

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	16 April 2024
Title:	Driving Towards Economic Strength
Report From:	Director of Hampshire 2050

Contact name: Gary Westbrook

Email: Gary.westbrook@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Notes that the economy fell into a mild recession at the end of last year, which places an emphasis on the County Council to continue to use its scale and influence to drive towards long term economic competitiveness of Hampshire, through shaping and influencing the key priorities set out in the Economic Strategy approved by Cabinet in December 2022. This also includes the County Council's role in promoting place-based Regeneration and Growth Partnerships.
- 1.2 Notes the Government announcement that councils across England will receive a £600 million support package, in addition to funding outlined at the local government finance settlement, to help them deliver key services. The support package will primarily be added to the Social Care Grant to bolster social care budgets. The Spring Budget did not address ways to ease the severe financial pressures faced by local government.
- 1.3 Notes the new requirement to produce and publish local authority productivity plans by July 2024 which need to set out how councils will improve service performance and reduce wasteful expenditure.
- 1.4 Notes the update on the integration of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions into the Upper-tier Local Authorities in Hampshire, including the proposals for decision making.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

2.1 To provide Cabinet with an analysis of the current economic climate in Hampshire and to update Cabinet on the progress with the integration of former LEP services and the new supporting governance structure.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Not to note the issues raised. This option was rejected as it would be against the best interests of the Hampshire economy.

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:

Approved by:

Date:

16 April 2024

**Vice Chairman of Cabinet
Councillor Roz Chadd**