

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member – Economic Development and Rural Affairs
<b>Date:</b>	7 November 2010
<b>Title:</b>	Transfer of Local Authority Business Grant Initiative funding to the Apprenticeship Grant Scheme
<b>Reference:</b>	2103
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economic Development

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to report on the progress of the Apprenticeship Grants Scheme and consider the future of the programme.
- 1.2. This paper seeks formal approval to vire £50,000 from the Workforce Development budget line to extend the Apprenticeship Grants Scheme.

### 2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The Apprenticeship Grants Scheme was devised as one of four recession responses developed to support businesses and individuals affected by the recent recession.
- 2.2. The Scheme was intended to incentivise businesses to continue to take on apprentices at a time when economic pressures result in cutbacks in recruitment and training. Details of the scheme were set out in a report to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources dated 9 April 2009 and an update on progress was presented to the Hampshire Economic Board on 14 December 2009 and 27 April 2010.

### 3. Finance

- 3.1. The initial budget for this recession measure was £195,000. Of this, £35,000 was allocated as match funding towards the post of Apprenticeships Coordinator. The post holder administers the Apprenticeship Grants Scheme and the Volunteering Grants Scheme, and also Hampshire County Council's internal Apprenticeships Scheme. The remaining salary for this post was

provided by the Learning and Skills Council. Funding for the post will run out in September 2011.

3.2. Since the last report, a flood of applications has been received and the current position is as follows:

- (i) 55 companies have been supported to take on 76 apprentices in a wide range of roles;
- (ii) £156,375.50 of the £160,000 grant funding has been allocated;
- (iii) the programme has now been closed, however as it was a rolling programme with no deadline, application forms that were downloaded before the closure have continued to arrive; and
- (iv) a further 44 applications have been received, the majority of which would be eligible for support if funds were available.

3.3. In 2006 an allocation from Local Authority Business Grant Initiative (LABGI) funds was made to Workforce Development projects and, of the initial £160,000, £90,000 remains in the 2010/11 budget. These funds were made available to support a wide range of activities which would promote a buoyant labour market within the Hampshire economy. This included activities both internal and external to the County Council. The funds are allocated in response to opportunities as they arise and the proposed allocation to the Apprenticeships Grant Scheme fits well with the purpose of the Workforce Development budget line. However, this was a one-off allocation of LABGI and once spent there is no further funding identified for this purpose.

3.4. £50,000 of the Workforce Development budget would provide grants to the majority of businesses with outstanding applications to the Apprenticeship Grants Scheme, supporting at least a further 25 apprentices.

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1. That £50,000 be transferred from the Workforce Development budget to the Apprenticeship Grant Scheme to extend the programme to support at least a further 25 apprenticeships.

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

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Executive Member for Policy and Resources	660	9 April 2009
Recession Measures Update	1108	14 December 2009
Recession Measures Update	1460	27 April 2010
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<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. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1. Apprenticeships are open to all age groups but mostly benefit young people at the start of their career and offer a route to a qualification. Only small businesses may access this scheme.

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

- 2.1. Not applicable.

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

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.