

## NOTICE OF MEETING

<b>Meeting</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date and Time</b>	Tuesday, 15th March, 2022 at 10.30 am
<b>Place</b>	Ashburton Hall, Ell Court, Winchester
<b>Enquiries to</b>	members.services@hants.gov.uk

Carolyn Williamson FCPFA  
Chief Executive  
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

## FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

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## AGENDA

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 20)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

**4. DEPUTATIONS**

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements the Chairman may wish to make.

**6. LEARNING TO LIVE WITH COVID-19 AND WORKING TOWARDS ECONOMIC RECOVERY** (Pages 21 - 64)

To consider a report of the Chief Executive regarding the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and work on economic recovery.

**7. LOCAL REGENERATION AND GROWTH PARTNERSHIPS WITH DISTRICT LOCAL AUTHORITIES** (Pages 65 - 80)

To consider a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment regarding Local Regeneration and Growth Partnerships with District Local Authorities.

**8. SCHOOL STREETS** (Pages 81 - 96)

To consider a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment providing an update on the Hampshire School Streets Pilot.

**9. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH 2021-22. COVID-19: ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES IN MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING ACROSS HAMPSHIRE.** (Pages 97 - 136)

To consider the annual report of the Director of Public Health.

**10. SCHOOL ORGANISATION - AMENDMENT TO CURRENT DECISION-MAKING ARRANGEMENTS** (Pages 137 - 144)

To consider a report of the Director of Children's Services regarding decision making arrangements for decisions relating to school organisation.

**ABOUT THIS AGENDA:**

**On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.**

**ABOUT THIS MEETING:**

**The press and public are welcome to attend the public sessions of the meeting. If you have any particular requirements, for example if you require wheelchair access, please contact [members.services@hants.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@hants.gov.uk) for assistance.**

County Councillors attending as appointed members of this Committee or by virtue of Standing Order 18.5; or with the concurrence of the Chairman in connection with their duties as members of the Council or as a local County Councillor qualify for travelling expenses.

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# Agenda Item 3

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle, Winchester on Tuesday, 8th February, 2022

Chairman:

\* Councillor Keith Mans

\* Councillor Rob Humby  
\* Councillor Roz Chadd  
\* Councillor Liz Fairhurst  
\* Councillor Steve Forster

\* Councillor Edward Heron  
\* Councillor Russell Oppenheimer  
\* Councillor Stephen Reid  
\* Councillor Jan Warwick

\* Present

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillors Carpenter, Glen, Hayre, House and Philpott.

## 37. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All Cabinet Members were present and no apologies were noted

## 38. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

Members were reminded of a general dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel relating to the Revenue Budget and Precept item. This dispensation enables Members with a beneficial interest in land within the administrative area of the County Council to participate and vote in County Council business relating to the setting of Council Tax or Precepts. It was therefore taken as read that all Cabinet Members had declared an interest in item 7 on the agenda.

## 39. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2021 were reviewed and agreed.

40. **DEPUTATIONS**

It was confirmed that no requests to make a deputation had been received. It was noted that Councillor House would speak on a number of items on the agenda, with the agreement of the Chairman.

41. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made announcements relating to the Covid-19 pandemic; noting that recovery from the impacts of the virus was progressing in numerous areas, including an increasing return to the office by County Council officers.

With regards to the recently published Levelling Up White Paper, the Chairman noted that Hampshire hadn't expected to be in the first wave of County Deals, but that the work undertaken to date meant it was well placed when an opportunity arose. It was highlighted that alongside a possible County Deal, consideration was being given with partners to an economic prosperity board to enable closer working for the benefit of the people of Hampshire.

42. **LEARNING TO LIVE WITH COVID-19 AND WORKING TOWARDS ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive regarding the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the agreement of the Leader, Councillor House addressed Cabinet, welcoming the detailed economic analysis in the report. Highlighting that Hampshire would not be amongst the first to receive a County Deal, he asked for more detail on the County's position.

Cabinet felt that Hampshire was in a stronger position than many areas to take advantage of opportunities arising from the Levelling Up White Paper and noted that close attention would be paid to the governance models being progressed in Devon, which had a similar mixture of County and Unitary authorities.

With reference to the report, key trends in the public health position were highlighted to Cabinet, in particular that infection levels were again decreasing and children under 14 were the group most impacted due to mixing at school and lower vaccination levels. The majority of those infected were not becoming seriously ill and therefore pressure on acute hospital facilities were limited. The vaccination programme was focussed on those who remained unvaccinated. It was furthermore drawn to Cabinet's attention that pressures within Adult and Children's Services remained high, however school attendance in the county was above the national average.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed with amendments and additions to recognise the opportunities set out in the White Paper. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

43. **REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2022/23**

Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Operations regarding the revenue budget and precept 2022/23.

With the agreement of the Leader, Councillor House addressed Cabinet. He recognised the difficulty of budget setting when income didn't match long term cost pressures and, noting that this appeared to particularly affect upper tier counties, asked what direction should be taken to address the deficit.

The serious issues with local government financing were acknowledged by Cabinet, who agreed that a reset was needed and highlighted the need to separate the funding for local discretionary services from statutory service provision.

The report was introduced and it was noted that this was an interim year in the budget setting cycle. Changes since the budget was originally set were highlighted and pressures in the areas of Adult Services, Children's Services, National Insurance increases and energy cost inflation were detailed. It was explained how the budget could be balanced for 2022/23 and 2023/24 through the use of the budget bridging reserve, however the longer term inflationary pressures meant that a significant deficit was anticipated beyond that. The solution to these longer term pressures lay with government, in particular with the funding of social care and it was confirmed that a discussion with senior civil servants was scheduled to discuss the issues.

Cabinet welcomed the pragmatic budget set out in the report and recognised the need for long term flexibility and support. The unpredictability of inflationary pressures and the potential for prices to continue to rise was acknowledged.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

**44. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2024/25**

Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Operations regarding the capital programme 2022/23 – 2024/25.

The update on the ongoing capital programme was introduced and it was highlighted in particular that approval was sought for additional funding for a number of previously approved schemes where inflation had increased the projected cost.

Cabinet welcomed the scale of the capital programme and the positive balance of projects around the county. A number of key projects, including those relating to waste management, flood defences and highways were highlighted in particular and the overall benefit to the wider local economy was recognised.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

**45. SERVING HAMPSHIRE – 2021/22 HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Cabinet considered a report of the Director of HR, OD, Communications and Engagement presenting the 2021/22 half year performance report.

An oversight of the performance for the first half of 2021/22 against the performance management framework in the strategic plan was presented to Cabinet with reference to the report. It was noted that performance had been high and details of the risk analysis were set out. The outcomes of a recent inspection of Children's Services was highlighted.

Cabinet recognised and welcomed that the County Council's business had continued with excellent results despite the pressures from Covid.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

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Chairman,



## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	8 February 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Learning to live with Covid-19 and working towards Economic Recovery
<b>Report From:</b>	Chief Executive

**Contact name:** Carolyn Williamson, Chief Executive

**Tel:** 01962 845252

**Email:** Carolyn.williamson@hants.gov.uk

#### 1. The decision:

That Cabinet

- 1.1. Note the position on economic recovery action taken and the opportunities that arise for the region through the prospects of a County Deal and the potentially significant contribution a Deal could make to both the strength and nature of that economic recovery as outlined in the report, as well as an opportunity to secure wider public services reform and enhanced place leadership at different spatial levels.
- 1.2. Notes the opportunities that were set out in the Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper and endorses the continuing work and direction of travel of a Pan Hampshire County Deal, and aligned devolution opportunities potentially beyond the Pan-Hampshire geography involving bordering areas, as set out in the White Paper, the draft County Deal Prospectus attached at Annex 4 and the further opportunities developed through workshops with key stakeholders in November and December and recommends that the County Council note and endorse the continuing work and direction of travel of a Pan Hampshire County Deal, and aligned devolution opportunities potentially beyond the Pan-Hampshire geography involving bordering areas, as set out in this report and in line with the White Paper.
- 1.3. Following the publication of the Government's White Paper for Levelling-Up, the Cabinet endorses the continued work and direction of travel for a Hampshire County Deal, to include the Unitary Authorities should they wish. In addition, that the County Council will continue the work that has been carried out towards the creation of an Economic Prosperity Board which will ideally include Surrey and the Unitary Authorities.
- 1.4. Note that through the implementation of the COVID vaccination programme the link between infection rates and hospitalisation and

deaths has been largely broken. Nevertheless, as a society and in our role as the public health authority there is a need to manage rates of infections.

1.5. Note the contents of this report as a further summary of the exceptional events and recovery actions taken by the County Council concerning the COVID-19 crisis, bearing in mind that this remains a high-level analysis of what continues to be such a substantial and potentially fast changing crisis.

1.6. Continue to recognise the on-going exceptional commitment and flexibility of the staff of the County Council as the crisis has progressed.

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

2.1. To provide Cabinet with an update on the Covid crisis as it is affecting the County Council, as an organisation and for the residents of the county and the progress on economic recovery, particularly with respect to the County Deal.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. None.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

<b>Approved by:</b>  -----  <b>Chairman of Cabinet Councillor Keith Mans</b>	<b>Date:</b>  <b>8 February 2022</b>
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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	8 February 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Revenue Budget and Precept 2022/23
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Corporate Operations

**Contact name:** Rob Carr

**Tel:** 01962 847400

**Email:** Rob.carr@hants.gov.uk

#### 1. The decision:

That Cabinet

1.1 Notes the latest position for the current year as compared to that reported to the last Cabinet.

1.2 Approves the updated cash limits for departments for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2.

1.3 Delegates authority to the Director of Corporate Operations, following consultation with the Leader and the Chief Executive to make changes to the budget following Cabinet to take account of new issues, changes to figures notified by District Councils or any late changes in the final Local Government Finance Settlement

#### **Recommends to County Council that:**

- a) The Treasurer's report under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 (Appendix 6) be taken into account when the Council determines the budget and precept for 2022/23.
- b) The Revised Budget for 2021/22 set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
- c) The Revenue Budget for 2022/23 (as set out in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4) be approved.
- d) Revenue funding of £3.783m in 2022/23 to progress the Strategic Land Programme is approved together with the ongoing commitment in future years as set out in paragraph 60.
- e) Revenue funding of £0.5m in 2022/23 to develop highways schemes for grant bidding purposes is approved, to be met from savings in contingencies in 2021/22.

- f) Recurring revenue funding of £388,000 per annum be approved to cover the cost of unavoidable SharePoint licence costs
- g) The **council tax requirement** for the County Council for the year beginning 1 April 2022, be £738,072,349.
- h) The County Council's band D council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2022 be £1,390.86, an increase of 2.99%, of which 1% is specifically for adults' social care.
- i) The County Council's council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2022 for properties in each tax band be:

	<b>£</b>
Band A	927.24
Band B	1,081.78
Band C	1,236.32
Band D	1,390.86
Band E	1,699.94
Band F	2,009.02
Band G	2,318.10
Band H	2,781.72

- j) Precepts be issued totalling £738,072,349 on the billing authorities in Hampshire, requiring the payment in such instalments and on such date set by them previously notified to the County Council, in proportion to the tax base of each billing authority's area as determined by them and as set out below:

	<b>Tax base</b>
Basingstoke and Deane	67,823.40
East Hampshire	51,908.73
Eastleigh	48,373.35
Fareham	44,002.60
Gosport	27,154.20
Hart	41,815.86
Havant	41,771.36
New Forest	72,122.10
Rushmoor	32,795.29
Test Valley	51,338.00
Winchester	51,554.09

- k) The Capital & Investment Strategy for 2022/23 (and the remainder of 2021/22) as set out in Appendix 7 be approved.

l) The Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 (and the remainder of 2021/22) as set out in Appendix 8 be approved.

m) Authority is delegated to the Director of Corporate Operations to manage the County Council's investments and borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate.

**2. Reasons for the decision:**

2.1. The County Council must agree the 2022/23 budget and set the council tax for 2022/23 at its meeting on 17 February 2022. The Leader will present his budget speech and recommendations at the meeting. This report provides the background to those budget decisions and presents the recommendations from the Leader and Cabinet to the County Council.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. In effect the number of options for setting the budget are limitless and Leaders of the Opposition Groups may wish to present alternative recommendations on the budget and council tax at County Council as an amendment to the proposals.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**Chairman of Cabinet  
Councillor Keith Mans**

**8 February 2022**

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# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	8 February 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Corporate Operations

**Contact name:** Rob Carr

**Tel:** 0370 779 2467

**Email:** Rob.carr@hants.gov.uk

### 1. The decision:

That Cabinet:

- 1.1. Recommends to County Council that the capital programme for 2022/23 and the provisional programmes for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 be approved, including the identified carry forward of resources.
- 1.2. Approves the increase in the value of the Uplands Development Infrastructure (UDI) project of £1.498m (scheme total now £28.139m) and the wider master developer funding of £0.85m, using part of the enhanced forecast sale receipts following the successful marketing of the initial phase of development on the Woodhouse Meadows site, together with a 'windfall' compensation payment from Scottish and Southern Electric (paragraph 70)
- 1.3. Approves the £1.856m increase in the capital programme value of the Botley Bypass scheme from £21.675m to £23.531m (including the Botley Village enhancements scheme), with the increase to be funded by additional developer contributions and enhanced forecast capital receipts arising from the sale of the Uplands Farm developments sites. (paragraph 74)
- 1.4. Approves the £1.021m increase in the capital programme value of the Hartford Bridge Flats Junction Improvements Phase 2 – Fourth Arm scheme from £1.1m to £2.121m with the increase to be funded by a mix of S106 contributions and LEP funding. (paragraph 75)
- 1.5. Approves, subject to the Enterprise M3 LEP formally approving the additional funding, the £1.45m increase in the capital programme value of the Brighton Hill Roundabout improvements scheme from £19.3m to £20.75m with the increase to be funded by a mix of LEP funding (subject to formal confirmation) and S106 contributions. (paragraph 76)

1.6. Approves the £1.725m decrease of the Bedhampton Hill Roundabout signalisation scheme value from £2.925m to £1.200m, in the 2021/22 capital programme year. (paragraph 77)

1.7. Approves a virement of £1.03m from the Adults' Health and Care capital programme to the Culture Communities and Business Services revenue budget in the 2021/22 financial year to fund Health and Safety works within the Nursing and Residential estate, as set out in paragraph 78.

**Recommends to County Council that:**

1.8. The capital programme for 2022/23 and the provisional programmes for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 are approved, including the identified carry forward of resources

1.9. The capital programme value of the Stubbington Bypass scheme is increased by £2.701m from £39.295m to £41.996m, with the increase to be funded by a mix of Section 106 contributions, CAVAT funds, savings from Eclipse Busway scheme and Local Transport Plan funding (LTP). (paragraph 72)

1.10. The capital programme value of the Lynchford Road improvement scheme phase 1 is increased by £2.91m from £7.97m to £10.88m with the increase to be funded by a mix of S106 contributions and LTP funding. (paragraph 73)

**2. Reasons for the decision:**

2.1. The County Council must agree its capital programme at its meeting on 17 February 2022. The Leader will present his budget speech and recommendations at the meeting. This report provides the background to those budget decisions and presents the recommendations from the Leader and Cabinet to the County Council.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. Other options are not available as far as process and timetable are concerned, but the Leader of the Opposition may wish to present alternative recommendations on the capital programme at County Council, as an amendment to these proposals.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**



6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

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8 February 2022

**Chairman of Cabinet  
Councillor Keith Mans**

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**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**8 February 2022**

**Chairman of Cabinet  
Councillor Keith Mans**

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	15 March 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Learning to live with Covid-19 and working towards Economic Recovery
<b>Report From:</b>	Chief Executive

**Contact name:** Carolyn Williamson, Chief Executive

**Tel:** 01962 845252

**Email:** [carolyn.williamson@hants.gov.uk](mailto:carolyn.williamson@hants.gov.uk)

#### **Purpose of this Report**

1. This regular report to Cabinet summarises the County Council's continuing responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus for this report continues to be learning to live with Covid-19 and working towards economic recovery. As the crisis subsides and learning to live with Covid-19 becomes the norm, future reports will focus primarily on economic recovery unless there is a matter of significance to report.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

2. Note that, as the crisis subsides and learning to live with Covid-19 becomes the norm, future reports will focus primarily on economic recovery unless there is a matter of significance to report
3. Notes that in February 2022, the much-awaited government White Paper, Levelling Up the United Kingdom, was published, which will now guide the work regarding the County Deal as previously approved by Cabinet and County Council, with Cabinet continuing to endorse the direction of travel of this work as set out in this paper in line with previous recommendations detailed in Para 53.
4. Note the position on economic recovery action taken and the continued development of the opportunities that arise for the region through the prospects of a County Deal and the potentially significant contribution a Deal could make to both the strength and nature of that economic recovery as outlined in the report, as well as an opportunity to secure wider public services reform and enhanced place leadership at different spatial levels.

5. Note that through the implementation of the COVID vaccination programme the link between infection rates and hospitalisation and deaths has been largely broken. Nevertheless, as a society and in our role as the public health authority there is a need to manage rates of infections.
6. Note the contents of this report as a further summary of the exceptional events and recovery actions taken by the County Council concerning the COVID-19 crisis, bearing in mind that this remains a high-level analysis.
7. Continue to recognise the on-going exceptional commitment and flexibility of the staff of the County Council as the crisis has progressed.

### **Executive Summary**

8. This report, as its predecessor reports, attempts to provide Cabinet with a general update on the Covid crisis as it is affecting the County Council, as an organisation and for the residents of the county. Clearly every function and service, and every member of staff in the organisation, continue to be affected by the pandemic and continue to sustain the highest levels of professional practice against what have been often extreme, if now more common place, conditions particularly as we now learn to live with Covid-19.
9. As the crisis subsides and learning to live with Covid-19 becomes the norm, future reports will focus primarily on economic recovery unless there is a matter of significance to report
10. As before, inevitably there will be dimensions of this report which will be increasingly out of date immediately after publication. Officers will ensure any such issues are highlighted in the presentation of the report at the Cabinet meeting. This will particularly apply to the latest data on the transmission of the virus, the position of hospitals in Hampshire and the progress of the vaccination programme.
11. This report provides a full analysis of the economic impact and longer-term implications of the pandemic. It outlines those issues in more detail that the County Council continues to use its scale and influence to contribute to the county's and the sub-region's economic recovery going forward.
12. The report outlines the position on economic recovery and action taken alongside the continued development of the opportunities that arise for the County through the prospects of a County Deal and the potentially significant contribution a Deal could make to both the strength and nature of that economic recovery as well as an opportunity to secure wider public services reform and enhanced place leadership at different spatial levels. Since the last update, the Government White Paper on Levelling Up has now been published, giving greater clarity on the scope and nature of devolution arrangements and associated County Deals.

13. The implementation of the COVID vaccination programme and the link between infection rates and hospitalisation and deaths has been largely broken, with a strong push nationally regarding the Covid Booster and winter flu vaccinations. Nevertheless, as a society and in our role as the public health authority there is a need to manage rates of infections.
14. The report refers to the work of the County Council's Health Protection Board under the leadership of the Director of Public Health and in close liaison with the Leader-led Local Outbreak Engagement Board. That includes now routine and effective communications channels set between those boards and the leadership of district and borough councils within Hampshire County. While the pandemic will undoubtedly continue, as the crisis elements to the pandemic abate, there will be future consideration regarding the future role of the LOEB.
15. The report involves a detailed service by service analysis of the work of the County Council in terms of the pandemic. For the sake of clarity and brevity, those issues are drawn out here more on an exceptional basis for issues or circumstances that need to be highlighted.
16. Our communications and engagement activity has focused on changes to Government rules as a consequence of the relaxation of Plan B restrictions, as well as the ongoing roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination booster programme. Activity has focused on providing clear information to the public regarding the changes to restrictions, alongside a reminder of those still in place under Plan A, as well as encouraging ongoing adherence to key behaviours to help minimise the spread of infection.
17. Once again it is important that this report to Cabinet should pay regard to the continuing and unflagging commitment of the staff and managers of the County Council to sustain the highest levels of performance and service throughout this long and punishing crisis. As the crisis continues so too does the need for this commitment to be acknowledged and applauded.

### **Economic Impact and Recovery from Covid-19**

18. The impact of the pandemic on economic output in Hampshire (Hampshire & the Isle of Wight) in 2020 was enormous and most likely greater than nationally, due to its greater exposure to a wide range of consumer facing services, education, and transport related activities. The latest official data suggests that the impact on businesses and employment in Hampshire has been more modest but nevertheless greater than the national or regional average.
19. A wide range of business support measures that have been made available to businesses meant that the overall impact of the pandemic on businesses insolvencies in Hampshire has been relatively modest to date but nevertheless greater than the regional and national average. In March 2021 Hampshire had 0.3% fewer enterprises (about 265 enterprises) and 0.5% fewer local business units (about 490 local business units) than in March 2020.

20. Total employment in Hampshire (workplace-based employment) decreased by 37,000 or 4.1% in 2020 compared to a 2.5% decrease in the South East and -1.7% in the UK. Workplace employment in Southampton and the Isle of Wight decreased at a faster pace than the Hampshire average.
21. The employment impact of the pandemic on Hampshire's consumer facing local services, most notably accommodation & food, retail and lower value-added business support services was significant and much greater than on knowledge intensive traded services. The fall in employment on the local business support services (such as cleaning activities, travel agency & tour operator activities, activities of call centres etc.) accounted for a third of the overall fall in workplace employment in Hampshire in 2020.
22. Total employment in property and construction, agriculture, and knowledge intensive traded services such as finance & insurance and information & communication increased in 2020. Workplace-based employment in Hampshire's professional, scientific & technical services sector decreased but the decrease was modest and well below the fall in the 'all-sector average' employment.
23. The labour market has continued to recover much faster than expected and there is no evidence that would suggest that ending of the government job support schemes has affected the labour market in Hampshire. The number of people claiming unemployment related benefits decreased in both November and December. January saw a small increase in unemployment, most likely seasonal, but unemployment among young people had decreased on the previous month.
24. Timely employment data from HMRC (PAYE employee numbers) suggests that employment in Hampshire strengthened again at the beginning of this year. Hampshire had about 3,800 additional PAYE employees in January compared to December. Preliminary data suggests that employee numbers increased by 4.4% on the year and that the numbers stood at 1.1% (9,800 employees) above the pre-pandemic February 2020 peak. It is the self-employed workers that still struggle to recover fully from the last recession.
25. Employment has increased but there are signs of weakness in some leading indicators. The number of online job postings in Hampshire decreased in January. The fall was in part related to Omicron cases peaking and to seasonal factors. However, on this measure jobs demand in Hampshire was much weaker than in the South East. Nevertheless, by mid-February 2022 the number of online job postings in Hampshire was more than double the levels seen at the same time last year.
26. At the start of 2022, the largest single number of online job postings in Hampshire was among care workers and nurses, sales, hospitality, van driver, some elementary occupations and among some knowledge intensive occupations such as programmers and software developers. January saw some easing in demand for van drivers, nursing and some elementary occupations and stronger demand for programmers & software developers and some administrative occupations.



27. The latest official estimates of economic growth in the UK showed that a sharp fall in output in consumer-facing services such as accommodation & food, arts, entertainment & recreation, and retail, led to a 0.2% fall in economic output in the UK in December. Thanks to a relatively strong growth in business activity in October and November economic growth in the UK over the quarter was 1%, comparable to the growth in the third quarter.
28. A preliminary local estimate suggests that output growth in Hampshire was comparable to the national average in December. Estimated growth in Hampshire over the final quarter of last year (1.1%) was slightly faster than the national average but Hampshire's growth in the third quarter (about 0.8%) lagged the national average.
29. Economic growth in the final quarter of last year was more balanced than in the previous quarter when growth was dependent on consumer spending. In the fourth quarter consumer spending increased but this was accompanied by the increases in government spending, business and residential investment and exports.
30. Business investment in the fourth quarter expanded by just 0.9% thus this continues to suggest that product shortages and rising prices constrained sentiment and investment. Business investment was slightly lower than a year ago and 10.4% below its pre-pandemic level (Q4 2020). Exports increased by 4.9% on the quarter but exports were still 18% below their pre-pandemic level in the final quarter of 2019.
31. Omicron has taken some steam out of the recovery but the hit to output growth in December was limited and smaller than anticipated. This shows that the economy is increasingly able to cope with COVID-19 providing that the restrictions are not too severe. Survey evidence from purchasing managers suggests that business activity and the volume of new orders in the South East increased in January but we may still see a fall in economic growth in January as that is when Omicron cases peaked in Hampshire and the UK. Economic growth should rebound in February and March.
32. Inflation (CPI) increased by 5.5% in January, the highest rate since 1992 with retail prices increasing by 7.8%. Inflation is now expected to peak at 7.25% in April when the increase in the cap on household utility bills comes into effect. Ofgem's utility energy cap will increase by 54% in April, but the Chancellor is providing loans of £5.5bn and grants of £3.5bn to help households better cope with rising cost of living.
33. The further surge in inflation coupled with the rapid tightening of the labour market across the country has prompted the MPC to increase interest rates from 0.25% to 0.5% in February and start reversing quantitative easing. By raising interest rates and selling its holdings of corporate bonds the Bank has sent a signal that it is ready to take further steps to get on top of rising inflation and perhaps rising wage expectations and wage demands.

34. In tight labour markets workers might respond to higher inflation by demanding faster wage growth which in turn fuels a further increase in inflation. To prevent a wage-price spiral the Bank appears to be more hawkish with market expectations that the rates will rise to between 1.5% and 2% by mid-2023.
35. Consumer confidence fell to its lowest level in 13 months in February 2022 with sentiment dampened by rising inflation which suggests that the rising cost of living will restrain retail sales spending and growth this year. There is a strong possibility that the major headwinds from labour and supply shortages and rising inflation will continue to hamper Hampshire's growth over the short-term.
36. The Bank of England has revised down its economic growth forecast for this year from 3.75% to 3.25%. Based on the markets' expectations that interest rates will increase several times by mid-2023 the Bank now expects inflation to be much closer to its 2% target in two years' time and for inflation to fall back to 1.6% in three years' time. The Bank's outlook for the economy was produced in February before Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
37. The war in Europe is a threat to both economic growth and inflation but the direct impact on growth in the UK is likely to be relatively modest. According to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) the impact on the UK could be to reduce GDP growth by around 0.8% per cent in 2022 and by 0.5% in the following year.
38. Russia accounts for just 1.2% of Hampshire's exports of goods (£63m in 2020) with Ukraine accounting for just 0.2%. Hampshire is more exposed to imports from Russia (3.4% of all imports), Ukraine stands at just 0.1%, but imports from Russia are mostly metal, oil and gas products which have avoided most western sanctions. Energy imports from Russia are not essential since Russia accounts for less than 5% of UK natural gas supply. About half of UK natural gas supply is produced domestically with the rest supplied by Norway, Qatar, and US.
39. There could be larger secondary impacts through for example supply-chain spillovers which could impact on Hampshire' trade further downstream. By far the largest impact will manifest itself through higher oil, food, and domestic energy prices. Consumer and business sentiment and investment and UK public finances are vulnerable to higher inflation and interest rates.
40. Several private investors have made recent investments in Hampshire (Annex 1) and Hampshire's Economic Development service working jointly with DIT and local authority colleagues continues to support investment projects across Hampshire, the most recent project being an investment by TÜV SÜD, a Fareham-based German engineering firm.
41. The County's Economic Development Service has been supporting the French shipbuilder OCEA for over a year in their UK expansion plans. The Wight Shipyard Co. has announced an all-share merger with OCEA to create a multinational shipbuilder that would capitalise on the fast ferry and

offshore renewable energy markets opportunities. The Wight Shipyard Co. will nearly double in size, providing significant employment opportunities at the East Cowes yard.

