

REPORT OF THE
Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
PART II

1. HAMPSHIRE TALENTED ATHLETE SCHEME

- 1.1. At his Decision Day on 18 January 2018 the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside approved recommendations for grant awards to local athletes as part of the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme (HTAS). Athletes from over 70 sports are eligible to apply to the HTAS to receive funding and other development opportunities to support their progression within their sport. There are five levels of support available to athletes depending on their stage within the performance pathway.
- 1.2. For 2018 the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside has awarded grants to 119 athletes across 31 different sports. The HTAS also negotiates a number of 'in kind' and sponsored services to reduce the financial impact upon athletes. These include free annual leisure centre memberships, annual bus passes, fast-track physiotherapy and presentation and public speaking training.
- 1.3. The HTAS has been running for over 16 years and has successfully supported many developing athletes to reach their goals and aspirations from county level through to international competitions in Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games disciplines.

2. COUNTRY PARK TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

- 2.1. As part of the ongoing Country Parks Transformation (CPT) Programme, the various stages of which have been approved and endorsed by the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside, new facilities have recently opened to the public at Queen Elizabeth County Park. Partly funded by the Armed Forces Covenant to bring military and civilian communities together, the new features include a fitness assault course and dog agility trail. Additions to the park have also included a new play area and an outdoor community space with a pizza oven.
- 2.2. Incorporated into the CPT Programme, Royal Victoria Country Park (RVCP) and Manor Farm Country Park (MFCP) are due to benefit from hundreds of thousands of pounds of investment to create new and improved facilities. The funding for MFCP is intended to enhance facilities, further implement health and safety requirements, improve facilities for animal welfare and develop the existing cafe. Funding for RVCP is intended to improve the cafe and the Empire Room - a major project being led by Hampshire County Council. The Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside has noted that the

CPT Programme is a once in a generation opportunity to improve visitor facilities at these popular sites.

Further details on the HTAS can be found at the link below:

[Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside - 18 January 2018](#)

COUNCILLOR ANDREW GIBSON
Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside