

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **26 January 2010**

By: **Director of Policy and Communications**

Title of report: **Recession: Update on Impacts and Action**

Purpose of report: **To update Cabinet on the agreed action plan to mitigate the impact of the Recession in East Sussex on businesses, individuals and communities.**

Recommendations: The Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. consider the latest information about the impact of the Recession in East Sussex; and the progress on the agreed action plan (appendix 1); and**
 - 2. note the latest position with regard to the Recession Fund as detailed in the attached Lead Member Report (appendix 2)**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 The impact of the Recession on the County Council will continue to be managed through our Reconciling Policy and Resources (RP&R) process, including budget and performance monitoring. A one off recession fund of £1million (including £180,000 of existing funding) was agreed for the 2009/10 budget. Criteria for the Fund's use and an approvals process were agreed by Cabinet in April 2009.

1.2 A total of 21 applications have been received to the fund so far, 12 of which have been approved. The funding committed to date is £482,916, with an expected cash match funding of £382,915 and in-kind match funding of £19,900. A number of the successful bids approved are likely to lead to subsequent bids to the Fund. A Lead Member decision meeting was held on the 15th December updating progress with the Recession Fund and this is attached at appendix 2 for information.

2. Background

2.1 In January 2009 the Cabinet considered a detailed report on the Recession and agreed that an action plan be developed, through discussions with a range of partner organisations, to deliver the agreed policy steer to *"Take account of the effect of the economic downturn on residents, businesses and services in the County Council's business and financial plans to ensure that the effects for local people are minimised as far as possible in the short term and that, in the longer term, the area is well placed to emerge in a strengthened position at the end of the current period of economic uncertainty."*

2.2 The impact of the Recession on the County Council itself will continue to be managed through the RP&R process including budget and performance monitoring. This report focuses primarily on the external impact of the Recession and is the third such report following on from January and July 2009 reports to Cabinet.

3. Recession Update

3.1 The latest economic data paints a mixed picture at the macro economic level and this is reflected also at the Regional level. There are some positive signs at a regional level although the latest SEEDA economic snapshot (available on request) does also indicate a varying pattern across different sectors and geographical areas of the South East. Access to finance is still a major issue for small business across the region and this was highlighted as a

key issue in the East Sussex Business Recession Survey. The County Council has initiated dialogue with its own bankers (National Westminster Bank) to identify whether steps could be taken that would enable it to increase small business lending to East Sussex companies.

3.2 Whilst the RP&R process will be the mechanism by which the impact of the recession on the County Council will be managed, the impact of the likely significant public sector expenditure reductions over the course of the next Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) are likely to hit East Sussex disproportionately, given the dependence on the public service sector for employment across the County.

3.3 In terms of specific areas of concern, the recession is having an impact in particular on those Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET). Whilst the figures for October across East Sussex show that compared to the previous 3 years the numbers are lower, there has been a significant increase in the number of “unknowns”, which is now at the same level as October 2006. In addition, the Local Area Agreement indicator for this target is currently reporting a red RAG score for the first two quarters. There are also differences across the different District and Borough Council areas and figures for each of these are available on request.

3.4 There are some early indications that the impact of the recession is now affecting individuals’ mental health. For example, the Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC) have identified a 28% increase in related enquiries compared to the comparative period the year before.

4. Action Plan Progress

4.1 The Recession action plan is built on a strong evidence base and has three areas of focus;

- Businesses
- Residents and
- the VCS and Communities.

4.2 It remains important to recognise that, in all sectors, there will be significant variation across the different areas and communities of East Sussex and that plans will need to be flexible, responsive and based in strong partnerships, both within and outside East Sussex. Appendix 1 details progress on the action plan and Cabinet will wish to note the significant progress and activity that has been made across all three areas of focus.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The recession, as expected, is proving to be challenging for businesses, residents and the voluntary and community sector right across the County. The County Council will continue to work in partnership with key partners to ensure that the effects of the recession on the areas of focus can be mitigated and that appropriate responses are supported by a strong evidence base.

Becky Shaw
Director Policy & Communications

Contact Officer: Kieran McNamara Tel: 01273-481268

Local Members: All.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: Various.

Recession Action Plan Cabinet – January 2010

Actions proposed to address evidence gap		Lead		Progress highlights
1. To establish and maintain an evidence base drawing on a range of qualitative and quantitative information from national and local sources and using an agreed set of relevant local indicators to monitor and predict impacts of the recession in East Sussex.	1a) Review and identify current indicators, sources and gaps so, internally and with task force, we can agree a set of indicators.	Director of Policy & Communication (DPC)	Ongoing	Indicators agreed (includes wide range of social and economic indicators) and monitored regularly. Available on request.
	1b) Identify regular information requests/briefing needs/opportunities for engagement with partners	DPC	Ongoing	
2. Work through the “task force” of relevant partners including B& Districts, H & B Task Force, JCPlus, FSB, Sussex Ent, NFU and VCS representatives (including CAB).	2a) Identify opportunities for joint working	DPC	Ongoing	Joint approach to the publication of fact sheets for residents with all Districts & Boroughs. Includes regular discussion with the East Sussex Rural Partnership to ensure a good understanding of rural communities perspective and experience.
3. Undertake urgently surveys of local businesses and the ESCC Residents’ Panel to assess impact on the ground and expectations and to use any information from Scrutiny reviews.	3a) Business survey issued, results available and action feedback	DPC	Done	Business survey results have been fed into the Regional Development Agency economic intelligence unit, presented to the Hastings & Bexhill Task Force and the East Sussex Business & Enterprise Task Group. In particular, the evidence on

				the state of the construction sector was used as robust evidence to support the Build East Sussex project.
	3b) Residents Panel issued results available and action feedback	DPC	Done	Results of the Residents Panel survey and actions to be taken as a result are on the County Council's website. Actions include a wider range of information about the recession on our website and via 'Your County' magazine. Additional 'beat the recession' fact sheets on topics the Panel told us they were interested in, are now being issued. This is a joint project with the Boroughs and Districts and cover: Saving energy, Benefits Advice for businesses Debt and money management Jobs and retraining Free things to do and places to visit In response to residents views, more publicity is also being given to Trading Standards to raise awareness about scams/cowboy builders etc.
	3c) VCS questionnaire	VCS	Ongoing	This has been incorporated

				into the development of the Local Resilience Action Plan which is being launched at the "Big Event" on the 20th January 2010.
	3d) Agree future need/programme of surveys in context of map of other partners surveys especially locally	DPC	Jan 2010	To be reviewed by Task Force at its next meeting on the 15th January 2010.
4. To establish an internal group to meet virtually primarily (with an agreed terms of reference) of representatives from all relevant services to guide the ESCC input to the above and agree reporting schedule.		DPC		Done
Communications				
5. To develop and deliver an effective and confident, partnership communication strategy (for residents, businesses, communities, elected Members and staff) using accurate information about the local position and action and signposting sources of advice and help. The strategy will include maximum use of existing channels and mechanisms as well as exploration of new approaches.	5a) Review current vehicles and messages and review potential vehicles to reach businesses, residents and VCS/Communities	DPC	Ongoing	See 3b above
	5b) Your County recession features	DPC		Your County magazine has continued with features on beating the recession in the last 4 issues, including the summer and autumn 2009 editions, the latter highlighting the 6 fact sheets available for residents. Recession topics covered in Your County reflect preferences of the Residents Panel fed back via the recession survey. A number of press releases have been issued on the £1million fund, credit unions

				and other recession related topics with other publicity planned for the Tomorrow's People initiative.
	5c) ESCC Web site signposting	DPC	Ongoing	Improved signposting via Your County, to the Council's website, as well as press releases, have highlighted improved web pages on the recession
	5d) Advice to Councillors	DPC/DLP	Ongoing	
	<i>Advice direct to business (see below)</i>			
Best Practice				
6. To maintain a comprehensive understanding of approaches being taken elsewhere and to encourage ideas from a wide range of sources.		All. DPC to collate	Ongoing	The activities of the County Council, in particular its robust evidence based approach and support for innovative initiatives continues to be cited as an example of best practice through for example, publications of the LGA, CCN and recently a presentation on the Tomorrows People initiative at the CCN Conference.
Action proposed to help businesses (see 5 above for comms)				
7. To ensure a strong network of business support agencies is in place with an effective communication strategy.	7a) Review overall provision and strength of links to identify need and work jointly where needed	DPC	Ongoing	Led by Business and Enterprise Group which has utilized the business recession survey to inform its activities and used the evidence in its discussions

				with the new Business Link provider for the South East, SERCO.
	7b) Monitor success of Business Link scheme and review action after first phase	DPC	Ongoing	All 300 reviews have now been undertaken & one case study contained in the Your County publication. Project impact evaluation information on the success of the project will be available in due course.
	7c) To consider other opportunities to support local businesses including Government (Real Help for Businesses Now' campaign) and (BETRE):	DPC	Ongoing	Dialogue with SERCO concerning specific East Sussex Business needs based on the available evidence has commenced.
	7d) Consider (with task force and Tourism partnership) potential to increase Tourism promotion work	DPC	Ongoing	
	7e) Explore potential to support businesses through increased concession/benefit take up and other cost reduction measures	DPC	Ongoing	
	7f) Signposting to businesses Joint NNDR leaflet Trading Standards Review other vehicles post survey	DPC DLP DPC	Ongoing	Done Underway Underway
	7g) Advice to small rural at South of England Show	DPC	June 09	Done
	7h) Discussions with Sussex Enterprise and other Business Organisations about possible action	DPC	Ongoing	Regular update session being held with Sussex Enterprise and this will now be broadened to include the larger chambers of commerce across East

				Sussex, the FSB and IoD.
	7i) Review other business support initiatives and their appropriateness	DPC/Dep CEX & DCR	Ongoing	
	7j) Sign up to Federation of Small Business Accord	DPC		Done
	7k) Review support to new business/enterprise and opportunities to create appropriate environment	DPC/Dep CEX & DCR	Ongoing	This is a critical issue with a new Business Link contractor for the South East (SERCO). ESSC are represented on the regional business link transition group and will be raising this directly with the new contractor.
8. To ensure, through Trading Standards and through joint work with Environmental Health and others, that standards are maintained and action taken against Rogue Traders.	<p>8a) Actively recruiting to the Buy With Confidence scheme for good local traders</p> <p>8b) maintaining an e-group: the 'Business Support Network' (BSN) to provide local businesses with information on commercial scams and on opportunities available for assistance during the recession</p> <p>8c) Checking that businesses continue to comply with fair trading legislation, whilst disrupting rogue traders and those operating in the shadow economy, in order to ensure fair competition for those trading in the County - with goods and services being accurately measured, correctly described and priced</p>	DLP	Ongoing	<p>Active recruitment continues with 30 new traders approved and 65 applications in the pipeline at the end of Q2</p> <p>BSN Members continue to be advised of business scams, opportunities and new legislation that come to the attention of the service</p> <p>Regulatory and enforcement activities continue. One rogue trader imprisoned for 4½ years following joint action with Sussex Police; undertaking given to the court by a person scamming residents.</p>

	8d) Planning the 2009 Local Life Show to showcase good local businesses			2009 Show held. Detailed report to Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 17/11/09, who recommended to Cabinet that "adequate funding for the event continue through the Reconciling Policy and Resources Process".
Action proposed potential issues for ESCC as purchaser from local businesses				
9 and 10. To continue to explore faster payment to local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and ways of making it easier to work with ESCC	9a) Reduced payment times to local SMEs and VCS - Payment terms set at ten days – performance monitored and reported	Dep CEx & DCR	31 January 2009	Done - Terms changed in January and monitoring in place. Latest monitoring shows average SME payment period is 13 days for the year to date
	9c) Respond to the findings of the Scrutiny Review of Procurement from SMEs	DLP/Dep CEx & DCR	28th April Cabinet	Review now completed and reported to Cabinet along with the management response on 15 December
	9c) Respond to the recommendations of the Government's (BERR) Glover report on SMEs	DLP/Dep CEx & DCR		The recommendations from the Scrutiny Review (see 9b) are being mapped onto the Glover report and any outstanding issues will be considered by Procurement Steering Group.
	9d) Revise the procurement thresholds within the Council's Contract Standing Orders	DLP/Dep CEx & DCR		Revised CSOs were approved by Governance Committee 10 March 2009. Procurement thresholds

				were not increased following consideration by Procurement Steering Group.
	9f) Review compliance with Small Business Friendly Concordat	Dep CEx & DCR/ Procurement Steering Group (PSG)	Ongoing	Departments via PSG are reviewing opportunities for repackaging contracts and engaging with SMEs as they arise. This is ongoing.
	9g) Capital programme Continuing to lobby through region to bring forward capital schemes (link road and academies plus maintenance)	CEx	ongoing	Accelerated maintenance spend is in progress. Other lobbying is through service departments.
	9h. To explore potential of stimulus to housing construction through release of land via building licence, allowing deferred payment	Dep CEx & DCR		Soft market testing underway. Early feedback suggests that would have a limited impact and only suitable for land with particular form of planning consent due to market factors and funding requirements.
	9i) To explore method to encourage greater use of local firms as sub-contractors to main contractors on larger schemes	DLP/Dep CEx & DCR		Funding obtained and "Build East Sussex" is in development in partnership with B&HCC. Launch date set for 27 January at East Sussex National Golf Club and Spa.
	11. To ensure business continuity arrangements are in place and staff are aware of the likely increase in businesses closure/receivership	DLP	Ongoing	This has been highlighted in the Corporate Business Continuity group meetings and is a recognised issue

				for all Departments to be aware of.
12. To ensure, through Reconciling Policy and Resources planning, maximum value for money is achieved.		COMT	Ongoing	
Action proposed to tackle housing, transport and other lifestyle issues				
13. To continue work with housing authorities through the Supporting People programme to consider the impact of the recession on the housing market (including those measured through Local Area Agreement targets) and on residents (especially the most vulnerable)	13a) Agree how to work in practice is impacts identified and links in place to Recession task force and East Sussex Housing Officers Group	DASC	Ongoing liaison	The East Sussex Housing Officers Group will be linking into the Recession Task Force through their Borough/District representatives. This is a critical area given the “red” indicator for local repossession identified through the Recession Task Force indicators.
14. Explore whether there is an increased use of public transport related to recession and consider next steps		DT&E	Ongoing	Rising fuel prices and the recession have impacted on traffic movements nationally and this is likely to be similar in East Sussex, for which no data is available at present but is being kept under review.
15. Consider potential to improve maintain healthier living campaigns/skill provision.		DPC/DASC	Ongoing	
16. Local food:	16a) Consider potential value to be added by ESCC to promotion of local food/produce	DPC	By end June	Consideration to a potential project has been

				undertaken but given the work already undertaken by A Taste of Sussex, jointly funded by East and West Sussex County Council, no additional support has been identified at this stage.
Action proposed to support benefit entitlement take up and money management advice				
17. To continue work with Credit Unions to encourage ethical saving by County Council staff and to increase local access to fair cost credit. (NB SERCO processing without charge)	17a. East Sussex Credit Union (ESCU) - Payment of £30,000 to increase capital and speed up loan requests.	Dep CEx & DCR	Ongoing	Further promotion of the credit union through their attendance at County Hall and through introductions to ESCC local suppliers has been undertaken. There continues to be a modest increase in both savers and borrowers as a result.
	17b. Hastings and Rother Credit Union (HRCU) Payment of £5,000 to increase speed of processing requests	Dep CEx & DCR		Discussions between the East Sussex and Hastings and Rother credit union are ongoing about a merger.
	17c Explore mergers within East Sussex and with Kent to create more sustainable CUs	Dep CEx & DCR.		See above.
18 Provide strong signposting to fair cost credit and financial advice and to ensure a strong network of benefit and income advice agencies is in place with an effective communication strategy	18a) Review of current financial inclusion/poverty work/partnerships within East Sussex	DPC	Done	Practice led framework agreed to ensure co-ordination across ESCC activities Event planned for February 2010 involving all main players and keynote speaker. Funding now
	18b) Organise an event with all interested organisations to create a stronger, integrated network (Community Banking Partnership)	Dep CEx & DCR.		

				secured for this releasing the successful recession fund bid. Expect further bid for pump priming support to form a Partnership following February event.
	18c) Work with JCP to facilitate their capacity issues/outreach work by making property etc available if needed	DPC	Ongoing	List of potential premises provided to JCP who are now considering. Joint work promoting opportunities/CV writing etc now being undertaken in Library settings (see 20 below).
18.1 Increase local access to fair cost credit for individuals	18d) Work with SEEDA/LG/B&HCC/DWP/CU re access to easy advice - Payment of £20,000 ESCC contribution	Dep CEx & DCR.		Contribution agreed – awaiting update from SEEDA
18.2 Reducing costs	18e) Promote buy with confidence scheme	DLP	Ongoing	New trader directory released 5 June 2009. Some 25,000 copies have been distributed to individuals, and via public buildings such as libraries etc.
19. Protect residents through Trading Standards	19a) identify Loan Sharks operating in the community and close down their activities whilst signposting residents to possible alternative sources of financial support. Action to include “Fun and Finance” days - the key objectives include increasing access to and take up of services such as debt advice, savings and affordable credit, and targeting and continuing the education program aimed at deterring people from using illegal money lenders (loan sharks	DLP	Ongoing	Working alongside Birmingham Trading Standards Loan Shark team. Support from recession fund used to hold three successful events in Hastings and Eastbourne

	<p>19b) promote good local businesses to residents through the Buy with Confidence scheme, especially the elderly and vulnerable disrupting rogue traders by attending at incidents when notified of their occurrence.</p> <p>19c) establish No Cold Calling Zones across the County and educating residents to be able to say 'No' to unwanted doorstep callers.</p> <p>19d) gather intelligence on national and international scams being perpetrated in the County, taking action where possible, and providing support to identified victims</p>			<p>Advertising campaign underway for the rest of this financial year incorporating a greater activity in the north Wealden area</p> <p>1 NCCZ already established this financial year with 6 launching in January and 4 in the pipeline.</p> <p>A hugely successful 'Scamnesty' project leading to support for victims, including one case shown on BBC1's 'The One Show'.</p>
20. To ensure ESCC provision linked up: current ESCC benefits work by Age Concern, DWP/ASC and Children Centre work and consider in context of 18b) how to address any gaps.	20 Map current ESCC commissioning and/or facilitation of benefit advice provision and link financial inclusion work across ESCC	DASC/DPC	Done	<p>Practice led framework agreed to deliver joined up work within ESCC and to enable strong partnership working (see 18b above)</p> <p>A Job Club run by NewCEP will be held at Uckfield Library in the New Year.</p>
21.To continue to provide appropriate advice to staff (both to advise residents and personally)		DLP	Ongoing	Staff who have been made redundant are given the opportunity to access training on preparing for retirement; CV writing; interview skills.
Action proposed to tackle crime and community safety impacts				

22. To continue to work with partners through the East Sussex Safer Communities Steering Group to consider the impact of recession on crime and fear of crime.		DPC	Ongoing	Regular review of impact undertaken and action taken where needed.
Action proposed to tackle impact on adult skills				
23. To continue to work with partners through the Adult Learning and Skills Partnership, to consider the impact of the recession on adult skills provision, including the potential to explore opportunities within partners' control e.g. apprenticeship requirements in new or revised contracts	23a) Deliver agreed action plan	DPC	Ongoing	Recession major focus of the Board and separate sub-group created. The Board brought together all the partners to ensure a coordinated approach to the successful Future Jobs Fund bid.
	23b) SEEDA due to produce employment/skills bulletin for each area by end March	DPC	Review value	Not yet received.
	23c) Maximise opportunities provided by external funding	DPC	Done	Successful joint bid submitted with local partners (led by Hastings BC) for Future Jobs Fund to create 354 new jobs for target group in East Sussex.
Action proposed to tackle any impact on mental health issues				
24. To continue to work with health and voluntary sector partners to consider and respond to the impact of the recession on mental health and relationship needs/provision (contact	24a) Identify evidence of actual impact – Discussions with Supporting People and the Eastbourne Mental Health Action group (including Samaritans) suggest there is no direct impact yet identified other than the increased demand for the	DPC/ DASC	Ongoing	Evidence now emerging from some quarters and is being actively kept under review.

with Relate?) and also to explore, with partners, the potential contribution of cultural provision.	CAB service.			
Action proposed to tackle impact on VCS and communities				
26. To continue to work with VCS and community partners to consider and respond to the recession.	26a) Collate requests for funding and coordinate with others including: District/Boroughs, PCTs, ESCC departments and Community Foundation	DPC	Ongoing	Information on 2009 – 2010 funding being gathered. There have been a number of successful VCS bids to the East Sussex recession Fund (see Lead Member report for more information).
	26b) Review requests in context of CPF allocations and others allocations	DPC	Ongoing	Boroughs and Districts have increased 2009/10 funding to local CABs. The increase ranges from one-offs to increases over 3 years. In total Boroughs and Districts contribute £638,448.00 per annum to local CABs. In addition ESCC contracts with CAB on various projects and also provides £58,000p/a.
	26c) Consider how best to support CVS in their support to VCOs: Informed by VCS survey.	DPC	Ongoing	A local partnership of voluntary sector organisations (coordinated by Eastbourne Association for Voluntary Service) and the University of Brighton are carrying out an in-depth survey to map effects and identify current and future

				<p>support needs of the VCS.</p> <p>The outcome of the project will be a 'Local Resilience Action Plan for East Sussex', that will help all sectors plan services during and after the recession.</p> <p>The Local Resilience Action Plan for East Sussex will be launched on January 20th 2010.</p>
	26d) Responding to increase in number of volunteers through Voluntary Development Officer (VDO) activity including people on "short hours" and strengthen collaboration between East Sussex Volunteering Scheme and JCP.	DPC	Ongoing	VDO working alongside JCP on promoting volunteering opportunities, via JCP roadshows.
	26e) Work with Sent/SEEDA re volunteers and retaining business skills including Certificate in Community Volunteering (Volunteering Passport).	DPC		Successful Volunteer Passport bid submitted by VCS to Recession Fund.
	26f). To consider specific proposal by Tomorrow's People for local Employment Bond.	DPC	Ongoing	
Action to tackle impact on ESCC				
27. The impact of the recession on the County Council will be considered through Reconciling Policy and Resources processes, both through budget and target setting for 2009/10 but also through budget and performance monitoring during the year		COMT	Ongoing	
Specific Resources				

28. Apply criteria and process for use of one off allocation.		DPC	21 applications received, with 11 being supported to date, accounting for just under half of the total allocation. There are a number of other bids currently being assessed, a number of which were original unsuccessful applications who have been asked for further evidence, additional information etc. We are working with potential bidders to make best use of the limited resource.
29. Equality Impact Assessment of action plan	Completed	DPC	

Committee:	Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development
Date:	15 December 2009
Report By:	Director of Policy & Communications
Title of Report:	East Sussex Recession Fund
Purpose of Report	To provide a summary of the grants awarded to date

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development is recommended to:

- 1. welcome the breadth and nature of the projects that have been supported;**
 - 2. note that almost half the total allocation has been awarded to date; and**
 - 3. further review the operation of the Fund when the committed total reaches 75% of the Fund limit.**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 The impact of the recession on the County Council will continue to be managed through our Reconciling Policy and Resources processes including budget and performance monitoring.

1.2 A one off fund of £1m (including £180,000 of existing funding) was agreed as part of the 2009/10 budget, with the fund awarding grants of up to 75% of the total projects costs.

2. Background Information

2.1 In January 2009 the Cabinet considered a detailed report on the recession and agreed that an action plan be developed through discussions with a range of partner organisations, to deliver the agreed policy steer to:

"Take account of the effect of the economic downturn on residents, businesses and services in the County Council's business and financial plans to ensure that the effects for local people are minimised as far as possible in the short term and that, in the longer term, the area is well placed to emerge in a strengthened position at the end of the current period of economic uncertainty."

2.2 The recession action plan is built on a strong evidence base and has three areas of focus; a) Businesses b) Residents and c) the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and Communities.

2.3 The East Sussex Recession Fund is one part of the support put in place to help the identified three areas of focus. The criteria and process for awarding grants from the fund were agreed at the Cabinet meeting on the 28 April 2009.

3. Grants to Date

3.1 The East Sussex Recession Fund has attracted a great deal of interest from a wide range of potential applicants. The Strategic Economic Development & Skills team have provided advice and guidance to applicants, with the added benefit of the East Sussex Bidders Internal group (representing all Departments) also providing their views on the bids submitted.

