

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Executive Decision Record**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
<b>Date:</b>	10 June 2010
<b>Title:</b>	Review of support services for Hampshire's talented athletes
<b>Reference:</b>	1602
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

**Contact name:** Julie Amies

**Tel:** 01962 846029

**Email:** julie.amies@hants.gov.uk

**1. The decision:**

- a) That all support services' criteria are aligned and come under the umbrella term 'Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme'.
- b) That age group rankings will only be accepted up to Under 20s level (or as directed by the National Governing Bodies of sports) and that senior open based competition becomes the criteria thereafter.
- c) That only Olympic, Paralympic and Sport England supported sports be eligible.
- d) That the FACS scheme (Free Access to County Sports people) be removed as it is unsustainable by facility providers.

**2. Reason(s) for the decision:**

- 2.1. There are currently 4 different schemes offered by Hampshire County Council: The Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme, FANS (Free Access for National Sports people), FACS (Free Access for County Sports people) and 4SM (fast track physiotherapy). The schemes are available separately and as part of a package, however they have different criteria, which can cause confusion. By creating one system there will be a consistent set of criteria that is clear and easy to understand.
- 2.2. To support athletes who are currently performing, or working towards performing, at a world class level (using NGB talent pathways as a guide).
- 2.3. The new structure will focus on sports that Sport Hampshire & IOW works with, as well as Olympic and Paralympic sports.
- 2.4. Leisure facilities offering free memberships are starting to feel a strain on their resources. Removing the FACS scheme will ease some of this strain and ensure that facilities do not withdraw their offer all together.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. Completely separate the schemes. Athletes would apply for funding, a bus pass and school mentoring support once a year through the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme. For free access to leisure facilities and fast track physiotherapy they would complete a FANS application form and a 4SM application form. This would result in an increased administration burden, confusion amongst athletes about what they can apply for and the need for separate marketing of the schemes.

3.2. Outsourcing to Sportsaid, a national charity who distribute funding to talented athletes. Sportsaid would not be able to provide the complete Hampshire Talented Athlete scheme package so there would need to be two separate administration centres to deal with different aspects of the scheme.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

**5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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<b>Executive Member for Policy and Resources Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE</b>	