



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

TOPIC – FUNDING FOR THE GREENING CAMPAIGN

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:

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Committee Administrator: Nancy Graham, Tel: 01962 848 235, Email: ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

- During the last 18 months some 18 communities in the District have been working on community-led plans. This includes parish plans, neighbourhood plans, market town health checks and community-led environmental campaigns. A small budget exists to provide funding in support of this activity.
- A funding request has been received from the Greening Campaign, seeking for the Council to enter into an agreement with them to enable them to work with three communities. They have a model of working which is highly participative and has been shown to work. Similar arrangements exist in other districts such as East Hampshire and Hart.
- The £3,000 cost can be met from the existing Community Planning Grant budget for 2009/10.
- The work enabled by this grant would help the Council meet the aims from the Corporate Business Plan to reduce carbon emissions, to understand better

the needs of all sections of the community and to promote good relationships between all sections of the community.

DECISION

1. That a grant of £3,000 be awarded to the Greening Campaign.
2. That the grant be subject to a Service Level Agreement, on terms to be agreed by the Head of Partnerships, Communication and Improvement . The identity of the communities to be supported to be agreed in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety.

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 the coming months.

No applications have yet been received for community-led environmental campaigns. However, an approach has been received from the Greening Campaign, requesting that the Council enter into an agreement with them to enable them to work with a number of communities. They have a model of working which is highly participative and has been shown to work in many communities across Hampshire. This has been facilitated by funding agreements with Hampshire County Council and district councils such as East Hampshire and Hart.

The Greening Campaign uses a series of structured and supported Phases. Funding would support 3 communities to undertake phase 1 of a Greening Campaign. Households are encouraged to commit to a number of 'challenges' which reduce their CO₂ emissions, they then display a branded information card in their window which makes the campaign highly visible and it is clear that the community is working and acting together. The messages on the card can be reinforced by film shows and displays in local shops, libraries etc. After an allotted time, the cards displayed in the windows of homes are counted. From this information the annual CO₂ cut by people's actions within the community can be assessed and savings in fuel bills can be identified to provide additional motivation.

This is then fed back to the community through local media and through a second public meeting. As an example, at the end of phase 1 of its campaign, East Meon succeeded in signing up 23% of the community to make changes in their behaviour. This gave an annual saving of over 64 tonnes of CO₂, 80 tonnes of water and stopped 2,250 tonnes of organic waste from going to landfill.

The funding model used by the Greening Campaign is for the £2,000 cost of the work to be met through £1,000 from Hampshire County Council and £1,000 from the district council. The proposed agreement with the Greening Campaign would see £3,000 of funding made available, supporting work with three communities. The identity of these communities would be agreed in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety. This and other terms associated with the grant award would be set out in a Service Level Agreement, to be agreed by the Head of Partnerships, Communication and Improvement.

The Greening Campaign has already undertaken work with four communities in Winchester District – Alresford, Colden Common, Olivers Battery and Fulflood. However, that work was funded in full by the Greening Campaign and this is not a sustainable situation so future work in other communities will only take place with financial support from the Council.

In 2009/10 a budget of £5,000 is available for community-led plans and to date a total of £500 has been awarded. One more application round remains, with the deadline for applications in October 2009.

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

Signed 14.10.09

Councillor John Cooper – Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety