

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker:	Councillor Andrew Williams
Portfolio:	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership
Date of Portfolio Holder Decision:	9 May 2013

Title of Decision:

GRANT TO VOLUNTEER CENTRE DACORUM, FOR DELIVERY OF PASSPORT TO GO

(Contact: Natalie Webb x2743)

Decision made and reasons:

To approve payment of a one-off grant to Volunteer Centre Dacorum for delivery of the Passport to Go project, further details are listed in this report.

Financial implications

A Dacorum Borough Council grant application form has been completed and the Councils Grant Panel recommend that the project be awarded £6,000 from the underspend in cost centre DA270.

Background

1. Cost Centre DA270 is set up to facilitate the delivery of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Destination Dacorum.
2. Dacorum's LSP arrangements changed vastly in 2012 and as such, the budget was underspent (less financial resource was used for purposes such as catering/hospitality).
3. The Destination Dacorum Board have created a plan which has been produced collaboratively between the partner organisations. It articulates how each partner will contribute to making Dacorum a better place to live, work and enjoy. Whilst covering strategic and long term issues, it also articulates some actions which each representative organisation/sector will commit to achieving, in order to address the key focus of Destination Dacorum which is economic well-being. This plan fulfils Dacorum Borough Council's statutory requirement for a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).
4. Destination Dacorum Board are now working to deliver the actions.
5. It is considered that supporting delivery of the plan would be a good use of the underspend which is intended for partnership purposes. As such, partners involved in the delivery of Passport to Go, led by the Volunteer Centre, were invited to submit an application form for a one-off grant.
6. The Destination Dacorum Board are supportive of this approach.

Passport to Go

1. The Passport to Go initiative has been run before, funded by LSP Performance Reward Grant (PRG). The initiative was born out of the need to support local people who had been badly affected by the recession and who were likely to fall through existing support networks. The project addresses individual needs through tailored package of training and voluntary experiences.
2. When PRG funded a similar (but larger scale) project in 2010/11/12, 396 people benefited from a package of tailored training and volunteering, and 60 of these

gained paid employment. The majority of those not entering employment gained other benefits, including an increase in confidence and a feeling that their chances of gaining employment had been significantly increased.

3. Although official unemployment figures in Dacorum have fallen slightly, the Volunteer Centre has received enquiries from over 260 unemployed people in the 2012/13. Many of these people lack the experience necessary to gain paid employment, have no current references and lack confidence.
4. For this current project the partners delivering it will aim to work with 40 individuals who are unemployed by finding them appropriate volunteering placements and signposting them to relevant training courses.
5. Referral agencies will include Dacorum Community Trust, CAB, Jobcentre Plus, Herts Mind Network and National Careers Service.
6. Training providers include Dacorum, Communities for Learning, Apsley Paper Trail, Paradise Furniture and Training, West Herts College, Cultural Learning Project (CAD) and the Red Cross.

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Community Action Dacorum
Volunteer Centre Dacorum
Dacorum Borough Council Grant Panel
Commissioning and Social Enterprise Officer
Group Manager Partnerships, Policy and Communications

Monitoring Officer/Chief Financial Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer – The Council’s power to award this grant is derived from the general power of competence introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

Section 151 Officer – There are sufficient funds available within the 2012/13 budget to support this recommendation.

Risk Implications:

Failure to allocate funding will result in no extension of the Passport to Go work, meaning that momentum will be lost and we will not have maximised on the initial investment. There is also a risk that Destination Dacorum will not be seen to have achieved/delivered results within the community and its actions within the Destination Dacorum Plan.

Options Considered and reasons for rejection:

Not to award the grant - This would not be consistent with discussions within the Destination Dacorum Board.

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:

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Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 30/04/13

Date Decision Published: 09/05/13

Decision No:PH/019/13

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 16/05/13

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented: