

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY ENQUIRY INTO THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY
DATE OF DECISION:	6 JUNE 2011
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
NONE	

BRIEF SUMMARY

A report into The Knowledge Economy in Southampton and the surrounding area, produced by the Scrutiny Panel, was presented to Cabinet in March 2011. This report sets out Cabinet's response to the recommendations contained within the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve the responses to the recommendations as detailed in Appendix 1.
- (ii) That the role of co-ordinating actions of various relevant departments within the Council and securing participation of external organisations and the private sector be delegated to the Director of Economic Development.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development to negotiate and look to other departments for supporting resources with regard to prioritising and implementing these recommendations.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The actions set out in the Appendix to this report reflect the direction of work currently being carried out by the Directorate of Economic Development and others.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 2 Do nothing – does not meet the aspirations of the City Council, does not contribute to economic growth and the creation of jobs, fails to contribute to the objectives of the South Hampshire Economic Development Strategy.
- 3 Increase activity beyond the level outlined in the Appendix. This was rejected due to current financial pressures.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

- 4 The 6 recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel have been responded to in detail in Appendix 1 where comment is made on the action taken. This report and its appendix have been consulted on with those organisations that presented evidence to the Scrutiny Panel with responses being received from University of Southampton, Southampton Solent University, Solent Innovation Growth Network, Oxford Innovation, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce (Southampton office), and Solent Education Business Partnership.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

5 **Capital:** None

6 **Revenue:** The actions set out in the attached Appendix will be resourced by prioritising action within the programme of work carried out within the existing Economic Development budgets. Attention is drawn to actions under recommendation 6 that could require future funding following further investigation. If this is the case then specific approval will be sought from Members as required by financial procedure rules before any commitments are made.

Property/Other

7 None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

8 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000

Other Legal Implications:

9 None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

10 The proposals contained within the appended report are in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework.

11 Community Strategy – meets with objective 3 – A Dynamic Business Environment

Local Area Agreement – meets with objective SO3 - A Dynamic Business Environment

Corporate Improvement Plan – meets with Sec 5. Economic Development Portfolio – part of Southampton Economic Development and Regeneration Plan

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KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	N/A
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1.	Draft Response to Knowledge Economy Inquiry – Summary of Recommendations – 14 th March 2011
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at: N/A

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	
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