

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
<b>Date:</b>	8 July 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Solent Freeport Consortium Limited Board
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

**Contact name:** Richard Kenny

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### 1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources is nominated as the proposed Board Member of the Solent Freeport Company Ltd.
- 1.2. That the County Council supports an 'in principle' agreement of providing a three-year revenue contribution to support the development of the Freeport, subject to the development of a robust and acceptable business plan and financial strategy for the Company and evidence of good progress in delivering a successful Freeport.
- 1.3. That the County Council agrees to make a contribution to the Solent Freeport Company Ltd of £50,000 for 2021/22 from the Investing in Hampshire Fund.

### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Hampshire County Council is designated as a Core (Voting) Member of the Solent Freeport Company Ltd given the strategic role the County Council has played and is continuing to play, in the design, development and delivery of a Freeport for Hampshire.
- 2.2. Solent Freeport Company Ltd is the overall new governance body charged with the design development and delivery of the Freeport for Hampshire. 'Eight English Freeports' is a flagship Government policy and the decision-making of this new Board is critical to the delivery of the Solent Freeport in Hampshire and therefore requires the highest level leadership and decision-making that extends oversight across the full range of Council functions, powers and resources, to maximise the benefits for the County and Hampshire as a whole.

### 3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Not to nominate a representative on the Freeport Board. This option was rejected on the basis that this would mean that the interests of the wider Hampshire area and the County Council would not be fully represented.
- 3.2. The Deputy Leader or another Cabinet Member could take on the role, and whilst this may provide an option in relation to substitution, it is felt the office

holder of the Leader of the Council is most appropriate given the corporate nature and wide-reaching significance of the Freeport status in Hampshire.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. The decision proposed here involved the Executive Member nominating himself. It is nevertheless considered that as the decision is being taken in an open and transparent manner there is no conflict of interest.

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 July 2021**

**Executive Member for Policy and Resources  
Councillor Keith Mans**