

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member - Environment
Date:	9 March 2010
Title:	Grants to Environmental Service Providers for 2010-11
Reference:	1381
Report From:	Director of Environment

Contact name: David Carman

Tel: 01962 832354

Email: david.carman@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to:

- (i) Seek agreement to the allocation of grant funding to Environmental Service Providers; and
- (ii) Seek agreement to the allocation of match funding to:
 - The core costs of the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
 - The Hampshire District and Borough Council initiative to support their work in reducing their local communities' carbon footprint.

1.2. This paper seeks to:

- Explain the purpose and benefits to the County Council of the grant provision for environmental service provision, and the allocation of funding for the East Hampshire AONB and for support for local carbon reduction initiatives.
- Agree the recipients and levels of funding for grants and allocations from the Environment Department revenue budget for 2010-11.

2. Contextual information

Environmental Service Provision

2.1. The Environmental Service Providers Grants enables the Department to work with voluntary and community organisations and support the provision of particular services that are most effectively delivered by them. Voluntary

organisations are able to apply for grants to deliver a range of environmental services. The grants support organisations in the delivery of activities that support Hampshire County Council's own aims and objectives for Maximising Well-being and Enhancing our Quality of Place, particularly in the area of sustainability.

- 2.2. The One Compact for Hampshire encourages the commitment to a three year programme of funding for voluntary and community organisations. Financial constraints mean that a commitment can only be made to the 2010-11 financial year.
- 2.3. At his meeting in November 2009, the Executive Member for Environment agreed changes to the criteria for payment of the grants to reflect more closely the County Council's interests in supporting sustainability and addressing climate change. As part of that review, it was agreed that some areas of activity that have been supported in previous years were of less direct relevance to the new criteria. It has also been necessary to identify financial savings and efficiencies as part of the continuing prioritisation of a reduced budget across the County Council. As a result, those areas of activity are no longer being supported by grant payments in 2010-11.
- 2.4. The areas of service not in receipt of grants in 2010-11 are Built Heritage, Coastal Archaeology and Support for the Hampshire County Council Schools Landscape Programme: Advice at a National Level. The organisations in receipt of these grants in 2009-10, the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust (HBPT), the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology (HWTMA) and Learning Through Landscapes Trust (LTL) have been informed. Responses have been received from the HBPT and HWTMA.
- 2.5. The HBPT response was an email sent to its Board members and copied to the County Council. This states that there is a moral obligation on the County Council and Fareham Borough Council to the Trust, arising out of its establishment by the County Council in 1975, to support the Bursledon Brickworks and the wider objectives of the Trust. In reality it is acknowledged that the current funding meets little more than the cost of its Annual General Meeting and publication of its annual report and accounts. It contrasts the grant received to support the Brickworks with those received for the Whitchurch Silk Mill and Bursledon Windmill, which receive considerably higher levels of funding. HBPT announces its intention to apply for the grant again in 2010-11, although this cannot be through the grant application process on the County Council's web site.
- 2.6. In response, the HBPT has been reminded of the history of County Council support to the Trust and its long-term intention for the Trust to become financially self-sustaining, for which the Trust prepared an action plan. The HBPT has also been reminded of the change from payments through Service Level Agreements in support of organisations, to payments for delivery of specific services and activities through grants made under the terms of the One Compact for Hampshire.

2.7. The HWTMA has expressed its concern that the loss of funding will impact on the work it undertakes to support the County Council's interests, and has asked the County Council to advise on alternative sources of funding and its suitability for a proposed application for the grant for Advice to Land Managers on Environmental Sustainability. It has been advised to contact the County Council's external funding adviser and to discuss the possibility of a joint application in 2010-11 with the recipient of the Advice to Land Managers grant in 2009-10, to provide advice on historic environment management issues in the coastal zone.

