HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	1 December 2010
Title:	Funding request for Staunton Country Park via the Hampshire Action Team (HAT) (East Central)
Reference:	2169
Report From:	Chief Executive

Contact name: Jane Biscombe

Tel: 01962 845329 **Email:** Jane.biscombe@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for funding of £45,810 to Staunton Country Park for construction of a wildlife education area from the East Central Hampshire Action Team Community Budget 2010/11 only, with no expectation of funding for future years.

2. Contextual information

2.1. The Park is owned by Hampshire County Council and run by a Joint Management Committee of Hampshire County Council, Havant Borough Council and East Hants District Council and other partners, as detailed in the application form (Appendix C)

2.2. The proposal is to construct a wildlife education area to offer a nature and wildlife experience outside the classroom with a refurbished building, pond dipping area and accessible fields with native species eg rabbits, deer. This will promote children's understanding and awareness of wildlife and give them a safe, stimulating environment in which to learn. The facility will be fully accessible to wheelchair users. The proposal is fully outlined in the bid form attached as Appendix C.

3. Finance

3.1. The total funding allocation for the East Hampshire HAT is £200,000. The amount currently remaining is £193,500.

3.2. The amount of funding requested is £45,810 which is the total project cost. The detail of the bid is set out in the application form accompanying this report (Appendix C).

4. Legal Implications

4.1. The County Council has the power pursuant to Section 7 (2) of the Countryside Act 1968 to extend, maintain and manage country parks and to do all other things appearing to them desirable for the said purpose in connection with the provision of country parks and in particular—

a) to lay out, plant and improve the site, and to erect buildings and carry out works,
b) to provide facilities and services for the enjoyment or convenience of the public, including meals and refreshments, parking places for vehicles, shelters and lavatory accommodation,
c) to provide facilities and services for open-air recreation

4.2. This project both improves the site and erects buildings under a), provides facilities including shelters under b) and provides facilities for open air recreation under c)

5. Monitoring

5.1. The intended outcomes of the project are outlined in the application form accompanying this report.

5.2. A detailed monitoring report setting out the final outcomes of the project will be sent out for completion at the end of the project.

6. Other key issues

6.1. There are no other key issues associated with this request.

7. Statements of Support

7.1. This application has majority support of the East Central HAT. It was approved at a HAT meetings on the 12 June 2010 subject to the following conditions which have now been met;

- the funds being available
- details of project management proposals
- a more detailed budget including full cost breakdown being included
- notification of support from the Joint Management Committee

7.2. Councillors Kendal and Snaith-Tempia and senior officers of the County Council have been consulted and no adverse comments were received.

7.3. Councillor Mans is supportive of the project and the allocation of £45,810.

8. Recommendation

8.1. That funding of £45,810 to Staunton Country Park for construction of a wildlife education area from the East Central Hampshire Action Team Community Budget 2010/11 is agreed, with no expectation of funding for future years.

Integral Appendix A

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	No
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

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.)

Document	Location
None	

Integral Appendix B

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. The wildlife area will be accessible with raised walkways. Participation of students from a range of backgrounds will be encouraged.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. There are no adverse impacts arising from this report.

3. Climate Change:

3.1. There are no adverse impacts arising from this report. The wildlife area will show the value of local wildlife and allow children to explore their environment, therefore raising environmental awareness.