

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	25 April 2019
Title:	Update on the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund and Associated Rural Issues
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. The Decision:

1.1 That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources:

- i) welcomes and endorses progress made on the new Parish and Town Council Investment Fund together with the proposed direction of travel in approving live schemes;
- ii) approves the proposed one-year grant payment extension of £57,000 to HALC, for the financial year 2019/20, and authorises the EMCRA to negotiate a subsequent 3 year agreement linked to a formal partnership relationship between both organisations;
- iii) confirms the role of the EMCRA in setting and reviewing the policy framework for the County farms estate, in light of his role, and that of the CCBS Department, in overseeing the management of those landholdings;
- iv) approves the adjustment of budget responsibility and accountability in support of the EMCRA role together with the flexibility necessary to allocate such budgets and resources in supporting the future direction identified in the report (as set out in the Finance section of this report).

2. Reason(s) for the decision

2.1 The EMCRA leads on the County Council's approach to tackling challenges in the delivery of rural services and on the relationship with Parish and Town Councils (PTC's). This includes decision-making responsibility for both the Parish and Town Council (PTC) Investment Fund and Rural Communities Fund (RCF)

together with the County Council's partnerships with the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) and the Hampshire Rural Forum. The report updates members on progress in these areas and also proposals to simplify and re-enforce the ability of the EMCRA to take these initiatives forward.

2.2 The strong response to the PTC Investment Fund, launched in November 2018, is set out together with that of the County Council's Rural Communities Fund. Future direction will focus upon efforts to build local capacity and develop sustainable projects that meet local needs and respond to escalating pressures on County Council services.

2.3 The report highlights the partnership with HALC, including its contribution to the PTC Investment Fund, and recommends further financial support for its role.

2.4 Suggested adjustments set out in the finance section of the report relate to the movement of budgets necessary to simplify and facilitate the EMCRA role in taking this work forward.

3. Reason(s) for the decision:

3.1. None

4. Other options considered and rejected:

4.1. None

5. Conflicts of interest:

5.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

5.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

6. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None.

7. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not Applicable.

8. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

25 April 2019

**Councillor Roy Perry
Executive Member for Policy and Resources**

