

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	22 December 2010
Title:	Hampshire Action Teams: Community Budgets and Procedures for Authorisation of Expenditure
Reference:	2392
Report From:	Chief Executive

Contact name: Debbie Vaughan, Head of Member Services

Tel: 01962 847330

Email: debbie.vaughan@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. On 29 March 2010, Cabinet approved procedures for authorisation and expenditure of community budgets allocated to the Hampshire Action Teams (HATs). The procedures have been operating for just over six months and in the main have proved to be effective.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. In approving the procedure for agreeing a project to be put forward to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources or the Executive Member for Communities and International Affairs for funding to be allocated, the Cabinet specifically agreed:

“that the process undertaken by each HAT is to reach a majority agreement of the whole HAT on the recommendation to the Executive Member for Communities or the Executive Member for Policy and Resources”

The Decision Record is attached as an appendix.

- 2.2. As part of the monitoring process and in light of experience, it is proposed that a revision to the process detailed above be made to allow a little more flexibility as follows:

“that the process to be undertaken by each HAT is to reach a majority agreement of those Members present and eligible to vote providing those present represent 60% of the total membership of each HAT”

- 2.3. There are occasions when reaching agreement to put a scheme forward for funding is more effectively carried out by email to avoid a funding request being held up unnecessarily, for example, if a meeting of a HAT is not scheduled in the near future. In these instances and to continue to allow flexibility, a simple majority agreement of the total membership of a HAT will apply. This e-method has been operating over the last seven months, and on the whole has proved to be effective.
- 2.4. Recommendations for project funding will continue to be submitted to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources and the Executive Member for Communities and International Affairs.
- 2.5. All other elements detailed in the Cabinet report of 29 March 2010 remain unchanged.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That for all project funding requests, the process to be undertaken by each HAT is to reach a majority agreement of those Members present at a meeting and eligible to vote providing those present represent 60% of the total membership of each HAT
- 3.2. That when required and to facilitate timely agreement of a project funding request being put forward, an e-process can be undertaken for which agreement will be a simple majority of the total membership of each HAT.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Hampshire Action Teams: Community Budgets and Procedures for Authorisation of Expenditure and Monitoring	1443	29 March 2010

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1 The community funding available to each HAT will fund projects that help to support communities, respond to inequalities and improve accessibility.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1 The community funding available to each HAT will fund projects that help to reduce crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

One of the key aims for HATs is to support and encourage improved joint working at a local level. An outcome of this will be to reduce duplication and make improved use of joint resources. It should therefore have a positive impact on carbon footprint/energy consumption.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	29 March 2010
Title:	Hampshire Action Teams: Community Budgets and Procedures for Authorisation of Expenditure and Monitoring
Reference:	1443
Report From:	Chief Executive

Contact name: Barbara Beardwell - Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Tel: 01962 845967

Email: barbara.beardwell@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

That the £700,000 allocated to the Hampshire Action Teams' (HATs) Community Budget in the annual budget for 2010-2011 be allocated to each HAT in the proportions set out in paragraph 2.3 of the supporting report and that there will be no automatic roll over of funds into the following financial year(s).

That authorised expenditure from the HATs Community Budget will be for one year only with no automatic commitment for continuation of that expenditure in future years.

That the Cabinet approves the process and recommendation requirements set out in the supporting report for administering the HATs Community Budget, specifically that:

- i) discussions be undertaken with other Executive Members and departments relating to the proposed project as appropriate; and
- ii) that the process undertaken by each HAT is to reach a majority agreement of the whole HAT on the recommendation to the Executive Member for Communities or the Executive Member for Policy and Resources only and as set out in decisions d) and e) below.

That the Executive Member for Communities be responsible for authorising any single recommendation for expenditure from each HAT from their proportion of the Community Budget on projects up to an aggregate limit of £25,000 per HAT.

That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources be responsible for authorising any single recommendation for expenditure from each HAT from

their proportion of the Community Budget on projects over £25,000.

That the Annual Report to Council on HATs should contain full details of all expenditure from the HATs Community Budget.

That the arrangement and resource requirements for administering the HATs Community Budget set out in the supporting report be approved.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1 To confirm the individual budget allocations for each HAT from the Community Budget for the year 2010-11 only.
- 2.2 To establish a Scheme of Authorisation to facilitate the recommendation of expenditure by each whole HAT of their proportion of the Community Budget.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 Not to have a Community Budget. This option was rejected as the Community Budget supports projects that communities want to improve, for example, their quality of life and enhances partnership working.
- 3.2. HATs do not have delegated Executive Powers nor are they formally constituted as Committees of the County Council. As such, HATs are not able to make decisions or formally authorise expenditure on behalf of the County Council. The decision to approve expenditure must therefore be made by an Executive Member. Not to have an approved Scheme of Authorisation to facilitate expenditure from the Community Budget was therefore rejected.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: Not applicable.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

29 March 2010

**Chairman of the Cabinet
Councillor T K Thornber, CBE**