

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Executive Decision Record**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Economic Development and Rural Affairs
<b>Date:</b>	4 November 2011
<b>Title:</b>	Rural Delivery Strategy – progress and future direction
<b>Reference:</b>	3372
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy Transport and Environment Director of Culture Communities and Business Services

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**1. The decision:**

1.1. That the Executive Member for Economic Development and Rural Affairs:

- a) Agrees the revised priorities and principles for the County Council's rural programme in direct support for the Economic Development Strategy which is being developed and will be adopted by Hampshire County Council.
- b) Approves efforts to secure the Greater Wessex Rural and Farming Network as the key partnership development in support of rural priorities and partnership initiatives.
- c) Endorses the performance information presented and supports efforts to secure the maximum external gearing in terms of partnership project funding.
- d) Supports a further £10,000 being added to the Community Challenge Fund
- e) Agrees to allocate £10,000 to support Economic Development in rural Hampshire, subject to external match funding.
- f) Provisionally allocates up to £50,000 to support the development of the Greater Wessex Rural and Farming Network

**2. Reason(s) for the decision:**

- 2.1. This decision is being made as a follow-up to Cabinet's request that there should be an extension and development of the County Council's rural policy objectives' (Open for Business – report by the Chief Executive).
- 2.2. To review the County Council's rural priorities following the departmental merger and change of Corporate Management Team sponsor, and for these to reflect the changed financial reality for local government.
- 2.3. To respond to the Government's invitation to establish a Rural and Farming Network.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 3.1. To continue using the rural priorities agreed in spring 2009.
- 3.2. Not to respond to the Government's invitation for a Rural and Farming Network.

**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: none.**

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

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

In addition to the funding summarised in Appendix 1 of the report, it has been agreed to allocate an additional £10,000 to the Community Challenge Fund, and £10,000 to support Economic Development in rural Hampshire, subject to external match funding. £50,000 in provisionally allocated to support the development of the Greater Wessex Rural and Farming Network.

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**4 November 2011**

**Executive Member for Economic Development and  
Rural Affairs  
Councillor Dr. R. Ellis**