

REPORT OF THE
Cabinet / Leader
PART II

170. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

1. On 18 April 2011, the Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (Director of Human Resources) providing a high level summary of the progress made on the County Council's ability as a large local employer to develop employment opportunities within the County Council for young people, especially those from the most vulnerable groups for whom the County Council has corporate parent responsibilities.

2. The Cabinet wholeheartedly welcomed the development of the new *Internships Plus* scheme which will be piloted in 2011/12. This is part of the County Council's wider apprenticeship strategy and offers a specially supported apprenticeship in customer care, primarily to 16 – 18 year old Care Leavers. This is an innovative scheme which requires extremely flexible approaches to increase the likelihood of successful outcomes for the interns.

3. Furthermore, there was strong support for the partnership working with the University of Winchester who will be delivering the four day preparatory course prior to individuals taking up their paid work placements within the County Council. Considerable work has been undertaken to put in place the recruitment process, identify placements and set up extensive pastoral support arrangements. The training provider, Catch 22, has worked closely with council staff to design the training and guidance support for the interns and for the teams hosting work placements. The preparatory course begins on 18 July 2011.

171. SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV)

1. On 27 June 2011, the Cabinet considered a paper outlining the case to proceed with the procurement of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on its buildings; taking advantage of Government cash incentives and reducing energy costs and carbon emissions.

2. The project will be carried out in phases with the first seeing around a quarter of the panels installed before the end of March 2012 at an estimated cost of £3.5million. This will allow the County Council to get maximum benefit from the Government's current Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) of an average of 33p paid for every kilowatt generated by the panels. The FIT is expected to be reduced by Government at the end of the financial year, which will apply to panels installed after March 2012.

3. By carrying out the project in phases the County Council will have greater flexibility and be able to adjust the extent of the programme in light of changes to feed-tariffs to ensure it delivers in terms of cost benefits.

4. The total project could reduce the County Council's carbon footprint by 1,500 tonnes per year (around 10% of the Council's corporate carbon footprint). Over 26 years it could also cut energy costs by £10.6 million and attract £27.4million through government incentives.

5. The initial capital investment for the whole project is £15.8million. The project is expected to pay for itself in 15 years through the reduced energy costs and income from Feed-In-Tariffs.

172. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

1. On 27 June 2011, the Cabinet considered a detailed report concerning proposals for a 're-orientation' of the County Council's economic development role and service. Cabinet were advised that in light of the coalition Government radically re-shaping the public sector landscape, and because economic development is at the heart of some of the most significant of these changes, it was timely to review the scope, ambition, aims and operation of Economic Development. The review includes consideration of key partnerships such as the Hampshire Economic Partnership (HEP), relationships with the business community, the wider issues around Local Enterprise Partnerships, and the future role and governance of the Hampshire Economic Board

2. To facilitate much wider engagement, it was agreed that the Hampshire Economic Board be replaced by an Advisory Panel, which as a non-executive body can co-opt individual members from outside the County Council, and will not be constrained by the constitutional restrictions which affect the current Economic Board. This would also give the new body a remit and greater opportunity to focus on the 'macro' or strategic issues.

3. The Cabinet also approved the proposed restructuring of the relationship and future funding for Hampshire Economic Partnership. In particular, the Cabinet approved the basis of the County Council's funding support arrangement from what is effectively a maintenance grant to a more targeted approach, based on commissioning specific pieces of economic development work from HEP for a fee. The new arrangement will be introduced on a tapering basis in 2012/13 to enable smooth transition, with the full commissioning model only to be adopted by the start of 2013/14.

173. IMPROVEMENT WORKS THE SQUARE, WINCHESTER

1. At a meeting on 9 June 2011, the Executive Member for Policy and Resources agreed a scheme for refurbishing and improving Winchester's historic Square.

2. Taking advantage of extra government funding for road repairs as part of Operation Resilience, the project will include enhanced structural reconstruction as well as drainage improvements before it is finished with high quality stone and surfacing. Works are expected to start on 4 July and be completed in November 2011.

3. Earlier this year, Winchester's residents and businesses were asked their views on proposals to repave pavements and part of the road in The Square with natural stone to make it more attractive for shopping and tourism, while limiting traffic access. 78% of respondents supported this.

174. HAMPSHIRE AREA BASED INSULATION PROJECT - INSULATE HAMPSHIRE

1. At the County Council meeting on 19 May, the Executive Member for Policy and Resources reported on the procurement process to secure the services of a Managing Agent to deliver the Hampshire Area-based Insulation Scheme.

2. As lead partner, the County Council invited bids for a managing agent to deliver this large scale insulation project. Following the tender process, the Insulate Hampshire partnership appointed Yorkshire Energy Services in a consortium bid with ScottishPower to deliver this scheme. Their tender promises to bring some exciting and dynamic initiatives to the project as well as having a very positive impact on our local economy.

3. The Hampshire Area Based Insulation (ABI) partnership delivering 'Insulate Hampshire' is made up of the Hampshire local authorities in the Hampshire Senate plus Eastleigh Borough Council and Fareham Borough Council and is an excellent example of the way in which the County Council successfully works in partnership as a two tier authority. The Hampshire Senate is in full support of this scheme.

4. The scheme will target specifically, but not solely, areas of deprivation and this will be factored into arrangements agreed with the local companies who will deliver the scheme. 'Insulate Hampshire' is open to everyone and will help protect people against the cold, cut household fuel bills and reduce CO2 as well as create new jobs in Hampshire's local economy.

Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Young People (Search Item Reference 2867)
- Solar Photovoltaic (Search Item Reference 3014)
- Economic Development Review (Search Item Reference 3015)
- Improvement Works The Square, Winchester (Search Item Reference 2927)
- Hampshire Area Based Insulation Project - Insulate Hampshire (Search Item Reference 2735)

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