HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs
Date:	18 September 2020
Title:	Rural Affairs – Rural Programme update and priorities
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact names: Jo Heath

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1. The decision:

That the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs:

1.1.   Approves the proposal for the Rural targeted programmes and the allocation of funding as set out in Table 2 of the report.

1.2.   Approves additional support to the Hampshire Rural Forum (HRF) Steering Group and the Parish Lengthsman Scheme for 2020/21 from the Rural Affairs budget as detailed in Table 2 of the report.

1.3.   Approves the allocation of £90,000 to the Rural Communities Fund (RCF) 2020/21 to allow for grants to be made that meet the criteria outlined in Table 1 of the report.

1.4.   Approves the proposed grant payment to Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) of £57,000 for the financial year 2020/21 from the HALC Infrastructure Grant budget.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1   The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp relief new and heightened impacts in rural areas and access to the countryside. This has provided an opportunity for a review of the rural grants programme to ensure it both meets the needs of rural areas and addresses issues identified with the grant process whilst also supporting the recovery of the County Council as a result of the pandemic.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1   None.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1   Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2   Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5.   Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6.   Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7.   Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:	**Date:**
-- **Councillor Edward Heron** **Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs**	**18 September 2020**