

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Officer Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Felicity Roe, Director of Culture, Community and Business Services
<b>Date:</b>	15 August 2019
<b>Title:</b>	To merge the four coronial areas in Hampshire into one

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### 1. The decision:

- 1.1 To merge the four coronial areas in Hampshire into one, under the management of Hampshire County Council.

### 2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1 All three Senior Coroners for the whole of Hampshire, including Portsmouth and Southampton, are retiring during 2019. Between them they cover 4 coroner area jurisdictions.
- 2.2 The County Council currently manages three of the coroner area jurisdictions (Central Hampshire, Southampton and the New Forest and North East Hampshire) and Portsmouth City Council one (Portsmouth and South East Hampshire). National policy, established by the Chief Coroner, is to merge smaller coronial areas when Senior Coroners retire.
- 2.3 In this case the Chief Coroner has confirmed that he wants the four areas to merge into one, under the management of Hampshire County Council. Portsmouth City Council has agreed to this approach and the merger will formally occur once the Statutory instrument has been approved by Parliament.
- 2.4 Portsmouth City Council will pay the County Council, as appropriate, for the coroner work undertaken on its behalf.

### 3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 Keeping the status quo – this was rejected because the Chief Coroner wants to reduce the number of small coronial areas across the country.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1 None

**5. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:**

5.1 None

**6. Supporting information:**

6.1 Business Case attached at Appendix 1

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**16 August 2019**

**Felicity Roe  
Director of Culture, Community and Business  
Services**