2.8. Applications were received as follows:

- (i) *Advice to Land Managers on environmental sustainability (£15,000)*: a single application for this grant was received from the Hampshire and Surrey Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. It has delivered this service over a number of years and has always performed to a high standard. Its application demonstrated its ability to deliver the services set out in the agreement and its ability to respond to the revised criteria, with a focus on sustainable land management.
- (ii) *Support for the conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens, their sustainable management and the wider contribution they make to Hampshire communities (£16,000)*: a single application for this grant was received from the Hampshire Gardens Trust. For some years the Trust has been providing the County Council with a very valuable research role for the compilation of the Hampshire Register of Parks and Gardens. It makes good use of volunteers in undertaking research and providing advice to land owners. It is actively involved in environmental education and through its links with English Heritage is alert to the issues of climate change and its effects on the historic environment.
- (iii) *Supporting Hampshire County Council Schools Landscape Programme (£16,000)*: two applications were received for this grant, from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and the Learning through Landscapes Trust.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust: the Trust has developed an effective working partnership with schools. It places a strong emphasis on sustainability and on encouraging behavioural change and this is reflected through its application. Its activities are tailored to the requirements of the grant agreement.

Learning Through Landscapes Trust: the Trust has a strong national focus in its work. The application references a number of 'packages' that would be applied to the delivery of the service, but is not tailored to the requirements of local working and wider community engagement of the grant agreement. Knowledge of the organisation indicates that the Trust does not have sufficient dedicated staff to deliver the service as set out in the grant agreement. It also proposes delivering training to the

Schools Landscape Programme team, which is not a requirement of the grant agreement.

A detailed analysis of the applications is contained in Appendix 1.

Allocation of funding to the East Hampshire AONB

- 2.9. The East Hampshire AONB forms part of the designated South Downs National Park, which will formally come into being on 1 April 2011. The AONB is a long-standing partnership between Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council, East Hampshire District Council and Natural England and during this interim period of one year before the National Park comes into being, funding arrangements will continue as in previous years. The local authority funding is a critical factor in drawing in funding from Natural England, which is provided on a 3:1 basis (Natural England : Local Authority).
- 2.10. A Memorandum of Agreement to continue funding as support to the East Hampshire AONB and South Downs Joint Committee was agreed by Cabinet on 23 November 2009.
- 2.11. The funding proposed is £30,000 and is required to support core services, including provision of staff, office space and equipment and other overheads.

Allocation of funding to the Hampshire District and Borough Council initiative to support their work in reducing their local communities' carbon footprint

- 2.12. The Districts and Boroughs in Hampshire are taking part in an initiative jointly with Hampshire County Council to support local communities in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint. The initiative is delivered by the Greening Campaign, a not-for-profit charitable organisation that began in Hampshire and is now operating across the south-east of England. The Greening Campaign supports communities through a phased programme which provides them with ideas which they can then put into action, with access to advice and information at every stage. The results of the initiative are monitored and the total saving of carbon recorded. The initiative works through partnership arrangements with individuals, local groups, businesses, churches, parish and town councils and local authorities. Each individual local scheme that comes forward will be supported by a contribution of £1,000, payable for projects that are completed between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010.

3. Finance

- 3.1. Funding for all three areas of financial support will be found from the Environment Department's revenue budget for 2010-11.

4. Performance

- 4.1. Biannual progress review meetings will be held with the Environmental Service Providers, at which they will report on activities and outputs in relation to the grant objectives and criteria. This will be supported by an annual report.
- 4.2. The activities of the East Hampshire AONB are reported through the South Downs Joint Committee and an annual report.
- 4.3. The schemes and projects supported through the Greening Campaign are supported on an individual basis and the benefits of each scheme monitored and reported.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. That the 2010-11 Environmental Service Providers funding be awarded to the following applicants:
 - (i) Advice to Land Managers on environmental sustainability:
£15,000 to the Hampshire and Surrey Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.
 - (ii) Support for the conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens, their sustainable management and the wider contribution they make to Hampshire communities:
£16,000 to the Hampshire Gardens Trust.
 - (iii) Supporting Hampshire County Council Schools Landscape Programme:
£16,000 to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.
- 5.2. That £30,000 be allocated as partnership funding for the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 5.3. That £20,000 be allocated as match funding with Hampshire's District and Borough Councils to support their work in reducing their local communities' carbon footprint.

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): 3.3	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): 3.5	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Environment Department - Environmental Service Providers	<u>Reference</u> 1040	<u>Date</u> 10.11.09
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<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. No adverse impact has been identified in terms of race, creed or gender.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. No adverse impact identified.

3. Climate Change:

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

No impact.

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

Many of the activities undertaken by the Environmental Service Providers respond to the issue of climate change, through providing advice to land managers and local communities on ways to adapt to a changing climate.