

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment |
| Date: | 27 January 2022 |
| Title: | Hampshire Brussels Office |
| Report From: | Director of Economy, Transport and Environment |

Contact name: Richard Kenny

Tel: **Email:** richard.kenny@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves the closure of the Brussels Office operation in recognition of the changing focus of UK international trade policy and to secure the recurring financial savings in line with the agreed SP23 proposals, amounting to £0.1 million.
- 1.2. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the Director of Human Resources, to make all the necessary arrangements.

2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1. The SP23 financial savings proposals were endorsed by Cabinet on 12 October 2021, and the County Council on 4 November, 2021. This included the closure of the Hampshire County Council Brussels Office operations, to secure a recurring financial saving of £0.1 million.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Alternative options to secure equivalent savings in the revenue costs of the Brussels Office Operations have been considered, including suggestions from the current Head of the Brussels Office Operation, but no realistic or viable alternative has been identified. The option to not proceed with the closure of the Brussels Office Operation has also been rejected on the grounds that it could not be funded beyond 2022/23, under the approved SP23 savings programme.

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:

Thank you to County Councillor Andrew Joy, who attended to speak at my Decision Day today on this item and welcome further discussion on how best to support the AER (Assembly of European Regions) programme going forward.

Approved by:

Date:

27 January 2022

**Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and
Environment
Councillor Rob Humby**