42. In late December 2021 Government announced the introduction of grant support for hospitality and leisure businesses, the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant in recognition that the rise of the Omicron variant will impact on the sector. The new grant is in addition to the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) which allows local authorities to use their discretion to support other businesses in their area, based on local economic need.
43. As of 30 January 2022, local authorities in Hampshire received £22.1 million from the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant and had distributed £2.8 million. The grant was available from January, the scheme will close to applicants on 28 February and all final payments must be made and distributed to recipients by 31 March 2022. As of 30 January, Hampshire authorities received £74.5 million in ARG funding and had distributed £61.2 million. The remainder has to be administered by 31 March 2022.
44. The short-term economic recovery action planning continues to be undertaken by the County Council. The County Council understands that the recovery from Covid is going to be uneven at local level which places greater emphasis on place-based strategies and major regeneration initiatives, including breathing new life into our towns, city centres and high streets. The Council seeks to work on a collaborative basis with individual local authorities to develop bespoke place-based strategies and initiatives for faster recovery from Covid and stronger development and growth of Hampshire.
45. It is proposed that the foundation for this collaborative approach would be a stronger focus on co-production and co-delivery and a governance model that would involve Executive Lead Member for Economy Transport & Environment representing the County Council on strategic governance boards and the Executive Director for Economy Transport & Environment representing the County Council on delivery arrangements.
46. Replicating this model across all Local Authorities that share our aspirations for a collaborative approach to place-based initiatives through the development of local regeneration and growth partnerships and that are able to demonstrate how to accelerate economic recovery, is an emergent opportunity. This approach will bring consistency and coherence and allow for deeper insight into prioritisation as well as secure good practice and recovery from Covid. More detail is provided in the forthcoming March Cabinet Report.
47. The Solent Freeport represents a major nationally significant opportunity to transform Hampshire and rejuvenate its towns, cities and industrial sectors via major international inward investment, increased trade, new infrastructure investments (including unlocking new sites for development with additional fiscal incentives) and the growth of new knowledge intensive industries. It is estimated that the Freeport will generate £3.6bn in GVA and

over 52,000 jobs across the country, including over 26,000 jobs and £2bn GVA directly in the area.

48. The Freeport consists of tax sites and custom sites. Round one of the business case development has been approved by Government and as part of that process two of the three tax sites have been published and statutory instruments laid. The Solent freeport tax sites include: Dunsbury Park and Southampton Water site that consists of Fawley Complex, Fawley Waterside, Marchwood Port & Strategic Land Reserve and Redbridge (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maps-of-solent-freeport-tax-sites>). The Navigator Quarter site will be designated as a tax-free site in the next couple of months.
49. Solent Gateway has announced that planning consent has been granted for the development of Marchwood Port. The development of the port, subject to a section 106 agreement, will modernise its facilities and operations and bring new investment and jobs to the area.
50. Southampton's bid to become the UK City of Culture in 2025 is another major opportunity that could attract millions of pounds in additional investment, creating jobs and attracting thousands of visitors to Southampton and the rest of Hampshire.
51. A new monthly Economic Intelligence Dashboard has been developed for Hampshire County Council to keep abreast of the economic activity and to help inform progress. Attached as Annex 1 is the fourth issue of the Economic Intelligence Dashboard produced in early March 2022 that includes an overview of the current economic trends and business intelligence (the most up to date at the time of writing). Also attached at Annex 2 is an economic briefing on the Autumn Budget and Spending Review.

### **County Deal**

52. As has been previously reported, a County Deal has the potential to strengthen the economic recovery across Hampshire as a whole and deliver major strategic economic initiatives and programmes. It also provides the opportunity for major public services reform including securing new functions, powers, and resources to enhance place leadership at regional, sub-regional and local levels for the benefit of local residents.
53. In February 2022, the much-awaited government White Paper, Levelling Up the United Kingdom, was published. This sets out an ambition to extend, deepen and simplify devolution across the country, and commits to establishing a new model of Combined Authority that would enable devolution deals agreed by County Councils and/or Unitary Councils, encouraging collaboration where relevant with District Councils.
54. Within the White Paper the Government announced 9 Wave 1 areas which will be negotiated first. These are:

- Cornwall;
  - Derby and Derbyshire;
  - Devon, Plymouth and Torbay;
  - Durham;
  - Hull and East Yorkshire;
  - Leicestershire;
  - Norfolk;
  - Nottinghamshire and Nottingham; and
  - Suffolk
55. Notably these areas include a range of potential deals for single County Council areas (e.g., Leicestershire), single Unitary areas as well as those encompassing multiple authorities (e.g., Devon, Plymouth and Torbay).
56. The White Paper also sets the framework levels for devolution against a range of potential functions, with Level 3 being the most powerful and Level 1 being the least powerful, but noting that there will also be scope to negotiate further powers, on a case-by-case basis, and an opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to address specific challenges and opportunities.
- **Level 3:** A single institution or County Council with a directly elected Mayor (DEM), across a Functional Economic Area (FEA) or whole county area.
  - **Level 2:** A single institution or county council without a DEM, across a FEA or whole county area.
  - **Level 1:** Local authorities working together across a FEA or whole county area e.g., through a joint committee.
57. At the Cabinet meeting February meeting, following the publication of the White Paper, Cabinet endorsed the continued work and direction of travel for a Hampshire County Deal, agreeing the following recommendations:
- Notes the opportunities that were set out in the Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper and endorses the continuing work and direction of travel of a Pan Hampshire County Deal, and aligned devolution opportunities potentially beyond the Pan-Hampshire geography involving bordering areas, as set out in the White Paper, the draft County Deal Prospectus attached at Annex 4 and the further opportunities developed through workshops with key stakeholders in November and December and recommends that the County Council note and endorse the continuing work and direction of travel of a Pan Hampshire County Deal, and aligned devolution opportunities potentially beyond the Pan-Hampshire geography involving bordering areas, as set out in this report and in line with the White Paper.

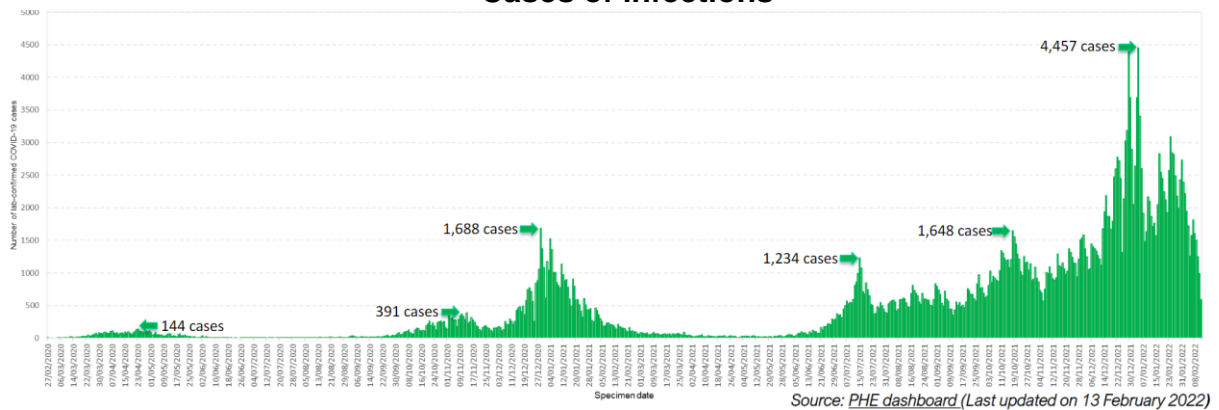
- Following the publication of the Government's White Paper for Levelling-Up, the Cabinet endorses the continued work and direction of travel for a Hampshire County Deal, to include the Unitary Authorities should they wish. In addition, that the County Council will continue the work that has been carried out towards the creation of an Economic Prosperity Board which will ideally include Surrey and the Unitary Authorities.
58. In February, Leaders across Pan Hampshire also met to continue to oversee the development of the County Deal proposal, recognising the strength of the work over the last 3 – 6 months and the continued significant opportunity, scale and credibility of a potential Deal as a powerful net contributor to the UK economy. The meeting identified that there is a desire to maintain the momentum of the collaborative work performed so far and continuing to establish the building blocks for regeneration, growth and wider collaboration at a local and sub-regional level. It was also acknowledged that some Leaders want to consider different economic geographies to the one proposed, but noting that the current proposal reflects the size, scale and benefits to all Hampshire residents and is in line with the principles of County geographies as set out in the White Paper.
59. A final round of workshops will therefore now take place with stakeholders in March, in accordance with the Statement of Common Ground agreed by all Leaders, to finalise the detail underpinning the high-level strategic proposals previously shared with Cabinet in February around the following thematic opportunities:
- **Accelerating housing delivery** – in exchange for the powers to increase the rate of delivery.
  - A **single investment fund** to grow the economy and transition to net zero.
  - **Net Environmental Gain Pathfinder Deal with Government** – trialling the devolution of Environment Agency functions, innovative financing and investment for decarbonisation and bio-diversity offsetting, and nature recovery strategies.
  - **Investment and devolved skills funding** to support to key sectors and projects – developing the Freeport to benefit the Pan-Hampshire economy, marine, advanced manufacturing, engineering, digital.
  - **Greater strategic transport power** through a Passenger Transport Executive (PTE) structure to respond to changing travel patterns and environmental imperatives.
  - **Devolved skills funding to reduce inequalities** in employment and income.
  - **Pooled and joint oversight of NHS community care and adult social care budgets**, building a joint approach to improving the wider determinants of health, piloting reforms to strengthen the adult social care workforce, and maximising the impact of health innovation with a Health and Care Innovation Hub in the area.

60. In accordance with the decision at February Cabinet, the County Council is also continuing directly exploring further place based economic development partnerships which could complement any wider County Deal and potentially extend beyond the Pan-Hampshire geography involving bordering areas. These include the exploration of a wider regional Economic Prosperity Board (EPB), primarily at this stage with Surrey County Council and discussions on potential collaboration with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, alongside our Pan Hampshire Unitary colleagues from the Cities and Isle of Wight, and more localised place-based Regeneration and Growth partnerships at a District Council level.

### **Living with COVID**

61. Following the implementation of the COVID vaccination programme the link between infection rates and hospitalisation and deaths has been largely broken. Nevertheless, as a society and in our role as the public health authority there is a need to manage rates of infections which in turn will reduce hospitalisation and deaths.
62. Through the pandemic we have seen rates rising and falling in line with the timing of increasing national control measures and subsequent easing. The current 7-day rate for Hampshire rose to a peak in Mid-January and subsequently falling in all ages, however we are seeing a large number of cases in the younger population due to the increased mixing of population including in educational settings and the transmissibility of the Omicron variant. However, for those age 12 plus there is now current vaccination programme and a programme for those aged 5-11 clinically vulnerable. It is essential that the community, with the County Council's leadership, continues to manage infection rates, outbreaks and supports the continued rollout of the vaccine programme.
63. The modelling predictions set out a steady fall in rates until June with the rate of hospital cases in line with modelling predictions. However, each wave of cases has been caused by a new variant, so we remain vigilant to new variant
64. The omicron variant accounts for most UK cases at present. Whilst it has been shown to be less lethal than delta, it has led to hospitalisations and deaths. Thankfully, protection from hospitalisation and death remains high after a third booster jab. However, reinfections, even in those people who have been fully vaccinated, have become much more common since the emergence of the omicron variant which is why they are now being included in published data.

## Cases of infections



### Living with COVID

65. Test, Trace, and Self-Isolation – The Test, Trace, and Self-Isolation system has been a critical tool in breaking chains of transmission to manage the virus over the autumn and winter. The Government announced the [Living with COVID-19 Strategy](#) on 21 February 2022, setting out a new approach to managing the virus, focusing on vaccinations and treatments as the first line of defence in managing the pandemic going forward.
66. The Public Health Team will continue to work with the UK Health Security Agency to manage outbreaks in settings to prevent further spread and to protect individuals
67. Symptomatic or asymptomatic testing has previously helped to find people who have the virus, enabled their contacts to be traced and helped ensure people self-isolate and/or get tested to prevent onward spread. From 24 February 2022, in line with the removal of the legal requirement to self-isolate if positive for COVID-19, routine contact tracing ceased, and the Hampshire Local Tracing Partnership was decommissioned.
68. Until 1 April 2022, people that have test positive for COVID-19, or are symptomatic in line with other infectious diseases should follow 'Stay at Home' guidance, although this can no longer be legally enforced. Post April 2022, the guidance will change again, focusing on keeping others safe if you are unwell.
69. From 1 April 2022, free access to symptomatic and asymptomatic testing will be removed for the majority of the population. Those individuals that are classified as vulnerable and those in 'high-risk' settings will continue to access testing modalities. Public Health are working with the UK Health Security Agency to ascertain the ongoing requirements for fixed testing sites across the County. Mobile Testing Units are likely to be retained as part of the national infrastructure for use in outbreak situations.



## **Health Protection Board and Local Outbreak Engagement Board**

70. The arrangements for oversight, management and community engagement are now securely in place in the County Council, with the Director of Public Health continuing to chair the Health Protection Board which now meets on at least a monthly basis. This remains important due to the situation as outlined in this report.
71. The Leader chairs the Local Outbreak Engagement Board as a political sub-committee of this Cabinet which is also joined by members of the County Council's main opposition party, representatives from district councils and an NHS non-executive director. During the first part of 2022 the meeting of the board has been held in a briefing format to ensure all parties are able to be kept up to date with the changes.

## **Vaccination**

72. The development and rollout of the vaccination for Covid-19 is the most effective public health measure to prevent illness and transmission of the virus. The programme is led by the NHS with strong input and supportive leadership from The Council. Latest data at time of writing (and to be updated verbally at Cabinet) was that around 89% of the Hampshire over-12 population has received first vaccination. With 83% having had two doses.
73. The programme continues to see a number of changes. The latest developments include vaccination for 5–11-year-olds who are clinically vulnerable.
74. A programme of work continues on inequalities to ensure those groups least likely to take up the vaccine can be engaged with. There is some variation in uptake across Hampshire, unsurprising given the size and complexity of the county, due to a number of factors including demographics, with the younger populations and some communities being more hesitant to taking up the vaccination.

## **Adults' Health and Care**

75. The social care market in Hampshire continues to experience significant pressures. These pressures result from four inter-linked factors; i) high levels of activity and demand within NHS acute settings and the need to support residents either to avoid an unnecessary admission and support when medically fit to leave hospital, ii) significant demands across our communities from people who had either paused care or not come forward with social care needs through the course of the pandemic, iii) challenges over maintaining safe and appropriate environments as services increase in their occupancy and utilisation, such as day opportunities, with an associated level of anxiety and enthusiasm (often in equal measure) by those resuming / attending such services and iv) staff recruitment and retention challenges across the social care sector.

76. It is important to recognise, as detailed in previous updates, that Adults' Health and Care continue to provide high levels of support to the care sector. We have seen significant numbers of outbreaks over the last three months, albeit the severity and overall impacts have very positively lessened, but for care providers and the people they support it has meant a continuing risk in service continuity and capacity. Therefore, through our commissioning and market oversight functions, working closely with the provider sector we continue to provide dedicated support in relation to workforce, PPE, advice, and support along with Public Health and NHS partners on outbreaks / infection prevention and control. Furthermore, by the end of March 2022 we will have passported and ensured some £79.5m of Government grant funding to the social care sector has been fully utilised.
77. Following the implementation of mandatory vaccinations for staff in care home settings in November 2021, Government had laid regulations for all patient-facing NHS staff and social care staff in domiciliary settings to be doubly vaccinated by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.
78. However, on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced that a consultation would be conducted as to whether to proceed or rescind this requirement. That consultation closed on 16<sup>th</sup> February and an announcement was made on 1<sup>st</sup> March that vaccination as a condition of deployment in care homes and vaccination for frontline NHS and the wider social care sector will be removed on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
79. Whilst the recovery of adult social care services will continue apace it is also important to recognise the growing pressures that exist, both from financial /inflationary pressures across the sector and the growing staffing and occupancy challenges for many providers. The sector remains extremely dedicated to meeting the needs of our population, though it is vulnerable and fragile and there will be inevitable significant challenges to its resilience in the coming months.

### **Schools and Children's Services**

80. Schools continue to follow the DfE published guidance to all educational settings which sets out the prevailing arrangements. The local authority does not issue separate guidance, as the information and expectations are already clearly set out within the DfE materials.
81. The DfE guidance is amended periodically to reflect the latest public health intelligence. When changes are made the local authority communicates with schools so that their risk assessments and contingency plans are based on the most up-to-date guidance. Where schools are unsure about the guidance, they are encouraged to contact the School Improvement Team who ensure the correct advice is given including the involvement of Public Health colleagues where necessary. There has been significant activity carried out by our staff in supporting schools in this way.
82. The priority for this academic year has been for schools to provide face-to-face, high-quality education within an environment which is as 'normal' as possible, enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery and the most effective

teaching and learning modes, not least interaction in person with others. Schools have reported that children have relished the opportunity to be with their friends again, learning from each other, playing, and socialising with each other and being a physical part of a community again.

83. Schools need to continue to have a risk assessment/mitigation plan in place, including a focus on good hygiene, cleaning regimes, ventilation, regular testing arrangements in special schools and pupil referral units, promoting the vaccination programme and encouraging positive cases to self-isolate.
84. Beyond that, there is also an expectation that additional measures are planned for on a contingency basis in response, for example, to an outbreak. Schools have a range of measures they can introduce in the event of an outbreak occurring. These are set out in DfE guidance and include introduction of more regular testing arrangements for defined groups for specific periods in secondary schools, encouraging parents of primary aged school pupils identified as close contacts or household contacts to use LFDs in some circumstances, advocating the use of face coverings, staggering start, and end of school days, limiting residential visits, open days, and transition days.
85. During the autumn term we have supported NHS Hampshire to carry out a vaccination programme for 12–15-year-olds through schools. Approximately 60% of eligible students were vaccinated which is reported to be the highest figure in England. 98% of students with parental permission to be vaccinated received their first vaccine during the initial phase. The programme will be rolled out again during the spring term offering a second vaccination to those already vaccinated, as well as a first vaccination to those that have turned 12 since the last roll out and any students that now have parental permission to be vaccinated.
86. The home to school transport service provides transport for over 3,000 students with special educational needs (primarily in taxis and minibuses) and 9,000 mainstream pupils (mostly in coaches and buses). From September 2021, home to school transport arrangements operated without restrictions and no additional Covid capacity. Covid cases during the autumn and spring terms have led to a daily impact on services requiring some reconfiguration of transport arrangements and occasionally transport is cancelled.
87. The transport market faces a nationwide shortage of drivers and increased costs, particularly for fuel. As a result, the home to school transport service has encountered delays in establishing new transport when re-awarding contracts.
88. Children's Services continues to support the childcare sector to remain open, prioritising opportunities for new provision or changes in providers, and providing a wide range of Covid, business and recruitment related support. Over £83,726 has been distributed in sustainability grants childcare providers to. The Government's Holiday Activity and Food programme ran over the Christmas holiday period providing 104 venues with over 4,000

Free School Meal eligible children attended enriching activities as well as receiving hot food.

89. It should also be noted that children's social care services still remains extremely busy with the average number of referrals into the service consistently reaching 1100 per week and in some cases exceeding 1200 per week, at least 20% up on the pre-Covid period. Those referrals include increasingly complex and difficult casework at least some of which has been masked during the crisis if not caused by it
90. However, as we enter the period of Covid recovery, this increased activity is now mainly at the front door in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and in the social work assessment teams. A recent Ofsted inspection of the MASH gave a high level of assurance on the continued effectiveness of this service. In the first twelve months of the pandemic numbers of children coming into care had increased though this has since stabilised; numbers of children on child protection plans had risen but have since started to reduce; numbers of open cases had increased but are now broadly static. This suggests the rise in referrals appears to (rightly) reflect professional anxiety for vulnerable children and the need for social workers to assess and quantify the risk, rather than longer term demand for higher cost services such as placements for children coming into care.

### **Corporate Services**

91. As previously reported, the majority of Corporate Services staff provide support to the front-line Departments and the majority have been working effectively from home since the beginning of the pandemic. New arrangements for coming into the office to improve communication and personal connections were put in place from September last year which were interrupted by Plan B over the Christmas period. Staff have now returned back to the pre-Plan B arrangements from 31 January, and it was pleasing to note that both transitions were managed smoothly, highlighting the flexibility that we now have in the way we work.
92. Recovery activity continues however, still centred on providing help, support, and guidance to Departments in areas of HR, wellbeing, and finance. In light of on-going Government considerations regarding the mandatory vaccination of staff in certain settings, HR continue to work with colleagues in Legal Services and Adults Health and Care to understand the implications for the Council of suggested changes to arrangements.
93. As previously reported HR had begun to investigate options to mitigate against ongoing pressures being experienced across the organisation in relation to 'isolation' incidences. Now that the new Governance Guidance has been published, we are updating the information provided to our staff to ensure we continue to align to current Government Guidance.

### **Communications and community engagement**

94. Since the last report, the focus for communications and engagement activity has centred on changes to Government rules as a consequence of the

relaxation of **Plan B restrictions**, as well as the ongoing roll out of the **COVID-19 vaccination booster** programme. Activity focused initially on providing clear information to the public regarding the changes to restrictions, alongside a reminder of those still in place, as well as encouraging ongoing adherence to key behaviours to help minimise the spread of infection. Communications have involved promoting a variety of messages to enhance the national response via a wide range of engagement platforms – examples are highlighted below.

95. In addition to bespoke graphics and messaging, explaining the changes to Plan B restrictions, **'Your choices still count'** has once again become one of the core themes for communications activity to the public in 2022 to date - encouraging ongoing safe behaviours, and reflecting the continuing high levels of infection. The strapline has been used across the web, print and social media, as well as via communications with the news media and broadcast news interviews. This approach is likely to continue to be deployed until the spring.
96. The County Council's flagship multimedia winter campaigns have also focused on encouraging uptake of the booster vaccination amongst the wider population, working in collaboration with Local Resilience Forum partners across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. **'Who are you boosting for?'** was the centre-piece campaign for January/February, with **'Don't leave it to fate'**, the focus for February/March. Both have included profile in shopping centres, community billboards and bus sides, as well as through radio and a wide range of digital channels. These campaigns have and continue to be underpinned by County Council and partner collaboration, particularly via social media channels and in the news media, on targeted, location-specific 'walk-in' campaigns, urging local residents to book their booster jab, and to avail themselves of the wide range of local vaccination booking/walk-in options available.
97. During the period, communications support has also been provided for the development and dissemination of messages regarding **compulsory vaccination** to the adult social care workforce, both County Council, as well as the private sector in Hampshire – initially encouraging uptake, and most recently, informing those affected of the subsequent change of national policy.
98. **Regular asymptomatic testing** 'before you socialise' has remained a prominent theme throughout the winter with promotion via social media postings, alongside news media and social media campaigns, signposting to routes for symptomatic testing. The public are also being encouraged to persevere with efforts to access asymptomatic tests via pharmacies.
99. A targeted multimedia campaign initiated during December, incorporating the use of the popular digital vans, focused on the support available for those self-isolating. **'Help is at hand'** recognises that isolation can be challenging and was further incorporated into the overarching

communications strategy for January and February. The current plan is to cease the campaign in line with the Government review of self-isolation rules and their potential end on 24 February.

100. Future messaging, beyond the review of self-isolation regulations, will continue to align to Government updates and announcements.

### **Culture Communities and Business Services (CCBS)**

101. HC3S continues to support schools with classroom feeding where this is required by the school to assist with managing Covid risks and / or staffing shortages. However, classroom feeding has adversely impacted on meal uptake and meal numbers remain below target, as they have been since the start of the pandemic.
102. County Supplies and the Emergency Planning team have been jointly managing the Local Resilience Forum PPE warehouse since the start of the pandemic. They are currently supporting occasional emergency issues of stock. Regular PPE supplies are provided to a variety of settings and individuals as required by the DHSC and which are not provided by the Government's PPE Portal. Levels of stock maintained at the warehouse are now far in excess of demand. With supply chains remaining stable and experience of demand gained in the last 18 months, plans are being made to reduce the levels of stock maintained for both the strategic reserve and the settings previously mentioned.
103. Local culture and community continues to be a key part of the Government's levelling up agenda, with community, creative and cultural organisations having been hard-hit by the impacts of Covid. Aligning the County Council's developing Cultural Strategy with its priorities around economic growth, high street recovery, skills, health, and wellbeing is a key area of focus for the department.

### **Staff returning to the office**

104. As previously reported our office accommodation was safe for staff to return to from 19 July and we implemented a programme of 'phased returning to the office' across the organisation. By the end of October all departments had confirmed that their return plans were implemented on schedule.
105. 'Plan B' was implemented from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December which saw staff required to revert to working from home where possible and, for those required to attend the office, a reintroduction of mandatory face coverings. The end of Plan B on 26 January saw the County Council return to the end of October position.
106. Each Department has different working arrangements in place for their staff, all in accordance with our Open Working Policy, and with variations relating to differing nature of our work across the Council. Early anecdotal indications were that the low levels of nervousness that we expected from

some of our staff has indeed been observed and support has been provided to those staff in line with our wider HR policies and wellbeing practices. In the main however most people seemed to be enjoying the opportunity to connect with their colleagues and teams on an 'in person' basis. We will consider means of more formally evaluating our return to the office once the January 'return to the office' arrangements have had time to embed, and staff had an opportunity to settle into new routines.

## **Conclusion**

107. This Covid report to Cabinet focusses upon recovery and learning to live with Covid. Restrictions were largely lifted through the summer and the County Council's crisis management mechanisms were wound down accordingly. Following the announcement of Plan B, the crisis management mechanisms were stood back up and remained in place during that uncertain period, these crisis management mechanisms were stood back down following the removal of Plan B Government restrictions.
108. Following the implementation of the COVID vaccination programme the link between infection rates and hospitalisation and deaths has been largely broken, with a strong push nationally regarding the Covid Booster and winter flu vaccinations. Nevertheless, as a society and in our role as the public health authority there is a need to manage rates of infections.
109. While the phases of the pandemic may be changing now in welcome ways, the impact, on the community and on HCC, will remain profound for years to come. The Collective Wisdom project successfully prepared the organisation for new ways of post-pandemic working and the work on economic recovery and, in particular, the opportunity presented through the County Deal initiative, are core to the way forward for the community as well as the economy.
110. In February 2022, the much-awaited government White Paper, Levelling Up the United Kingdom, was published, which will now guide the work regarding the potential for a County Deal.
111. All these points noted, there will remain a strong emphasis on constant vigilance, subject to whatever decisions are taken by Government in future.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	yes/no
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy, and independent lives:</b>	yes/no
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	yes/no
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes/no

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p><b>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</b></p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	



## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation).
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- (a) No equality impacts have been identified arising from this Report



## Hampshire Economic Recovery Dashboard

March 2022

Hampshire County Council  
Economy, Transport and Environment



### Contents

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## Summary of Economic Conditions

i

- The latest official data from the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggests that the impact of the pandemic on businesses and employment in Hampshire (Hampshire & the Isle of Wight) has been more modest than on economic output but nevertheless greater than the national or regional average.
- In March 2021 Hampshire had 0.3% fewer enterprises (about 265 enterprises) and 0.5% fewer local business units (about 490 local business units) than in March 2020. The overall impact to date on Hampshire has been greater than in the South East or nationally but Hampshire saw growth in the number of small professional, scientific & technical businesses and in the number of medium-sized business in all three knowledge intensive traded services (information & communication, finance & insurance and professional, scientific & technical).
- Total employment in Hampshire (the workplace-based employment) decreased by 37,000 or 4.1% in 2020 compared to a 2.5 decrease in the South East and -1.7% in the UK. Workplace employment in Southampton (-5.2%) and the Isle of Wight (-5.5%) decreased much faster than the Hampshire average or the County Area average.
- The employment impact of the pandemic on Hampshire's consumer facing local services, most notably accommodation & food, retail and lower value-added business support services was significant and much greater than on knowledge intensive traded services. Employment in lower value-added local business support services (cleaning activities, travel agency & tour operator activities, activities of call centres etc.) decreased by 12,000 or 16.7% on the year, and it accounted for a third of the overall fall in workplace employment in Hampshire in 2020.
- Workplace employment in property increased by 15.4%, construction saw employment growth of 6.1% and employment growth in the small but important agriculture sector increased by about 9.1%. Employment in Hampshire's knowledge intensive service was far more resilient to the impact of the pandemic with employment in finance & insurance and information & communication increasing by 8.3% and 2.2% respectively. Workplace-based employment in Hampshire's professional, scientific & technical services sector decreased by just 1.4%.
- The labour market continues to recover much faster than expected and there is no evidence that would suggest that ending of the government job support schemes has affected the labour market in Hampshire. The number of people claiming unemployment related benefits decreased in both November. January saw a small increase in unemployment but a small decrease in youth unemployment.
- Hampshire had about 3,800 additional PAYE employees in January compared to December and +9,800 (1.1%) compared to February 2020. Self-employment continues to struggle to recover fully from the impact of the pandemic.

