



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

TOPIC – FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR A HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING DVD

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director (Governance), the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Principal Scrutiny Committee and all Members of the relevant Scrutiny Panel (individual Ward Members are consulted separately where appropriate). In addition, all Members are notified.

Five or more of these consulted Members can require that the matter be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Steve Lincoln, Tel: 01962 848 110,
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Committee Administrator: Nancy Graham, Tel: 01962 848 235,
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SUMMARY

- An opportunity has arisen to participate in a partnership project with other Hampshire authorities to produce a DVD in support of communities undertaking a community plan.
- Resources are being pooled and contributions have been confirmed by a number of the other authorities in Hampshire. Approval is being sought for a contribution from Winchester City Council.
- A sufficient sum is unspent in the community planning grants budget, with no more application rounds remaining in 2009/10.

DECISION

That £1,000 is paid to Community Action Hampshire as a contribution to the cost of a Hampshire community planning DVD.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

In 2008/09 a small grant scheme was established to support communities undertaking community-led planning activities. This includes parish plans, neighbourhood plans, market town health checks and community-led environmental campaigns. The funding complements officer time given to support communities undertaking such activity.

Take up of the funding has been less than expected. During the last 18 months there are some 18 communities that have been working on community-led plans, yet only 5 have applied for a grant in support of their work. There are a variety of reasons for this – some communities sourced the funds in other ways, while others were able to reduce costs through voluntary effort and contributions in kind. A number of communities have recently begun work and are likely to apply for a grant in 2010/11.

In 2009/10 a budget of £5,000 is available for community-led plans and to date a total of £3,500 has been awarded as follows:

- £500 to Greening Colden Common (ref. PHD239 03/08/2009)
- £3,500 to the Greening Campaign for work in three communities (ref. PHD247 14/10/2009)

This leaves £1,000 unspent with no more application rounds remaining in 2009/10. An opportunity has arisen to participate in a partnership project with other Hampshire authorities that would help to support communities with community planning.

The proposal is to produce a DVD to promote community planning and provide communities with a better insight into the benefits that community planning can bring. It would be sent to all parish councils and made accessible via the Council's website and websites of other partner organisations. It would also be shown at public meetings in communities that are considering whether or not to undertake a community plan. It would showcase the best examples of community plans in Hampshire and the results that they can generate. This would reduce the current demand to attend public meetings that is placed on residents who have undertaken the process and who can speak positively about the experience, as they would appear on the DVD and would not need to attend in person. It would be similar in style and format to the HARA DVD produced in 2009 to promote affordable housing.

The DVD would benefit communities undertaking community planning across Hampshire. This process happens in a number of districts so the relevant councils and some other interested stakeholders are proposing a partnership project, with resources being pooled. Contributions have been confirmed to date from:

- Hampshire County Council £2,674
- East Hampshire District Council £1,000
- New Forest District Council £1,000
- Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council £1,000
- Test Valley Borough Council £700
- Community Action Hampshire £500
- Hampshire Association of Local Councils £500

A contribution of £1,000 would match that of a number of other rural district councils and would be appropriate given the benefit that it would provide for parishes in Winchester District. It would also enable areas of Winchester to be included in the DVD and the successes here to be celebrated. A contribution of £1,000 would bring the total funding to £8,374, which should be sufficient to produce a DVD of similar length and quality as the HARA DVD.

Community Action Hampshire has offered to be the lead partner so would collect the financial contributions and commission the chosen supplier. The contribution (if approved) would therefore be payable to Community Action Hampshire.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

This project is a partnership between the councils and other partners listed above. All have been actively involved in designing the proposal, with the exception of Hampshire Association of Local Councils.

Note – in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Portfolio Holders (Section 3 of the Council's Constitution), the Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and Sport (Councillor Stallard) has been consulted on the grant.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

n/a

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

n/a

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

n/a

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 31.03.10

Councillor John Cooper – Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety