

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	05 March 2015
Title:	Update on the Tile Barn Outdoor Centre Armed Forces Community Covenant Project
Reference:	6562
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the Executive Member on the project at Tile Barn Outdoor Centre which utilises a significant external grant from the Armed Forces Community Covenant Fund to support the delivery of a facility for the use of service personnel, veterans and their families.
- 1.2 It confirms that subsequent to the necessary County Council budget approval process all necessary permissions have now been obtained and the project is ready for implementation.
- 1.3 Subsequent to those authorisations and permissions the report seeks approval from the Executive Member to proceed to full implementation of the project.

2. Scope of the Work

- 2.1 The work will consist of the installation of a self-contained camping pod "village" of 20 pre-constructed fully accessible units to cater for customers of all abilities.
- 2.2 The project will provide a long-term legacy and offer residential, holiday/respite facilities for service personnel, veterans and their families. Priority and free access will be given to these customers at weekends and during school holiday periods.

- 2.3 Outside of this "core" time the facility will be available for hire to other customers to generate funds to sustain the facility and associated activities.

3. Context

- 3.1 Tile Barn is a 14 acre camping and outdoor centre situated in the New Forest National Park. Over the years it has had many guises most notably in 1914 as a hospital for wounded Anzac soldiers and wounded Indian service personnel. As such it has very strong military connections.
- 3.2 It has been a camping and outdoor centre since the early 70s and has benefited from substantial investment over the years. Most recently this has included the construction of a fully accessible shower and toilet block for the site. This facility will support use of the pod village.
- 3.3 The centre was set up to provide cost-effective outdoor residential experiences to the school children of Hampshire. The Centre can cater for up to 350 young people in fully equipped campsites and a 37 bed bunkhouse facility. The schools in Hampshire will be able to access the pod facility during term time as part of a residential experience and charges would be applied for such use, contributions from which will ensure that the pod facility is maintained and serviced to a high standard.

4. Finance

- 4.1 Confirmed financial support for this project includes a major external grant from the Armed Forces Community Covenant Fund and also from the County Council's capital program in terms of the cost of fees. The necessary approvals were secured through the Executive Member Policy and Resources (EMPR) capital budget report (22/01/15) and the Executive Member Culture and Recreation (EMCR) Revenue budget report (19/1/15).
- 4.2 The current estimate of the costs is in line with the approved capital programme and is set out in the table below:

Capital Expenditure	Current Estimate
	£'000
Buildings	258
Fees	42
Total	300

- 4.3 There will be no net revenue costs as no extra staff or equipment will be required and the non-core time fee income will cover the utility and servicing costs of the facility.

5. Consultation and Permissions

- 5.1 There has been consultation with the following organisations:
- the local Hampshire County Council Member who has actively supported the project,
 - Brockenhurst Parish Council,
 - New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA),
 - Royal British Legion,
 - Help for Heroes,
 - British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA),
 - Community Covenant team,
 - New Forest District Council.
- 5.2 The project required full planning permission from the NFNPA which was received on 20 January 2015. Conditions have been applied to protect the character and nature of the site which are appropriate and manageable. We are therefore now in a position to proceed with the project.

6. Project Outcomes

- 6.1 In full accord with the County Council's support for service personnel and their families across Hampshire this project will deliver:
- An environment where service personnel, veterans and their families can come together and share support for each other which fully accords with the aims of Hampshire's Armed Forces Community Covenant.
 - An opportunity for these customers to participate in the many outdoor activities on offer at the centre under skilled instruction and in a way that offers easy or adapted access for all participants.
 - Heightened awareness of the contributions made by our service personnel, past, current, and future, across the wider community and groups of young people who visit the centre.
 - The development of a specialist facility that can be utilised more widely to support the operation of the outdoor centre and the activities it offers to all.
 - Opportunities to support and enhance the services available from other organisations including the Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes and BLESMA all of whom have given strong support to the proposals.

7. Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the EMCR:

- i) Notes the receipt of the full planning permission required to implement the scheme.
- ii) Welcomes the financial approvals and funding authorised in the County Councils revenue and capital budget reports.
- iii) Agrees the full implementation of the project.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Maximising well-being:	yes
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

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. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This project is purposefully designed to be inclusive of customers with disabilities which is fully reflected in the design and construction of the facility and its supporting infrastructure.

The outdoor activities associated with the use of the facilities are also accessible and adaptable to maximise opportunities for people of all abilities to participate and enjoy.

The development of the project has included the involvement of representative organisations who work with service personnel including those with physical disabilities. They have voiced strong support for the project.

The project also offers the opportunity for such customers to raise awareness and understanding of disabilities more widely and with families and young people visiting Tile Barn.

Customers of all protected characteristics are welcomed to the Centre in full accord with the County Council's Equalities Policy.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. No impact identified.

3. Climate Change:

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

The construction and design of the facilities are focused on low impact and environmentally sustainable units with minimal energy use driven by photo voltaic cells mounted on the roof of each unit.

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

There are no specific proposals.