

REPORT OF THE
Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
PART II

63. ENTERPRISE FIRST

1. On the 21 January 2014, the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approved that a contract be awarded at a cost of £15,000 to Enterprise First for the 2013/14 financial year. Enterprise First was established in 1981 as part of a government initiative to create a national network of accredited Enterprise Agencies. Enterprise First is a not for profit agency uniquely positioned to provide free, independent and impartial advice for start-ups and Small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), with low-cost fees charged for additional bespoke advice and training. Its administrative centre is based in Aldershot, but it provides services throughout Hampshire to a client base of approximately 2,000.

2. Recent data indicates that there were just over 61,000 businesses in the Hampshire economic area in 2012, of which 99.6% were SMEs. Business support organisations, like Enterprise First, play a vital role in not only supporting businesses to start-up, but also in increasing the likelihood of their survival. Research has shown that 70% of small businesses that receive mentoring survive for five years or more, double the rate compared with non-mentored entrepreneurs. Mentored businesses are also 20% more likely to achieve growth. This underlines the important contribution organisations like Enterprise First make to the local economy.

3. The Council's Economic Development Service is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the current support for businesses and business support organisations, with a view to adopting a more strategic approach to future arrangements from 2014/15.

Further details can be found at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm> by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Enterprise First (5506)

64. REMOVAL OF FLYPOSTING ON THE HIGHWAY

1. On the 21 January 2014, the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approved a two-year trial of an agency agreement with Havant Borough and East Hampshire District Councils for the removal of flyposting on the highway.

2. District Councils' powers to deal with flyposting often involve a lengthy process and referral to the Magistrate's Court, whereas greater powers are afforded to the County Council, as the Highways Authority, under the Highways Act 1980. This Act makes it an offence for anyone to place unauthorised signs on or in the highway and enables the County Council to prosecute offenders and, whether or not a prosecution is pursued, enables the Highway Authority to remove unauthorised signs from the

highway. The County Council has always exercised this power with discretion and, with increasing workloads, it has become less of a priority.

3. Havant Borough Council approached the County Council with a view to assist in removing flyposting as (like many districts) it currently employs environmental wardens who look after the street scene.

4. As the agreement is seen to be in the interests of both parties, there will be no fees or charges associated with the agreement and both sides will bear their own legal costs.

5. The trial includes a formal protocol and guidelines setting out how it will work in practice. The County Council currently exercises discretion with respect to charity or community events, providing a reasonable approach is taken by the organisers. "A" Boards within shopping streets by individual traders are not included within this agreement, which instead will primarily be targeted at commercial advertising.

6. Subject to the successful undertaking of this trial, other districts will be invited into similar arrangements.

Further details can be found at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm> by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Removal of Flyposting on the Highway (5509)

COUNCILLOR SEÁN WOODWARD
Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment