

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	24 March 2014
Title:	Hampshire County Council's Rural Delivery Strategy
Reference:	5684
Report From:	Director of Culture Communities and Business Services Director of Environment Transport and Economy

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1. The decision:

1.1 It is recommended that:

- a) Cabinet endorse the key areas of future work set out in the report (Part 1 of the Rural Strategy) including the five priority actions set out in Section 4.
- b) Approve the carry forward of the 2013/14 budget allocation for the Rural Programme.
- c) The Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services bring forward a three year financial plan.
- d) A review of the membership and focus of the Hampshire Rural Forum, including consideration of its potential role in support of the M3 and Solent Local Enterprise Partnerships is undertaken in consultation with Members.
- e) Small community grants through the Community Challenge Fund continue to be offered and to re-launch it from April 2014.
- f) A copy of the report is sent to District and Borough Councils; the Hampshire Association of Local Councils; and the relevant representatives of Hampshire Churches.
- g) Officers bring forward a future report (Part 2 of the Rural Strategy) on a proposed action plan including:
 - An overview of the role of the Parish Lengthsmen and opportunities for co-ordination with other community based roles.

- An update on the roll-out of rural broadband and the impact of recent Government funding allocations on the extension of Superfast Broadband to rural communities.
- The sustainability of energy supplies and the outcome of initial discussions with suppliers.
- An overview of Community Transport Schemes as part of a future review of transport provision across the County Council.
- The continued protection and enhancement of the special nature of Hampshire's Countryside.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

This decision is being made as a proactive response to changing social and economic circumstances in rural Hampshire, and to support on-going investment in Hampshire's rural communities.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 Not to progress any projects or on-going funding. This was rejected on the basis that the County Council has an on-going commitment to support rural communities as part of its overall drive to sustain a healthy and vibrant county.

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 Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

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

7 Statement from the Decision Maker:

<p>Approved by:</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Date:</p>
<p>Chairman of the Cabinet Councillor Roy Perry</p>	<p>24 March 2014</p>