinctiveness – what do we need to shout about, and how do we use that information?</p> <p>The proposed prioritisation process was agreed, to be brought back to HPPB in January.</p>	
7	Conflicts of Interest	
	<p>SM explained that we had been reminded during a recent update to government that economic growth boards are expected to have a published conflicts of interest policy.</p> <p>It was agreed to modify the documentation previously used by EM3 LEP and bring this to a future meeting for review and agreement.</p>	HCC
8	AOB	
8.1	<p>Devolution update – NAK</p> <p>Devolution white paper expected to be published in early December – alongside devolution there will be local government reform i.e. unitarisation – the recent County Council Network conference considered views on how devolution could impact on different types of authorities</p> <p>MG – Deeper levels of funding devolution could cause fragmentation and have knock on impacts for the skills sector</p> <p>Transport for South East – SW volunteered to sit on the Business Board</p>	

Next Meeting:

- 6 January 2025 – Axis Conference Centre, Southampton Science Park – 14:00 – 16:00