

**REPORT OF THE
CABINET / LEADER**

PART II

HAMPSHIRE ACTION TEAM SCHEME OF AUTHORISATION

At its meeting on 29 March, the Cabinet considered a report setting out the procedures for authorisation of expenditure from a community budget allocated to each Hampshire Action Team and associated monitoring arrangements.

The total Community Budget for Hampshire Action Teams (HATs) for 2010/11 was confirmed as £700,000 and was allocated proportionately to each HAT to reflect the population and Index of Multiple Deprivation in each area, as follows;

- Basingstoke and Deane	£ 70,000
- Eastleigh and Fareham	£110,000
- Gosport	£100,000
- Havant, East Hants and Winchester	£200,000
- New Forest	£ 70,000
- Rushmoor and Hart	£ 95,000
- Test Valley	£ 55,000

There will be no automatic extension of funds into following financial year(s).

The Cabinet approved the process and recommendation requirements for administering the HATs Community Budget, specifically that discussions be undertaken with other Executive Members and departments relating to the proposed project as appropriate; and that the process undertaken by each HAT is to reach a majority agreement of the whole HAT on the recommendation to the Executive Member for Communities or the Executive Member for Policy and Resources. The Executive Member for Communities will be responsible for authorising any single recommendation for expenditure from each HAT on projects up to a limit of £25,000 per HAT and the Executive Member for Policy and Resources will be responsible for authorising any expenditure in excess of £25,000 per project per HAT.

Cabinet also requested that an Annual Report be submitted to Council containing full details of all projects and expenditure from the HATs Community Budget, together with an assessment of the project outcomes.

This report arises from consideration of a report by the Cabinet on 29 March 2010, which is on Hantsweb at:

http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item_ID=1443&tab=2

RECESSION MEASURES UPDATE

At its meeting on 27 April, the Hampshire Economic Board considered a report on the package of recession measures currently being undertaken by the County Council to support businesses and individuals through the recession. These

activities have been funded through an allocation of £425,000 from the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) approved by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources in April 2009. The recessions measures are:

Support for the independent retail sector

This includes training and marketing support for independent retailers which are not backed by large scale corporate organisations, and people who have been made redundant from retail, one of the worst affected sectors in the recession. The programme was undertaken collaboratively with other Councils, local town centre managers and Job Centre Plus. This activity has been very successful and targets have been exceeded in terms of the number of people it has helped. Response from both target audiences has been excellent, with high demand for future training programmes and further development of the Shop in Hampshire project

Developing a network of Smarter Working Centres

Smarter Working Centres aim to provide a business club type venue where businesses can exchange best practice and support each other, as well as providing support to people working at a distance from their normal workplace and groups of people who have been made redundant and face work and social challenges. The initiative is on target with eight Centres expected to be open by the end of May including; Aldershot, Basingstoke, Fareham, Gosport, Havant and Lyndhurst, and several others in the pipeline. Over 50 businesses and/or individuals have registered as Centre members and good ongoing support from the project partners and local authorities exists.

Supporting opportunities for volunteering and work experience

This support aims to enable voluntary organisations to make proposals for grant aid from the County Council, specifically targeted at offering work experience and volunteering places which can provide an excellent interface between no work and fully paid work and helps alleviate the potential isolation and de-socialisation that can arise. At the end of April, 14 applications had been approved with grants totalling £24,277

Supporting the development of opportunities for apprenticeships

This initiative offers grants to smaller businesses of up to £4,000 per new apprentice to help towards on-the-job costs and works alongside the National Apprenticeship Service and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which help pay for off-the-job training costs with training providers. After a slow start, applications to the grant scheme have increased and 23 apprentices had been supported at the end of April with grants totalling £51,789. Placements are introducing apprentices to a wide range of careers, including catering, scaffolding, carpentry and electronics. Running alongside this scheme, the County Council's own apprenticeships pilot is underway, with 21 young people starting a programme of training and work experience in a variety of County Council posts.

Future Jobs Fund

This £5.8m partnership programme will provide 900 six month jobs for 18-24 year olds throughout the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. At the end of April, over 370 young people had been recruited under the Future Jobs Fund, 99 of whom are employed by the County Council. The wide range and geographical spread of partners has ensured a good variety of jobs. The programme has been extremely successful and funding for the rest of the programme (12 months from

April 2010) has been confirmed by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Village Community Grant Scheme

The Village Community Grant Scheme offers funding to rural businesses to help increase the use of village shops and to create new community-led village stores, particularly in communities which have lost their post office. The County Council contributed £100,000 to the total fund and SEEDA contributed £300,000 over three years, bringing the fund total to £400,000. By the end of April, 16 grants had been awarded to help attract new customers and increase footfall, through refurbishment or purchase of new equipment and facilities. The village shops receiving grant are Pilley, Headley (Ashford Vale), Minstead, West Meon, Sparsholt, Froxfield, Grayshott, South Warnborough, East Tisted, Woodgreen, Passfield, Sherfield English, Goodworth Clatford, Chilbolton, Abbots Ann and St Mary Bourne. These grants total £221,113 matched by private and public sector investment of £241,754

The Hampshire Economic Board endorsed the continuation of the current measures using the balance of the previous allocation of funding. Due to the success in delivering Phase 1 of the Future Jobs Fund programme, the County Council, as lead partner and accountable body, has been offered the opportunity to bid to expand the existing programme by up to 100% within the time-frame of the programme which has been extended to 2012 and the Board has therefore approved the submission of an application by the County Council on behalf of partners, once capacity to expand has been assessed.

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http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item_ID=1460&tab=2

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