

TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEAD OF SERVICE'S URGENT DECISION

Cabinet/Committee: Cabinet
Chairman: Cllr Ian Carr
Head of Service: Simon Ellis

SUBJECT

DECISION

1. That the Head of Estates and Economic Development be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Economic Portfolio Holder, to award grants from the £500,000 Section 106 contribution obtained from the developer of Andover Business Park.
2. That as grants are awarded and paid, the financing is transferred from Section 106 monies already received to the Estates and Economic Development Service budget.

REASON FOR URGENCY

Invoices are being received for the first tranche of Andover Skills Training Fund (ASTF) grants, agreed by the ASTF Panel, chaired by the Economic Portfolio Holder, consistent with established eligibility criteria.

BACKGROUND

A contribution of £500,000 was obtained through negotiation with the developer of the Andover Business Park (Goodman) as part of the grant of planning permission. Negotiation took place within the guidance of the Infrastructure and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (2009).

Following research on skills needs it was agreed by OMT in 2011 that the Fund would be directed to employed Andover residents and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Andover, employing up to 50 persons. The objective being to support local employers to grow and therefore employ more local staff.

Payment will be on invoice, thereby ensuring that the training takes place and minimising the Council's financial risk. There are three levels of grant:

- Up to £1,000 with no requirement for matched funding
- £1,000-£5,000 with a requirement for 25% matched funding and
- £5,000-£25,000 with a requirement for 50% matched funding.

The Council has sought to introduce the grant in collaboration with local organisations and businesses which have an interest in skills training in Andover. A Panel will also steer the operation of the grant process. It comprises representatives of:

- Andover Jobcentre Plus
- Andover College

- Federation of Small Business
- Goodman
- Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
- Jon Stannah (representing a major Andover employer and the Andover Vision Board)
- PDM Training (representing private training providers)
- The University of Winchester
- TVBC Economic Portfolio holder, chairman of the panel.
- TVBC Head of Estates and Economic Development
- TVBC Economic Development Officer

An electronic application form on the Council's web site describes the eligibility criteria for the Grant.

The Fund was formally launched by the Economic Portfolio Holder in July 2011 and, to date, invoices have been received for approved applications worth £37,000 with a further £25,000 worth of applications awaiting approval.

It was originally intended that applications would be considered at quarterly panel meetings. However, a number of applications for courses starting in September 2011 required urgent consideration and the Panel agreed, via email, to endorse the first tranche.

<http://forms.testvalley.gov.uk/af3/an/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=HLrRsr6182D>

The application form requires information on beneficiaries, type of training/qualifications etc which will enable performance monitoring and evaluation.

DECISION

Head of Finance's Signature *W. Fullbrook* Date: *30/9/11*

Head of L & D's Signature *S. May* Date: *30.9.11*

CE/Corporate Director's Signature: *C.A. Mave* Date: *30/9/11*

Chairman's/Vice-Chairman's
(Overview & Scrutiny Committee) Signature: *[Signature]* Date: *3/10/11*

~~Chairman's/Vice-Chairman's~~ of Cabinet/Committee
Signature: *[Signature]* Date: *3/10/11*

Head of Service's
Signature: *[Signature]* Date: *30/9/11*

Reported to Committee on *2/11/2011 Cabinet* Date:

DISTRIBUTION

1. Chief Executive
2. Corporate Director (AF)
3. Corporate Director (CM)
4. Head of Legal and Democratic Services
5. Head of Administration (original for report to Committee)

BACKGROUND PAPER: