

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Communities
Date:	27 September 2010
Title:	Funding request for Gosport Citizens Advice Bureau via the Hampshire Action Team (HAT) for Gosport
Reference:	1985
Report From:	Chief Executive

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for funding of £10,000 to Gosport Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) from the Gosport HAT Community Budget. The funding is for refurbishing the main reception area to include a confidential interview area. The total building cost is £12,795.61 plus office furniture/ IT estimated at £2,000.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Currently there is no confidential area for residents across Gosport to talk about their issues and problems when they enter the reception area of the CAB. The refurbishment would create a confidential information room together with an additional interview room. This will help the CAB see additional clients (there was an 11% increase last year), as well as improving waiting times.
- 2.2. Gosport is an area with some of the highest levels of deprivation in Hampshire, evidenced by the index of Multiple Deprivation. The CAB helps residents on a wide range of issues including those related to deprivation.
- 2.3. Checks have been made to verify that the CAB is a registered charity and a bona fide organisation.
- 2.4. Detailed plans and a current quote for the proposed work have been obtained and sent to the HAT officer. The building is owned by Gosport Voluntary Action and leased to the CAB. Written consent from Gosport Voluntary Action has been seen and submitted authorising the proposed work to take place subject to necessary planning consents.

3. Finance

- 3.1 The total funding allocation available to Gosport HAT is £100,000.
- 3.2 The amount remaining following previous successful applications is £76,965.
- 3.3 The amount of funding requested for this project is £10,000 and the details are set out in the application form accompanying this report. The total project cost is estimated to be just under £15,000. The trustees of the CAB have agreed to use up to £5,000 of the CAB reserves for this project, and this decision is minuted in their last Trustee Board Meeting.
- 3.4 Hampshire County Council policy has been to fund the organisation with a grant centrally, which allows the parent organisation to decide its own branch priorities. This application is additional monies and the refurbishment cannot be done without it.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The County Council has the power under S137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 to incur expenditure on contributions to any of the following funds,
 - (a) the funds of any charitable body in furtherance of its work in the United Kingdom;
 - (b) the funds of any body which provides any public service (whether to the public at large or to any section of it) in the United Kingdom otherwise than for the purposes of gain.

The CAB is a registered charity and therefore eligible for a grant under S137 (3).

5. Monitoring

- 5.1 The intended outcomes of the project are outlined in the application form accompanying this report. A detailed monitoring report setting out the final outcomes of the project will be sent out for completion at the end of the project.

5. Other key issues

- 5.1. There are no other key issues associated with this request.

6. Statements of Support

- 6.1. This application has the majority support of the whole HAT and supports partnership working in the locality.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1. That the Executive Member for Communities approves a sum of £10,000 to be awarded to Gosport Citizens Advice Bureau, from the Gosport HAT Community Budget for 2010/11 only, with no expectation for future years.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
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):	

Other Significant Links

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. There are no adverse implications.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1 There are no adverse implications. Confidential information and advice provided at the CAB include advice on these matters.

3. Climate Change:

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

There are no adverse implications.

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 adverse implications.