

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	21 January 2014
Title:	Enterprise First
Reference:	5506
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That a contract be awarded to Enterprise First at a cost of £15,000 to ensure continuity of support services to businesses in 2013/2014.
- 1.2 That any potential future funding support for Enterprise First will be subject to the conclusions of the review of SME business support across Hampshire.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The Council's Economic Development Service is undertaking a comprehensive review of its current support for businesses and business support organisations with a view to adopting a more strategic approach to future arrangements from 2014/2015 onwards.
- 2.2. The Council's commitment to maintaining existing arrangements with Enterprise First throughout 2013/2014 will ensure continuity of business support services to Small to Medium sized Enterprises, particularly start-up businesses across Hampshire, whilst we complete the review.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Hampshire County Council not to provide funding to Enterprise First to deliver support services to businesses. This option has been rejected in recognition that Enterprise First plays an important role in the business support landscape. The County Council wishes to ensure continuity of current support services to Hampshire businesses whilst the SME Business Support review is undertaken, and transition to a more strategic approach to future arrangements from 2014/2015 onwards.

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 Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

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

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by: -----	Date: 21 January 2014
Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment Councillor Seán D T Woodward	