

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Committee/Panel:</b> | Executive Member for Policy and Resources                          |
| <b>Date:</b>            | 14 March 2013  |
| <b>Title:</b>           | Hampshire Youth Investment Programme: Undergraduate Support Scheme |
| <b>Reference:</b>       | 4777   |
| <b>Report From:</b>     | Director of Children's Services                                    |

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#### 1. Summary

- 1.1. This paper sets out a way forward to implement a scheme to support young people, from Hampshire, to undertake undergraduate studies.
- 1.2. The scheme represents the second part of the County Council's Youth Investment Programme, as announced in budget proposals before full County Council in February.
- 1.3. Up to 30 young people will be supported to follow a full-time undergraduate programme, providing a scholarship towards living costs, extended paid work placements and, subject to performance, employment post graduation.
- 1.4. This report is establishing some of the detail around which the undergraduate scheme can be developed and in itself does not merit a Cabinet decision.

#### 2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Hampshire County Council is committed to using its capacity and resource to support more local young people to develop full and productive careers. This is to the benefit of themselves, their employer, and the wider Hampshire community.
- 2.2. The Hampshire undergraduate support scheme is part of a wider range of programmes and activities in this area, known together as the Hampshire Youth Investment Programme. It sits alongside the new corporate apprenticeship scheme that, with the Internship Plus and Into Employment

programmes, will provide 1,000 young people with employment within the County Council over the next five years.

- 2.3. The Coalition Government has introduced a clear policy in relation to student finance. This policy is based on the principle that those who stand to benefit most, financially and socially, from the acquisition of a degree level qualification, should share with the state the cost of their higher education,
- 2.4. A tuition fees policy based on a 'loans for all' system has applied since September 2012 for all full-time undergraduate degree-level programmes. The maximum fee chargeable by a higher education institution is £9,000 per annum. The notable exceptions are those qualifications supported by the NHS, including approved Social Work programmes.
- 2.5. People from disadvantaged circumstances are supported by a complex system of maintenance loans and bursaries. The former are, mainly, administered by Student Finance England; the latter, mainly by higher education institutions themselves operating to locally devised criteria. Individuals from low income families and those with 'special support status', including lone parents, those with a disability and mature students over 60, are those who can benefit from this provision.
- 2.6. The County Council already supports 20 Care Leavers into undergraduate study in institutions of higher education. The support given is less generous than some of the figures that have been discussed in terms of a new scheme to support people who are not care leavers. The County Council works carefully with the Care Leavers who receive this support to maximize their receipt of all other grants that may be available, including university bursaries and schemes to waive the first year's tuition costs, for example. Only when all other avenues of support have been exhausted does the County Council provide further additional support on the basis of analysis of need. This same principle will apply to this new scheme.

### **3. Finance**

- 3.1. It is proposed to support 30 young people from Hampshire – 10 starting in each of the next three years – to follow a full-time undergraduate programme (assumed three years).
- 3.2. Hampshire's scheme will add to existing national and local bursary and loan schemes. Specifically, scholarships of up to £8,000 will be available, depending on the individual's eligibility for national and local bursary payments (not loans). Hampshire's scholarship will be based on a termly payment plus a paid extended work placement. Detailed scheme finances are to be developed.
- 3.3. Over five years (10 starts per year in the first three years) and based on a maximum scholarship payment to the full cohort, the maximum total cost to the County Council will be £720,000, profiled as follows:

| <b>Scheme year</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>Total</b>    |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| <b>Starts</b>       | 10       | 10       | 10       | 0        | 0        | <b>30</b>       |
| <b>On programme</b> | 10       | 20       | 30       | 20       | 10       | <b>n/a</b>      |
| <b>Cost</b>         | £80,000  | £160,000 | £240,000 | £160,000 | £80,000  | <b>£720,000</b> |

3.4 Audit and value for money reports will need to be developed to support external scrutiny of the scheme.

#### **4. Performance**

- 4.1. Performance will be monitored through existing scrutiny and governance arrangements and will include an annual report to Cabinet (part of the annual Youth Investment Programme report).
- 4.2. Detailed performance criteria will be determined, both for individuals benefitting from the scheme, and the scheme itself.
- 4.3. For individuals, minimum performance criteria will include attendance, attainment, and placement performance (linked to the County Council's individual performance management system).
- 4.4. For the scheme, performance objectives will include recruitment (number and cohort profile), retention (in scheme and, as employees, post graduation) and financial. Wider performance objectives will relate to the effectiveness of the scheme in recruiting talented future managers and leaders to the organisation, and their impact on the work of the County Council.

#### **5. Other key issues**

- 5.1. The Hampshire scheme is a targeted scheme. It will seek to support those young people who have the academic capacity, demonstrated through the acquisition of good qualifications, and personal resilience, evidenced through personal achievement, to undertake a higher education programme successfully, but who are deterred by both the associated cost and system complexity. In particular, the County Council will be keen to support people who have succeeded, in some way, 'against the odds'. Full and detailed criteria and selection criteria will be developed with the support of local colleges and universities.
- 5.2. The County Council will actively promote the scheme via local schools and colleges. A detailed recruitment process will be devised.
- 5.3. Scholarships will be offered to young people following undergraduate programmes in skills areas strategically important to the County Council's

future workforce requirements. These will be determined and communicated as part of the recruitment process.

- 5.4. This is a corporate scheme that will be hosted in Children's Services and managed alongside the corporate apprenticeship, Internship Plus and Into Employment programmes. A cross-County Council operational group will oversee its development and implementation. Departments will be required to identify scholarship opportunities as part of their annual Young People's Recruitment Plan.

## **6. Timing**

- 6.1. The UCAS deadline for application for September 2013 is 24 March (15 January 2013 for Cambridge, Oxford, and some specific subject areas). It is proposed to do further detailed work and to commence the scheme during the autumn of 2013 and the spring of 2014. The first cohort of students would be supported in their studies from September 2014.
- 6.2. The exact detail and operation of the scheme will be devised after further work with local colleges and higher education providers.

## **7. Recommendations**

That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources:

- 7.1. Agrees the establishment of the Hampshire Undergraduate Support Scheme, providing scholarships for up to 30 young people from Hampshire, commencing in 2014.
- 7.2. Agrees that detailed work is undertaken to determine scheme criteria, funding, and operation, and that this is done with the support of local colleges and higher education providers.

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

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>          | yes/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>                   | yes/no |
| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): |        |

**Other Significant Links**

| <b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>  |                  |             |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| <u>Title</u>  | <u>Reference</u> | <u>Date</u> |
| Employment Opportunities in Hampshire:<br>Hampshire's Youth Investment Programme<br>(Report to Cabinet) | 4432             | 171212      |

**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:**

- 1.1. The Hampshire Undergraduate Support Scheme will target young people, from Hampshire, from low income families who are likely to have multiple social and economic barriers to accessing higher education provision. The scheme will have a positive impact in ensuring that those currently under-represented in higher education are supported to do so.

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

- 2.1. Minimal

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

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

None

- 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