

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
<b>Date:</b>	27 September 2012
<b>Title:</b>	Partnership with the Sir John Cass's Foundation – Outdoor Activities
<b>Reference:</b>	4230
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report outlines the development of a partnership between Hampshire County Council and Sir John Cass's Foundation in relation to outdoor activities.
- 1.2. It seeks approval to accept a partnership grant from the Foundation based upon a memorandum of understanding (MoU) covering the operation of the Hampshire Mountain Centre in the Brecon Beacons. On that basis approval is sought to enter into a five-year agreement, to be reviewed after three years, focused upon support for the operation of the Hampshire County Council and Cass Mountain Centre.

#### 2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Sir John Cass's foundation is a major and very well established charity based in the City of London focused upon support for young people (under the age of 25) in terms of education and development. They are heavily engaged in innovative partnerships which seek to maximise opportunities for young people, including those in financial need, of all backgrounds in London.
- 2.2. Following a successful visit to the Hampshire Outdoor Centres in 2011 the Foundation supported an initial project that saw funding for the outdoor centres to provide support to both Sir John Cass's School and also trainee

teachers from the University of East London (Sir John Cass School of Education and Communities).

- 2.3. The Foundation used to operate its own outdoor centre in North Wales but no longer does so and wishes to partner a well established and professional organisation that can deliver excellent opportunities and benefits for young people and organisations with whom it works.
- 2.4. On the basis of the initial pilot initiative the Foundation wishes to formalise the relationship through a longer term partnership grant and agreement. The grant offered relates to the agreed provision of accommodation and activities for the young people supported by the Foundation.

### **3. Finance**

- 3.1. The grant is being offered for a period of five years subject to review after an initial period of three years. The proposed annual grant of £50,000 amounts to approximately 50% of the current running costs of the centre.
- 3.2. Grant conditions have been checked by the County Treasurer and legal advisors and do not expose the County Council to undue risk (terms and conditions attached in Appendix 1).
- 3.3. The Foundation has expressed an aspiration to develop a longer term partnership with the County Council and the five year period underpins this. Nevertheless contingency plans will be made for the potential removal of funding following the review period or at the end of the five year period.
- 3.4. The grant offered will provide a strong platform for the further development of the centre.

### **4. Performance**

- 4.1. The partnership will be operated on the basis of a detailed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) relating to the operation of the Hampshire County Council and Cass Mountain Centre which will be agreed by both organisations. Performance reports will be produced on an annual-basis and a formal review will be undertaken after 3 years.
- 4.2. Performance will be monitored through a Joint Advisory Group (JAG) which will consist of representatives of both Hampshire County Council and the Foundation. The JAG will meet twice a year to monitor performance against the MoU.

**5. Future direction**

- 5.1. This partnership agreement is such that after three years it would be reviewed with the strong intention of continuing it for a further two years.
- 5.2. The outdoor centres are seeking to develop their business in such a way to minimise the level of subsidy required from Hampshire County Council and to look for new opportunities to partner with other organisations sharing the same aspirations for young people and outdoor activities. Relationships with well established organisations such as Sir John Cass's Foundation offer a real opportunity to pursue this objective.

**6. Recommendation(s)**

That the Executive Member:

- 6.1. Agrees to accept the partnership grant from Sir John Cass's Foundation on the basis of the grant conditions attached together with an agreed Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations.
- 6.2. Confirms delegated authority to the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services to finalise the Memorandum of Agreement.
- 6.3. Formally recognises the support given by the Foundation and approves the naming of the centre as the Hampshire County Council and Cass Mountain Centre for the period of the partnership between the two organisations.
- 6.4. Supports the operation of the Joint Advisory Group and the production of regular progress reports prior to the initial review of the partnership in three years time.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	no
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):	

**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.)**

Document

Location

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

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

- 1.1 The Outdoor Centre is partnering with an organisation that shares similar objectives to HCC for its outdoor centres in terms of maximising opportunities for young people to engage in outdoor educational and development activities, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- 1.2. It is not anticipated that there will be any negative impact of this change to the funding support of the centre for the children and young people of Hampshire and their continued access to the educational and development activities provide by the Centre. In time, the move to place the centres on a sound independent financial footing may lead to improvement of the centre for the advantage of all users of the Centre's facilities.

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

- 2.1 No impact on Crime and Disorder has been identified.

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

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

No impact has been identified.

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

Not applicable.