## Summary of Economic Conditions

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- January saw a sharp fall in the number of online job postings in Hampshire, the fall was in part related to Omicron and to seasonal factors. Hampshire saw some easing in demand for van drivers and some elementary occupations and stronger demand for programmers & software developers and some administrative occupations in January. Nevertheless, by mid-February 2022 the number of online job postings in Hampshire was about 124% higher than at the same time in the previous year.
- Economic growth in Hampshire in the final quarter of last year was estimated at 1.1%, marginally faster than the UK average. Growth was more balanced than in the previous quarter with growth in consumer spending, government investment, business investment and exports. Growth in business investment was sluggish, just 0.9% which suggests that product shortages and rising prices constrained sentiment and investment. This has left business investment slightly lower than a year ago and 10.4% below its pre-pandemic peak at the end of 2019. Exports increased by 4.9% on the quarter but exports were still 18% below their pre-pandemic level in the final quarter of 2019.
- Economic output (GVA) decreased by 0.2% in December mainly thanks to a sharp fall in consumer-facing services such as accommodation & food, arts, entertainment & recreation, and retail. Estimated decrease in GVA in Hampshire in December was comparable to the national average. Survey evidence from purchasing managers suggests that business activity and the volume of new orders in the South East increased in January but we may still see a fall in economic growth in January as that is when Omicron cases peaked in Hampshire and the UK. Economic growth should rebound in February and March.
- Inflation (CPI) increased by 5.5% in January, the highest rate since 1992 and consumer sentiment fell to the lowest level in 13 months in February. Inflation is now expected to peak at 7.25% in April when the increase in the cap on household utility bills (+54%) comes into effect. The MPC increased interest rates to 0.5% in February and the Bank appears to be more hawkish with market expectations that the rates will rise to between 1.5% and 2% by mid-2023.
- The Bank of England has revised down its economic growth forecast for this year from 3.75% to 3.25% but that was before Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The impact of the war in Ukraine on the UK economy is likely to be relatively modest according to the National Institute of Economic & Social Research (NIESR), around 0.8% this year and 0.5% in 2022.
- Hampshire's trade links with Russia and Ukraine are small. Russia accounts for 1.2% of our exports and 3.4% of imports of goods while Ukraine accounts for just 0.2% of exports of goods and 0.1% of imports. The direct impact is likely to be modest but there could be larger secondary impacts through for example supply-chain spillovers which could impact on Hampshire's trade further downstream.

## Policy and Sector Headlines

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### Levelling Up White Paper

- Government has published its long-awaited levelling up policy paper, 'Levelling Up the United Kingdom'. The Levelling Up is based on 12 missions across four broad areas, boosting productivity and living standards, improved public services, restoring a sense of community, local pride & belonging and empowering local leaders and communities, especially in underperforming communities.
- Nine areas were selected for the New County Deals, none in the South East but the Government has committed to create new County Deals with every area in favour of devolution to get a deal by 2030. The Government is committed to simplify devolution – it will legislate to establish a new form of combined authority model with its preferred option to be made up of upper-tier local authorities only providing a single, accountable institution across a functional economic area or whole county geography.
- Some Hampshire specific announcements included the following: Isle of Wight and Portsmouth were the only areas in Hampshire identified as Education Investment Areas. Solent University has been selected as one of nine new Institutes of Technology. The Isle of Wight was one of the first areas of the country to develop Family Hubs and the Government will now invest £300m across the country to build the network of Family Hubs.

### Solent Freeport

- The Freeport consists of tax sites and custom sites. Round one of the business case has been approved by Government and as part of that process two of the three tax sites have been published and statutory instruments laid. The Solent freeport tax sites include: Dunsbury Park and Southampton Water site that consists of Fawley Complex, Fawley Waterside, Marchwood Port & Strategic Land Reserve and Redbridge (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maps-of-solent-freeport-tax-sites>). The Navigator Quarter site will be designated as a tax-free site in the next couple of months.

### National Cyber Strategy

- A new National Cyber Strategy has been published setting out the government's approach to protecting and promoting the UK's interests in cyberspace. Hampshire, like the UK, has seen strong growth in cyber businesses and employment in recent years. The sector has accelerated significantly over the last 12 months as demand for cyber services has surged. Beyond Encryption, Censornet, Talion and Razor Secure, all based in Hampshire, have all reported growth in the last year and secured combined investments totalling more than £5m.

## Policy and Sector Headlines

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### Government Funding

- On 21 December 2021, Government announced the introduction (from January 2022) of grant support for hospitality and leisure businesses in England; the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG). The scheme provides grants of up to £6,000 to support to hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses. As of the 30 January 2022 Hampshire authorities received £22.1 million from OHLG and had distributed £2.8 million. The scheme will close for applications on 28 February 2022 and all final payments must be made and dispersed to recipients by 31 March 2022.
- The new grant is additional to the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) which allows local authorities to use their discretion to support other businesses in their area, based on local economic need. As of the 30 January 2022 Hampshire authorities received £74.5 million in ARG and had distributed £61.2 million. The remainder has to be administered by 31 March 2022.
- The Government has made a further £30 million available and extended the application window for emergency funding through the Culture Recovery Fund to support museums, cinemas, theatres and heritage organisations through the impact of the Omicron variant. The fund is administered by the Arts Council and provides emergency funding awards to organisations that were financially sustainable before Covid-19 but are now at imminent risk of failure and have exhausted all other options for increasing their resilience.
- Basingstoke and Deane have launched a new Apprenticeship grant scheme to support Basingstoke and Deane businesses taking on new apprentices or to use apprenticeships for existing staff. There is £150k available (to support 30 apprenticeships).

### Manufacturing

- In 2019 manufacturing accounted for about 9% of total economic output (GVA) in Hampshire according to the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) data. Latest official survey data on workplace-based employment saw manufacturing employment in pan-Hampshire decrease on 2019 levels by 6,000 (-8.3%) to 66,000 in 2020. Most sub-sectors either saw a fall (notably in repairs and installation) or no change in employment, although strong growth in metal fabrication.
- Manufacturing demand was firm but longer delivery times for components and materials and labour shortages have constrained output growth in the final quarter of last year. Manufacturing output contracted in the third quarter and saw no growth in the final quarter of last year but GVA in the sector expanded by 0.2% in December.

## Policy and Sector Headlines

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### Aerospace and Space

- The Air Capability Symposium 2022 will be held at Farnborough in April 2022, providing an opportunity for the Royal Air Force Capability team to engage with the aerospace industry.
- At the recent COP26 in Glasgow, UK aviation is committed to a 10 percent uptake by 2030 of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), that can emit up to 99 percent less carbon than Jet A-1.
- The UK Space Agency anticipates making at least £65,000 available under its 'Space for All' community funding scheme for financial year 2022–2023. The scheme is run to support the education and outreach aims and objectives of the UK Space Agency with applications closing in February.

### Marine & Maritime

- Associated British Ports (ABP) has unveiled plans to bring forward more than 1,000 acres of land across its UK-wide portfolio for new employment development targeting the manufacturing and renewable sectors. In England ABP has identified port land at Southampton and other sites across England for development.
- Solent Gateway has announced that planning consent has been granted for the development of Marchwood Port. The development of the port, subject to a section 106 agreement, will modernise its facilities and operations and bring new investment and jobs to the area.
- The County's Economic Development Service has been supporting the French shipbuilder OCEA for over a year in their UK expansion plans. The Wight Shipyard Co. has announced an all-share merger with OCEA to create a multinational shipbuilder that would capitalise on the fast ferry and offshore renewable energy markets opportunities. The Wight Shipyard Co. will nearly double in size, providing significant employment opportunities at the East Cowes yard.
- Wightlink's £1.5million investment to upgrade its Portsmouth Harbour FastCat terminal reached its next stage on January 5 2022. The upgrade is to the route between Portsmouth Harbour and Ryde Pier Head.
- Reported by Marine UK, the UK ranks as the number one globally on MIT Technology Review's Blue Technology Barometer, which ranks 66 coastal countries and territories on their progress and commitment toward protecting ocean sustainability.

## Policy and Sector Headlines

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### Green Economy

- According to news sources ExxonMobil, SGN, and Green Investment Group are exploring the potential for a major new hydrogen production and carbon capture facility. As such, Southampton's industrial cluster could be home to a new hydrogen production hub, following an agreement between gas distribution network SGN, Macquarie's Green Investment Group (GIG), and oil and gas giant ExxonMobil.
- The three companies will explore the potential for hydrogen production and carbon capture in Southampton, one of the largest industrial and port hubs in the UK, in a bid to reduce emissions in the area. Hydrogen production could commence as early as 2030, according to ExxonMobil, once the technical and commercial feasibility of the plans are confirmed.

### Lifesciences

- University Hospital Southampton has announced it has launched a recruitment campaign to take on 100 new staff – including nurses, allied health professionals and consultants that will help increase resource and meet already high and increasing demand.
- Two new cardiac labs are to open at Basingstoke hospital in 2022. Currently under construction by Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT), and will be fully operational in October 2022.
- Biotage has acquired Southampton based DNA synthesis and purification company ATDBio for £45 million. The acquisition is expected to strengthen Biotage as a leading life science tool and impact tech service provider.

### Retail

- In 2019 retail accounted for about 9% of total economic output (GVA) in Hampshire & Isle of Wight. Latest official survey data on workplace-based employment saw retail employment in Hampshire & Isle of Wight decrease on 2019 levels by 10,000 (-10.3%) to 87,000 in 2020. Employment losses were higher in non-essential specialised stores one would associate with the 'high street' and hit hard by social distancing restrictions during the national lockdowns.
- Retail sales volumes fell by 3.7% in December amid Omicron induced restrictions and some Christmas spending brought forward to November. The fall in December was the largest monthly fall since January 2021.

### Construction

- In 2019 construction accounted for about 7% of total economic output (GVA) in Hampshire & Isle of Wight. Latest official survey data on workplace-based employment saw construction employment in pan-Hampshire grow on 2019 levels by 3,000 (6.1%) to reach 52,000 in 2020, although overall employment numbers will be higher once self-employed are factored in. Growth was stronger in infrastructure (civil engineering, roads and building-out existing projects) but declined in new residential and commercial building.
- Construction output increased by 1% in the final quarter of last year, following a fall of 1.4% in the previous quarter. The sector saw increases in both new work and repair & maintenance. Monthly data suggests that construction output increased in both November and December. Construction output is now above the pre-pandemic level (February 2020).
- Faster growth in construction output was constrained by labour shortages and cost increases. Delays and rising costs are seeing slower build-out rates amid caution around investing in new developments in light of material shortages, rising costs and in some instances a lack of available development land.
- Survey evidence suggests that construction output in the UK increased to its highest level in six months in January 2022. It appears that supply and cost issues have slightly improved but it is likely that they will constrain activity in this sector over the short-term.

### Commercial Property

- Total demand for commercial floorspace (commercial take-up) in Hampshire & Isle of Wight decreased by 6.7% in the final quarter of last year but demand recovered strongly in January. Total take-up increased from 72,000 sq ft in December to 173,000 sq ft in January 2022.
- In relative terms offices registered the fastest growth in take-up, from about 4,000 sq ft in December to 29,300 sq ft in January. Demand from industry continues to be strong, it saw an increase from 63,350 sq ft in December to 133,100 sq ft in January 2022.
- Demand for retail, leisure and hotels in 2021 was much weaker than for offices and industry but January 2022 saw take-up increase to 10,500 sq ft from 4,600, slightly faster than demand for industry which was the strongest performing market in Hampshire in 2021.
- Lending to commercial property is likely to remain weak over the short-term, as both investors and banks remain cautious given the recent increase in economic uncertainty.

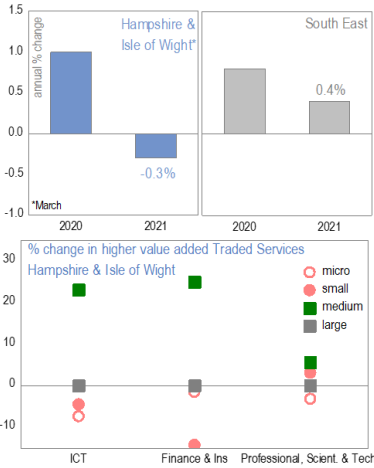
### Tourism and Hospitality

- Latest official survey data on workplace-based employment saw tourism-related employment in Hampshire & Isle of Wight decrease on 2019 levels by 11,000 (-7.4%) to 94,000 in 2020 but the fall is likely to be greater once self-employed are factored in. Accommodation was hit hard with 5,000 fewer workers. This is close to a third (-31%) down on the year and much higher than 17% decrease in accommodation workers nationally, but close to SE average (-33%).
- Output growth in the tourism related activities was mixed in the final quarter of last year. Accommodation & food contracted by 3.3% on the previous quarter but arts & entertainment expanded by 2.4%. The Omicron variant and Government introducing Plan B had a significant negative impact on trading in the run-up to the critically important Christmas/New Year trading period. Monthly estimates from ONS suggest that December saw a sharp fall in the tourism-related economic output (GVA).
- With the end of COVID-19 related restrictions the outlook for the sector has improved in the first quarter of this year. Visit England's domestic tourism sentiment tracker for January 2022 identified a slight improvement in sentiment of UK adults since December as the impact of Omicron faded. Domestic overnight intentions show a preference for 'countryside and villages in the second quarter, shifting to 'traditional coastal/seaside towns' during the main holiday season.
- Plans have been unveiled to turn Hayling Island into an exciting water sports destination. Havant Borough Council plans outlining three regeneration hubs, West Beach, Beachlands and Eastoke. with new walking and cycling connections between them. The council plans to enhance West Beach's reputation as a hub for water sports, supported by its heritage as the home of windsurfing.
- 500 hundred seasonal jobs are being created at the Hampshire theme park at Ower near Romsey. Paultons Park (home of Peppa Pig World) will be hiring 40 per cent more seasonal staff than its previous record in 2021. Business at Paultons was boosted by the opening of a new themed area, Tornado Springs, last year.
- Five star Chewton Glen Hotel in New Milton is seeking planning permission for three additional treehouses to accompany the existing seven. The hotel has seen a significant rise in demand for exclusive serviced accommodation during the pandemic and expects this trend to continue into the future.

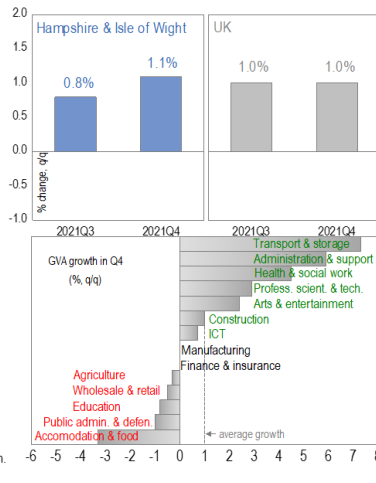
# Business Activity and Growth in Hampshire

1

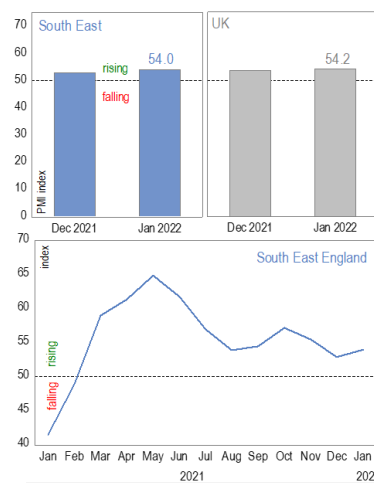
## Business Stock ↓



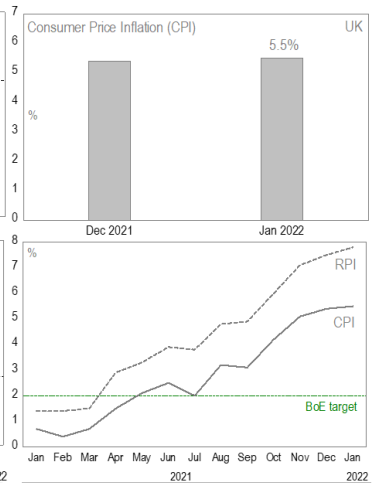
## Economic Growth ↑



## Business Activity ↑



## Inflation ↑



- In March 2021 Hampshire & Isle of Wight had 81,895 enterprises with 95,300 local business units (-0.3% and -0.5% fewer than in the previous year respectively).
- Hampshire saw growth in the number of medium-sized higher value added traded services and in small professional, scient. & techn.

- Economic output decreased by 0.2% in December but estimated growth in Hampshire & Isle of Wight was 1.1% over the final quarter of last year, slightly faster than the UK average.
- Economic growth in Q4 was more balanced than in Q3 – consumer spending, investment and trade made positive contribution to growth.

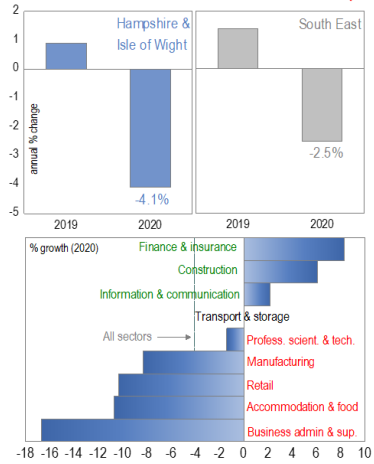
- Business activity in the region increased at the start of this year following the easing of Omicron-related restrictions.
- Survey evidence suggests that input price inflation remained at historically elevated rates with higher input prices being passed on to clients in January.

- Consumer prices in the UK increased by 5.5% in the 12 months to January 2022, the highest rate since 1992. Retail prices increased by 7.8%.
- Inflation rose in most categories but fuel inflation and restaurants & hotels inflation had a downward influence on CPI inflation in January.

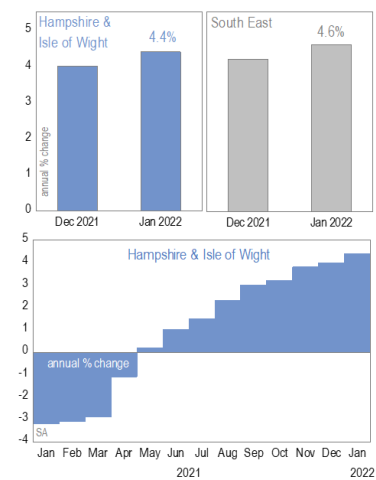
# Employment and Jobs in Hampshire

2

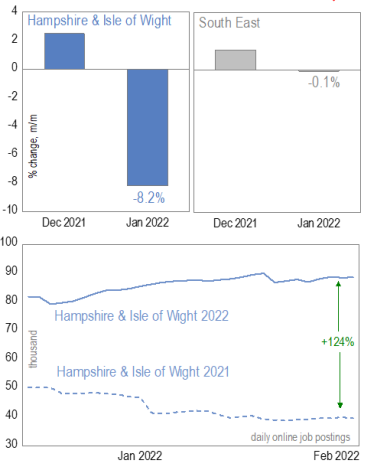
## Workplace Employment ↓



## Payrolled Employees ↑



## Job Demand ↓



## Demand by Occupation

Unique Job Postings by Occupation	Jan
Nurses	2,684
Care Workers and Home Carers	2,560
Sales Accounts and Business Development Managers	1,998
Other Administrative Occupations n.e.c.	1,811
Programmers and Software Development Professionals	1,742
Van Drivers	1,653
Kitchen and Catering Assistants	1,653
Elementary Storage Occupations	1,497
Chefs	1,488
Human Resources and Industrial Relations Officers	1,356

Unique Job Postings by Occupation	Dec
Nurses	2,869
Care Workers and Home Carers	2,671
Sales Accounts and Business Development Managers	1,973
Van Drivers	1,962
Other Administrative Occupations n.e.c.	1,772
Programmers and Software Development Professionals	1,645
Kitchen and Catering Assistants	1,632
Elementary Storage Occupations	1,631
Chefs	1,591
Cleaners and Domestic	1,418

- Workplace-based employment in Hampshire & Isle of Wight decreased by 4.1% (-37,000) to 875,000 in 2020.
- Employment increased in construction and most higher value-added traded services but decreased in lower value-added business services and most local services.

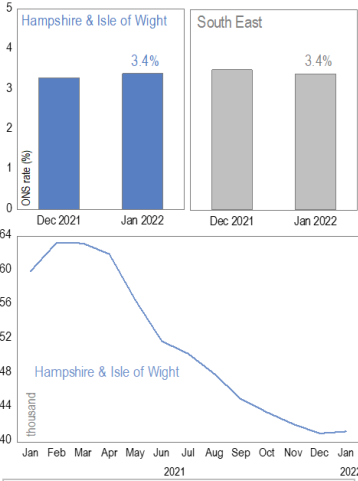
- Hampshire & the Isle of Wight had about 896,000 payrolled employees in January 2022, or about 3,800 more than in December last year.
- Preliminary data for January suggests that payrolled employment increased by 4.4% on the year and that employee numbers stood at 1.1% (9,800) above Feb 2020 levels.

- Hampshire & the Isle of Wight saw strong growth in employee jobs in January despite Omicron but there are signs of some weakness in data.
- January saw a sharp fall in hiring intentions which was in part explained by seasonal factors. Hampshire's performance in January lagged the regional average.

- In-demand jobs in Hampshire in January continue to be associated with nursing and care, hospitality and some higher occupations.
- January saw some easing in demand for van drivers, nursing and some elementary occupations and stronger demand for programmers and some administrative occupations.

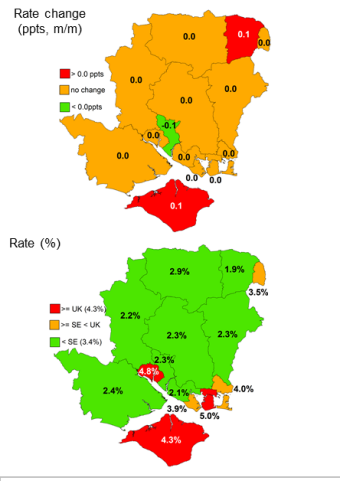
# Unemployment in Hampshire

## Claimant Unemployment ↑



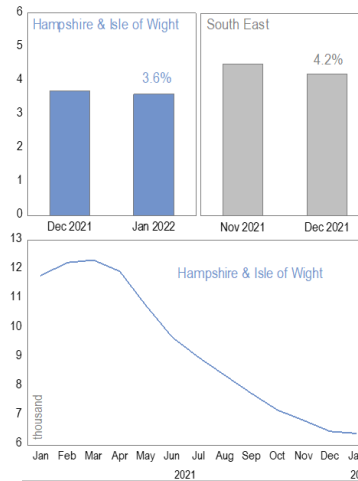
- Claimant count unemployment in Hampshire & Isle of Wight increased by 235 to 41,210 in January but the number of young claimants decreased. The increase was mostly explained by seasonal factors.
- The working age rate increased slightly to 3.4% to match the South East average.

## Local Claimants

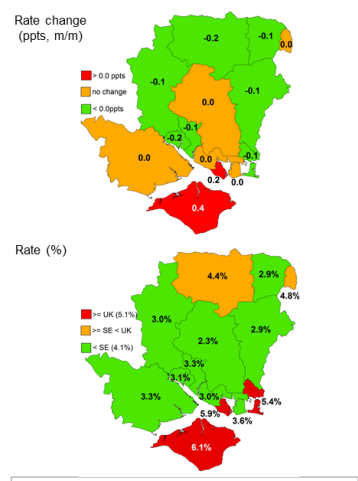


- Official and survey evidence continue to point to tight labour market conditions across most local authorities in Hampshire & Isle of Wight at the start of this year.
- Most local authorities in Hampshire saw no change in the monthly claimant count rates, while rates in Hart and Isle of Wight increased.

## Youth Unemployment ↓



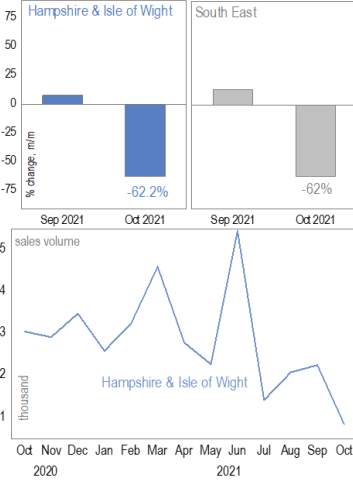
- The number of young (18-24 year old's) unemployed people on the claimant count measure in Hampshire & Isle of Wight decreased by 70 to 6,395 in January this year.
- The rate decreased from 3.7% in December to 3.6% in January 2022 in contrast to the increase in overall unemployment.



- Estimated youth unemployment rates increased in the Isle of Wight and Gosport and decreased or remained unchanged in all other local authorities in Hampshire in January.
- Gosport, Havant and IoW had the youth unemployment rates above the UK average in January.

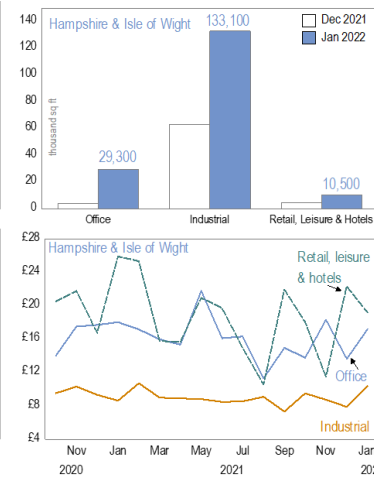
# Sentiment and Investment in Hampshire

## Business Investment ↑



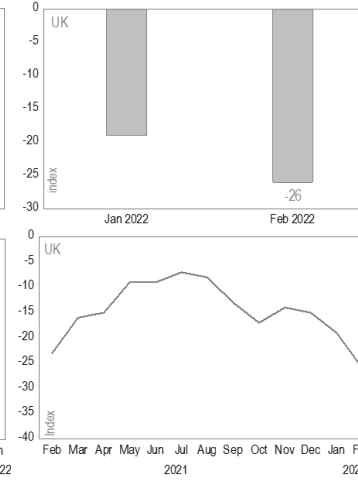
- Business investment increased by 0.9% on the quarter. Business investment was slightly lower than a year ago and 10.4% below its pre-pandemic peak in Q4 2019.
- Transport equipment was the only positive contributor to growth in business investment in the final quarter of last year.

## Commercial Property ↑



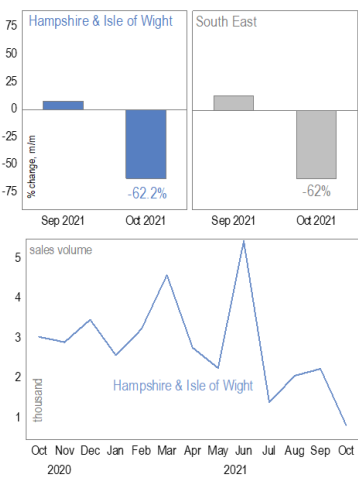
- Total floorspace of all new lettings or sales to occupiers (take-up) in Hampshire & Isle of Wight amounted to about 173,000 sq ft in Jan compared to 72,000 sq ft in Dec
- There was strong growth in demand (take-up) across the three broad markets (office, industrial and retail and leisure).

## Consumer Confidence ↓



- Retail sales increased by 1.9% in January as Omicron fears subsided but consumer confidence fell to its lowest level in 13 months in Feb.
- Consumer sentiment was dampened by persistently high inflation which suggests that rising cost of living will restrain retail sales spending and growth this year.

## House Sales ↓



- House sales, not adjusted for seasonal factors, in Hampshire & Isle of Wight decreased by over 60% in October compared to the previous month but the fall was linked to the end of the stamp duty holiday.
- Nearly 860 residential property transactions took place in October.



### Commercial Property – Significant Occupier Transactions in January 2022

Sector	Property	Size (sq ft)	Tenant
Industrial	Proximity, Eastleigh	100,206 sq ft	Private Individual
Office	Eagle Point, Fareham	5,293 sq ft	Addingstone Insurance Solutions Limited
Office	Eagle Point, Fareham	4,854 sq ft	Adnova Clinic
Office	Blechynden Terrace, Southampton	6,500 sq ft	Private Individual
Retail	Unit 6 Stanstead Road, Eastleigh	7,511 sq ft	The Modern Milkman

### Investment and Job Creation

- **B2B Expos** unveil ambitious events calendar of local business exhibitions. Each event attracts over 250 businesses and local professionals from a range of sectors. The first event of 2022 is the Farnborough Business Expo which returns to The Village Hotel on 10 March, followed by the Portsmouth Business Expo which runs on 24 March at the Village Hotel in Portsmouth, near Lakeside Business Park.
- 500 hundred seasonal jobs are being created at the Hampshire theme park at Ower near Romsey. Paultons Park (home of Peppa Pig World) will be hiring 40 per cent more seasonal staff than its previous record in 2021. Business at Paultons was boosted by the opening of a new themed area, Tornado Springs, last year.
- Southampton based toob has secured up to £87.5m of investment from Sequoia Economic Infrastructure Income Fund. The investment fuels toob's growth plan in its drive to reach 1m premises passed across the South of England.
- Underwater robot deal sees Saab Seaeye in Fareham expands, creating 20 new jobs on the back of a large order of its new sustainable underwater robot.

