

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member For Communities and International Relations
Date:	31 January 2011
Title:	Funding request from Test Valley Borough Council to support the Village Agents Pilot via the Hampshire Action Team for Test Valley
Reference:	2485
Report From:	Chief Executive

Contact name: Jo White

Tel: 01962 847854

Email: joanne.white@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for funding of £3,200 to Test Valley Borough Council to support a Village Agents Pilot Project, via the Hampshire Action Team for Test Valley.

2. Contextual information

2.1 Test Valley Village Agents Pilot (TVVAP) will bridge the gap between services and local communities for older people in one rural area of Test Valley. These communities can often be isolated, with high levels of social deprivation and poor transport links. They are often very 'self contained' and because of this can be reluctant to find help outside of their local community. This will be addressed by supporting a volunteer in each area to become a trusted local presence who is able to link people to the information and services they need.

2.2 The pilot will build on the consultation carried out through seven Community Conversations taking place with older people in Test Valley over the coming six months. Community Conversations are planned in 5 rural villages and 2 urban areas, with an aim of identifying gaps in service provision, and how Test Valley Borough Council can make their services more accessible and fulfil needs of older people.

3. Finance

- 3.1 The total funding allocation available to the Test Valley HAT is £55,000.
- 3.2 The amount remaining following previous successful applications is £26,200.
- 3.2 The amount of funding requested is £3,200 and the detail of the bid is set out in the application form accompanying this report (Appendix C).

4. Legal Implications

- 4.2 The County Council has the power under Section 56 of the Local Government Act 1958 to make contributions to the expenditure of a District Council in Hampshire.

5. Monitoring

- 5.1 The intended outcomes of the project are outlined in the application form accompanying this report (highlighted in page 3).
- 5.2 A detailed monitoring report setting out the final outcomes of the project will be sent out for completion at the end of the project.

6. Other key issues

- 6.1 There are no other key issues to report.

7. Statements of Support

- 7.1 This application has the majority support of the Test Valley HAT Members following a HAT meeting on the 6 January and supports partnership working in the locality.
- 7.2 The village agent pilot is an initiative with funding from Hampshire County Council Rural Development Fund, Adult Services Department and to date Basingstoke and Deane HAT to deliver the pilot project in a series of locally defined rural areas in the county. If other HATs are able to contribute small amounts of funding for a pilot to be specifically delivered in their area, they will benefit by being directly involved in the choosing of the area and in the evaluation of outcomes. Also the additional funding will ensure a more robust pilot as the number of sites can be increased. It is felt the project will be strengthened by having the local support and knowledge of the HATs and district and parish councils.
- 7.3 The Executive Member for Adult Social Care is pleased to see that Test Valley Borough Council wishes to collaborate with Hampshire County Council's own Village Agent pilot scheme and work with county colleagues to ensure that a Village Agent operates in their area, through bidding for a HAT grant. She is keen that the funding should be targeted on a very rural area where rural isolation and need can be demonstrated to be particularly acute. As this is a pilot scheme, she has raised the importance of measuring and

evaluating the success of the pilot as this will be an important factor for Test Valley in deciding whether to fund a borough-wide scheme.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That the Executive Member for Communities and International Relations approves a sum of £3,200 to be awarded to Test Valley Borough Council via the Hampshire Action Team for Test Valley, to support the Village Agents Pilot Project, for 2010/11 only, with no expectation of funding for future years.

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:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1 The project addresses issues of poor access to services, isolation in rural areas, particularly for vulnerable groups, a need for better information and advice services and issues of rural inequality more generally.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1 There are no adverse implications.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

There are no impacts arising from this report.