

REPORT OF THE
Chief Executive

PART I

1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

- 1.1. The Commission of Inquiry - Vision for Hampshire 2050 was set up by Councillor Roy Perry, former Leader of the County Council and Chairman of the Commission in 2018.
- 1.2. The Commission of Inquiry was established to consider evidence, deliberate upon key issues and to make recommendations on a high level and long-term Vision for Hampshire to 2050 which would guide and contribute to the future prosperity, quality of life, protection and enhancement of the character and environment of Hampshire.
- 1.3. Sixteen individuals with broad experience and strong ties to Hampshire were selected and invited by the Chairman to form the Commission. One Commissioner, Lord Wakeham subsequently had to step down from his role due to ill health.
- 1.4. The Commissioners were asked to consider a range of questions across six specific and one cross-cutting themes, focusing on:
 - a) What do you think might happen in the future?
 - b) How will that effect/impact on what we do?
 - c) How will the County Council and Partners need to react in light of this?
- 1.5. Each theme was led by a designated officer from across the County Council who gathered a breadth of expert evidence which was then presented to the Commissioners at the respective theme hearings.
- 1.6. An open call for public evidence and short interviews with members of the public also helped to contextualise public opinion at each theme hearing. All theme summary reports, supporting evidence, public opinion, videos and presentations from the hearings can be viewed on the Commission of Inquiry at www.hants.gov.uk/visionforhampshire2050

2. COMMISSIONERS' SUMMARY REPORT

- 2.1. The Commissioners' Summary Report is the conclusion of a year's work and sets out a compelling narrative to create a unified vision from a wide variety of differing perspectives in order to achieve continued prosperity for Hampshire towards 2050.
- 2.2. The report is structured around three key sections:
 - Key Values & Principles
 - Drivers for Change, and
 - Vision, Policy & Recommendations

Key Values and Principles

- 2.3. The Commissioners' recommendations were shaped by key values and principles that the Commissioners identified as fundamental and which are summarised below.

Hampshire the Place

- 2.4. Commissioners were passionate that Hampshire (including Southampton and Portsmouth) is a very desirable place to live and work because it offers many qualities and strengths that people are looking for, such as a beautiful natural environment, jobs, education and good access to neighbouring economies. Commissioners felt it was important to ensure that these qualities are sustained and that they are also resilient in the face of the drivers of change.
- 2.5. They were also keen to acknowledge that some aspects are less successful and must be addressed including, for example, access to affordable housing, pockets of deprivation, lack of diversity, future of rural areas, maximising the potential of the two cities.

People and Communities

- 2.6. There was a clear consensus from Commissioners that human relationships and communities were at the heart of achieving a positive future for Hampshire and should therefore underpin the recommendations. Building communities that are connected, intergenerational, sustainable, resilient and happy was central to many of the discussions.

Diversity

- 2.7. Diversity was used to express the view that everyone is welcome, recognising that society is made up of individuals with varying characteristics (race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies). Everyone should have equal access to services and opportunities and life chances, and this requires effort to be put into equalising currently unequal access. Aspects of this part of the Commission's deliberations has been subject to some dissenting voices.

Leadership and Collaboration

- 2.8. A key area of consensus was that Hampshire County Council should take a leadership role in ensuring the outcomes of the Commission are taken forward, and that the Council should work collaboratively with public and private sector partners, the third sector and local communities to successfully deliver the far reaching and complex ambitions of the Commission.

Measures of Success

- 2.9. The measures of success for outcomes was something the Commissioners were keen to define, and it was agreed that these should be both quantifiable and value based. Commissioners felt that the human element was as critical as policy. What it feels like to live in Hampshire (happy, safe, isolated, deprived?) will be an integral part of the measure of success of outcomes like a prosperous economy, vibrant cities and towns and a thriving natural environment.

Drivers for change

- 2.10. From the thematic hearings, several drivers for change emerged (climate, environment, economy, population & society and technology) which will force change and will require choices to be made. These drivers form the backbone of the Commissioners' Report from which the recommendations flow. More details on each are set out below.

Changing Climate

- 2.11. The changing climate was identified by Commissioners as the most important; it was recognised that a well-adapted and resilient Hampshire will be essential to ensure that Hampshire's economy, environment and society continue to thrive and prosper. Commissioners were keen to develop and promote a strategic focus on embedding climate resilience and mitigation across key policies and sectors with communities across Hampshire.
- 2.12. Furthermore, areas of focus should include that carbon emissions are reduced from the key sectors of housing and transport, that support is provided to enable and empower communities to be more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate and that there is a focus to develop policies to support the transition to clean, locally generated, renewable energy and sustainable use of natural resources.

Changing Environment

- 2.13. Hampshire's built, historic and natural environment was considered an essential component to a high quality of life, as one of Hampshire's most valued assets and part of what makes Hampshire an attractive and prosperous place to live, work and visit.
- 2.14. As such, Commissioners expressed the ambition to protect, retain and enhance the special unique features and character of Hampshire into the future and that communities must be able to connect with their place and be able to live more happy and healthy lives.
- 2.15. To assist this, the Commissioners consider that our places must be equipped with high performing and adaptable infrastructure to meet local needs, transport networks to increase accessibility and active travel and green spaces to support health and wellbeing.

Changing Economy

- 2.16. Commissioners identified that a thriving and prosperous economy is essential to support excellent public services, provide high quality and inclusive employment and business opportunities, maintain and enhance quality of life and reduce inequality and economic exclusion.
- 2.17. As such the key emerging policy objective is to maintain a strategic focus on fostering a knowledge-based and sustainable Hampshire Economy, working closely with businesses, relevant agencies, leading universities and other research assets in Hampshire.
- 2.18. Several recommended areas of focus to support this objective include;
- Developing Hampshire as a brand
 - Maximising opportunities for employment and inclusion
 - Securing economically critical infrastructure investment in Hampshire

- Developing clear masterplans to aid development
- Embracing the opportunities of the advances of digital and other technology, and
- Capitalising on Hampshire's university capacity to retain more graduates living and working in Hampshire.

2.19. Furthermore, it was recognised that Hampshire County Council, together with other key stakeholders, should ensure that main key urban centres fulfil their roles as key economic drivers and as vibrant places and hubs of commercial and innovation activity. They would also act as magnets for talented individuals and knowledge intensive businesses.

Changing Population and Society

2.20. Commissioners recognised that a growing and ageing population will impact upon productivity and service delivery including health, housing provision (further compounded by an increase in one-person households) and social care. Other key challenges included the changing skills needs, intergenerational equity and areas of deprivation.

2.21. Commissioners wanted a focus on promoting the evolution and development of communities and all types of families that support equity, connectivity, diversity, sustainability and resilience.

2.22. Commissioners discussed the importance of attracting new skills and a younger, diverse population to Hampshire to help to balance the ageing population, whilst also attracting families and enabling those born in Hampshire, to stay and prosper. Their conclusions favoured a balance between needing to attract and retain younger households whilst preparing for a larger proportion of residents to be older and frailer.

Changing Technology

2.23. Commissioners recognised that Hampshire is home to some key digital clusters and has significant expertise and a strong reputation in digital technologies, infrastructure and skills.

2.24. Commissioners were keen for Hampshire to take advantage of the opportunities that technology will offer to people, place and economy in the future, whilst mitigating against potential negative impacts including economic exclusion, loneliness and the potential knock on impacts on health.

2.25. They also discussed the need to ensure that all members of the community can benefit from technological advancements and take advantage of new opportunities in the labour market. They considered it important to avoid technology replacing richer, authentic human exchanges where possible.

2.26. As such the emerging key policy objective prioritises a focus on opportunities offered by technology to enhance business and economy, public services, social infrastructure and connectivity.

2.27. A number of recommended areas of focus underpinning this objective include developing a greater understanding the role of public sector to enable and maximise the opportunities of new technologies, equipping all sectors of society with the skills required to take advantage of technological advances, maximising the benefits offered by Artificial Intelligence to improve public

services particularly health, social care and transport, seeking to improve active travel and prioritising public and shared transport.

Recommendations

- 2.28. The recommendations from the Commission are outlined in the Commissioners' Summary Report (Appendix 1).
- 2.29. The recommendations cover each of the five drivers for change and are structured into:
 - vision statements which set out the overarching conclusion for each driver
 - policy objectives which set out the desired outcome, and
 - recommendations which set out the more detailed work areas to achieve the outcomes.

3. RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

- 3.1. The recommendations set out in the Commissioners' report cover a very wide range of sectors and services across all the Hampshire local authorities, the wider public sector, and arguably local communities, businesses and individuals.
- 3.2. Work will need to be done to develop the recommendations into actions and to clarify roles and responsibilities. This will need to be done for all actions, including those for partners. This work can only take place following Council's endorsement the recommendations of the Commission.
- 3.3. It is therefore recommended that the County Council agree to a number of key principles as part of its response to the Commissioners report which are set out below.
 - That the Council endorse the Commissioners' report as a basis for response and engagement. The suggested governance and oversight arrangements for this are set out in Section 4.
 - That the Council take a leadership role in ensuring the Commissioners' report is received and considered by key partners and stakeholders across Hampshire. The Council should have an advocacy role to promote the work of the Commission and encourage 'buy in' and joint working.
 - That the Council reviews its key policies in light of the Commission's recommendations. For example, review the Local Transport Plan in response to climate change being identified by the Commission is a key priority, because transport is the largest source of carbon emissions.
 - That the Council establish and report on an evidence base for key policy areas against which progress on the Commission's recommendations can be measured. For example, prepare a "state of the environment" report to bring together key evidence across key areas (e.g. biodiversity, landscape, water, soil etc.) to provide an assessment the current state of the environment in Hampshire, and periodically review and update this to provide a basis on which the impacts of activities can be tracked and evaluated.

- 3.4. It is proposed that a more detailed review of the recommendations and the development of a County Council action plan in response, is deferred to Cabinet, with appropriate engagement and oversight from the relevant Select Committees (see Section 4).

4. GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

- 4.1. Although the Commission has now concluded its work, the implementation and delivery of the recommendations is a critical component to the success of the Commission. Commissioners felt that it was important that beyond the Commission hearings, there was commitment from key partners to receive and respond to the recommendations and to take them forward as actions.
- 4.2. A sustainable way to ensure delivery of the Commission's recommendations is for them to be embedded and mainstreamed across the County Council's and partners' activities and policies. To this end, a number of mechanisms are being developed which are outlined below.
- 4.3. To oversee collective progress against the recommendations of the Commission and review future work, the Hampshire Partnership, in agreement with its members, should be re-purposed to take on this role.
- 4.4. Using themed conferences aligned with the five "Drivers for Change" identified by the Commission, the Hampshire Partnership could oversee implementation and progress across a range of sectors by:
- receiving keynote evidence from experts and specialists on relevant themes, and
 - receiving presentations on progress against key areas.
- 4.5. The first meeting of the proposed re-purposed Hampshire Partnership is currently scheduled to take place on 26 November 2019 and is intended to focus on climate change.
- 4.6. The County Council should play a key role in formally engaging with District and Borough Councils on the detailed recommendations of the Commission, on the priorities and on sharing in the responsibility of delivering mutually beneficial outcomes.
- 4.7. Opportunities will also be taken to link into other established forums, such as the Public Health and Wellbeing Board to support the delivery of the Commission's recommendations as appropriate.
- 4.8. Members will be engaged both in formulating and scrutinising any action/implementation plans and in monitoring progress and performance in the implementation of the Commission's outcomes. The first opportunity for this will be at Cabinet, where a more detailed assessment of the recommendations can be undertaken.
- 4.9. Further scrutiny and engagement will be done through existing processes and the relevant Select Committees, in particular through the Policy and Resources Select Committee, which has already received progress reports on the Commission's work.
- 4.10. Further work is also being developed through Children's Services to foster more engagement with younger residents (16-18) through schools and/or youth organisations to engage with on the Commission's findings and recommendations.

- 4.11. Effort will also be put into identifying external funding sources to support activity, with a particular focus on climate change and the environment as key initial priorities.
- 4.12. To co-ordinate and develop the onward delivery, monitoring, reporting and review, including working with the Hampshire Partnership, dedicated resources are being identified within the Environment Department of the County Council. Given the connections and complementarity between the work of the Commission and the Climate Change work programmes, it is proposed that these resources are closely aligned.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the County Council:

- a. Notes and endorses the Commissioners' Summary Report including the vision, policy and recommendations;
- b. Notes and approves the recommended responses by the County Council to the Commissioners' Report below;
 - That the Council endorse the Commissioners' report as a basis for response and engagement.
 - That the Council take a leadership role in ensuring the Commissioners' report is received and considered by key partners and stakeholders across Hampshire.
 - That the Council reviews its key policies where appropriate in light of the Commission's recommendations.
 - That the Council establish an evidence base for key policy areas against which progress on the Commission's recommendations can be measured.
- c. Endorses the governance and oversight arrangements set out;
- d. Notes the repurposing of the Hampshire Partnership Board to oversee implementation and progress of the Hampshire 2050;
- e. Endorses the approach of engaging key partners to receive and respond to the Commissioners' Report; and
- f. Approves further work to engage with schools and/or youth organisations to consider the Commission's findings and recommendations.