## Business Specific Intelligence

- TÜV SÜD, Fareham-based German engineering (testing & certification engineering) company intend to build a new Certification Facility at its existing Hampshire HQ. This £2.5m and 27 new employees investment project is being actively supported by Hampshire's Economic Development Team through Business Hampshire and DTI. The new facility's will be in addition to five existing ones - significantly increasing test capacity to support growing demand from manufacturing firms.
- An Eastleigh-headquartered shower specialist is raising funds to launch its new product. Kelda is looking to launch the BubbleSpa, which uses patented technology to produce spa-grade water bubbles in a continuous stream to provide a luxury experience. It is now launching its second fundraise with Growthdeck and bring in £1.1m. The company is forecast to increase its turnover more than 80-fold by 2024, with the new shower as the key driver.
- Portsmouth workspace Lakeside North Harbour has secured a string of new lettings. Eco House Solutions has taken 3,122 sq ft of space, alongside concrete and waste management business Service Supply Network, which has signed up for a 2,246 sq ft office to support its continued expansion. Completing the trio with 3,724 sq ft of space is Visitor Chat, a live chat business specialising in automotive and property which has relocated to Portsmouth from Southampton.

### Mergers and Acquisitions

- Ideology who provide marketing, branding and creative services has been brought out of administration. Operating from two sites in Hampshire and Southampton the company was sold to Cherry White Designwhich.
- Inbox Insight, headquartered in Winchester, has undergone a £25.5m management buyout in a deal backed by Mobeus. Inbox Insight is a technology-focused provider of content syndication services. Founded in 2010, it has grown rapidly with almost 40 per cent of its £14m revenue now generated in the US.
- A private equity-backed communications technology provider Onecom, headquartered in Fareham, has expanded with the acquisition of Russell Telecom- its fourth deal of the year. This follows Onecom's acquisition of Olive Communications at the start of 2021, followed by the takeover of 9 Group, and then the purchase of Devon-based IP Office.

### Closures, Administration and Job Losses

- None reported from sources.

## Guidance and Sources

### How to read 'traffic lights':



Refers to decline or growth relative to the previous period (business activity indicators, PMI employment, job postings and business investment).

In the case of business and consumer sentiment it refers to the direction of travel relative to the previous period.

For labour market indicators the change refers to the rate not the level. For example, a rise in the employment rate would see an upward green arrow, while a decrease in unemployment would see a downward green arrow.



Little or no change on previous period.

† The local estimate is preliminary and it needs to be treated with a high degree of caution since it is based on the sectoral mix of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and the national sectoral impacts.

### Sources:

The primary data sources are the Office for National Statistics (ONS), HMRC and the Bank of England while additional data comes from several commercial sources such as IHS Markit, Emsi, G Radius Data, CBI and BCC.

Fortnightly data for Trading Status, Turnover and Cashflow.

Monthly data for Payrolled Employment, Government Job Support Schemes, Job Demand, Demand by Occupation, Unemployment, Consumer Sentiment, House Sales, Commercial Property, UK GVA and a proxy estimate for Hampshire.†

Quarterly data for business investment.

\*For further information on Hampshire's labour market see Quarterly Labour Market Updates and Monthly Ward Claimant Count Reports available at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/ebis/reports>

## Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021: Economic Development Briefing

This brief note sets out a summary of the key points from the October 2021 Autumn Budget and Spending Review and the latest economic forecasts from the OBR. Where possible, the note includes a rough estimate of the potential impact of some of the policy measures on Hampshire.

### Headline Macroeconomic Announcements

**Economic Outlook** - GDP in Q2 2021 was 3.7 per cent above the OBR forecast in March, with Q2 2021 growth fastest among the G7. Inflation is expected to rise further to 4.4% in Q2 2022 remaining high over 2022 and 2023 (reflecting the lagged effects of recent increases in wholesale energy and input prices) before returning to target by the end of 2024.

In 2021 the economy is expected to expand by 6.5% in real (inflation adjusted) terms, the fastest growth in nearly half a century, and some 2.4 percentage points faster than the OBR's forecasts in March 2021. However, beyond the fourth quarter of this year the OBR have downgraded their forecasts in 2022 but higher in 2023. In the near-term higher energy prices, supply bottlenecks, and labour shortages will dampen the recovery. In 2022 the UK economy is expected to expand by 6.0% before slowing to 2.1% in 2023. The outlook for next year is weaker than expected in March 2021 but the outlook is now stronger for 2023 than previously forecast.

Table 1: Headline forecasts for GDP (central forecast), unemployment and inflation

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
GDP growth	-9.8%	6.5%	6.0%	2.1%	1.3%	1.6%	1.7%
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.9%	4.8%	4.3%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%
CPI inflation	0.9%	2.3%	4.0%	2.6%	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%

Source: OBR 2021

There is still a degree of uncertainty around the economic outlook with risks from further pandemics, higher inflation, sustained labour market shortages, a rise in real interest rates, and continuing tensions over post-Brexit trade with the EU.

The OBR is more optimistic about the economic scarring effect of the pandemic (associated lower investment, lower productivity, and lower labour supply) with unemployment at a lower rate than expected and better productivity (mainly R&D and new ways of working) which saw the estimate reduced from 3% to 2% suggests a larger economy, higher revenue and improved fiscal position. However, concerns over the long-term of older workers not returning to the labour market, as well as greater proportion of young people locked into higher education.

Impact on Hampshire: the official estimates of the impact of the pandemic are not available but a preliminary local estimate suggests that in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA) the economy of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight ('Hampshire') contracted faster than the UK economy but as shown by the recovery that followed the great financial crisis of 2008/9 Hampshire's recovery is likely to be faster than the national average.

**Unemployment** – OBR forecast for unemployment has been revised down to peak at 5.2% in the final quarter of this year from 6.5%. The unemployment rate is then expected to fall to 4.2% in 2024 and remain there for the remainder of the forecast period. The reopening of the economy has seen 3.2 million workers off furlough since March, leaving only 1.3 million on the coronavirus job retention scheme which closed at end of September. Expectations are for a small uptick in unemployment given that business and job support schemes kept unemployment largely in check.

Impact on Hampshire: since the March and gradual reopening of the economy following the third national lockdown the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in Hampshire has fallen by about 17,100 to approximately 46,100 and the rate decreased from 5.2% in March 2021 to 3.8% by September 2021, still some way off pre-pandemic levels (although claimant eligibility criteria was relaxed which inflated the count).

## Headline Fiscal Announcements

The Chancellor was gifted £141 billion over the next four years from a lower borrowing windfall by improved OBR forecasts, reflecting faster growth, smaller permanent economic damage from the pandemic and higher inflation (fiscal drag with frozen income tax thresholds). The chancellor chose to bank most of this £30 billion a year windfall, building in a cushion of over £25 billion against his self-imposed fiscal rule to ensure day-to-day spending is covered by tax revenues from 2024/25, with approximately £5 billion a year as give-aways.

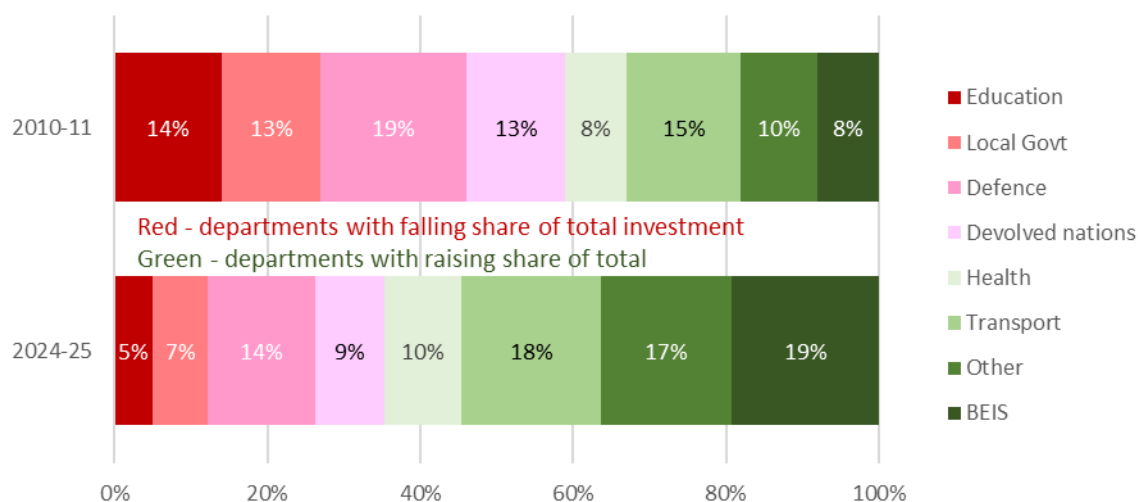
Estimated government borrowing reached a peacetime record of approximately £320 billion (15.2 per cent of GDP) in 2020-21 but it was £35 billion (1.7 per cent of GDP) lower than the OBR estimated in March. Borrowing in 2021-22 would be 7.9% of GDP falling to 3.3% in 2022, to reach £44.0 billion (1.5 % of GDP) in 2026-27.

According to the IFS, borrowing in the first half of 2021/2 was £108bn, half that of last year, leaving debt at 95.5% of GDP. However, since 40% of debt is held by the Bank of England, net government debt is less than 60% of GDP.

According to IfG the government plans to increase total day-to-day public spending by 10% in real terms between 2021/22 and 2024/25, but with some of these funds ringfenced to address health backlogs. Departmental spending in the current parliament would rise by £150 billion (£90 billion in real terms), with spending growing in real terms by 3.8% per annum.

**Public services:** The CSR announced real growth in public spending across most departments, although dominated by health given the new health and social care levy announced in September. An additional departmental spending of £25 billion in 2022-23, declining to £19 billion in 2023-24 and £12 billion by 2024-25.

Figure 1: Investment spending priorities have shifted markedly since 2010 Share of departments in total capital spending (capital DEL): UK, 2010-11 and 2024-25



Source: Resolution Foundation 2021

Cumulatively this is a £56 billion increase in forecast departmental spending. The big winner is health and social care mostly because of the levy with the budget is set to be over 40 per cent higher in real terms by 2024-25 than in 2009-10. Education spending is set to rise by about 2% per year, half that of health and social care (4% per year) and above 2010 funding levels for day-to-day spending but lower as a share compared to Resolution Foundation<sup>1</sup> estimates for 2010-11 against 2014-2025 (Figure 1).

Total Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) for BEIS will increase by 7.5% over the period 2021-22 to 2024-25, DfT by 1.9%, DWP by 4.4% and DCMS by 5.8%. Some 44% of the cash increases announced in the Spending Review for the next three years will go to the Department of Health and Social Care. Many departments face day-to-day spending budgets that are smaller in real terms than they were in 2009-10.

<sup>1</sup> Resolution Foundation (2021) The Boris Budget: Resolution Foundation analysis of Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021

**Local Government** will get grant funding of £4.8 billion (£1.6 billion per year for next three years on top of the funding to implement social care reform), and an estimated average real term increase of 3% in core funding (based on councils increasing council tax to maximum). However, while local government has seen an increase there are constraints on what local authorities will be able to raise council tax, as the option of high council tax rises to relieve local authority spending pressures did not materialize. The spending review documents revealed councils will be able to increase council tax by 2%, with a further 1% social care precept for the relevant authorities. Therefore, with grant funding effectively frozen after next year, combined with no progress on updating the funding formulae and the growing demands of the social care system, some local authorities may have to cut services over the coming years.

According to the IFS ‘fiscally speaking this year will go down as a once in a decade event’<sup>2</sup>, with £40 billion in tax increases and record spending, underpinned by OBR forecasts driving policy.

## Headline Employment and Skills Announcements

In September 2021 at Conservative party conference the Prime Minister announced his vision for a high-wage, high-skilled, high-productivity economy, that will be delivered through its Plan for Growth with significant investment in innovation, infrastructure, and skills.

**R&D Spending:** R&D £20 billion pledge and extended funding period by two years to 2024 (see also Headline Business Support Announcements). Doubling the available scholarships for AI and Data Science Master’s conversion courses with a £23 million investment for under-represented groups.

The **Coronavirus Job Retention or ‘Furlough’ Scheme (CJRS)** ceased at the end of September 2021.

**Impact on Hampshire:** as of September 2021, there were 27,200 Hampshire and the Isle of Wight residents on the CJRS scheme with take-up rate of 3%, of which most are expected to return to their employers or into alternate employment based on record vacancy rates.

To access the government’s fifth and final round of the **Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)** businesses must have had a new or continuing impact from coronavirus between 1 May 2021 and 30 September 2021. This grant is worth either 80% or 30% of average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months’ worth of profits, and capped at £7,500 for the higher percentage or £2,850 for the lower percentage. Newly self-employed individuals were able to claim the higher grant.

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<sup>2</sup> IFS Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021, available at [Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 - Institute For Fiscal Studies - IFS](#)

**Impact on Hampshire:** around 101,000 Hampshire residents were assessed for eligibility for the fifth SEISS grant up to 7th October 2021. Some 35% of eligible Hampshire residents made claims for the fifth grant – a total of 35,300 people. The average payment per claim was around £2,400. Total value of SEISS claims for the fifth grant in Hampshire stood at £84.3m with the total value of all SEISS claims in Hampshire at £884m.

**Skills and education:** Building on the *Plan for Jobs*, the Budget and Spending Review announced over £6 billion of funding for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) over the next three years to assist people earn more and gain the right skills.

The budget announced increased skills spending over the Parliament by £3.8bn. compared to 2019-20, a rise of 42%. **Schools** will receive an additional £4.7bn for the core schools' budget in England by 2024-25. The main areas covered were:

- 16-19-year olds' education in England is to get an additional £1.6bn by 2024-25.
- A portion of the settlement will focus mostly on disadvantaged pupils and will help to recover learning lost due to the pandemic.
- Pupil premium return to 2010 levels worth £1,500 more per pupil – increasing investment to create 30,000 special school places. Support for catchup funding in response to Covid pandemic will approach £5 billion.
- **Special Needs:** Around £2.6bn will be invested over the Spending Review 2021 period for new school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in England.
- There will be opportunities for adults across the whole of the UK to develop their numeracy skills through £560m across the budget period for the Multiply programme, funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund);
- A total investment of £554m by 2024-25 to increase retraining and upskilling opportunities for adults.
- Funding for **Apprenticeships** will increase to £2.7 billion by 2024-25 (the first increase since 2019-20) to support businesses invest in a skilled workforce. Funding for the Help to Grow schemes will help SMEs improve their productivity through world-class management skills training and support for digital adoption.
- Additional funding will be used to quadruple the number of places on Skills Bootcamps, expand the offer on free Level 3 qualifications and launch the new Multiply scheme to improve numeracy skills across the UK for up to 500,000 adults

**Impact on Hampshire:** There were around 32,000 apprenticeship starts in Hampshire in 2018/19 (the latest full year data from DfE). DfE data suggests that in 2020/21 there were over 34,000 SEND pupils in all schools in Hampshire.

## Major Regional Policy Announcements

**Cost of living:** The Government stopped the temporary £20 uplift to standard Universal Credit (UC). However, with effect by December 2021 the Universal Credit

taper rate will be cut from 63p in the pound to 55p leaving low earners with more income. However, factoring in the £20 loss in benefit then estimates<sup>3</sup> suggest three in four claimants will be worse off.

**Impact on Hampshire:** this will boost, in nominal terms, the incomes of up to 143,900 Hampshire residents (up to 81,400 claimants not in employment and up to 62,500 UC claimants in employment).

The **National Living Wage** will increase from £8.91 per hour to £9.50 from April 2022. For those that currently receive the National Living Wage, this will mean a pay rise worth over £1,000.

The most vulnerable families with the cost of living this winter, the government has introduced a £500 million **Household Support Fund**.

**Impact on Hampshire:** Hampshire will receive £7.12 million from the Household Support Fund, Southampton £2.22 million, Portsmouth £1.88 million, and Isle of Wight £1.13 million.

**Net-zero/Green Agenda:** Spending was already announced in the [net zero strategy](#) last week but did not add to this. Budget announced £21 billion of spending on decarbonising buildings, transport, industry, and energy, and providing support for innovation through to 2024-25 but this is unlikely to meet Government's net zero plans.

However, contradicting the net-zero agenda air passenger duty (APD) will be reduced with the cost of a domestic flight tickets likely to be cut equivalent to adding another 410,000 passenger journeys a year, while long-haul flights may become more expensive. Nine million passengers will see the cut, and regional airports such as Southampton could benefit. Furthermore, the Budget froze fuel duty at a cost of around £1.5 billion a year which was less surprising given the sharp spike in fuel costs but again flying in the face of net-zero. The short-term focus is on recovery rather than net-zero.

£620 million of new investment over the next three years to support the **transition to electric vehicles** and a significant increase in new funding to encourage more people to walk and cycle. **Decarbonising buildings** with £3.9 billion, including £1.8 billion to support tens of thousands of low-income households to transition to net zero while reducing their energy bills. Some £315 million has been set aside for the **Industrial Energy Transformation Fund** which will help firms cut their carbon emissions and reduce energy bills. This will support Southampton's industrial cluster.

**Impact on Hampshire:** Southampton's industrial cluster has been named as one of the six industrial clusters that will benefit from the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund. Southampton Airport likely to benefit from reduced APD. According to Census

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<sup>3</sup> Resolution Foundation -



2011 over 560,000 (60%) residents commuted by driving car/van, over 34,000 (4%) cycled, and approaching 100,000 (10%) walked. Travel by car is likely to be lower once 2021 Census published due to increased working from home through hybrid practices (close to 100,000 (11%) residents worked mainly at or from home in 2011).

**Transport and Roads** - Treasury said there would be £8bn for local roads maintenance and upgrades over this Parliament. This compares with previous announcements of around £5.5bn for maintenance (based on current levels) and £3.5bn for upgrades.

**Level up bus services** in England with £3 billion investment over this Parliament, including a new dedicated £1.2 billion new funding for London-style bus transformation deals to improve infrastructure, fares, and services.

Impact on Hampshire: additional spending on transport in Hampshire will include £7 million to develop proposal (the final business case) to reinstate rail passenger services between Totton and Fawley in New Forest.

**Housing and homelessness** – in the Budget and Spending Review investment in housing worth nearly £24billion announced. This includes previously announced the £1.8bn to deliver new homes on 15,000 hectares of brownfield land. £11.5bn to build affordable homes, and £640m for homelessness. A new tax on property developers to help pay for the removal of unsafe cladding that will be levied on developers with profits over £25m at a rate of 4%.

Impact on Hampshire: - almost £58 million from the £75 million *Brownfield Land Release Fund* (BLRF) has been allocated to 53 councils, with Eastleigh Borough Council the only Hampshire County area authority to benefit so far (The Arch, Chandlers Ford, £260,000), while Portsmouth has 13 sites worth just over £2million, and the Isle of Wight have three sites worth collectively approximately £950,000.

New early years funding with £540m for family hubs (although as many as 1,000 Sure Start children's centres may have been shut down in England since 2010 according to Sutton Trust<sup>4</sup>).

**Global Britain Investment Fund:** £1.4 billion to support some of the UK's leading manufacturing sectors and stimulate regional growth across the UK. This will provide grants to encourage internationally mobile companies to invest in the UK's critical and most innovative industries, including life sciences (£354 million) and automotive production and supply chains (£800 million, although focused in the North East and Midlands).

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<sup>4</sup> Sutton Trust (2018) STOP START: Survival, decline or closure? Children's centres in England.

**Impact on Hampshire:** Hampshire has over 150 life science business employing an estimated 24,000 employee, whilst Southampton as the number one export port for vehicles is likely to benefit from exports of Electric Vehicles from the Midlands.

**Freeports** – the government announced eight new freeports including Solent in March 2021. Subject to agreeing their governance arrangements and successfully completing business cases Freeports can begin operations from late 2021. However, Solent has not been shortlisted in the Budget/SR21 as one of the first freeport sites that will be able to operate from November. The first sites will be in Humber, Teesside, and Thames, and be able to begin initial operations from November 2021.

The government will legislate in Finance Bill 2021-22 to introduce additional elements to the VAT free zone model for Freeports.

The legislation will:

- Implement a free zone exit charge to ensure businesses do not gain an unintended tax advantage from the zero-rate in the free zone model
- Make amendments to existing VAT law to ensure free zone rules and warehousing rules are mutually exclusive
- Amend elements of the historic free zone legislation, which are incompatible with the new free zone VAT rules

The measure will take effect from 3 November 2021.

**Impact on Hampshire:** The Solent Freeport has the potential to attract £2billion investment and create more than 50,000 jobs.<sup>5</sup> A mechanism will need to be put in place that minimises job displacements from other parts of Hampshire. The government is actively working with several partners to deliver the remaining Freeports.

**Levelling -up:** The Chancellor announced £1.7 billion of funding in the first grants from the levelling up fund<sup>6</sup> (**see Impact on Hampshire**). Relatively few areas in Hampshire have directly benefited from the recent government bidding rounds (see individual fund impacts) but the short-term economic recovery action planning continuing to be undertaken by the County Council.

The Levelling Up Fund<sup>7</sup> worth £4.8bn (initially announced in November 2020 as part of the Spending Review) will focus on capital investment in local infrastructure. The focus will be on projects that require up to £20m of funding but there is also scope for investing in larger high value transport projects by exception. The first round of the Fund (2021/22) has focused on three themes: smaller transport projects that

<sup>5</sup> <https://solentlep.org.uk/what-we-do/news/2billion-solent-freeport-bid-submitted/>

<sup>6</sup> [Levelling Up Fund: first round successful bidders - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/levelling-up-fund-first-round-successful-bidders)

<sup>7</sup> HMT, MHCLG and DfT (2021) *Levelling Up Fund Prospectus*, available at: [Levelling Up prospectus.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97424/levelling-up-prospectus.pdf)

make a genuine difference to local areas; town centre and high street regeneration; and support for maintaining and expanding the UK's world-leading portfolio of cultural and heritage assets.<sup>8</sup>

**Impact on Hampshire:** First round bids were announced 27 October 2021. A total of 305 Levelling Up Fund bids were received on or before the 18 June 2021 but only 293 met the assessed criteria i.e., 12 were dismissed. In principle, all bids scoring at least 75/100 overall should be funded, but precedence given to the highest-quality bids. Gosport was the only local authority in Hampshire identified as top priority area (Category 1) but was not successful in First round. The Isle of Wight (£5.8 million for East Cowes marina) and Portsmouth (£20million to transform visitor economy) both Priority 2 areas were successful. Feedback sessions will be offered to unsuccessful places to support applications into further rounds of the Fund, with Round two due to open in Spring 2022. This suggests an opportunity to strengthen Hampshire existing or new bids for Round 2.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (replaces the EU Social Fund): over £2.6 billion launched with funding will rise to £1.5 billion a year by 2024-25 and focused on funding programmes that help people into jobs.

**Community Ownership Fund** is aimed at helping communities protect and manage their most treasured assets: the first 21 projects will receive funding from the £150 million, focusing on local community assets such as, community centres, pubs, and the high street. The Fund will run until 2024/25 with at least eight bidding rounds in total. The second bidding round will be announced shortly.

**Impact on Hampshire:** Announced on 27 October 2021, two projects in Hampshire have been selected in this first bidding round worth £1.3 million - New Forest (East Boulder Community Stores, £250,000) and Portsmouth (The John Jenkins Stadium with £986,000). With further rounds until 2024/25 there are additional opportunities for Hampshire to submit bids, including unsuccessful bids which are encouraged to re-submit.

To support young people, spending review will invest £560 million in youth services in England, including through the **Youth Investment Fund and National Citizen Service**.

**UK Community Renewal Fund** – The £220 million UK Community Renewal Fund was introduced as a pilot to provide funding that helps places across the UK prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (designed to replace EU funding) and in so doing contributing to the levelling up agenda through investing in people, places, businesses, and communities improving everyday life across the UK.

**Impact on Hampshire:** Successful bids announced 3 November 2021. Hampshire County Council received 19 bids for the Community Renewal Fund, totalling £9.6 million and following internal assessment process a shortlist of eight bids totalling

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<sup>8</sup> Chapter 4, page 8, [Levelling Up prospectus.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

£3.3 million was submitted to Government for assessment. Hampshire County Council's own bid worth £211,861 for '*Community Engagement for Household and Community Energy Scheme Development in Hampshire*' was successful alongside two bids from Portsmouth City Council worth £1.59 million.

**Levelling-up White Paper and 'County Deal'**. The White Paper presents an opportunity to reset the relationship between central and local government and put councils at the heart of delivering the Government's ambitious programme was due to be published late 2021. Neither the Budget or CSR provided a publication date for the white paper on levelling up and English devolution which will provide further direction for the County.

## Headline Business Support Announcements

The Government chose not to review business rates, while the planned increase in business rates multiplier will be cancelled, worth an estimated £4.6 billion over the next five years.

An estimated 90% of businesses in **retail, hospitality, and leisure properties** will continue to be eligible in England but with 50 per cent **business rates relief** (capped at £110,000 per business - will benefit SMEs) worth £1.7 billion.

Impact on Hampshire: There were around 15,160 enterprises in retail, tourism, and visitor economy in Hampshire in 2021 (about 19% of all enterprises in Hampshire).

**Tax relief on museums and galleries** due to expire in March 2022 has been extended to March 2024. According to research<sup>9</sup>, local authority spending in England on museums and galleries declined between 2009/10 and 2019/20 by 34% in real terms.

Impact on Hampshire: Hampshire has around 55 museum and art gallery enterprises in 2021.

**No announcement on Corporation tax** given an increase in the main rate of corporation tax to 25% from April 2023 was announced in March 2021. **However, the banking surcharge will be reduced to 3% from April 2023.** The profits allowance, which effectively acts as a threshold for when the surcharge becomes payable is also increasing, from £25 million to £100m. The surcharge is payable by banks in addition to corporation tax. A review of the surcharge was first announced in the Spring Budget in March.

Impact on Hampshire: No change from March announcement. A vast number of businesses in Hampshire do not pay corporation tax. Some 74,500 Hampshire

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<sup>9</sup> Rex, B., and Campbell, P. ((2021) Local Authority Investment in Museums after a Decade of Austerity, London Museums Association.

businesses (91%) have turnover that is less than £1m. Around 1,000 Hampshire businesses have turnover of £10m+.

Chancellor announced an extension of the **Annual Investment Allowance** to March 2023, which gives business rates relief to support plant improvements. Through a **capital allowance on business investment scheme** the Government is creating incentives to bring investment forward from future periods. The new scheme will allow businesses to claim 130% in-year relief for main rate capital expenditure on plant and machinery, and 50% relief for special rate capital expenditure for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

The temporary cut to the rate of VAT on food, accommodation, and entry fees to attractions from 20% to 5%, introduced in July 2020, was extended by Finance Act 2021 until 30 September 2021, while an increased reduced rate of 12.5% applies between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022.

Impact on Hampshire: There were about 4,240 enterprises in Hampshire in this sector in 2021 with about 5,750 local business units (about 5.2% of all enterprises in Hampshire).

## County Deal - Statement of Common Ground

1. The local authorities are keen to explore the opportunities provided by a county deal.
2. It is commonly held by the local authorities that the interests of the residents and businesses of the HIOW area would be better served by greater devolution of power and funding from central government to local government (and potentially other locally controlled agencies), working under formal arrangements that bring public services together with a shared agenda. This transfer should embody the principles of subsidiarity and local accountability.
3. The purpose of pursuing devolved powers from Government (more recently termed 'county deals') is to secure such powers and funding in order to level up and improve access to, and the quality of, services and opportunities for everyone across the area. In so doing, it will reduce inequalities and improve the well-being of our residents and communities across a range of service areas, potentially including transport, economic development, environment, housing, health welfare, education, trade, energy, employment and skills and parallel government deals such as the recent Solent Freeport agreement.
4. HIOW contains a number of different socio-economic geographies and 'journey to work' catchments that will need to be reflected within any deals sought. The recent HIOW Leaders meeting reflected this through discussion of the different socio-economic geographies (including at a north Hampshire, central Hampshire and the southern or Solent and Isle of Wight level). There was also agreement that consideration should include the strong links and partnership discussions that have been developed with Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP) Unitary Authority since its inception.
5. Across the geography of HIOW and BCP, four separate expressions of interest for 'county deals' have been submitted to DLUHC. The expressions of interest reference a range of potential geographies for a deal, including the 'historic' county of Hampshire, the unitary councils, and the Solent region (including BCP). HMG convened meetings with the council chief executives to discuss potential county deals in both BCP and HIOW areas. HMG confirmed in the HIOW meeting their willingness to consider a deal on the HIOW geography or sub-geographies, and in the BCP meeting a deal that enabled BCP to be part of a deal within the HIOW area.
6. All of the local authorities hold a genuine interest in exploring whether a worthwhile deal can be secured that brings net benefits for each area as well as the whole, acknowledging that different councils have different priorities for their communities, that some options may serve their priorities better than others, but equally that all will strive to find the maximum common ground.

