

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	20 January 2015
Title:	Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update
Reference:	6392
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the current Parish Lengthsman Scheme be continued for the 2015-2016 financial year, funded at a rate of £1,000 per Parish, with Fleet Town Council receiving £3,000, and with an additional 10% administration fee paid to the Lead Parishes.
- 1.2. That the scheme be expanded for the 2015-2016 financial year to include the 24 parishes that have already expressed an interest in joining the scheme.
- 1.3. That new annual agreements for all participating parishes are issued from 1 April 2015 in line with the financial year.
- 1.4. That an Options Appraisal is undertaken for the continuation of the scheme beyond the next financial year which will explore opportunities for outside funding.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The Parish Lengthsman Scheme is revenue funded and is therefore under review as part of the current round of savings.
- 2.2. Interest in the scheme is growing from parishes wishing to join, and the financial commitment to cover the existing parishes involved is expected to require additional funding. In the current economic climate the continuing expansion of the scheme in its current format is unlikely to remain financially sustainable.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Withdrawing County Council funding for the scheme after the current financial year. This option was rejected on the grounds that the proposed review may help identify new options for continuing to fund the scheme in the long term and that in the short term funding is available to continue the scheme which is highly beneficial to the relationship between the County and local councils.
- 3.2. Continuing the scheme for future years, restricting involvement to the Parishes that are currently signed up to it. This option was rejected on the basis that it would constitute unequal treatment and that the proposed review may identify options for funding an expanded scheme sustainably.
- 3.3. Doing nothing. This option was rejected due to the need to respond to the interests expressed by parishes both already participating in the scheme and wishing to do so. The option was also rejected due to the need to review the scheme as part of the current round of savings.

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:

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:

Approved by: -----	Date: 20 January 2015
Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment Councillor Seán D T Woodward	