

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
<b>Date:</b>	27 October 2011
<b>Title:</b>	Funding for the County Council's Rural Delivery Strategy
<b>Reference:</b>	3307
<b>Report From:</b>	County Treasurer

**Contact name:** Rob Carr – Deputy County Treasurer

**Tel:** 01962 847508

**Email:** rob.carr@hants.gov.uk

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to approve a third year of funding for the County Council's Rural Delivery Strategy. A sum of £200,000 is being approved to support rural projects throughout the year, to be met from the Corporate Policy Reserve.

### 2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The focus of Hampshire County Council's Rural Delivery Strategy is on improving the quality of services delivered by Hampshire County Council and its partners in rural areas, and increasing value for money.
- 2.2. The scheme is consistent with the 'Open for Business' report to Cabinet in January 2011 which sought "an extension and development of our rural policy objectives involving a review of housing related activity, economic activity and social and wellbeing matters."
- 2.3. Additionally, the response of the County Council to present pressures such as the reduced capacity to deliver new initiatives calls for its rural policy to be re-aligned with current resources so that the significant impact of this work can be sustained.
- 2.4. Accordingly, it is proposed to develop new principles around these priorities: involving others to lead and deliver on projects; a continued focus on maximising leverage of County Council investment; build on outcomes of pilot projects; ensure continued support for small community-based project partnerships; and ensure that sufficient capacity is available for successful implementation.
- 2.5. This report seeks to make further funds available in 2011/12 to enable this work to continue

### **3. Project Funding**

- 3.1. Significant progress has been made with the funded rural partnership projects. The impact of this work is reflected in the feedback that is being received from organisations operating within rural communities.
- 3.2. The profile and reputation of Hampshire County Council and its work in this area has developed very considerably. Future progress will hinge upon sustaining this activity and continuing to develop innovative ideas both internally and with all those organisations operating in, or supporting, our rural communities.
- 3.3. It is therefore proposed that a further allocation of £200,000 be made available in 2011/12 to be met from the Corporate Policy Reserve

### **4. Risks**

- 4.1. Inevitably there are risks associated with these projects but they have been assessed as part of the feasibility process and there is a high degree of confidence that they can be managed or overcome.
- 4.2. There is a risk that not all external match funding will be obtained as anticipated, meaning projects cannot go ahead without additional HCC funding or significant reduction in the impact of specific projects.
- 4.3. There may also be unexpected delays in external approval of funding sought, however, much of the funding has been identified or is close to being secured - (assessed as low level risk).
- 4.4. All projects are reliant on partnership working. Should partnerships not flourish there is a risk of projects not being completed. This is assessed as a low risk since partnerships involved are both internal and external but build upon established and tested relationships rather than solely new and untried arrangements.

### **5. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Policy and Resources:

- 5.1. Approves a one off sum of £200,000 for the Rural Delivery Strategy in 2011/12 to be met from the Corporate Policy Reserve.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	


<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p><b>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.)</b></p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1. Successful implementation will reduce inequalities by improving service delivery in rural areas and increase access to services. Full Equalities Impact Assessment at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/rural-strategy.pdf>

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

- 2.1. Some projects have a focus on reducing crime and disorder and reducing anti social behaviour by providing facilities in rural areas.

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

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

More effective and efficient service delivery is expected to reduce the County Council's carbon footprint and energy consumption. E.g. the 'rural transport initiative challenge fund' will help rural communities improve travel options, giving people the option to reduce their dependence on private cars.

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

These projects helps communities to become more resilient and self sufficient, and less dependent on services delivered from outside, which can be disrupted by adverse weather such as floods and snow. Extreme weather is predicted to increase under climate change. e.g.s of projects supported: community buildings fund, older driver skills, rural transport challenge fund.