7. Any successful deal(s) will be the product of genuine co-production by equal partners, with the proposals and process for developing them owned and shaped by all, with the final proposals reflecting an equitable distribution of influence and responsibility, including in any voting regime that may be required. It is recognised by Leaders that the HIOW area already has 'best practice' examples such as the successful Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) which has delivered effective co-produced growth and attracted funding over a 20-year period for the benefits of the partnership area.
8. It is recognised that a deal will comprise 'asks and offers' from both HMG and the local authorities. The greater the asks, the greater the expected offer. From HMG perspective, certainty, consistency, accountability, and mandate in terms of HMG (single) point of contact with the area of the deal is key. Gains in efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services are also important. To secure this, HMG may be willing to offer a range of freedoms, funding, and powers.
9. Ongoing conversations with surrounding areas will continue as we explore the range of options available.

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- e) Keeps the new model of engagement under constant monitoring and review through update reports being submitted to the Economic Development Sub Committee.

## **Executive Summary**

3. This paper signals the growing importance of place in national Government policy and increasing expectations for regeneration and growth strategies at sub-national and local levels that will essentially breathe new life into our towns, cities and high streets, bringing about a strong economic recovery. In order to bring this about a more proactive and collaborative approach to regeneration and growth engagement with our District Authorities is essential to ensure that capacity and resources work together to make the whole much greater than the sum of the parts. There is also a case for extending this approach, where appropriate and mutually desired, to surrounding unitary authority areas on a case by case basis.
4. The County Council currently receives a wide variety of different engagements with different expectations from the District Authorities, predominantly related to economic development initiatives, including funding bids, or through planning initiatives such as local plan development work. The requests can also come into the County Council through a variety of routes, depending on the individual circumstances of each initiative. Historically initial contact has generally been made either with Economic Development, Planning or Highways and Transport in ETE or through the property and estates teams in CCBS. Increasingly the district and borough councils are seeking a single point of contact for the more wide-ranging and comprehensive regeneration and/or growth plans which typically involve a number of different County Council interests and Departments. Whilst in recent times this type of approach has usually been co-ordinated and overseen at officer level through the Corporate Infrastructure Group, it is only the Whitehill and Bordon initiative which has also had fully developed joint political management arrangements in place to date.
5. The existing operating model is primarily demand-led and can be fragmented and ad hoc in nature. The scale and scope of engagement and intervention expected, and its timing is not always shared in advance with the County Council. What then often follows is a period of negotiation and understanding to better understand the issues, draw together the relevant evidence and reach a view about a proportionate and appropriate response. The initial requests for support are often based on specific actions relating to particular service responses from within the County Council. This can constrain a more rounded approach that would allow for a more joined-up and integrated response, as well as enabling the County Council to be engaged at an earlier stage, allowing for co-design, co-development and co-delivery across the local area. The statutory requirements arising from developments or service specific issues often emerge relatively late in the process which can result in friction and conflict which could have been avoided if an earlier dialogue had been triggered.

6. In essence, the County Council and the District Authorities both want the best outcomes for their shared residents and communities. It is with this in mind that this report seeks to present a new model for regeneration and growth partnerships. It is considered that greater and earlier collaboration can enable more to be achieved from the County Council's interventions and from the plans, strategy and actions of the District Authorities, recognising that there are of course capacity and financial constraints, and that clear prioritisation and joint advance programme and capacity planning will be critical to success.
7. There have been notable successes when working in partnership between the County Council and the Districts on a wide range of activities, including major developments, growth opportunities and regeneration. There are established programmes of joint work for example in Basingstoke, the Waterside area of the New Forest, including Totton and in relation to Aldershot and Farnborough. There are also examples of joint projects such work with Gosport on the waterfront and bus station regeneration and the proposed motorway junction upgrade at Welborne in Fareham. A particularly good example of long-term collaboration and joint governance is the partnership with East Hampshire District on the regeneration of Whitehill & Bordon. The County Council has been an active partner from the early strategy stages, has participated in joint governance arrangements to oversee and co-ordinate the initiatives, and has utilised its own assets and capabilities throughout the programme to benefit overall regeneration.
8. Recently the County Council has been engaged in emerging regeneration or growth initiatives with a number of authorities, including senior Member and Officer Meetings and visits. Discussions with Test Valley Borough Council in relation to the Andover Regeneration project, with Havant Borough Council in relation to Havant Town Centre, recent announcements in the New Forest in relation to Totton and with Winchester City Council in relation to a number of potential developments in Winchester have included discussions around a governance model based on the Whitehill Bordon example. There
9. This paper suggests that this successful model of partnership is used as the foundation for collaboration with District Authorities. This proposed governance model includes the Executive Lead Member for Economy Transport & Environment representing the County Council on strategic governance arrangements, supported where appropriate by a local County Council Member, as is proposed for example for the Andover project.
10. These regeneration and growth partnerships would be supported by officers as appropriate, but this work would be overseen by the Corporate Infrastructure Group, which is chaired by the Director for Economy Transport & Environment and includes representatives from all County Council Departments, with a focus on development and regeneration activities. Due to desired outcomes of local regeneration and growth partnerships being economic in nature, and key enablers often being transport and spatial planning focussed, it is envisaged that the Economy Transport & Environment department would take the lead facilitation role and become the initial single point of contact with the District Authority. It is also acknowledged that many other services from within the County Council, including Property Services, Culture and Information Services,

Education and Skills and Participation will all need to contribute to, and potentially be impacted by, regeneration and growth initiatives across Hampshire.

### **The importance of Place**

11. Place sits increasingly at the heart of national Government policy and strategy and in the last decade the core cities, through sub national arrangements, such as Mayoral Combined Authorities and collaborative at scale 'powerhouses', have secured disproportionate resources, influence and kudos across national programmes. In July 2021, the Prime Minister set out a vision for 'levelling up' the whole of the UK and announced the prospect for County Deals as a means to providing similar devolution opportunities across a wide array of place-based functions, powers and resources in return for enhancements to place leadership for county areas, as set out in the recent Levelling Up Government White Paper.
12. Hampshire County Council is currently providing strong leadership to bring all parts of Hampshire and the wider area through economic recovery, playing a major part in stimulating a greater role in the sub national economic agenda, including undertaking and coordinating the technical work to underpin any potential County Deal for the pan-Hampshire area, as well as seeking to collaborate at greater scale on trade, investment and competitiveness to secure greater return for the wider area, the Freeport proposals and the ambitions surrounding 'Global' Britain.
13. In doing so the County Council is aware of its changing role in terms of these future opportunities to attract and draw down from Central Government more functions, powers, resources and flexibilities by collaborating more widely both with local authorities, other parts of the public and the private sector.
14. In Hampshire, a new evidence-based approach for a new narrative was triggered in 2018 by the work of the Hampshire 2050 Commission and the recent launch in the summer of 2021 of the Hampshire Place Story.
15. The combined impact of both the covid pandemic and the UK leaving the European Union has made economic recovery a primary driver of both national and local government. In the short term the economic shock associated with both events has also combined to shift a national trend and the overall policy focus away from what is regarded as a relatively affluent south towards the north and the midlands. Combine this with the legacy since 2010 of huge budget reductions for local government regeneration and growth interventions and community-based services and there is no doubt that there is a need to embrace a new regeneration and growth collaborative approach to how we grow our competitive and local economies, raise living standards and respond to the climate emergency. This includes the regeneration of our towns, cities, market towns and high streets. It also means increasingly self-generating the solutions to these challenges by making better use of our existing assets and stimulating the strengths in our economy to breathe new life into some of our relatively 'left behind' areas and communities. As a major net contributor to the Exchequer

there is scope to provide innovative models for regeneration and major developments.

16. Whilst there are challenges, there are also opportunities emerging for areas across Hampshire to build back better. These include opportunities to capitalise on emerging macro changes to work location patterns either with workers staying more local and using our high streets, or businesses developing a hub and spoke model with satellite offices in regional locations. There are also opportunities for those able to develop a tourism, cultural or more experience-based offer with a focus on leisure as well as shopping, and the emphasis on 'stay local, shop local' also presents some opportunities for smaller retail centres.

### **Current situation regarding collaboration with the District Authorities**

17. Any sub national system, including a two-tier local government system, is going to have a highly dynamic and complex set of interactions and interdependencies within it, and so it is difficult to quantify the sum of collaboration at any given point, especially across our towns, city centres and high streets. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that currently there is no clear 'lens' over the existing arrangements, especially in relation to regeneration and growth initiatives.

18. Appendix 1 summarises the County Council's current involvement in locally-focussed regeneration projects. The County Council is now engaged in an increasing number of projects, the majority of which are in the early stages of feasibility and master-planning. The same teams are often involved, principally Integrated Transport, Economic Development, Strategic Planning and Property Services, if Hampshire County Council assets or One Public Estate funding is involved. In many cases a District's initial ask of the County Council will be seeking to resolve a particular highway/transport problem as an enabler to redevelopment. However, this is really a means to an end and the driver for change is usually economic with the vision and desired outcomes to create a transformational step change to a place often being similar. Several Districts are now creating Cultural Strategies which the Culture and Information Services team is feeding into. Moving forward it will be important to incorporate this into our wider regeneration and growth activities given the role cultural activities and development can play in regeneration and economic recovery. Additionally, the net environmental gain and climate emergency outcomes will also need to feature in an integrated way

19. Closer and more pro-active formal liaison with the local planning authorities will also need to feature. However, where regeneration and growth collaboration enables a more pro-active partnership to happen, it is hoped that the more formal liaison on issues such as Local Plan development or planning application consultations will be better informed as a consequence of earlier co-production, co-design and co-delivery. The coordination on local planning is currently also overseen by the Corporate Infrastructure Group.

### **Future state of collaboration with the District Authorities**

20. In order to secure better outcomes for our residents and communities, there is an opportunity to update the model of local regeneration and growth partnerships so that more is achieved in terms of the County Council's interventions, and the sum of the parts becomes greater than the whole, both internally and through greater collaboration with the District Local Authorities and wider partners. There is no doubt that the demand on the County Council and its services is increasing, particularly given the economic impact of the pandemic on towns and high streets and the importance of securing an early and strong economic recovery. A new model is required to enable the best use of limited capacity and resources. Both 'spreading the jam too thinly', investing in unviable projects, and not acting on best available evidence, are pitfalls that require a rigorous and disciplined response to ensure they are avoided.
21. Successful regeneration has the potential to significantly reduce demand for a wide-range of the County Council's services into the future and provide positive uplift as part of the levelling up agenda in areas of deprivation and economic under performance, as well as support our emerging transport priorities in LTP4 and climate change objectives.
22. Whitehill and Bordon is demonstrable good practice locally of comprehensive, coordinated proactive partnership working in a regeneration context. Partners have worked together over seventeen years to create a bold, shared vision and priorities for regeneration, strong effective working relationships built on trust, stakeholder buy in and a positive approach to planning which has delivered the required infrastructural changes upfront. The County Council has kept continual engagement with seats on the various workstreams/boards at both strategy and delivery levels.
23. Moving forward a more proactive and truly collaborative approach is advocated, akin to the Whitehill and Bordon model albeit modified to the particular local circumstances. The new model would require the County Council to actively work alongside the relevant District and other partners from the outset to create a shared understanding, formulate a regeneration and growth strategy and priorities in response to national, regional and local conditions. The model also assumes collaboration extending to support delivery of the projects and programmes. Engaging earlier will enable the County Council to be more successful in supporting and shaping regeneration projects to deliver desired outcomes and more able to be a proactive, responsive partner, which can be more reductionist if we are only brought in later as part of a statutory process.
24. The proposed new model of local engagement will entail:
- an offer of close collaborative working with all of the District Authorities;
  - multi-agency and multi-disciplinary working;
  - clarity about strategy and delivery at County and District levels; and
  - clear and collaborative governance arrangements.
25. The new model of engagement will provide a basis for prioritising resources and capacity to support their optimal deployment and maximisation of the benefits to be secured. The County Council should focus its resources on working with

those Local Authorities that wish to fully collaborate to create a shared strategy for regeneration and growth, where the County Council's resources can be used to best effect for the benefit of the economy and local residents.

26. The ability to make a tangible difference to the local economy and regeneration is an important factor that the County Council should consider in approaches for collaborative work and support by District Authorities. Additionally there are some regeneration or growth initiatives where the County Council has land and property interests which give it further points of influence. The approach, where possible, should be to use the County Council's assets and capabilities to help further the regeneration and economic ambitions of the area, in those situations where the County Council is working as a partner with the District Council. This will include taking a rounded view of all relevant considerations including the corporate objectives, climate and environmental implications and economic context in addition to the needs of the relevant service.

### **A strong collaborative approach**

27. To support the development of the new Local Regeneration and Growth Partnerships the following principles have been created to help as a starting point guide the development of tailored terms of reference for each of them, recognising that a bespoke approach will be essential to adapt to the local needs of each area.

- Bold and ambitious shared collaborative place leadership
- Clarity of joint and individual responsibility and accountability
- Shared set of partner behaviours and values
- Clear and effective collaborative working and governance arrangements
- An outcome-based focus
- A high-level place-based focus on Strategy covering multiple strategies, disciplines and partners
- A high-level place-based focus on Delivery covering the same strategies, disciplines and partners

28. As a stronger place-based approach is put in place, the first step is to build from the existing foundations in local areas and establish strong collaboration and economic priorities around the Local Regeneration and Growth partnerships with willing individual councils and the County Council.

29. A Partnership Board will be established to support these partnerships, and join up the links between local projects. This Board will have local government leadership and representatives from across the engaging partnerships.

30. A pan-Hampshire Regeneration & Growth Board will also be established, particularly as relationships develop and grow, with representatives from key businesses and skills communities. This will have an overview of the projects being developed, but crucially work with business to maximise the overall value of the existing and emerging opportunities.

31. In addition, this approach could also usefully allow foundations to be laid and agility secured as part of our responsiveness to the continuing opportunities presented in the Levelling Up White Paper, both in terms of meeting Government's challenges to work at scale as well as clarify the benefits arising from putting to good use additional functions, powers, resources and flexibilities that a Deal with Government will bring. A sophisticated approach will be required that operates at multiple scales to maximise the opportunities on offer.

### **Proposed Governance**

32. It is important that the County Council is able to provide a coherent approach across the whole of Hampshire. To do so requires both a Member and Officer contribution that is fully aligned and appropriately integrated to ensure that overall policy and strategy is implemented. On this basis it is proposed that there is an overall consistent Member and Officer representation across the full range of partnership and collaborative arrangements.

33. Given this, it is proposed that the County Council is represented in the Strategy development via the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment and the Delivery arrangements via the Economy, Transport and Environment Department, given the central role that economic development, transport infrastructure and spatial planning take in these regeneration/place making programmes. Additional representations and substitutions will be subject to local negotiation and vary according to local and area-based need and requirements.

34. This will enable more efficient, effective, and integrated regeneration and growth partnership working. Other service areas including Property Services, Culture and Information Services, Education and Skills and Participation will be fully engaged. The interaction will be coordinated to make us more engagement friendly, and so that the County Council's position at a service level is viewed in the context of wider implications and considerations, so that cross-departmental benefits can be maximised.

### **Resources**

35. This proposed approach to engagement will likely at times be more resource intensive for the County Council and in particular the Economy, Transport & Environment department. Focus within the service will be adjusted to absorb this increase in workload where possible, however it is acknowledged that capacity and work areas will need to be prioritised. Where possible work will be undertaken on a cost recovery basis, for example where an initiative has the benefit of external funding to support its development or delivery, or where costs can be recovered against capital funding, to ensure that capacity is maximised to provide the optimal level of engagement in the future.

### **Consultation and Equalities**



36. This is a strategic report proposing a new approach to County Council local engagement on regeneration and growth strategies and projects and therefore doesn't require a specific consultation at this point.
37. Proposals for individual regeneration schemes will undertake their own specific consideration of equalities issues. This report has no direct effect on service users, so has a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessments**

38. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
39. The tools employed by the County Council to assess impacts on climate change adaptation and mitigation were utilised and found not to be applicable on grounds that the decision relates to a strategic approach rather than specific interventions. The tools will be applied to specific regeneration schemes and more detailed proposals in the future to assess any impacts and ensure they are reported, as appropriate.

### **Conclusions**

40. Nationally, sub-nationally and locally there is a growing importance of regeneration and growth strategies, programmes and projects. Hampshire County Council has assets, expertise and capacity that can add value to local regeneration and growth across the county, working in partnership with the districts and boroughs of Hampshire.
41. In order to optimise these initiatives the most appropriate external governance and internal processes need to be in place. In addition, due to the varying level of input sought from District Authorities, the extent of tangible change that the County Council thinks can be achieved through each intervention, and the capacity within the County Council, clear and careful prioritisation will be required. The new model of engagement will help provide the foundations to secure more proportionate and appropriate responses, with a view to seeking increasing levels of co-production, co-design and co-delivery against the local growth and regeneration strategies and plans of the District Authorities.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

This is a high level strategic report proposing greater collaboration with boroughs and districts in Hampshire. The decisions in this report are strategic, and mainly relate to in-house management ways of working with partners, rather than decisions on specific initiatives and therefore have a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics.

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ANNEX 1 - SUMMARY OF EXISTING HCC ENGAGEMENT ON TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION SCHEMES

Place	District	Summary of Scheme	Status	Current Governance Arrangements	Current HCC involvement
Whitehill + Bordon	East Hampshire	Transformation of garrison town including 3,350 homes, +100,000sqm commercial, retail, leisure, and community facilities. New town centre, transport improvements, green spaces, part of EZ3 Enterprise Zone.	<b>Delivery phase</b>	<b>Strategy Group</b> - including HCC Member engagement  <b>Delivery Group</b> - including lead HCC rep and involvement across several departments	Significant joint working with HCC taking an active interventionist approach:  Built new relief road and transport improvements. Ongoing responsibility for delivery of S106 spend, LEP grants for active travel infrastructure and other transport measures. Spend on transport approached £40m  New school, disposal of existing school site for housing.  Employment and Skills - partial funding of Future Skills Centre and range of employment and skills programmes. Supporting promotion and delivery of employment sites.  Public Health delivery of Healthy New Town programme.
Farnborough Civic Quarter	Rushmoor	Mixed use scheme on edge of town centre. Residential, commercial, community facilities, new leisure centre, potential community hub incorporating Council/public sector offices and library.	<b>Feasibility stage</b> Masterplan has been consulted on several occasions, HCC has been involved in development of masterplan.	No combined RBC/HCC governance arrangements in place. Meetings are arranged as and when required based on project needs.	Transport - likely to involve significant highway remodelling. Needs an integrated land use and transport strategy to make the regen work in practice. Highways Development Planning will be actively engaged in pre app and application determination.  Opportunity of new library either within new civic hub or relocated off-site. Feasibility of options being explored with RBC.  Providing general input to masterplan.  OPE funding feasibility work into Civic Hub deliverability.  Working with RBC on preparation of a Cultural Strategy.  Potential for adults extra care provision.
Aldershot Town Centre	Rushmoor	Multi sited regeneration programme which seeks to create a distinctive, mixed-use centre with a high-quality housing, leisure, cultural, employment and retail offer.	<b>Delivery phase</b>	No combined RBC/HCC governance arrangements in place. Meetings are arranged as and when required based on project needs.	Seat on Aldershot Task Force and coordination of engagement on regeneration schemes.  Working with RBC on preparation of a Cultural Strategy.  Work ongoing to consider optimum uses for Aldershot Library surplus spaces to maximise footfall. Transport: changes are small in scale but potentially large in impact: e.g. changing one-way working to two-way working. RBC are progressing the scheme under agency agreement. The existing arrangement may miss opportunities for larger scale transport improvements and accessing other sources of funding
Havant and Waterlooville	Havant	Multi sited, phased regeneration programme, spatial priority areas: Havant town centre, Hayling Island, Leigh Park, Waterlooville town centre	<b>Feasibility stage</b> Adopted Regeneration Strategy.	Under discussion. Partnership approach similar to Whitehill + Bordon favoured by HBC including Strategy and Delivery groups which HCC would have representatives on.	Engagement in refresh of Regeneration and Economic Strategy.

			Approved Infrastructure Delivery Plan.  Work underway on revised Regeneration and Economic Strategy and associated Delivery Programme to be approved by Council in due course. HCC are providing input.		Transport - development of local area strategy. £14m bid to levelling up Fund. Employed by HBC to do transport assessments for Local plan. Currently liaising with Havant officers to develop a local prioritised transport infrastructure plan for next 5 years. Opportunity to consider future library and service provision in Havant and Leigh Park and rationalisation of HCC office accommodation as part of wider proposals.  OPE funding - Currently facilitating partner engagement around Havant town centre and Civic Plaza.
Andover	Test Valley	Multi sited, phased regeneration of town centre, including significant residential, leisure, new offices for Simply Heath (key employer), new facilities for Andover College, community facilities.  Requires significant highway remodelling and public realm improvements.	<b>Feasibility stage</b> Adopted masterplan - HCC involvement	To be agreed. No formal governance with HCC in place to date.	Transport: Actively engaged in town centre masterplanning looking at downgrading the inner ring road to make the town centre more permeable. Included assisting in and joint funding modelling of regen proposals. Actively developing a package of schemes to spend locally held S106 that needs spending. Passenger transport actively engaged to develop local demand responsive transport projects.  Opportunity to consider future library provision, currently located in Chantry Shopping Centre - leased from TVBC.  Potential for adults extra care provision.
Basingstoke	Basingstoke and Deane	Multi sited, phased regeneration of town centre, including significant residential, leisure, commercial, cultural and community facilities.	<b>Feasibility stage</b> B&D has recently consulted on a draft vision and masterplan for the town centre, will proceed to adoption in Spring 2022.  HCC providing technical Transport input.	To be agreed. Current engagement is principally transport led.	Transport: Officers actively providing technical advice to BDBC on the town centre proposals and emerging leisure centre ones. Have shared the proposals with HCC Basingstoke Members on two occasions. Recently developed a new Basingstoke transport plan. Developing complementary Mass Rapid transit and station interchange schemes. Developing a Basingstoke LCWIP.  Opportunity to consider future library provision, currently leased facility in Festival Place.
Winchester	Winchester	Central Winchester - multi sited, phased regeneration scheme including residential, affordable work and creative spaces, leisure/heritage activities and quality public realm.	<b>Feasibility stage</b> Consultation on Draft Development proposals undertaken in Jan 2021  Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) adopted in June 2018	No formal governance.	Transport: Actively developing the Winchester Movement Strategy which includes development of several high cost schemes including converting parts of the one-way system to two-way working, urban realm enhancements and traffic reduction policies. Integrated regen and transport proposals being developed in partnership.
Petersfield	East Hampshire	Market town placemaking scheme led by Town Council	<b>Feasibility stage</b>	No formal governance. Current engagement is transport led.	Transport: currently providing the town council with traded services advice on public realms design options
Eastleigh	Eastleigh	Town Centre public realm and regeneration proposals	<b>Feasibility stage</b>	No formal governance. Current engagement is transport led.	Transport: Early stage discussions taking place about scoping out a new Eastleigh Town Transport plan to coincide with the District developing a vision and placemaking proposals for the town centre. Linked to Freeport and Navigator Quarter proposals which are in early stages of pre application discussions.
Romsey	Test Valley	Regen, led by highway based town centre public realm enhancement. Local plan is allocating new sites in Romsey on the back of which the District are developing regeneration proposals.	<b>Delivery phase</b>	No formal governance. Current engagement is transport led.	Transport: Have delivered 3 of 4 stages of highway public realm schemes. Largely HCC funded to date. Last phase remaining but unfunded.
Alton	East Hampshire	Rail station area. Includes car park and various retail outlets	<b>Feasibility stage</b>	No formal governance. Current engagement is transport led.	Transport: Developing an interchange scheme with District. Due to be commissioned by town council with traded services advice on public realm design options.

Totton	New Forest	Town Centre public realm improvements including improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists	<b>Concept Stage</b>	No formal governance. Current engagement with District and Town Councils is transport led.	Identified in the Strategy and Scheme Development work programme for 2022/23/24, in the context of planned and potential transport improvements in the town centre area.
Ringwood	New Forest	Town Centre public realm improvements including improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists	<b>Concept Stage</b>	No formal governance.	Identified in the Strategy and Scheme Development work programme for 2022/23/24.
Lymington	New Forest	Town Centre public realm improvements including improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists	<b>Concept Stage</b>	No formal governance.	Identified in the Strategy and Scheme Development work programme for 2022/23/24.

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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	15 March 2022
<b>Title:</b>	School Streets
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

**Contact name:** Dominic McGrath

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the Hampshire School Streets Pilot, specifically to discuss the conclusions from the initial monitoring and assessment of the trial to date; and to provide recommendations on an initial policy approach to the development of a potential future Hampshire School Streets programme.

### Recommendations

2. It is recommended that Cabinet:
  - a) Notes the findings and initial conclusions from the first phase of the pilot scheme evaluation.
  - b) Endorses the continued operation of the existing School Streets pilot sites on a trial basis during 2022, with a report on the further data and evaluation to be considered in the autumn of 2022.
  - c) Authorises design and evaluation of alternative operating models, including ANPR camera enforcement, for School Streets, to inform the final evaluation and recommendations from the pilots.

### Executive Summary

3. The high-level delivery approach for the School Streets was set out in a report titled '*School Streets*' that was approved by Cabinet on 9 February 2021. This report detailed that the trials would take place from the start of the 2021/22 academic year until the October 2021 half-term, the pilot would be included within the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 programme and that the outcomes and conclusions were to be reported back to the Cabinet thereafter.
4. Trials have been undertaken at three schools during the Autumn Term, at Harrison Primary School (Fareham), Cadland Primary School (Holbury) and Alverstoke Infants School (Gosport). The trials have involved the temporary closure of a nearby street, to remove motor traffic from the immediate vicinity of the schools, at the start and end of the school day.

5. Data from the monitoring and evaluation exercise was analysed during late 2021, and the results and conclusions that can be drawn from the Pilot are described within this report. The data demonstrates that the three trial schemes have been generally successful, with community support for all three trial schemes. There is evidence to indicate a reduction in motor vehicle activity in the areas of concentrated pedestrian usage around the school entrance.
6. The data also indicates that the School Streets generally have a positive impact on active travel mode choice for the journey to school, and this benefit appears to be more significant when School Streets are implemented over larger areas and/or in schools with larger pupil numbers. The trials also highlight a key issue relating to the long-term sustainability of these initiatives, in that each of the schools participating in the trial have had difficulties resourcing and retaining volunteer stewarding of the scheme, with pressures on school staff and a low level of volunteer support meaning that their capacity to manage these schemes for the longer term under current operating arrangements is at risk.
7. A decision paper was considered by the Executive Member for Highways Operations at Decision Day on 18 November 2021, with approval given for the interim continued operation of School Streets measures at the three participating trial sites.
8. It is recommended that the existing School Streets sites at Harrison Primary School and Cadland Primary School are continued on a trial basis, until at least the end of the 2021/22 academic year. (As noted in the report, Alverstoke Infant school withdrew from the trial in November 2021, for resourcing reasons.) During this period, further consideration can be given to potential modifications to the existing arrangements to seek operational efficiencies and increased sustainability in terms of steward resources. Following the end of the 2021/22 academic year, a decision will be required on whether or not to make the existing School Streets arrangements at these two locations permanent.

### **Contextual information**

9. School Streets schemes seek to reduce motor vehicle traffic from roads in the vicinity of school entrances at busy times to help make journeys to school safer and make active travel to school (cycling and walking) more appealing. The schemes aim to improve the walking environment and reduce congestion issues around the school entrance, to encourage parents and pupils to travel more sustainably, and to contribute to the wider public health targets of the Local Authority (such as making streets safer, improving air quality and promoting physical activity). This is achieved through implementation of timed access restrictions on motor vehicle traffic on the roads providing the main route of pedestrian access to the school site, thus providing increased road-space for those walking and cycling during the start and end of the school day.
10. Following a motion to Full Council on 24 September 2020 and subsequent Cabinet endorsement of the high-level delivery approach on 9 February 2021, the implementation plan for the Council's School Streets Pilot was developed.

The Pilot was included in the Active Travel Fund (ATF) Tranche 2 programme and funding. The implementation plan and the recommended sites for trial interventions were approved by the Executive Member for Highways Operations on 17 June 2021, with authority to make arrangements to implement the three individual trial schemes being delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment. The detailed implementation proposals were approved by the Director on 6 July 2021, for three trial schemes to be delivered at:

- Alverstoke Infant School, Gosport;
- Cadland Primary School, Holbury, New Forest; and
- Harrison Primary School, Fareham.

11. The County Council commissioned Sustrans (a national walking and cycling charity, involved in School Streets nationwide) to provide support during the project; specifically, to provide steward training and to undertake monitoring and assessment of the trials to gauge the effectiveness of the initiative.
12. Testing of the trial arrangements commenced at the three participating schools in the final days of the 2020/21 academic year, to ensure there were no significant operational issues in advance of the main trial period. The main trial period commenced at the start of autumn term of the 2021/22 academic year and School Streets have been in continuous effect during term-time periods at the three trial sites thereafter (except at Alverstoke, where the trial ran until November -see below).
13. The Executive Member for Highways Operations considered a Decision Report titled 'School Streets Pilot – Update' at Decision Day on 18 November 2021, where approval was given for the interim continued operation of School Streets measures at participating trial sites pending a policy decision on the future of the School Streets initiative in Hampshire.
14. Initial consideration of the monitoring data indicates that the trials have been effective, particularly in terms of improving the walking environment around the school at peak times and promoting active travel modes. The initiative appears to have a high level of public support.
15. All participating schools have indicated that resourcing the stewarding arrangements presents a significant challenge, with pressures on school staff and a low level of volunteer support meaning that their capacity to manage these schemes under current operating arrangements is a risk which may affect the long-term sustainability of the initiative. As a result of these resource pressures, one of the three participating schools, Alverstoke Infants School in Gosport, confirmed during the trial that it could not continue to commit the necessary resources, and withdrew from the trial in November 2021. The other two participating schools (Harrison Primary School, Fareham, and Cadland Primary School, Holbury) both confirmed a desire to continue with the school street arrangements over the coming months, despite these resourcing pressures.

16. A programme of monitoring and assessment has been implemented to gauge the effectiveness of the School Streets intervention; the results and analysis of this monitoring and evaluation are outlined below. Also within this report are details of the potential next steps in the process of developing a future Hampshire School Streets programme.

## Monitoring and Assessment

17. The monitoring undertaken by Sustrans included user perception surveys, focus groups, pupil travel surveys and traffic surveys. The key findings from the pilots are described below, with the significant site-specific monitoring and assessment results contained within Appendix A.

18. The data indicates that the School Streets pilot schemes at Harrison and Cadland Primary schools have been generally successful in meeting the intended objectives: improving the road environment to the front of the school in terms of perceived road safety and air quality, and also encouraging an increased use of active travel modes for journeys to school. The public feedback received during the pilot indicates a high level of local support for the School Street and these participating schools have also indicated satisfaction with the positive impacts and have expressed a desire to continue. While still positive to some extent, the trial at Alverstoke had a lower level of public support and was subject to resourcing difficulties, which ultimately resulted in its early withdrawal.

19. The key outcomes of the monitoring and assessment are set out in the table below:

	Level of public support for school street to continue or continue with changes (%)	Change in active travel mode use for journeys to school (%)	Change in motor vehicle use for journeys to school (%)	Change in Motor Traffic (Average net change in frequency of traffic counters being tripped on the surrounding network during peak times)	Perception of safety (survey participants who agreed or strongly agreed that the street was safer) (%)
Harrison Primary School	75.4	+5.1	-6	-273	84.4
Cadland Primary School	81.2	+10.6	-18.6	-58	71.4
Alverstoke Infants School	57.0	-6.4*	+12.8*	+26	44.7

\*Alverstoke Infants School had a low response rate to the user perception surveys, with 38 responses recorded. This potentially affects the reliability of conclusions that can be drawn from this data, particularly for any marginal net changes such as modal shift.

20. The purpose of the trial was to test the School Street implementation process as much as a test of the outcomes, and as such, has resulted in some key learning points. The primary issues at all three trial sites are described below, and these are expected to be common also to any future site potentially under consideration.
21. Steward resource pressures: The closures require the presence of stewards, to erect and remove temporary barriers at the start and end of each closure. Such barriers are currently required because of road safety requirements and potential liability issues. Stewards also need to 'man' the barriers, to allow local access for residents. All pilot schemes have been affected by lower-than-expected volunteer numbers for School Streets stewards. All schools managed this issue using staff, either to supplement or in place of volunteers. The use of a volunteer steward model indicates a potential for heavy reliance on school staff, which may affect the long-term sustainability of the initiative in its current form. It should also be noted that the pilot has been undertaken during a time of ongoing pressure and change for schools and for parents, in part due to Covid19. This may have impacted in terms of school staff and volunteer availability due to illness, changes to parent working patterns or locations affecting drop-off/pick-up transport choices and changes to social distancing and drop-off/pick up times affecting school access arrangements.
22. Displaced parking: this is the most common public complaint or observation and ad-hoc parking observations during the pilot have identified that parking is an issue at a number of locations, mainly residential side roads off Whitefield Road near Cadland School, and around the Southampton Road junction with Harrison Road at Harrison School. It should be noted that parking issues typically exist around schools; these streets have historically had school related parking issues to some extent and therefore it can be difficult to identify the actual impact of the School Street on parking patterns. A learning outcome from the pilot is that consideration of parking matters is essential during site selection, as is obtaining robust 'before' data on parking patterns, along with regular observations and enforcement during the operation of the school street.
23. In summary, the pilot has demonstrated that School Streets interventions are potentially effective solutions in addressing the issues that typically exist in the high-footfall areas around school entrances. When implemented effectively, these schemes have potential to generate a strong level of public support and high level of satisfaction from the participating school, and these interventions demonstrate good overall value for money relative to the benefits that can be achieved for the local community.
24. However, implementation of these schemes does come with challenges, most notably with the trials the difficulty in recruiting and retaining volunteers. This has meant that school staff have had to carry out much of the day-to-day work to run the scheme. While this has been acceptable to the schools for the initial period of the trial, it remains to be seen if this is a sustainable arrangement for the longer term. Therefore, the 'next steps' proposed below are focussed on sustaining the existing trial and exploring alternative means of enforcement.

25. The trial has highlighted that the suitability of site selection and strong early engagement with the school community and local residents is fundamental to their early success. The pilot has demonstrated that school streets schemes covering a larger area are likely to be more sustainable and have a higher impact, however this is subject to site suitability and availability of sufficient resources to operate a scheme over a wider area. Also important to success in many cases, is considering the School Street as part of a package of measures, potentially including increased parking enforcement and engagement with the school to encourage travel behaviour change and promote the School Streets initiative within its local community. The ongoing resourcing requirements and commitment to make school streets effective should therefore not be underestimated.

## **Finances**

26. The cost of setting up running the initial trial across the three schools was £74,000. This has covered equipment supply (including barriers and PPE), traffic orders, training, programme development, research and monitoring costs. These set-up costs for the trial programme have been funded from money allocated to Hampshire County Council under the Government 'Active Travel Fund' (ATF) and from Hampshire County Council Public Health budgets.
27. The cost to HCC of extending the existing trials to the end of the school year is anticipated to be minimal. This would be limited to monitoring and evaluation costs are these are expected to be up to £5,000, which can be met from existing budgets.
28. To date, running costs have been minimal, because once up and running the schemes are run day-to-day by the schools. The costs to them are, to a large extent, dependent on volunteer capacity and the school's willingness to deploy staff to augment volunteer support. There may be a need to provide further volunteer training, in the event that existing volunteers withdraw, but beyond that HCC would not incur any significant running costs as a result of extending the trials
29. Initial indications are that rolling out the programme more widely would be expected to incur a set-up cost in the region of £12,000 - £15,000 per school. Complex schemes, for example where revisions to parking are required, could cost more. Provision would also need to be made for the potential removal of traffic orders for any scheme that ceased, which would be at a cost of up to £5,000 per site. The current operating model, utilising volunteers, would seem to offer the cheapest option (to HCC) for providing school streets, and this should be considered a baseline cost.
30. To scale that up to a programme level, a calculation has been undertaken to review the baseline cost for a potential wider programme. While not all schools would be suitable for the introduction of a School Street, because of local factors such as being sited on an A road, being on a bus route, etc, as an indication of the scale of cost (and assuming that there was a sufficiently high level of interest), rolling out the programme to 40% of maintained primary phase schools across the County would involve set up costs in the region of

£2 - £2.5million in total, which would presumably involve a multi-year roll-out. This is based on the existing operating model, and alternative forms of enforcement (e.g., ANPR cameras) would be expected to be more expensive.

31. Above the set-up costs there would also be programme management costs as an overhead. This would include the cost of monitoring, training, co-ordination, and programme development/support. This could be expected to be in the range £30,000 - £40,000 per annum. Provision would also need to be made for future maintenance and replacement of equipment over time.
32. As noted in the report, the trial schemes have been heavily reliant on volunteer/school staff. Alternative forms of enforcement would reduce this reliance on volunteers but would involve additional cost. It is recommended that further work is undertaken to identify and evaluate alternative operating models, to see what scope there is to reduce the reliance of the existing model on recruitment and retention of volunteers. The cost of this work is expected to be up to £3,500 and could be accommodated within existing budgets.
33. As an example, anticipated Moving Traffic Enforcement powers (due to be introduced in June 2022) may offer the potential to enforce schemes through the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras. However, the cost of this is estimated at around £30,000 for installation and this would be in addition to existing set up costs. Additional provision would need to be made for maintenance, equipment replacement, licencing, etc. This is likely to be one of the most expensive options and others will be reviewed alongside it.

### **Proposed Next Steps**

34. While the initial trials have shown that the School Streets projects have been generally successful in meeting the project objectives, they have also highlighted difficulties in attracting and retaining volunteers, to the extent that most of the work in running the schemes has fallen to school staff. The viability of the school streets model is dependent on volunteers or school staff support and the initial pilot scheme evaluation calls into question whether this is a sustainable arrangement for the longer term. However, the pilots have only been running for a relatively short period, and the data is therefore by definition somewhat limited.
35. It is proposed, therefore, to focus next on continuation of the existing trials, running them for the rest of the school year. It is not proposed to invite any applications from schools for starting additional trials until at least the next school year.
36. Alongside the continuation of the existing trials, it is proposed that officers review alternative options for managing the School Streets, to reduce the burden on local volunteers and staff. This might include the potential for use of ANPR-based camera enforcement, although this would require approval from the Department for Transport. Other options under existing powers will also be explored, with an evaluation of costs for each of the options.

## **Legal and insurance considerations**

37. The County Council's insurer confirmed that the arrangements for the School Streets Pilot were acceptable and were provided with evidence that the County Council had undertaken appropriate public engagement, conducted detailed risk assessments, and provided appropriate training/guidance and equipment to the marshals who will be operating the scheme. The approval was on the basis that the schools shortlisted were Hampshire County Council maintained schools and the volunteers were volunteering to the County Council. Agreements were in place between Hampshire County Council and the participating school setting out roles and responsibilities for the trial.
38. For a wider rollout of School Streets, further discussions will be required with the insurer to confirm that the activity would be covered and, in particular, that any variations to School Streets procedures will need to be approved by the insurer. It is proposed that any future rollout of School Streets would be limited to County Council maintained schools, pending further work to confirm if the initiative can be extended to Academies which would need to insure under their own Public Liability insurance.
39. A written Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was put in place with schools involved in the Pilot, setting out roles and responsibilities. This would be required to be replicated for any new sites.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

40. Details of the engagement undertaken in relation to the School Street Pilot are provided in Appendix A.
41. In general, there is a high level of support for the School Streets initiatives undertaken to date.
42. Each future School Street would be supported by its own EqIA as part of the decision stage reports (stages 5 and 8).

## **Climate Change Impact Assessments**

43. The School Streets trial schemes are intended to promote active travel and reduce the use of the private motor car for local journeys. On this basis, School Streets initiatives are expected to have a positive Climate impact, by reducing the carbon emissions and energy consumption associated with travel to/from the participating schools for school pick up and drop off. The schemes require a minimal amount of equipment to operate, therefore the negative Climate impact of the schemes is negligible. Overall, the net Climate impact of the project is positive.
44. Application of the Carbon Mitigation Tool and Climate Change Adaptation tool to this project has been considered. The Carbon Mitigation Tool is not considered to be applicable as the amount of embodied carbon and operational carbon emitted as a result of the construction and operation of these schemes is negligible. The Climate Change Adaptation tool is also considered to be not



applicable as, when considering all variables, the scheme is not expected to be significantly affected by climate change. On balance, the scheme encourages a modest modal shift toward active travel modes, which has direct benefits in carbon reductions and also indirect benefits by promoting a change in behaviours toward more sustainable travel choices for local journeys.

## **Conclusions**

45. The School Street trials have shown in the initial data analysis that the concept largely delivers the objectives sought, though the results were inconsistent between the three pilot sites. They have generally been popular locally although there have been issues with reports of displaced parking.
46. The trials have highlighted a particular issue in the chosen operating model, with availability of local resource (volunteers/school staff) to run the schemes on the ground.
47. It is proposed to continue the existing trials for the remainder of the school year, to better understand whether the resourcing issue can be resolved, and to explore potential alternative – and less resource intensive – options for local management.
48. A further evaluation report will be brought before Members in the autumn, following the conclusion of the extended trials in July 2022.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	no
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	no
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
The high-level delivery approach for the School Streets pilot was set out in a report titled ' <i>School Streets</i> ' that was approved by Cabinet on 9 February 2021. This report detailed that the trials would take place from the start of the 2021/22 academic year until the October 2021 half-term, with the outcomes and conclusions from the trial to be reported back to the Cabinet thereafter.	9 February 2021
"Active Travel – Update" was considered by the Executive Member for Highways Operations at Decision Day on 17 June	17 June 2021
A decision paper was considered by the Executive Member for Highways Operations at Decision Day on 18 November 2021, with approval given for the interim continued operation of School Streets measures at the three participating trial sites until such time as Cabinet determines a policy decision on the future of the School Streets initiative in Hampshire.	18 November 2021
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
N/A	N/A

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

Document

Location

None

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

An EIA has been completed and it indicates that the proposed approach has a neutral impact on people with protected characteristics. The trial schemes continue to allow access for all non-motorised users at the start and end of the school day.

## Appendix A

### Monitoring and Assessment Approach and Key Site-Specific Findings

A programme of monitoring and assessment was implemented to gauge the effectiveness of the School Streets. The monitoring deliverables were as follows:

- a. User perception surveys: online perception surveys for adults in each of the school communities. Preliminary surveys were completed in summer 2021 at each participating school and a further, more detailed perception survey was available online from 20 September to 12 October 2021. Local residents and businesses were contacted by letter in advance and provided with information on how to complete the survey, as were the local County and District/Borough Councillors. The school community was contacted with this same information, disseminated via the school's own email communication channels. Pupil surveys were also launched, but the response rate was not high enough to provide statistically significant information.
- b. Focus group: In September 2021, Sustrans ran two independent focus groups with representatives of the Harrison Primary and Cadland Primary school communities.
- c. Pupil travel surveys: Schools provided a breakdown of pupil travel modes using 'Hands Up Surveys' in the summer term and another in the autumn term, to gather data on modal shift associated with the School Street.
- d. Video analysis<sup>1</sup> (GDPR Compliant): vehicle activity at the School Streets barrier at the Harrison Road junction with Serpentine Road was recorded by static camera over a five-day period from 27<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.
- e. Traffic surveys: traffic survey data was collected in the summer term, prior to the launch of the School Streets, and again in the autumn term, to allow analysis of the impacts of the School Streets on traffic speed and volume on the local road network.

#### Harrison Primary School

The scheme restricts the use of motor vehicles on Harrison Road from Southampton Road to Serpentine Road during the school drop-off/pick up periods, covering the main point of pedestrian and public vehicle access to the school. This restriction affects 316m of road, including the access to 14 residential properties, approximately 32 on-street parking spaces and a further 20 resident permit-holder only parking bays. Due to the town centre location and local parking restrictions, there is relatively short supply of alternative on-street parking, however this is offset by the existing arrangements the school has in place for local park and stride options, the nearest being within approximately 0.2 miles walking distance at Fareham Leisure Centre. Harrison Primary School has approximately 620 pupils.

A total of 208 responses were received during the autumn survey, and the majority of these respondents (76%) were local residents. The key findings of the scheme monitoring and autumn user perception survey are as follows:

- 75% want the School Street to become permanent, either in its current form (65%) or subject to changes (11%).
- 84% agreed that the scheme brings benefits to road safety, 0% indicated no change and 12% perceived a negative impact.
- 34% agreed that congestion had improved, 14% indicated no change and 45% perceive a negative impact.
- 54% agreed that the air quality on the school street improved; 7% indicated no change and 13% perceive a negative impact. 26% were uncertain.
- Adult respondents indicated significant increases in walking (+19%) and cycling (+12%) and Park and Stride use (+5%) as a result of the scheme, while travelling to school directly by car decreased (-7%). In the pupil 'hands-up' travel survey, slight increases in scoot/skate and cycle were indicated, resulting in an overall increase (+5%) in active travel modes, whilst journeys to school directly by car recorded a reduction (-6%).
- Respondents indicated that the advantages of the closures were 'Less congestion' (67%), 'Fewer cars on the road and pavement' (67%) and 'Feeling safer on the street' (67%), whilst other significant perceived advantages were 'Better air quality' (57%), 'More space to move around' (53%), 'Increased Physical Activity' (52%) and 'Fewer carbon emissions' (52%).
- Respondents indicated that the disadvantages of the closures were 'Traffic gets displaced to other streets' (60%) and 'Cars are blocking my driveway' (33%).

Comparison of the traffic data from the 'before' and 'during' surveys indicates minor increases in vehicle traffic on Park Lane and the western end of Serpentine Road, in the area close to the Fareham Leisure Centre Park and Stride site. Aside from this, a general decrease in traffic was noted throughout the survey area across both the AM and PM periods of operation. The most significant reductions were evident within the road closure itself and adjacent roads, such as the remainder of Harrison Road, Serpentine Road, and Osborn Road. The reduction in vehicle traffic was more significant in the PM peak. The traffic survey indicates that the School Street had no significant impact on local traffic speeds.

### Cadland Primary School

The main route of vehicle access to Cadland Primary School is via a spur off Whitefield Road, which also provides access to Mary Drake Close (a residential cul-de-sac). The School Street restricts the use of motor vehicles between the main Whitefield Road and the end of the Mary Drake Close cul-de-sac during the school drop-off/pick up periods. This affects an approximate length of 140m of road, including the access to the school staff car park and 27 residential properties. It also affects the use of approximately 4 on-street parking spaces that would typically be used for school pick-up/drop off. School related parking on Whitefield Road and adjacent residential side roads is an existing issue, with regular occurrences of illegal or anti-social parking during school peak periods. Cadland Primary School has approximately 370 pupils.

A total of 110 responses were received during the autumn survey, 92% of whom were parents/guardians of pupils at the school. The key findings of the scheme monitoring and autumn user perception survey are as follows:

- 81% want the School Street to become permanent, either in its current form (71%) or subject to changes (10%).
- 71% agreed that the scheme brings benefits to road safety, 15% indicated no change and 13% perceived a negative impact.
- 30% agreed that congestion had improved, 13% indicated no change and 55% perceive a negative impact.
- 43% agreed that the air quality on the school street improved, 32% indicated no change and 13% perceive a negative impact. 13% were uncertain.
- Adult respondents indicated significant increases in walking (+19%), scoot/skating (+13%) and Park and Stride use (+5%) as a result of the scheme, while travelling to school directly by car decreased (-3%). In the pupil 'hands-up' surveys, significant increases in walking and cycling were recorded, resulting in an overall increase (+11%) in active travel modes. Park and Stride use increased (+7%) and travel by car directly to school recorded a reduction (-19%).
- Respondents indicated that the advantages of the closures were 'Feeling safer on the street' (61%), 'Fewer cars on the road and pavements' (51%) and 'Less congestion' (36%).
- Respondents indicated that the disadvantages of the closures were 'Traffic gets displaced to other streets' (71%) and 'Cars are blocking my driveway' (13%).

The direct impact of the School Street on traffic is unclear from the traffic survey data. A reduction in vehicle traffic within the School Street is evident, as is a slight increase in traffic in the area around the recommended park and stride location. The traffic surveys indicate increases in some residential side streets to the east of the site and corresponding decreases in other streets to the west. The traffic count results are likely to have been affected by external factors relating to changing school access arrangements in response to social distancing and the Covid-19 pandemic, where the school closed a temporary second access on the west side of the school site, that had been in use for social distancing purposes until the end of the 2021 academic year.

### Alverstoke Infant School

The main route of pedestrian, cycle and vehicle access to Alverstoke Infant School is via Ashburton Road. The scheme restricts the use of motor vehicles on Ashburton Road (40m in length from the junction with Paget Road through to the school gates (cul-de-sac)), during the school drop-off/pick up periods. This restriction directly affects the route of access to approximately 9 residential properties and 5 on-street parking spaces. Alverstoke Infant School has approximately 180 pupils.

A total of 38 responses were received during the autumn survey; 58% of these were school parents/guardians and 34% were local residents. The key findings of the scheme monitoring and autumn user perception survey are as follows:

- 58% want the School Street to become permanent, either in its current form (41%) or subject to changes (17%).
- 45% agreed that the scheme had a positive impact on road safety, 37% indicated no change, whilst 13% perceived a negative impact.
- 18% agreed that congestion had improved, 21% indicated no change and 45% perceived a negative impact.
- 17% agreed that the air quality on the School Street improved, 37% indicated no change, while 23% perceived a negative impact.
- Adult respondents indicated increases in walking (+3%), cycling (+11%), scoot/skating (+11%) and Park and Stride use recorded an increase (+11%) as a result of the scheme, whilst travelling directly to school by private car decreased (-11%). In the pupil 'hands-up' survey, slight reductions were recorded in scoot/skating and Park and Stride use, resulting in an overall 6% reduction in active travel modes and a 13% increase in car use when compared to the pre-scheme implementation baseline. There is some uncertainty in these figures due to the low overall response rate.
- Respondents indicated that the advantages of the closures were 'Feeling safer on the street' (50%), 'Increased Physical Activity' (47%), 'Better Air Quality' (42%) and 'Less congestion' (42%).
- Respondents indicated that the disadvantages of the closures were 'Traffic gets displaced to other streets' (55%).

Comparison of the traffic data from the 'before' and 'during' surveys indicates a negligible impact on traffic volumes and speeds on the road network surrounding the road closure during both the AM and PM periods.



## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	15 March 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2021-22 - <b>Covid-19: addressing inequalities in mental health and wellbeing across Hampshire.</b>
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Public Health

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#### **Purpose of this Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health ahead of publication.

#### **Recommendations**

Cabinet is asked to:

2. Note the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2021.
3. Endorse the recommendations within the Annual Report which are listed below in paragraph 8.

#### **Contextual Information**

4. The 2012 Health and Care Act placed a statutory duty on upper tier Local Authorities to improve and protect the health of their residents.
5. The Director of Public Health has a statutory duty to produce an annual report about the health of the local population. The content and structure of the report is decided each year by the Director of Public Health, based on key issue of health and wellbeing that would benefit from a focused review. The requirement

placed on Hampshire County Council as the relevant local authority is to publish the report.

6. The three previous reports have focused on:

- Tackling environmental factors is vital to addressing obesity in Hampshire
- Reducing Serious Violence
- Shaping Place to improve health outcomes

7. The annual report of the Director of Public Health is appended to this report:

### **Report Recommendations**

8. The report recommendations made by the Director of Public Health are as follows:

- i. Work with partners across Hampshire to promote a prevention-focused approach towards improving the public's mental and emotional health through progressing the work of Hampshire's Mental Health Prevention Concordat.
- ii. Work alongside community, voluntary sector and district partners to identify how we can support mental health and wellbeing for people from ethnic minority backgrounds and other populations at increased risk of COVID-19 in Hampshire. This includes utilising Community Researchers to engage with their communities to understand key issues around mental and emotional health and wellbeing.
- iii. Mobilise community assets to promote mental and physical health and wellbeing via the implementation of a Community Champion programme, whilst also strengthening communities through a sustained Men's Activity Network.
- iv. Strengthen the pathways for people with co-occurring mental health and alcohol and drug use conditions, working with the NHS Transforming Mental Health Services programme
- v. Ensuring that mental health services are equally accessible for everyone, including those from ethnic minority groups who are more likely to have been affected by the impact of COVID-19.

- vi. Focus on the wider social and economic factors to address inequalities and mental health. For example, understanding the impact of COVID-19 on people's personal finances and mental wellbeing and seeking to address these through targeted resources for residents and training programmes to support front-line staff.
- vii. Building capacity and capability across frontline workforces to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental and emotional wellbeing within their everyday practice using the Public Mental Health Leadership and Workforce Development Framework Call to Action.
- viii. Continuing to promote public-facing culturally competent mental and emotional wellbeing resources and targeted communications campaigns, especially to address areas of inequalities

### **Executive Summary**

- 9. This year's report is focussed on COVID-19: addressing inequalities in mental health and wellbeing across Hampshire.
- 10. COVID-19 has had a major impact on mental health and wellbeing – both as a direct consequence of illness, of working on the frontline, and because of the policy changes designed to protect us from infection. For some people these will be short-lived, but for others they will have a lasting impact.
- 11. Evidence has shown that Covid-19 has widened existing inequalities and some of the most vulnerable people have been the most badly affected. For example, we know that those living in areas of deprivation, people with existing physical and mental health conditions and black, Asian and ethnic minorities are more likely to be at risk of worsening mental health outcomes. These are the same groups that are often vulnerable in other ways. COVID-19 has therefore put a spotlight on existing inequalities and is a necessary trigger for action to protect those most vulnerable across communities in Hampshire.
- 12. The report provides a summary of the inequalities in mental health and wellbeing that have come to light during the pandemic across different life stages, and some of the actions required to tackle these. Case studies are used to highlight key areas of good practice in Hampshire. These include the use of technology to improve access to mental health services for children, young people and their families, work across the system on debt and anxiety and furthering the work of the Men's Activity Network to improve mental and emotional wellbeing.

### **Conclusion/next steps**

13. The report will showcase the impact of COVID-19 on specific groups within the population, highlighting the inequalities in mental health and wellbeing and the actions needed to address these. It will be vital to work across the whole system to improve mental and emotional wellbeing and reduce inequalities.
14. The recommendations focus on building on the work already taking place to improve mental health and wellbeing in Hampshire through:
  - harnessing Hampshire's Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health to improve mental health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities.
  - working collaboratively with partners, including through the ICS mental health transformation, to support mental health and wellbeing planning and recovery, especially where inequalities exist.
  - Nurture and accelerate work through Public Health-led workstreams, with a continued focus on building capacity, capability and coordinated communications alongside key partners.

# COVID-19: addressing inequalities in mental health and wellbeing across Hampshire



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## Foreword

I am delighted to introduce my third Annual Report as Director of Public Health for Hampshire.

COVID-19 has shone a necessary spotlight on mental health and wellbeing across the country. During the pandemic, evidence emerged that the policies to prevent the spread of the virus, such as restricting the interaction and movement of residents, have had a major impact on mental health and wellbeing. For many, as we begin to recover these effects have not been long lasting. However, the impact of COVID-19 will be felt by some for a long time.

COVID-19 has widened existing inequalities and some of the most vulnerable people

have been the most badly affected. For example, we know that those living in areas of deprivation, people with existing physical and mental health conditions and Black, Asian and ethnic minorities are more likely to be at risk of worsening mental health outcomes. It will be important to understand the full picture of this as we build towards recovery, plan for the longer term and design services, ensuring that we protect our most vulnerable and reduce inequalities in health outcomes.

The impact on inequalities and mental wellbeing for different age groups is explored further throughout my report, including innovations which seek to improve mental and emotional wellbeing and access to mental health services.

Whilst mental health services are essential in supporting early intervention, access to treatment and recovery from mental ill health, this report will focus on prevention and the wider determinants of health that can promote mental and emotional wellbeing. This includes the universal solutions that can protect and promote everyone's mental wellbeing and enable targeted action to support those most at risk.

Before COVID-19 Hampshire County Council, with the NHS, held a 'Better Mental Health for Hampshire' event at which Hampshire's Prevention Concordat was launched. Organisations were invited to give their commitment to taking a whole system approach and working collaboratively across the wider system to improve mental health outcomes for all, including those experiencing inequalities. Improving mental health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities will require change across the system and this was a necessary call to action. We are committed to building on this work through the production of an



Adult Public Mental Health Strategy for Hampshire that recognises the importance of partnership working.

With the establishment of the Improving Mental Health in Hampshire Board, I am keen for Hampshire's Prevention Concordat to be progressed. I will lead by example and support other partners to enable them to play their part. Together with our partners we will prioritise and commit to improving mental health and wellbeing across a range of workstreams.

This includes the NHS, education, early years and childcare settings, Districts and Boroughs, those involved in housing and employment, other public sector partners and the voluntary sector.

The Director of Public Health's annual report is one of the ways in which I can highlight

specific issues to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Hampshire. With everyone working together, we can accelerate our work to address the wider determinants of mental health and protect those of our residents who are more vulnerable and most at risk. I look forward to taking this forward with you.

**Simon Bryant, BSc, MSc, MSc, FFPH**

Director of Public Health,  
Hampshire County Council

**Acknowledgements**

I want to thank my whole team for the work this year which has again put the public health function centre stage. I am grateful for those who have worked on this report especially Sue Cochrane, Ileana Cahill, Jenny Bowers, Alex Anderson, Megan Saunders, Abbie Twaits, Natalie Garwin, Mike Newman, Susan Dewey.

# Executive summary

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on mental health and wellbeing – both as a direct consequence of illness or of working on the frontline, and because of the policy changes designed to protect us from infection. For some people these will be short-lived, but for others they will have a lasting impact.<sup>1</sup>

Some communities and people with specific characteristics are at far greater risk of worsening mental health and wellbeing. These are the same groups that are often vulnerable in other ways such as people on low incomes and those from ethnic minorities. COVID-19 has therefore put a spotlight on existing inequalities – and is a necessary trigger for action to protect those most vulnerable across communities in Hampshire.

COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on the mental and emotional health of specific population groups. It has also uncovered inequalities in mental health and wellbeing that already existed and that will worsen unless we work as a system to improve them.<sup>2</sup>

This report will showcase the impact of COVID-19 on specific groups within the population, highlighting the inequalities in mental health and wellbeing and the actions needed to address these. It will be vital to work across the whole system to improve mental and emotional wellbeing and reduce inequalities. The following recommendations are made

- 1.** Work with partners across Hampshire to promote a prevention-focused approach towards improving the public's mental and emotional health through progressing the work of Hampshire's Mental Health Prevention Concordat.
- 2.** Work alongside community, voluntary sector and district partners to identify how we can support mental health and wellbeing for people from ethnic minority backgrounds and other populations at increased risk of COVID-19 in Hampshire. This includes utilising Community Researchers to engage with their communities to understand key issues around mental and emotional health and wellbeing.
- 3.** Mobilise community assets to be resilient and promote mental and physical health and wellbeing via the implementation of a Community Champion programme, whilst also strengthening communities through a sustained Men's Activity Network.
- 4.** Strengthen the pathways for people with co-occurring mental health and alcohol and drug use conditions, working with the NHS Transforming Mental Health Services programme.

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<sup>1</sup>The Centre for Mental Health (2020) [Covid-19: understanding inequalities in mental health during the pandemic](#)

<sup>2</sup>The Health Foundation (2021) [The unequal mental health toll of the pandemic](#)

<sup>3</sup>HCC (2021) (unpublished) Ethnic Minority Groups and COVID-19 Rapid Health Needs Assessment: Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight

- 5.** Ensuring that mental health services are equally accessible for everyone, including those from ethnic minority groups who are more likely to have been affected by the impact of COVID-19 than White population groups.
- 6.** Focus on those wider social and economic factors to address inequalities and mental health. For example, understanding the impact of COVID-19 on people's personal finances and mental wellbeing and seeking to address these through targeted resources for residents and training programmes to support front-line staff.
- 7.** Build the capacity and capability across frontline workforces to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental and emotional wellbeing within their everyday practice using the Public Mental Health Leadership and Workforce Development Framework Call to Action.
- 8.** Continuing to promote public-facing culturally competent mental and emotional wellbeing resources and targeted communications campaigns, especially to address areas of inequalities.

# Introduction

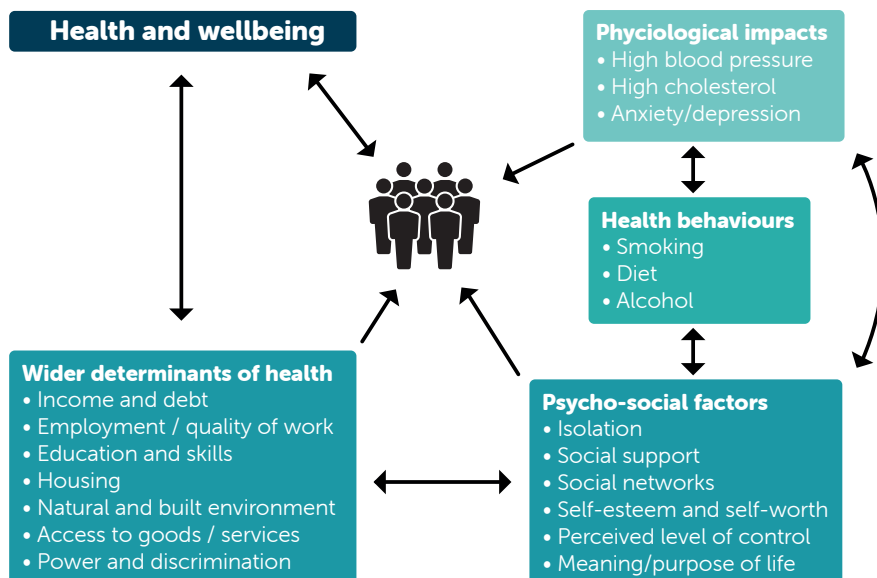
Evidence shows that the psychological impact of the pandemic is still emerging and whilst many in the population will not have any lasting negative effects on their mental health, some communities and individuals are at far greater risk of worsening mental health.<sup>4</sup>

These include:

- people living with mental health problems, whose access to services has been interrupted
- people who live with both mental health problems and long-term physical conditions that put them at greater risk of the virus
- older adults who are both susceptible to the virus themselves and much more likely than others to lose partners and peer
- women and children exposed to trauma and violence at home during lockdown
- people from ethnic groups where the prevalence of COVID-19 has been highest and outcomes have been the worst

## Factors driving health and wellbeing outcomes

Actions taken to protect people and communities from the impact of COVID-19 which restricted population movement, reduced social contacts and ultimately infection transmission rates have also impacted on mental health and wellbeing. These have disrupted wider societal and environmental factors which have affected how we interact with each other, work, learn and move about - all which influence our psychological health. This is illustrated in Figure one.



**Figure one:** Factors driving health and wellbeing outcomes <sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The Centre for Mental Health (2020) [Covid-19: understanding inequalities in mental health during the pandemic](#)

<sup>5</sup> ADPH (2021) [Living Safely with Covid Moving toward a Strategy for Sustainable Exit from the Pandemic](#)

The impact of these actions include:

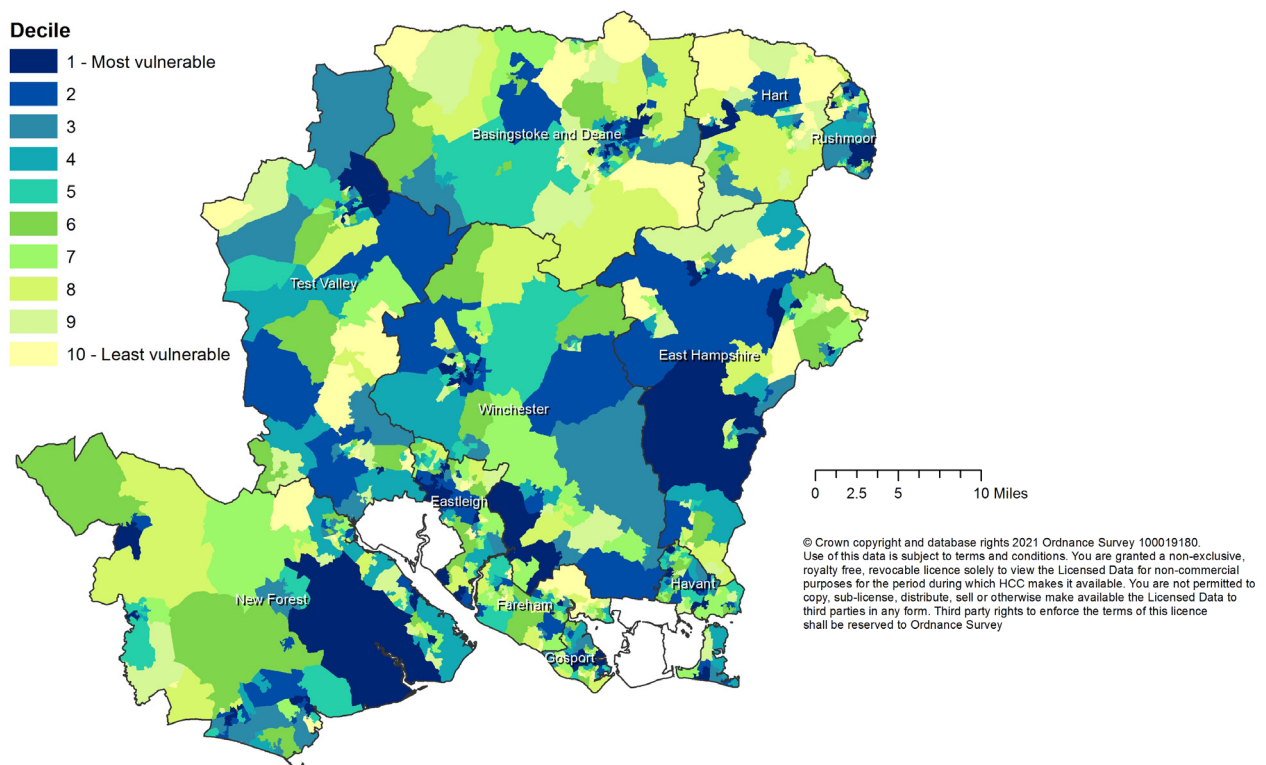
- reports of increased loneliness through reduced social connectiveness
- increased anxiety and depression during periods of great uncertainty
- long-term impact of school closures on education, health and wellbeing and re-engagement of pupils
- impacts for those not able to work due to restrictions or changes in how work is organised.

## Measuring the impact on mental health in Hampshire

Significant work has been undertaken locally through a Health Impact Assessment to understand the impact the pandemic has had on mental health and wellbeing in communities across Hampshire.<sup>6</sup> This will help us to recognise which populations and neighbourhoods have been disproportionately affected and where we should focus interventions, support and services.

### Place

In Hampshire the pattern of mental wellbeing vulnerability does not necessarily reflect the pattern of deprivation found in the 2019 IMD.<sup>7</sup> In many of Hampshire's districts, as illustrated in Figure two, the urban populations are more likely to experience vulnerable mental health resulting from COVID-19 restrictions than the rural populations.



**Figure two:** Mental wellbeing vulnerability index for Hampshire

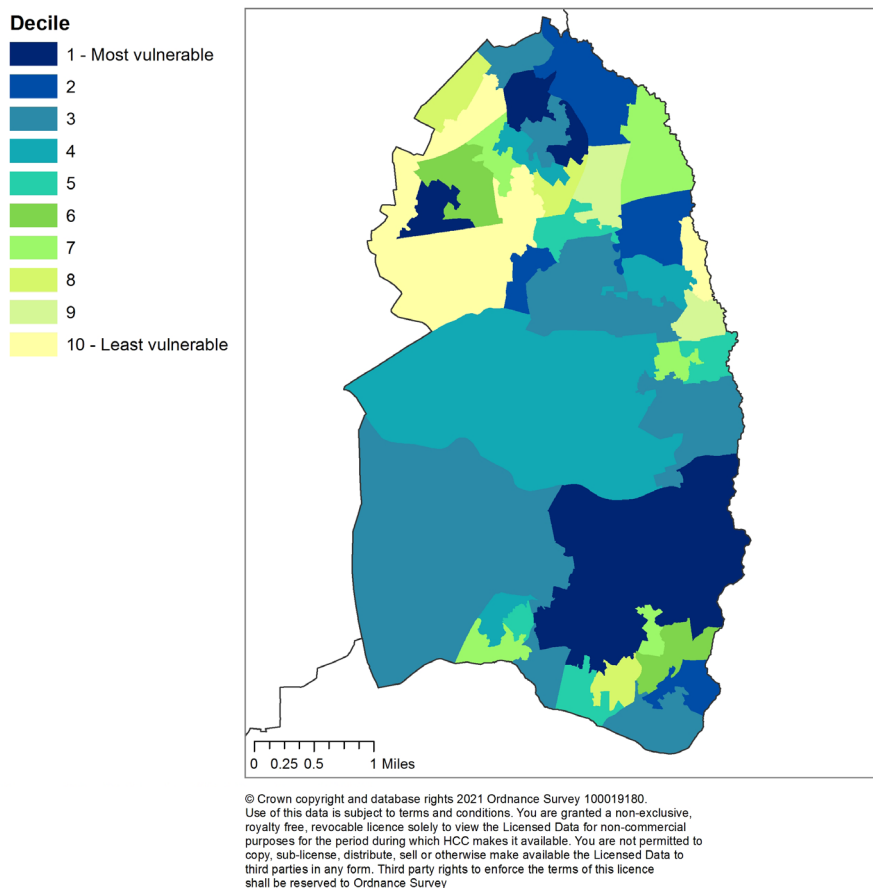
<sup>6</sup> HCC (2021) (unpublished) Health Impact Assessment: COVID-19 Mental Health vulnerabilities

<sup>7</sup> HCC (2019) [The 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation](#)

Basingstoke town centre, Andover in Test Valley, Eastleigh town centre and Winchester city centre are particularly prominent vulnerable areas compared to the surrounding parts of the districts. Other districts, such as East Hampshire and the New Forest have higher vulnerability in their more rural, sparsely populated areas.

### Case study one: Rushmoor and Hart

The breakdown of mental health vulnerability across a geographical area can be highly varied as illustrated in Figure three which identifies within Rushmoor and Hart those neighbourhoods where inequalities may exist.



**Figure three:** Rushmoor and Hart local authority areas: most and least likely to experience mental wellbeing vulnerabilities

In this example, the population most likely to experience poor mental health due to COVID-19 restrictions is found in Aldershot Town, Rushmoor. This area includes the army barracks and residents who are more likely to rent their home than the Hampshire population average. The location of the army barracks also contributes to the vulnerability in this area as it houses a younger population who are ethnically diverse and live in an institutional setting.

Residents least likely to experience poor mental health due to COVID-19 restrictions live in Fleet North, Elvetham Heath & Ancells Farm within Hart – an area characterized as being a wealthy, rural suburb.

## People

National and local analyses have found that some people have been more likely to experience poor or deteriorating mental health symptoms during the pandemic. This has highlighted those mental health vulnerabilities and inequalities already present in our communities and includes those:

- with pre-existing mental or physical health conditions
- experiencing loss of income or employment
- from deprived neighbourhoods
- from ethnic minority communities<sup>8</sup>
- from lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities.<sup>9</sup>



<sup>8</sup> Fancourt, D. et al. (2021) [UCL Covid 19 Social Study Results Release 31](#)

<sup>9</sup> PHE (2021) [COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing surveillance: report](#)

<sup>10</sup> The Health Foundation (2021) [Unequal Pandemic, Fairer Recovery - The COVID-19 impact inquiry report](#)

## Impact of wider determinants on mental health

As Figure one illustrates, the wider determinants of health influence mental and emotional health and wellbeing. For example, type and quality of work, housing conditions, and access to financial support to self-isolate all contributed to increased exposure to the virus among working age adults and subsequent mental ill health.<sup>10</sup> In addition, access to green space will have impacted people very differently during lockdown depending on where they lived and their type of accommodation. Those living in smaller, more crowded homes with less access to private garden space would have experienced greater stress during social distancing restrictions than those with a garden and additional living space.



## Income and employment

Unemployment has consistently been found to have a negative impact on a person's mental wellbeing. Therefore, the economic repercussions of the pandemic and impact on employment is likely to be a major driver of mental ill health.<sup>11</sup> Evidence has also shown that nationally pay or employment reduced more for people living in families with the lowest income. Of those earning less than £10,000, 37% reported depressive symptoms, compared with 11% of those earning more than £50,000<sup>12</sup>. In addition, higher levels of depression and anxiety have been found in young adults, women, people with lower household income, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, those with a physical health condition, and people living with children<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup>The Centre for Mental Health (2020) [Covid-19: understanding inequalities in mental health during the pandemic](#)

<sup>12</sup>ONS (2021) [Coronavirus and depression in adults, Great Britain: January to March 2021](#)

<sup>13</sup>The Health Foundation (2021) [Unequal Pandemic, Fairer Recovery - The COVID-19 impact inquiry report](#)



Those disproportionately affected by employment rates during the pandemic have been aged 16 to 24 years, with those aged over 50 most likely to be affected by redundancy.<sup>14</sup> Data suggest that young people were more likely to be employed in more vulnerable industries such as accommodation and food service sectors where there has been the highest uptake in furlough.<sup>15</sup>

The unemployment rate for people from a minority ethnic background increased by a larger proportion than those from a White background from October to December 2020.<sup>16</sup> This inequality may be in part driven by the types of occupation and industry sector ethnic communities work in. The service and hospitality industries were most affected, national reports suggest that around a third of taxi drivers and chauffeurs are Bangladeshi or Pakistani men<sup>17</sup> and almost one third (29%) of Asian / Asian British workers are employed in the service sector.<sup>18</sup> In addition, evidence has shown that people from ethnic minorities are more likely to work in professions that put them at risk of contracting COVID-19, and were more likely to have poorer health outcomes as a result of COVID-19 infection. These factors have put these groups at a disproportionate risk of experiencing impacts on mental health and wellbeing.<sup>19</sup>

In terms of Hampshire this employment data suggest the districts of Hart and Havant are the most likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, with Test Valley and Winchester being the least likely to be vulnerable.

## Structural racism

When considering these wider socio-economic impacts, evidence shows that structural racism is at the heart of worse living and working conditions for ethnic minority communities, which leads to worse health and mental health.<sup>20</sup> Ethnic groups face discrimination in different aspects of their lives, such as employment, working conditions and earnings, which leads to lower incomes, higher levels of stress and higher poverty rates than those experienced by White British populations, and higher rates of some health conditions.

Structural racism means that some ethnic groups are more likely to be exposed to adverse social and economic conditions, in addition to their experiences of discrimination, which in turn affects their resilience and health outcomes.<sup>21, 22</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> ONS (2021) [Employment in the UK](#)

<sup>15</sup> ONS (2021) [Monthly gross domestic product by gross value added](#) <sup>1</sup>

<sup>6</sup> ONS (2020) [Labour market overview, UK: December 2020](#)

<sup>17</sup> ONS (2020) [Why have Black and South Asian people been hit hardest by COVID-19?](#)

<sup>18</sup> ONS (2014) [Census 2011 analysis: Ethnicity and the Labour Market](#)

<sup>19</sup> ONS (2020) [Why have Black and South Asian people been hit hardest by COVID-19?](#)

<sup>20</sup> Marmot, M. et al (2020) [Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review](#)

<sup>21</sup> Marmot, M. et al (2020) [Health Equity In England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On](#)

<sup>22</sup> PHE (2020) [Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19](#)

# Chapter one: Improving the mental health of children and young people

Children and young people with good mental health and wellbeing develop more resilience, are better able to learn, have better outcomes and ability to deal with life's challenges. Despite not being clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 children have been particularly affected by the periods of national restrictions, school closures and limited access to outdoor space such as play parks.

All families receive the universal Healthy Child Programme, delivered by the Public Health Nursing Service, which supports the wellbeing of every child and family. A range of face-to-face and digital services are available to young people and their parents/carers to provide prevention and early intervention services at a time when they may need it. In addition, for those requiring specialist help Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) deliver targeted support.



Social inequality is a key factor in the risk of children and young people developing mental health disorders. Physical health, family situation, community and school environments can all affect the development of mental health disorders. Happy children who have positive relationships with family and friends are more likely to grow into healthy adults, able to make positive contributions to society.

COVID-19 has widened existing inequalities and some of the most vulnerable children have been the most badly affected.<sup>23</sup> It will be important to understand the full picture as part of recovery, long-term planning and design of services, especially those targeted at populations most likely to experience inequalities. A rapid needs assessment for Hampshire is currently underway, which will consider the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people's mental health in more detail.

### **Preconception, pregnancy and early years**

The pandemic has been a challenging time for the mental wellbeing of women during pregnancy and early motherhood. Informal social support from friends and family has been much reduced due to the national restrictions, the likelihood of experiencing a bereavement in the family has increased and there has been added economic pressure in terms of job insecurity.

Early attachment relationships between babies and their caregivers influence how a baby learns and sets a template for later relationships. Parental depression and anxiety are highest for those parents with younger children - this increased with the implementation of each national lockdown and was greatest amongst single parents and those on low incomes.<sup>24</sup>

Early years services support social and emotional development and contribute to school readiness. 68% of parents of children aged 2–4 years reported accessing early years and childcare prior to the pandemic, with 83% of these reporting that their children did not return in June 2020. Early years settings are particularly important for more disadvantaged children, helping to prevent gaps opening up in development levels at this early stage. Lower income families, mothers and those with children with special educational needs and disabilities were most negatively impacted.<sup>25</sup>

### **School age children**

Playing with friends contributes to healthy emotional regulation and development of social skills. Parents have reported a negative impact on their child's social and emotional development, and their language and physical development as a result of the pandemic.<sup>26</sup> Among children of primary school age, 14% had a probable mental disorder in 2020, an increase from 9% in 2017.<sup>27</sup> This increase was evident in boys, with the rate rising from 12% in 2017 to 18% in 2020.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> The Health Foundation (2020) [Emerging evidence on health inequalities and COVID-19](#)

<sup>24</sup> Creswell, C. et al (2021) [Young people's mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

<sup>25</sup> The Sutton Trust (2020) [COVID-19 and Social Mobility Impact Brief #4: Early Years](#)

<sup>26</sup> ISER (2021) [School closures and children's emotional and behavioural difficulties](#)

<sup>27</sup> NHS Digital (2018) [Mental Health of Children and Young People in England, 2017 \[PAS\]](#)

<sup>28</sup> NHS Digital (2020) [Mental Health of Children and Young People in England, 2020: Wave 1 follow up to the 2017 survey](#)

Older school-aged children have expressed concern about the disruption to their education, exams and transition to another phase of education. In April 2020, young people were three times more likely to report not enjoying day-to-day activities than they were in 2017–18. Young people reported decreased ability to concentrate, worse sleep, and loss of confidence. Young women (58%) reported lower moods than men (43%). Among secondary-aged children (11–16 years), 18% were identified with a probable mental disorder in 2020, an increase from 13% in 2017.<sup>29</sup>

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Parents have reported children and young people with SEND being negatively affected by the pandemic.<sup>30</sup> Parents of children with SEND have reported not having the specialist skills required to teach their children at home, leading to lack of progress when not attending school. Parents also reported that their own mental health had declined due to the increased pressures of providing full-time care during lockdown periods.<sup>31</sup> Parental mental health is known to impact that of children and young people, including siblings of disabled children who may also have experienced an increased care burden.

Locally there are reports of children with SEND finding it more difficult to settle back into school than their non-SEND peers, displaying more extreme behaviour than prior to the pandemic. Some children who were managing in mainstream school pre- pandemic are now struggling and being referred for special school places or being considered by schools for permanent exclusion.<sup>32</sup>



<sup>29</sup> The Health Foundation (2020) [Generation COVID-19](#)

<sup>30</sup> PHE (2021) [COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Surveillance report: Children and Young people](#)

<sup>31</sup> Disabled Childrens Partnership (2020) [Left In Lockdown: Parent Carers' experiences of lockdown](#)


<sup>32</sup> HCC (2021) (unpublished) Children and Young People aged 0-25, Mental Health and Covid-19. Rapid Needs Assessment Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight

## Young carers

Due to reduced care provision during the pandemic these young people may have found themselves having to shoulder an increased burden of care alongside the worry of COVID-19 transmission to a clinically vulnerable person. The Aspiration Gap report found that 14% have new or increased caring responsibilities due to the pandemic with this figure rising to 19% for those from poorer homes.<sup>33</sup> A survey by the Carers Trust in July 2020 found that young carers were experiencing greater stress, worry about the future and an increased caring burden with 40% of carers aged 12-17 and 59% of those aged 18-25 reporting a decline in mental health.<sup>34</sup>

## Looked After Children (LAC)

Looked After Children are very vulnerable to poor attachment and mental health difficulties. Across Hampshire there are 1,650 children in care. Nationally 62% of children are in care due to abuse or neglect which can have negative impacts on their mental health.<sup>35</sup> Research estimates that approximately 69% of Looked After Children have experienced neglect, 48% physical abuse, 37% emotional abuse and 23% sexual abuse. Many have been looked after by several different foster families and will have had to change school multiple times. The cumulative effects of frequent traumatic events are associated with poorer mental and emotional outcomes than one-off events and many Looked After Children are subject to these.<sup>36</sup>



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<sup>33</sup> The Prince's Trust (2020) [The Aspiration Gap Report](#)

<sup>34</sup> Carer's Trust (2020) [My Future, My Feeling, My Family](#)

<sup>35</sup> DfE (2018) [Improved mental health support for children in care](#)

<sup>36</sup> CCATS [Adverse Childhood Experiences and Complex Trauma in Looked After Children](#)

## Case study two: Using technology to improve access to mental health services for children, young people and families

The pandemic has brought significant progress in the use of technology within Hampshire, enabling different approaches for providing support to children, young people and their families.

This has meant that appointments and interventions to support families in need could continue, facilitating access to services and ensuring support was maintained. For example, the 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' groups, offered by Hampshire's health visiting service in partnership with local talking therapies services, provided online peer support for mothers with postnatal depression.

The online groups were set up within three weeks of the first 'lockdown' being announced and included access to health visitors and psychologists, with nursery nurses to support parents with play activities for the children. Mothers reported a positive experience of this online service.<sup>37</sup>

Digital services commissioned by Hampshire County Council have also been introduced to support children, young people and families via a digital front door - [Hampshire Healthy Families](#). This has meant easy access to mental health services such as [Chathealth](#) and [Health for teens](#).

Feedback from the local 0-19 services has indicated that some families preferred engaging through technology rather than face to face finding it more convenient and would like to continue to have this as an option in the future.



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<sup>37</sup> LGA (2020) [Healthy Child Programme during COVID-19 Hampshire case study](#)

# Chapter two: Improving the mental health of working age adults

## Working age adults

There is evidence nationally that self-reported mental health and wellbeing has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than two-thirds of adults in the UK (69%) reported feeling somewhat or very worried about the effect COVID-19 is having on their life.<sup>38</sup>

Whilst some people reported an increase in work flexibility, others have experienced financial strain, longer working hours, poorer work-life balance or increased fear of potential exposure to COVID-19.<sup>39</sup> Additional caring responsibilities such as home schooling and caring for older relatives have also been experienced by many. Data suggests that one in five adults have experienced some form of depression, double that observed before the pandemic.<sup>40</sup>

A combination of factors has influenced the worsening of mental health during COVID-19 in the population:



**Social isolation**



**Job and financial losses**



**Housing insecurity and quality**



**Working in a front-line service**



**Loss of coping mechanisms**



**Reduced access to mental health services<sup>41</sup>**

<sup>38</sup> ONS (2020) [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain](#)

<sup>39</sup> Fancourt, D. et al (2021) [UCL Covid-19 Social Study Results Release 29](#)

<sup>40</sup> ONS (2021) [Coronavirus and depression in adults, Great Britain: Jan to March 2021](#)

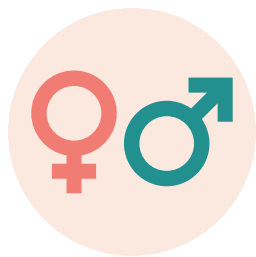
<sup>41</sup> The Health Foundation (2020) [Emerging evidence on COVID-19's impact on mental health and health inequalities](#)

The following inequalities<sup>42</sup> have been highlighted since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic:



### Age

Younger adults (aged 18 to 34) have been reporting both worse symptoms and a larger deterioration in their mental wellbeing. Young people aged 16 to 24 were most likely to work in furloughed industries. Older adults who were classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) were more likely to report higher levels of depression, anxiety and loneliness than people of a similar age who were not CEV.



### Gender

Women reported worse symptoms and a larger deterioration in mental health after the onset of the pandemic than men. Lone mothers have been shown to be particularly vulnerable. There was also an increase in domestic abuse, especially against women.

For those people living with Long COVID (symptoms that last weeks or months after the infection has gone), the psychological impact can be devastating. Working age women, especially those aged 45 to 64, are most likely to require on-going support with their health after contracting COVID-19.<sup>43</sup>



### Parents and carers

Adults living with children reported a rise in symptoms of anxiety, psychological distress and stress at home. Informal carers have been more likely to report higher and increasing levels of psychological distress, anxiety and depressive symptoms than non-carers throughout the pandemic.<sup>44, 45</sup>



### Pre-existing mental health

There have been worse levels of mental health and wellbeing for those with pre-existing mental health conditions than adults without. Adults with pre-existing mental health conditions have reported higher levels of anxiety, depression.<sup>46, 47</sup>

<sup>42</sup> PHE (2020) [COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing surveillance: Spotlights](#)

<sup>43</sup> ONS (2021) [Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus infection in the UK: April 2021](#)

<sup>44</sup> PHE (2021) [COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing surveillance report: important findings](#)

<sup>45</sup> PHE (2021) [COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing surveillance report: parents and carers](#)

<sup>46</sup> PHE (2021) [COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing surveillance report: important findings](#)

<sup>47</sup> PHE (2021) [COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing surveillance report: pre-existing mental health conditions](#)





## Employment and income

Unemployed adults and adults with lower incomes have reported higher levels of psychological distress, anxiety, depression and loneliness than adults with higher incomes. Specific groups more at risk of furlough and redundancy including retail, hospitality, entertainment and those aged 50 and over. Women in lower socio-economic jobs were more likely to be furloughed than any other positions (including key worker roles) and men in general. Workers on precarious contracts such as zero hours or some self-employed were at high risk of adverse effects from loss of work and no income, and subsequent mental ill health

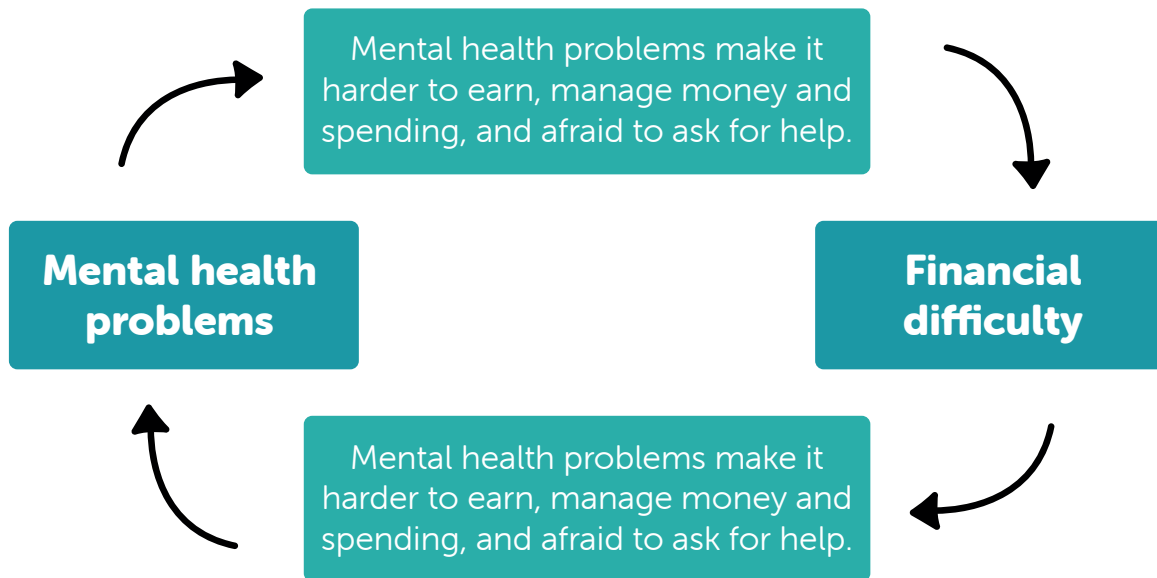


## Ethnicity

Men of Bangladeshi and Pakistani origin report larger deterioration in their mental wellbeing than White British men. There is a greater proportion of lone parent households in Black, mixed and Pakistani ethnic groups compared with White groups. Lone parent families experienced increased stress and financial pressure. Black ethnic groups have less access to private gardens. There was a higher increase in unemployment rate for those from a minority ethnic background compared with White ethnic groups.<sup>48</sup> Inequalities in physical and mental health outcomes are influenced by a wide range of factors and require action across communities and the wider system. Work is underway to complete a mental health needs assessment for adults across Hampshire, to better understand what these influences are, how they are interconnected and what can be done to improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes for all Hampshire residents. This will build on existing work with partners, for example in tackling the impact of economic factors through focused work on debt and mental health.

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<sup>48</sup> PHE (2021) [COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing surveillance spotlight: ethnicity](#)



**Image one:** source [Money and mental health facts and statistics - A Money and Mental Health Policy Institute factsheet](#)

Debt and mental health are interconnected and can result in a cycle that can become hard to escape. Stigma around financial difficulties can make these issues worse as people often struggle to ask for support or ask for it early enough to prevent crisis. COVID-19 may have worsened both financial concerns and mental health issues, including stress and anxiety around debt and financial management.

In February 2021 Hampshire County Council coordinated a multi-agency Debt and Mental Health workshop to understand the gaps, barriers and needs of residents. The outcome of this informed the content of new Debt and Mental Health training.

Targeted at frontline staff and volunteers in public, voluntary and community sectors, such as housing, council tax and recovery teams, or food pantries, the aim of this training is to support people who may be at risk of financial insecurity or debt to improve their mental and emotional wellbeing and reduce the potential risk of suicide by:

- providing debt and mental health training to frontline staff in Hampshire, working with those most vulnerable
- enabling those working with at-risk populations to develop increased confidence in recognising and discussing debt and mental health concerns and referring or signposting to further help.

In addition to the workforce training, a debt and mental health communications campaign has been delivered, targeted at those aged 18 to 35 to address inequalities identified by data. The campaign signposted to appropriate debt support at [Mental Wellbeing Hampshire](#).



#### Case study four: Men's Activity Network – harnessing the power of community

Men access health services less than women and they experience poorer health outcomes. Around three-quarters of registered suicide deaths in 2020 were for men which follows a consistent trend back to the mid-1990s.<sup>49</sup>

Hampshire's Men's Activity Network part of the Step by Step project,<sup>50</sup> focuses on improving men's health and ability to access services, working through community-run groups of men aged 18+.

As COVID-19 impacted on community groups, Men's Activity Network members met virtually to share ideas on how to support their members, especially those more isolated. Groups concerned about the health and wellbeing of their members accessed Health Champion and Skill Builder training via Zoom so they could help others make healthier choices, look after their mental health and wellbeing, and continue to develop their skills and confidence.

<sup>49</sup> ONS (2020) [Suicides in England and Wales: 2020 registrations](#)

<sup>50</sup> HCC. [SBS Hampshire: support men in our communities](#).

The sense of community among the network was invaluable. Sharing tips between groups helped people to try new ideas, share frustrations and concerns, and benefit from Public Health support.

Many groups wanted to reach out to those who had experienced mental and emotional health difficulties for the first time due to COVID-19, and those who were feeling anxious about having to go to work during the pandemic. Step by Step offered online training for groups on how to engage more men within their communities during the pandemic, including one-to-one consultancy sessions with a marketing professional.

As restrictions eased, grant funding was provided to help members get back to in-person activities safely, supporting IT, safety signage, PPE and marketing materials.

Over the pandemic, membership of the network nearly doubled and now 44 groups receive the benefits of the network. Many of these groups didn't exist before lockdown, showing the power of communities to respond to local needs. The network is very much driven by what the members want and is continues to provide ongoing peer support as Hampshire's communities adapt to life post-lockdown.

# MEN'S ACTIVITY NETWORK

# Chapter three: Improving mental health of older people

## Mental wellbeing

Older people have not only experienced increased risk of serious illness, hospitalisation and death from COVID-19 but have also been impacted by the policies put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

A much higher proportion of older people, aged 65 and over, died following a COVID-19 admission compared to younger age groups. In Hampshire, deaths in care homes comprised 44% of all deaths where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate in wave one.

Although the concept of 'shielding' would have protected older people from the ill effects of COVID-19, there will be many unintended consequences from staying at home. This includes reduced physical activity (affecting mobility and balance), increased social isolation or loneliness and loss of confidence or independence. Older adults who were classed as clinically extremely vulnerable reported experiencing poor mental health. However this was not always in relation to reduced social contact, but also attributed to factors such as higher levels of worry about obtaining food and other essentials and impaired sleep.<sup>51</sup>

Prior to the pandemic it was estimated that 85% of older adults living with depression received no support and were underrepresented in mental health and talking therapy services.<sup>52</sup> Overall, anxiety and depression among older people increased during the pandemic, which can result in self-neglect and loss of confidence.<sup>53</sup>

Factors that support good mental wellbeing were impacted during the pandemic. For example, the closure of non-essential services decreased social interactions for older people, especially for those who were not digitally connected. Employment rate for all people decreased by 1.4%



<sup>51</sup> ELSA (2020) [The experience of older people instructed to shield or self-isolate during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

<sup>52</sup> The Centre for Mental Health (2020) [Covid-19: understanding inequalities in mental health during the pandemic](#)

<sup>53</sup> Age UK (2020) [The impact of COVID-19 to date on older people's mental and physical health](#)

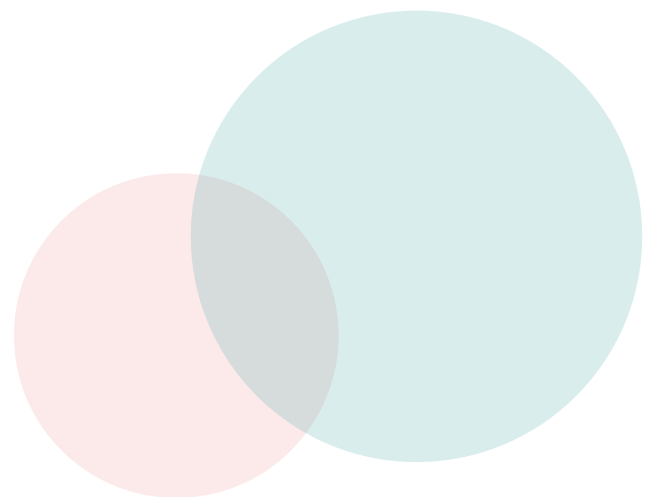
from the start of lockdown<sup>54</sup>. Those aged 65 and over were a key driver for the annual decrease in the number of people in employment, whilst people aged 50 and over were most affected by redundancy.

## Social care

Assessing the extent of the impact of COVID-19 on social care is challenging and may not be apparent for several years. Nationally, there has been an increase in unpaid carers during the pandemic as people provide informal help for family members, increasing this number from nine million to 13.5 million.<sup>55</sup> Evidence has also shown that people with physical disabilities are at particular risk of emotional distress, poor quality of life, and low wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the need for additional, targeted support.<sup>56</sup> Locally, there was a decrease in clients attending day care services as many services were cancelled during social distancing restrictions, impacting people's ability to connect with others and increasing the burden on formal and informal carers. More people access assistive technology solutions than before the pandemic, which while positive in supporting people to live independently, may have also resulted in reduced physical contact for those requiring care.

## Wider health impacts

Spending months with reduced physical activity is suggested to have an impact on the four aspects of physical fitness (strength, stamina, suppleness and skill) and on cognitive function and emotional wellbeing. This will increase dependency and reduce life expectancy.<sup>57</sup> This is supported from national survey evidence which suggests that a quarter of older people have found that their ability to do everyday activities has worsened during the pandemic.<sup>58</sup> In the future, this is likely to increase the need for people to receive health and social care services and reduce their independence, potentially having a negative impact on mental health and wellbeing.



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<sup>54</sup> ONS (2021) [Employment in the UK](#)

<sup>55</sup> CarersUK (2020) [Unseen and undervalued: The value of unpaid care provided to date during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

<sup>56</sup> Steptoe, A. and Di Gessa, G. (2021) Mental health and social interactions of older people with physical disabilities in England during the COVID-19 pandemic: a longitudinal cohort study

<sup>57</sup> BMJ (2020) COVID-19 will be followed by a deconditioning pandemic

<sup>58</sup> Age UK (2021) New analysis finds the pandemic has significantly increased older people's need for social care

A survey by Age UK found that one in three older people reported their anxiety as worse or much worse than before the pandemic, with inequalities between different groups. For example, older people without outside space or with financial anxiety reported particular challenges.<sup>59</sup> Whilst some opportunities to utilise green space opened during the pandemic, many public toilets and facilities were not in use. For many older people, the ability to get to the toilet in time can be a key factor in deciding whether to leave the home, whether for physical activity or social interactions.

The proportion of people with Dementia and Alzheimer's disease in England prescribed anti-psychotic medication in the preceding six weeks (all ages) increased in 2020 when compared to 2019. However, those with a care plan or care plan review has significantly decreased. This is of particular concern as the needs of an individual with dementia changes with time and the care plan can play a vital role in supporting their care.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> Age UK (2020) The impact of COVID-19 to date on older people's mental and physical health

<sup>60</sup> PHE (2021) Wider Impacts of COVID-19 tool

## Case study five: Digital enablement and volunteering to tackle social isolation amongst older people

MHA Communities offer social and online activities and services for people aged 55 and over. These range from befriending and online activities to dance and exercise classes and assisted shopping. The service aim is to enable older people to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible, helping them to live later life well in their local communities.<sup>61</sup>

Those who contacted the service during national restrictions due to loneliness, bereavement and lack of family close by, received support via weekly befriending calls and, when restrictions lifted, face-to-face meetings. The befriending service had a positive impact on an individual's mental wellbeing. To enable individuals to access other activities, the befrienders can work with them to enable them to learn how to use new technologies. The MHA Communities service reports that this has led to individuals becoming more involved with their digital services and in turn to volunteering themselves to support others.

One new volunteer who joined the service through support provided by a befriender has now themselves befriended four other older people in the community, one of whom they meet face-to-face regularly. The befriending service and digital enablement support has meant for this volunteer that their overall wellbeing, including their mental health has benefited hugely.



<sup>61</sup> MHA. [MHA Communities: Befriending, Social & Online Activities](#)



# Chapter four: Taking a Whole Systems Approach to improve the mental health of those experiencing inequalities

It is vital that we take a whole systems approach to improve the mental health and wellbeing of our population and tackle inequalities experienced across our communities. This means working with communities and across sectors to ensure the people know how to improve their own mental and emotional health, know where to go to access the right support, and ensuring that this is available when people need it.

Hampshire County Council has signed up to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health<sup>62</sup> which aims to:

- facilitate local cross-sector action around preventing mental health problems, promoting good mental health and wellbeing
- support planning for mental health and wellbeing recovery
- make mental and emotional health everybody's business
- tackle those wider determinants of mental health and wellbeing such as employment and housing
- build capacity and capability across workforces to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental health and wellbeing.



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<sup>62</sup> PHE (2020) [Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health](#)

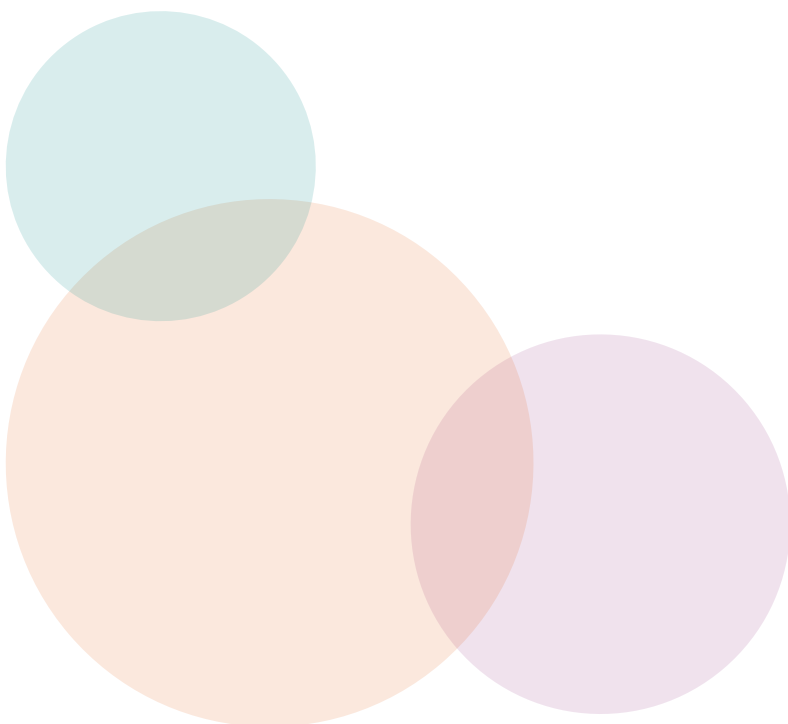
## Improving Mental Health in Hampshire Board

A multi-agency Improving Mental Health in Hampshire Board has now been established to drive forward the commitments in the Concordat. The Board includes a range of key stakeholders who will provide prevention-focused leadership across the wider public and voluntary sector system and agree joint action to tackle the wider determinants of health to reduce mental health inequalities.

Priorities have already been identified to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on mental health and wellbeing and address inequalities which have been highlighted by the pandemic. These include:

- Working alongside partners to identify how we can support mental and emotional health and wellbeing for people from ethnic minority backgrounds at increased risk of COVID-19 in Hampshire. This includes utilising community researchers to engage with their communities to understand key issues around mental health and wellbeing.
- Mobilising community assets using a Community Champion programme model to proactively engage communities in their health and wellbeing, and through the Men's Activity Network to be resilient and promote mental and physical health and wellbeing.
- Strengthening the pathways for people with co-occurring mental health and alcohol and drug use conditions and working closely with the NHS Transforming Mental Health services programme.

Needs assessments are currently in progress mapping the mental health needs of both adults and children across Hampshire to inform the future direction of this work, and make sure that services and support are targeted appropriately across the system.



## Case study six: Promoting mental health and wellbeing together across Hampshire

As one of the priorities of the Improving Mental Health in Hampshire Board, a multi-agency group was established to collaborate on campaigns and resources which promote mental health and wellbeing. Co-ordinated by Hampshire County Council the group includes partners from the NHS, mental health services, the voluntary sector, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, Hampshire Constabulary and other organisations, such as the national parks, who can positively impact mental wellbeing.

Over the last year, the group has shared messaging and campaigns – for example, Southern Health Foundation NHS Trust’s ‘Every Life Matters – help in a crisis’ which aims to ensure people have direct access to advice, help and support when they need it. Mental Wellbeing in Hampshire has been developed as an online resource to help amplify consistent messaging across Hampshire, targeted at those most in need, launched in 2021.

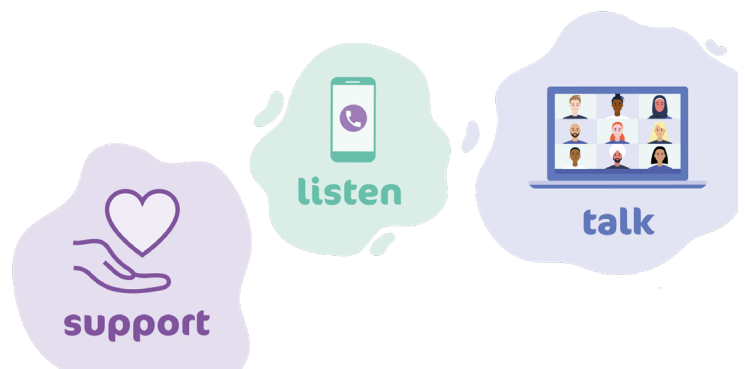
Themed messages have been planned across the year to link in with notable events and national awareness days. For example, during May’s Mental Health Awareness Week the South Downs National Park, New Forest Park Authority, Hampshire County Council’s country parks and Hampshire Wildlife Trust worked together to promote the benefits of nature, green space and physical activity in supporting mental wellbeing.

Initial results of the overall campaign are promising with good engagement utilising a variety of social media.



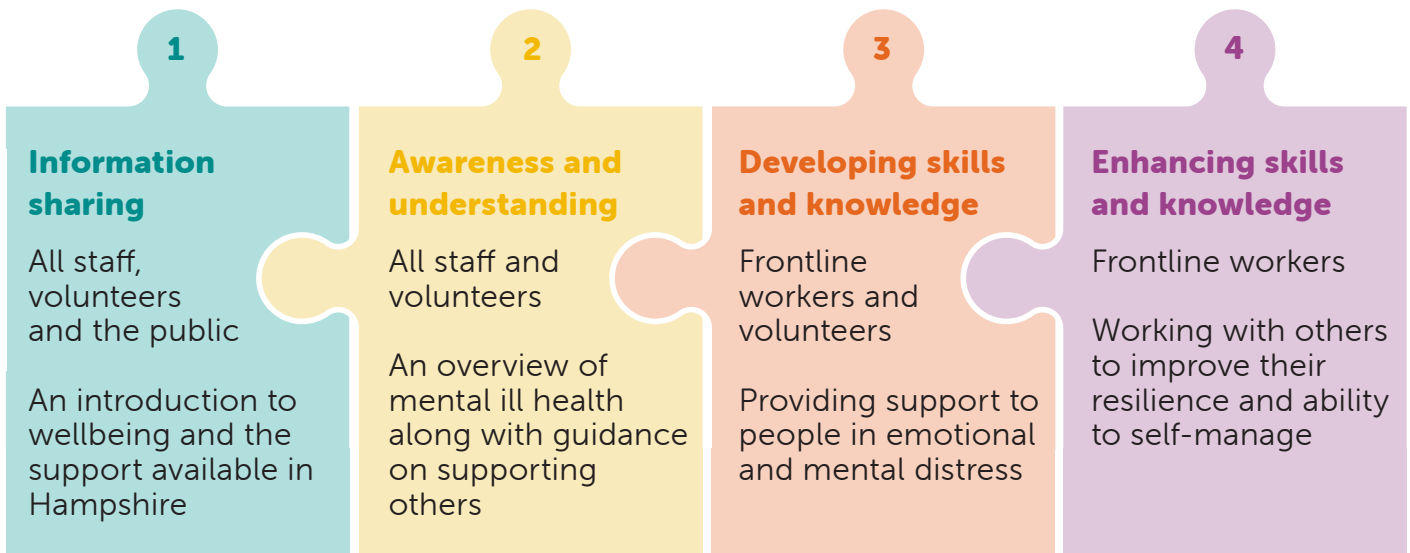


Following the first national lockdown, the Local Resilience Forum Voluntary Sector Group identified a need to strengthen the awareness and understanding of mental health and wellbeing amongst staff, volunteers and managers. This is a further example of collaboration across the wider system to support mental and emotional health.



Mental health and wellbeing guides for [staff, volunteers](#) and [managers](#) working in the community provided an overview of the range of national and local services and support available. The guides included helpful tips and links to self-help resources including information on where to find specific support and urgent care.

A [mental health and wellbeing training offer](#) was also produced to assist staff and volunteers working in the community develop their skills and confidence in supporting others. The offer brought together a range of available e-learning and virtually delivered courses. Figure four illustrates the levels of training available. Courses on offer ranged from an introduction to the Five Ways To Wellbeing and mental ill health to more in-depth training, such as our commissioned [Connect 5](#) training for those working with others.



**Figure four:** Overview of the Mental Health Training Offer strands.

The guides and training offer were targeted at those working with people at highest risk of poor mental and emotional health and wellbeing, including people living in low-income families and ethnic minorities.

# Conclusion

Prior to the pandemic, inequalities in mental health and wellbeing already existed. However, these have been brought sharply into focus by the impact of COVID-19 as this report has explored.

Locally we can harness Hampshire's Prevention Concordat to improve mental health and wellbeing and focus on the groups who were struggling before and during the pandemic. By using our understanding of where mental and emotional health vulnerabilities exist and taking a whole systems approach, it will be possible to focus our efforts and resources on those places and people most in need.

Mental health, wellbeing and inequalities are influenced by wider environmental and social factors which include employment, housing, structural racism and access to services. A rapid health needs assessment is already available regarding ethnic minority groups and COVID-19 across Hampshire and will also help to inform next steps.<sup>63</sup>

This report has highlighted some excellent work already underway in Hampshire, including use of new technologies to access mental health and wellbeing services, ways to increase community resilience and improve social contacts and mental health and wellbeing prevention campaigns. However, we can go further by working collaboratively to support mental health and wellbeing planning and recovery, especially where inequalities exist and where achieving good mental wellbeing is a particular challenge.

With the impact of COVID-19 there is greater urgency to address mental health and wellbeing in Hampshire. The work already underway must be nurtured and accelerated and new opportunities harnessed to improve the public's health in Hampshire. Working to address these inequalities does present a challenge across a county as large as Hampshire – it will require everyone working together across the system to tackle this.

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<sup>63</sup> HCC (2021) (unpublished) Ethnic Minority Groups and COVID-19 Rapid Health Needs Assessment, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight)



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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	15 March 2022
<b>Title:</b>	School Organisation - amendment to current decision-making arrangements
<b>Report From:</b>	<i>Director of Children's Services</i>

**Contact name:** Richard Vaughan

**Tel:** 01962 846683

**Email:** Richard.vaughan@hants.gov.uk

#### **Purpose of this Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to amend the Cabinet Report (item 5) of the 21 May 2007 **Education and Inspections Act 2006 – Implications for School Organisation Decisions**.  
<http://www.hants.gov.uk/decisions/decisions-docs/070521-cabine-R0706092244.html>
2. The proposed amendment would move all matters in relation to school organisation under the decision-making authority of the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. Therefore, removing the current requirement for Cabinet to consider and decide upon school closures and if required linked proposals that currently fall out of the scope of authority of the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. This brings it in to line with other related decisions such as school amalgamations, simplifying the decision making process and enabling all matters on school organisation to be treated as business as usual.

#### **Recommendation**

3. Cabinet approves that the decision making authority in relation to school closures and where required linked proposals be transferred from the Cabinet to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services (with immediate effect). This amends paragraph 2(c) of the Cabinet Report (item 5) of the 21 May 2007 Education and Inspections Act 2006 – Implications for School Organisation Decisions, which requires Cabinet to consider and decide upon school closures and if required linked proposals that fall out of the scope of authority of the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.

4. All other recommendations set out in the 21 May 2007 Cabinet report Education and Inspections Act 2006 – Implications for School Organisation Decisions are not affected by this decision.

### **Executive Summary**

5. This report seeks to amend paragraph 2(c) of the Cabinet report (item 5) of 21 May 2007, Education and Inspections Act 2006 – Implications for School Organisation Decisions. Therefore, bringing it in to line with other related decisions such as school amalgamations, simplifying the decision making process and enabling all matters on school organisation to be treated as business as usual.
6. On the 21 May 2007, the Cabinet considered and approved a report (Cabinet item 5) by the Director of Children’s Services that set-out the implications of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 on School Organisation decisions.
7. The report detailed how (i) the decisions making process in relation to school organisation would need to change following the abolition of the School Organisation Committee and, (ii) the requirement to hold ‘competitions in most cases where new schools are required.
8. School closure decisions and where required linked proposals are service driven and therefore, should as with all other School Organisation decisions sit under the scope of authority of the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services. This proposed change would not preclude the Executive Lead Member seeking the support of Cabinet in the future should they feel the need to.

### **Contextual information**

9. In 2006 the Department for Education (DfE) revised the 1990 Education and Inspections Act. Some key amendments impacted on the way decisions around school organisation issues would have to be taken in the future and, the requirement to hold competitions in most cases where new schools were proposed.
10. Until this point any decisions on reorganisations, closures and other alterations were made by the School Organisation Committee. Once abolished a majority of school organisation decisions would fall upon the local authority to take.

11. The May 2007 Cabinet Report, Education and Inspections Act 2006 – Implications for School Organisation Decisions recommended that decision making be undertaken through three authorities. (i) The Director of Children’s Services in accordance with the County Council’s constitution to be able to take decisions linked to local consultation and certain proposals that had not received any objection during the statutory consultation phase. (2) The Executive Member for Education to consider and decide upon all other prescribed alterations except where under certain circumstances a school closure is involved. (3) The Cabinet to consider and decide upon school closures and if required linked proposals that fall out of the scope of authority of the Executive Member for Education.
12. A proposal should be regarded as ‘linked’ if its implementation (or non-implementation) would prevent or undermine the effective implementation of another proposal.
13. As set out in the Department for Education Opening and closing maintained schools - Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers November 2019, the decision-making sits with the Local Authority, it is for the local authority to decide how this is met within its decision making framework.
14. There is no legal requirement that Cabinet must consider and decide upon school closures and if required linked proposals. Having had the current process in place for 15 years, it now makes sense to streamline how decisions on school organisation are taken and bring all the required authority under the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services.

### **Finance**

15. There are no financial implications linked to the recommendation in this report for County Council.

### **Performance**

16. There are no performance related matters linked to this report.

### **Consultation and Equalities**

17. The subject of this report does not require any form of consultation to be undertaken.
18. No equality impacts have been identified.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

19. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

20. **Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.**

Not relevant in regard to the content of this report or decision being sought.

21. **Carbon Mitigation**

Not relevant in regard to the content of this report or decision being sought.

**Conclusions**

22. Cabinet approved in May 2007 a report **Education and Inspections Act 2006 – Implications for School Organisation Decisions**. This report set-out changes that would be required in regard to school organisation decisions upon the abolition of School Organisation Committees, as result of changes to the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

23. The report put a majority of the decision-making powers on school organisation matters under the then Executive Member for Education and Director of Children's Services. However, it put the decision-making power in relation to school closures and linked decisions under the Council's Cabinet.

24. There is no legal or other reason/s why decisions on school closures and linked decisions cannot rest with the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. These as with all other school organisation decisions are service specific and do not overtly impact the wider County Council.

25. In order to streamline and simplify the current arrangements as set-out in the May 2007 report it is recommended that Cabinet moves its current role in relation to school closures to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Education and Inspections Act 2006 – Implications for School Organisation Decisions	May 2007
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Education and Inspections Act	2006

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- (a) The recommendation in this report will have no impact on groups with protected characteristics.



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