

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member-Economic Development and Rural Affairs
Date:	7 October 2010
Title:	Armed Services Employment Fair
Reference:	2095
Report From:	Director of Economic Development

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for a grant to support an Armed Services Employment Fair as part of the activity of the Hampshire County Council Economic Development Office being a key partner in the Super Garrison Economic Partnership.

2. Contextual information

2.1. Approximately 22,000 serving personnel are stationed in Hampshire along with approximately 6,000 civilians directly employed by the Armed Forces in Hampshire (including Portsmouth). In addition, large numbers are employed in the defence and supply industries and the local economies benefit from expenditure by the Armed Forces and their serving personnel and families.

2.2. A number of actions have been undertaken as reported to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources in December 2009 and linked to the County Council involvement with the South East Super Garrison Partnership. The importance of this work has been reported to the Hampshire Senate and opportunities explored with other agencies to improve support for the Armed Forces.

2.3. One of these actions has been the setting up of an economic board with the Armed Forces in the north-east of the county, the Career Transition Partnership and a range of other partners aimed at assisting training, investment and employment opportunities for people leaving the Forces – this board is called the Super Garrison Economic Partnership.

- 2.4. The Partnership has met four times and is identifying areas of joint activity. One project that has been identified as being of real value is an Armed Services Employment Fair.

3. Armed Service Employment Fair Proposition

- 3.1. Throughout the year the Career Transition Partnership's ten Regional Resettlement Centres throughout the UK and British Forces Germany hold individual careers fairs for Service Leavers, ex-military and their dependants.

- 3.2. Statistics from the last employment fair in the South East organised by the Career Transition Partnership include:

- (i) 814 Service Leavers attended;
- (ii) 110 exhibitors (breakdown of 95 employers, 10 training providers and 5 welfare agencies);
- (iii) 96.5% of Service Leavers were very satisfied with the event;
- (iv) the remaining 3.5% were unsatisfied, citing it was noisy, more space and a bigger venue was needed;
- (v) 84% of Service Leavers felt they were more employable than they first thought, after the event;
- (vi) 53% went to the event to tailor their CV;
- (vii) 91% went to the event to network with employers and make contacts for employment opportunities after discharge;
- (viii) 92% of Service Leavers said their first impressions of the employment fair was excellent or good;
- (ix) 100% of exhibitors said they would attend a similar military event again;
- (x) exhibitors scored the event an average of 5.1 out of 6; and
- (xi) 50% of exhibitors had seen in excess of 50 Service Leavers who had the skills they required.

4. Finance

- 4.1. The cost for running an Armed Services Fair in a large venue to attract similar numbers of attendees and businesses is in the region of £25,000.
- 4.2. Career Transition Partnership will provide £5,000 and it is anticipated that businesses will provide £10,000 (100 at £100 per stand). There is a shortfall of £10,000 which Hampshire County Council is being asked to fund.

- 4.3. The grant of £10,000 will be drawn from the Economic Development Office budget allocated for Skills Project work (£100,000). This funding was an allocation from the Local Authority Business Grant Incentive.
- 4.4. It will be a demonstration of Hampshire County Council 's commitment to the economic prosperity of the Armed Services' leavers and their families.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1. That a grant of £10,000 is made available to support the Armed Services Employment Fair on the basis of this report.

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:	no
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.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. An Assessment will be undertaken before the event. It will be open to all Armed Service Leavers and their families.

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.