

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member – Economic Development and Rural Affairs
<b>Date:</b>	28 June 2011
<b>Title:</b>	Update on Kingsclere Children's and Young People's Centre
<b>Reference:</b>	3056
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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#### 1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek a decision from the Executive Member on the re-allocation of the remainder of the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) Small Rural Towns (SRT) Fund.

#### 2. Contextual information

2.1. The SEEDA SRT Programme was set up in 2004 to provide grants to small rural towns in the South East, in order to improve local economic prosperity and community facilities and services. It provided a total of £7 million across nine counties in the South East, of which Hampshire was allocated £1.19 million. It has part funded a full time Hampshire Market Towns Manager to manage the project, which has been led by the Economic Development Office. The programme is due to end in March 2012.

2.2. Hampshire County Council is the Accountable Body for this programme. It offered the funding to all districts and encouraged applications from 32 small rural towns. To date £1.18 million has been spent, leveraging in £1.95 million of match funding. Funding has been allocated following a rigorous process overseen by the Hampshire Market Towns Partnership and Hampshire Economic Partnership. This process was determined by SEEDA at the outset of the programme.

2.3. Using this process, a grant of £100,000 was allocated from the SRT fund in May 2009 to build a Children's and Young People's Centre in Kingsclere, with the provision that sufficient match funding must be raised to cover the full costs. An amount of £275,000 had been allocated by Children's Services from Government PVI funding. The withdrawal in September 2010 of this Government funding for all projects not contracted or started has now made the project undeliverable.

- 2.4. The Kingsclere team has been given the benefit of 9 months in which to find replacement match funding, without success. It has been supported by the local MP who has been in discussion with the Secretary of State, but to date no funding has been forthcoming and there is no evidence of other likely sources of match funding at this stage.
- 2.5. In order to allow these remaining funds to be utilised to benefit Hampshire rural towns, the Market Towns Manager will need to contact the Districts and identify other suitable projects which could be funded. These projects would still need to go through the application, appraisal and approval process, so it is vital that any potential projects must be in an advanced stage of planning (with any necessary permissions applied for/in place) or about to start.
- 2.6. The SEEDA funding could then be used for additional work to enhance the planned project.
- 2.7. It may be appropriate to allocate the funding to two or three smaller projects if possible, rather than one major project. The Hampshire Market Towns Partnership will need to consider each application on its merits.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the Kingsclere Children's and Young People's Centre project be advised that the allocation of £100,000 from the South East England Development Agency Small Rural Towns Fund will be recommended for re-allocated to other qualifying projects if the necessary match funding is not secured by 31 July 2011.
- 3.2 That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economic Development and Rural Affairs, to recommend the re-allocation of funding to other Hampshire rural town partnership(s) which fulfil the required conditions, have a suitable project with match funding, and can spend the money before 31 March 2012.
- 3.3 That any other town partnership applying for a grant from this remaining sum in so doing complies with the terms and conditions, agreed by the South East Rural Towns Partnership, applicable to the Small Rural Towns Fund for the period April 2011 to March 2012.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

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

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**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.)**

DocumentLocation

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

1.1. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out for the Market Towns programme.

### **2 Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1 Not applicable.

### **3 Climate Change:**

3.1.1 How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No impact.

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

Not applicable.