

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member Policy and Resources		
<b>Date:</b>	9 March 2011		
<b>Title:</b>	Local Involvement Network (LINK) transition arrangements		
<b>Reference:</b>	2667		
<b>Report From:</b>	Chief Executive		
<b>Contact name:</b>	Paddy Hillary		
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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for the extension of the existing Local Involvement Network (LINK) support contract with HAP UK for 1 year, on a renegotiated basis, as an interim arrangement until the establishment of Local Healthwatch in 2012.
- 1.2 This paper also seeks to advise the Executive Member of the changes proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill regarding the provision of support for public and patient involvement in health and social care and to propose making provision for future development and procurement of Local Healthwatch in 2012.

### 2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 placed a duty on local authorities with social care responsibilities to procure a host organisation in order to establish a Local Involvement Network (LINK) for their area. A contract for a host for the Hampshire LINK was let for the period 1 October 2008 to 31 March 2011. Funding was provided by government and the budget in 2010/11 is £388,000.
- 2.2. The white paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' and subsequent Health and Social Care Bill propose an enhanced role for LINKs developing into the local mechanism for Healthwatch from April 2012. The responsibility of local authorities to commission support to LINKs as set out in the 2007 Act, still remains for this interim year.

### 3. Proposal for interim LINK support arrangements

- 3.1. It is proposed that the existing contract with HAP UK is extended for 1 year to run from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012. The value of the extension to the contract has been negotiated at £206,500. This sum comprises £149,000 for services provided by HAP UK and £57,000 for meeting expenses incurred by third parties at the instigation of the LINK. The appropriate procurement route for this arrangement is receiving consideration and will be confirmed.
- 3.2. The County Council will also need to commission Healthwatch during 2011. As yet the requirements for Healthwatch are unclear and therefore It is proposed that an initial £50,000 is earmarked in the budget to cover development and procurement costs. Discussions are being held with Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight on the possibility of joint procurement or shared services arrangements for Healthwatch which may produce lower costs for development and procurement.

### 4. Finance

- 4.1 The County Council's budget settlement included an allocation to local authorities of un-ring fenced funding for LINKs which will roll into the formula grant from 2011/12. Therefore, at this stage, the previous ring-fenced provision of £388,000 has been included for in the P&R budget for 2011/12.

The following proposal can therefore be contained within the budget provision currently available within the Policy and Resources budget.

	£
Interim costs:	
Host services	149,500
LINK expenses incurred	57,000
Healthwatch development & procurement	50,000
Total	256,500

### 5. Recommendations

- 5.1. That approval be given to the extension of the existing Local Involvement

Network (LINK) support contract with HAP UK for 1 year from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012, on a renegotiated basis, as an interim arrangement until the establishment of Local Healthwatch in 2012 .

- 5.2. That provision be made within the existing budget of £50,000 for the future development and procurement of Local Healthwatch in 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>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>OR</b>	
<b>This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</b>	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u> Local Involvement Network (LINK)	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u> 24 June 2008
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

**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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

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

- a. The LINK provides a mechanism for public and patient involvement in the design and delivery of health and social care in Hampshire including links with voluntary and community organisations.

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

n/a

### **3. Climate Change:**

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? n/a
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? n/a