

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

6 June 2011

TRANSFER OF THE HAMPSHIRE ALLIANCE FOR RURAL AFFORDABLE
HOUSING (HARAH) STRATEGIC HOUSING OFFICER FROM EAST HAMPSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL TO WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGIC HOUSING

Contact Officer: Simon Maggs Tel No: 01962 848203:
smaggs@winchester.gov.uk

RECENT REFERENCES:

PHD 304 - APPROVING THE HAMPSHIRE ALLIANCE FOR AFFORDABLE
HOUSING (HARAH) DELIVERY PARTNER.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The report seeks approval for the transfer of the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH) Strategic Housing Officer from East Hampshire District Council to Winchester City Council.

The proposal is a positive opportunity to work in partnership with HARAH and promote the provision of rural affordable housing.

The proposal would result in no net additional costs to the Council and provides a small amount of funding to off-set existing staff costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1 That the Council act as host employer for the Strategic Housing Officer for

HARAH.

- 2 That the Council review the arrangement annually to ensure that the HARAH partnership can provide financial support for the post

.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

6 June 2011

TRANSFER OF THE HAMPSHIRE ALLIANCE FOR RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING (HARAH) STRATEGIC HOUSING OFFICER FROM EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL TO WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGIC HOUSING

DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has been approached by the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH) to act as the host authority for the post of the HARAH Strategic Housing Officer (SHO) (0.4FTE).
- 1.2 HARAH is a partnership of 6 district local authorities, Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Community Action Hampshire and the Homes and Communities Agency. Its aim is to deliver rural affordable housing across the partnership area.
- 1.3 The post holder is currently employed by East Hampshire District Council who have funded the post via special government grant funding. This has now ceased and the costs of the post will be absorbed by the HARAH budget. The current post holder is also employed on a permanent part time basis as a Housing Strategy and Development Officer at Winchester City Council.
- 1.4 The change in the funding arrangements, together with a review of how all HARAH services are delivered, provide an opportunity to reconsider how the SHO post is hosted. From a logistical and partnership perspective hosting of the SHO at Winchester City Council is the preferred option.
- 1.5 The arrangement would bring a number of benefits:-
 - 1.5.1 The Senior Housing Officer is already an employee of the Council therefore there are no additional lease car costs or the need to find additional desk, computer access and storage space. The post would be fully funded from HARAH budget.
 - 1.5.2 The opportunity to strengthen the Council's role within the HARAH partnership.
 - 1.5.3 Although the role will be to support the whole HARAH partnership there will be opportunities to utilise the specialist knowledge of the post for the Council's benefit.
 - 1.5.4 Simplification of working arrangements and associated support such as IMT.

- 1.5.5 A more efficient relationship with partners, in particular other HARAHA staff who are employed elsewhere in the Winchester by Community Action Hampshire.
- 1.5.6 Assisting in the development of a shared services approach to strategy and development.
- 1.6 The post would be funded by contributions by partners in accordance with arrangements set out in the HARAHA Memorandum of Understanding (PHD 304).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

2 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CHANGE PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

- 2.1 Active Communities Theme 2 – Support local people in accessing high quality affordable housing.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 3.1 The proposal would result in no net additional costs to the Council and provides a small amount of funding to off-set existing staff costs.
- 3.2 The post is 0.4 FTE with a salary of £13,773 (pro rata). If Winchester accepted the hosting arrangement this scale would need to be adjusted to the nearest City Council equivalent.
- 3.3 HARAHA have a budget of £20,500 available to pay for salary and associated on-costs of the post. The total employee costs are £17,172 (includes pension and National Insurance contributions), leaving £3,328 as a contribution towards car leasing and office accommodation costs.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 The Council would need to be mindful of accrued employment rights, however the HARAHA partnership Memorandum of Agreement covers for any potential future redundancy liability for this post by way of ensuring that the costs would be covered equally by partners (Pension liability and redundancy liability).

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Memorandum of Understanding – April 2011-March 2016 for the HARAHA Partnership