

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	19 July 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) Integration
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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### 1. The decision:

1.1 That Cabinet approves the preferred course of action identified in this report:

- to continue to engage with neighbouring areas concerning their devolution ambitions and programmes in the context of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) integration;
- to progress the ongoing discussions with the two LEPs in the Hampshire area, regarding their short-term business case submissions to Government and their proposals in light of the revised Government guidance for LEP integration;
- to prepare the ground for a pan-Hampshire LEP Integration Plan for January 2023, subject to progressing devolution negotiations with Central Government; and
- to explore the opportunities for the development of a Member-led Economic Development Forum; a revision of the Place Leadership Group to form a Pan Hampshire Business Engagement Board; and greater collaboration on Economic Development across the economic geographies covered by the existing LEPs.

### 2. Reason for the decision:

2.1. The paper is an update report following the emergence of the latest Government guidance concerning the long-term position of LEPs and their relationship with devolved institutions existing and proposed. This guidance from March 2022 follows on from the conclusions of a number of LEP reviews undertaken by Government over the last five years. The approach recommended in this report enables the County Council to continue to prepare for future developments set out in the latest government guidance and in discussion with key partners.

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

- 3.1 Do Minimum – To be only reactive to the emergence of the LEP Business Plans in November 2022 without any engagement to shape LEP functions and programmes, and no proactive moves to prepare for future devolution and consequent integration of LEP functions. This option would then rely on the LEPs to reflect any emerging national or Hampshire policy and/or devolution models in their plans going forward. This option was rejected as being not as beneficial.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

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

Councillors Chadd and Heron declared a personal interest by virtue of being members of the Enterprise M3 LEP and the Solent LEP respectively.

- 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:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**19 July 2022**

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**Chairman of Cabinet  
Councillor Rob Humby**