

Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board

Date: Monday 24 November 2025

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Location: ABP Southampton

Present:

Cllr Nick Adams-King – HCC	Cllr Gareth Williams – Rushmoor BC
Fiona Stilwell – PETA	Laura Read – Marwell Wildlife
Julie Milburn – Sparsholt College Group	Paul West – Marketing Consultant
Mark Smith – University of Southampton	Simon Watson – M Group
Cllr Martin Tod – Winchester CC	Stephen Martin – HCC
Nicola Kildunne – FSB	Jamie McKay – HCC
Alastair Welch – ABP	Teresa Hogsbjerg – HCC
Sarah Greer – University of Winchester	Michelle McClean – HCC
Ross McNally – Hampshire Chamber of Commerce	

Apologies: Natalie Wigman – HCC
 Joanna Butler – Butler Farms
 Cllr Phil North – Test Valley BC
 Cllr Zoe Huggins – HCC

		Action
1.	Welcome	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked ABP for hosting.	
2.	Minutes of last meeting	
2.1	All were happy with the minutes.	

3.	Action points from last meeting	
3.1	Actions from the previous meeting were cleared or to be covered during this meeting.	
4.	Conflicts of interest	
4.1	No conflicts of interest were declared.	
5.	Devolution and LGR – verbal update	
5.1	<p>The Chair discussed the current situation with Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire and the Solent.</p> <p>The Devolution programme was progressing well. The programme was running a process to recruit statutory officers for the combined authority on an interim basis.</p> <p>Regarding local government reorganisation, the Government had just launched a consultation on options, closing on the 11th of January, and stakeholders were encouraged to feed in their views.</p>	
6	Hampshire Skills Strategy	
6.1	<p>JM introduced the draft Hampshire Skills Strategy which had been circulated.</p> <p>The Hampshire Skills Partnership had met on the 7 November and provided feedback. The strategy was due to go to Hampshire County Council Cabinet for formal adoption on 9 December.</p> <p>JM requested comments from the Board. Key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that there were several other related strategies, including the Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) and the Get Hampshire Working Plan and the Get Solent Working Plan. Devolution would also result in new plans for Hampshire and the Solent, including a Local Growth Plan. It would be important to ensure that strategies and plans were harmonised, and to simplify the landscape as far as possible. • It was noted that there were significant differences of scope and focus between the Hampshire Skills Strategy and the LSIPs. • It would be important to be clear about how the implementation of the strategy would be resourced, including coordination by Hampshire County Council, and partnership working with the Districts and Boroughs, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, and other partners. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy covered all the areas expected. It would be desirable to emphasise the connections with the Government's Industrial Strategy, and how the Hampshire Skills Strategy would support Hampshire's sectoral strengths. <p>Action: Correct "Solent University" to "Southampton Solent University".</p> <p>The Board recommended the strategy for approval by Hampshire County Council.</p>	JM
7	Current work on cluster development	
7.1	TH and MM presented an update on the team's work on cluster development and business support. The Board expressed their appreciation for the work of the team.	
8	Implementation overview, including key risks	
8.1	SM presented an overview of progress in implementing the priority workstreams agreed with HPPB in March, including key risks and mitigations. The Board acknowledged all of the work undertaken during the year to date.	
9	AOB	
9.1	<p>RM informed the Board about thinking within the business community about organising Mayoral hustings. It was noted that it would not be appropriate for Hampshire County Council to be involved with these.</p> <p>SM updated the Board on the LEP Legacy Reserves call for projects. This would go live before the end of the month, with a closing date of 16th January 2026. Stakeholders would be emailed directly to notify them.</p> <p>Following Barney Ely's resignation, JM mentioned the opportunity for an HPPB member to join the Hampshire Skills Partnership. The HPPB thanked Barney for his contribution to the Board.</p> <p>Action: Email the Board with details of the Hampshire Skills Partnership and the nature of the role.</p>	JM