3.2 To date, 21 applications have been received so far, 12 of which have been approved. The funding committed to date is £482,916, with an expected cash match funding of £382,915 and in-kind match funding of £19,900. A number of the successful bids approved are likely to lead to subsequent bids to the Fund.

3.3 Among some of the outputs that we are funding are one to one counselling sessions for over 70 people in need, 100 voluntary organisations supported to provide learner placements for volunteers, 150 people supported to becoming volunteers, over 80 people will be supported to open savings accounts; over 300 businesses will receive bespoke business reviews and a new Construction Network will be facilitated which will support small companies in the construction sector.

3.4 A number of the unsuccessful bids have been encouraged to resubmit, with the main reasons for non-approval being lack of detailed evidence for the need of the project, possible duplication of existing provision, lack of match funding, costs and geographic coverage of projects.

3.5 Appendix 1 provides summary details of the projects approved to date and the level of grant awarded, the cash match funding and the in kind contribution towards the costs as well.

4. Next Steps

4.1 The East Sussex Recession Fund has now had 50% of its available funding committed, with a number of bids expected in the next few months. As with any finite funding source there will be a point at which no further bids can be accepted. Once the Fund has had 75% of its budget committed it would seem an appropriate point to take stock to see if there are any particular areas of focus that the County Council would wish to encourage further bids to address.

4.2 In order to ensure full compliance with the County Council's priorities, it remains necessary to have an internal support of a team or an individual.

Becky Shaw
Director Policy & Communications

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Local Members: All.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: Various.

Annex 1 – Projects approved

Organisation	Title of project	Description	District Area	Amount	Cash Match funding	In-kind match funding
Newcep	Newcep Extra	To assist 125 clients, with a focus on Parker Pen, with their job search, action planning and skills development	Eastbourne, Lewes, Wealden	75,000	227,000	0
Eastbourne Action for Voluntary Services	Local Resilience Action Plan	To produce a Local Resilience Plan for East Sussex., building on the work of ESCC Recession Task Force	Countywide	9,900	0	0
ESCC – CRD	Build East Sussex	To establish a facilitated local construction network, to include an online website & integrated database.	Countywide	50,000	27,275	5,500
ESCC - Chief Executive's	Loan Sharks	To deliver the Loan Sharks project in Eastbourne and Hastings. This will support 80 people to take up savings accounts, it will aim to promote the support offered by the illegal money lending team helpline.	Eastbourne, Hastings	9,975	0	0
Hastings Voluntary Action	Volunteering Passport	To enhance employment prospects of volunteers through a programme of accredited learning. 150 learners will be recruited onto the programme. Over 100 voluntary organisations will be supported to offer learner placements	Countywide	60,000	20,000	10,000
Tomorrow's People	East Sussex Bond	The setting up of a Bond to deliver community based work programmes combining training, community projects, job search and personal development.	Countywide	100,000	30,600	3,400
ESCC – CRD	East Sussex Community Banking Partnership	To organise an initial event to gain commitment of key players to the development of a Community Banking Partnership.	Countywide	5,000	0	1,000
East Sussex Citizens Advice Bureau	Scaling up independent advice	To recruit and train an additional 90 volunteers to be able to provide a 30% increase in additional support to the public.	Countywide	99,901	48,591	0
Sussex Enterprise	Business Advice ¹	To fund 300 business reviews, these businesses will then receive a bespoke	Countywide	50,000	50,000	0

¹ Funded partly through the Economic Development Investment Support (EDIS) Fund, which has been absorbed as part of the Recession Fund

		action plan based on their needs.				
Relate Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne & Worthing Districts	Eastbourne Counselling Bursary	To support at least 70 clients with counselling session bursaries to help them access counselling that they could otherwise not afford.	Based in Eastbourne but the project is open Countywide	10,000	0	0
People Matter	Job search drop-in and computer centre	To deliver a minimum of 120 sessions to at least 500 regular client users. To support these clients to access job opportunities and or learning opportunities as appropriate.	Based in Eastbourne but the project is open Countywide	13,140	28,040	0
TOTAL				482,916	382,915	19,900