

INTERNATIONAL LINKS

Report by the Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council

SUMMARY

Hampshire County Council Cabinet has agreed the following framework for its international activity which sets out the range, purpose and benefits of this area of work.

BACKGROUND

1. The County Council has been involved in European and international activity for many years. The focus at a corporate level has been to give the Council a position of influence and profile nationally and internationally, which has then contributed to the Council's strategic objectives and to service related benefits through projects and activities at a departmental level. The attached appendix provides details of networks, partnerships and projects.
2. The County Council's active involvement has led to an enormous potential for sharing expertise, knowledge and experience, which has influenced the development of policy and practice on issues of priority for the Council, where it can play a strong leadership role locally, nationally and internationally.
3. It is timely with a new Cabinet member for External Affairs to review the Council's European and international work to ensure there are shared values and objectives in the activities undertaken and benefits achieved. The framework for this review needs to include the 2002/03 Best Value review of international relations which identified the need for:-
 - ! a clear vision to provide a corporate framework for the County Council's international work
 - ! better communication both of the vision and content of international work
 - ! monitoring and evaluation to identify what works and what the benefits are, and to support decision making on potential new activities
 - ! effective partnership working
 - ! better understanding within the County Council so internal stakeholders are engaged.

FRAMEWORK

4. As a result of the review, the following vision has been developed and endorsed by DMTs and has now been agreed by Cabinet as the framework for the Council's activities: Hampshire County Council's status as an excellent authority will be supported, developed and sustained through its European and international activities. It will work

with international networks and agencies to promote the interests of Hampshire and influence and shape policy development internally and in Europe for the benefit of Hampshire people. International work adds value to the Council's corporate priorities and services to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of Hampshire.

We will do this by:-

- (a) Ensuring that all international activity supports the Council's corporate and service priorities
- (b) Using our experience and expertise to influence policy and funding programme development internally and in Europe
- (c) Taking a lead role in international organisations which best represent Hampshire's interests
- (d) Working in partnership with local stakeholders and international partners
- (e) Seeking external funding where this supports and adds value to priority projects
- (f) Providing regular, relevant and well targeted information across the County Council
- (g) Utilising the Brussels Office as a resource for Hampshire in Europe

5. This vision can continue to deliver international activity with benefits corporately of:

- ! profile
- ! influence
- ! sharing expertise
- ! learning
- ! leadership
- ! partnership working

and can do so by building on current activities, expertise and experience and strengthening the external and outward looking face of the Council.

PROFILE

6. Hampshire County Council is well recognised in European and international networks due to its:-

- ! work for AER on the role and definition of regions, which has contributed to enhancing the position of Counties as directly elected authorities at the level below national government
- ! representation on the bureau (Executive) of AER, CPMR and POLIS
- ! contribution to 'expert groups' advising the EU on forthcoming legislation
- ! position in RETIS and thereby invitation to contribute to national and international conferences

7. Hampshire can influence legislation and policy development (something like 70% of national legislation originates in Europe) through networking and lobbying and has

- ! contributed to an AER Group on GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services)
- ! contributed to a regional position on future framework for structural funds
- ! led and participated in projects which innovate and influence future policy and funding streams

SHARING EXPERTISE

8. Through networks and projects, Hampshire can contribute its expertise and experience and has:-
- ! contributed to AER working groups on a wide range of topics
 - ! participated in Dynamo regions networks as part of COR (Committee of the Regions) open days to demonstrate the real role of more prosperous regions within European regional policy
 - ! led on environment and rural development portfolios within South East England House in Brussels

LEARNING

9. Much of the focus and rationale for European project work is learning between partners and Hampshire has participated in:-
- ! RETIS peer reviews
 - ! projects (see appendix)
 - ! sharing information between partnerships in Brussels

Involvement in European projects also provides individual career development opportunities for officers and enhances career satisfaction and retention of good officers.

LEADERSHIP

10. The activities above which contribute to profile and influence illustrate the leadership role Hampshire has developed over many years and the opportunities to lead within:
- ! AER working groups
 - ! Brussels office partnership
 - ! RETIS, POLIS and CPMR
 - ! Organisations in the South East (South East European Officers Group, and SEERA/SEEDA Joint Europe Committee)

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

11. Key partnerships for Hampshire which have delivered better results within the European and international arena include:-

- ! Brussels office and South East England House
- ! Accord with Basse-Normandie
- ! Arc Manche
- ! Funded projects (see appendix)

DELIVERY

12. Hampshire's current European and international activities can therefore deliver the vision and provide a beneficial framework for future activities. The infrastructure is also in place:-
 - ! Cabinet Member for external affairs
 - ! Members of all parties formally nominated to represent the County Council on external organisation and networks
 - ! Brussels office colocated in South East England House
 - ! corporate policy lead in Chief Executive's Policy Unit
 - ! departmental leads in each department
 - ! International officers group formed of departmental contacts and led by Policy Unit
 - ! links with relevant regional bodies and networks (JEC, SEEO, SEERA)
 - ! external funding advice and support within Economic Development Office.
13. Hampshire attracts funds in a number of areas where the Council has special expertise and offers innovative projects to contribute to Europe wide learning. These funds are won by competitive bidding and are usually many times over subscribed. Hampshire has a strong track record in attracting funds, as can be seen from the table in the annex
14. There is a need for more effective communication within the organisation, a clear focus on those networks and organisations that can deliver the vision, identification by some departments of how they can contribute to and benefit from the links that exist and activities that will add value to their own service priorities and maybe lead to opportunities to attract external funds. DMTs have been asked to identify ways of supporting the vision for international links and developing their departmental activities.
15. The members who represent the County Council on European and international organisations are well placed to develop these processes and to work with the Policy Unit and the International officers Group to identify priority activities to deliver the vision and benefits for international relations and how information is shared and promoted through the Council.

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INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS, PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECTS AND FUNDING

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. Assembly of European Regions (AER)

Created in 1985, the AER is network representing over two hundred and fifty regions and local authorities across the whole of Europe. Hampshire County Council has been a member since 1986. The Assembly is actively engaged in a number of activities of interest to the County Council and works through four committees:

Committee A – Institutional Affairs

Committee B – Social Cohesion, Social Services and Public Health

Committee C – Regional Policies, Territorial Planning, Infrastructure, Environment and Tourism

Committee D – Culture, Education and Training, Youth, Media and Information Technology and Sport

Hampshire has made significant input into a Working Group on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and Services of General Interest which could have a major impact on delivery of public services by opening services to competition.

Corporately, the County Council has an interest in a number of policy issues promoted by AER. Hampshire led a Working Group set up to examine the issue of regionalism across Europe and influence European policy in this area. The Working Group concluded that a region should be defined as ‘the territorial body established at the level immediately below that of the state and endowed with political self-government’.

For the past three years, HCC have sponsored a young person to attend the AER Youth Summer School. In 2005, the Youth Service also sponsored the attendance of Anne Gammon from Hampshire County Youth Council and she was elected to the AER Youth Team for a period of two years.

2. CPMR / Atlantic Arc

The County Council has been an active member of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) since 1991. The CPMR was founded in Saint-Malo in 1973 on the initiative of the Region of Brittany to represent and protect the interests of peripheral and maritime regions in Europe. The CPMR's membership includes 149 Regions from 27 states (members and non-members of the EU). CPMR works through seven geographical Commissions. Hampshire County Council is a member of the Atlantic Arc Commission and a focus on maritime issues can offer benefit to Hampshire.

3. Arc Manche

Arc Manche is a network of UK and French regions which border the Channel and supports existing bi-lateral links such as that between Hampshire and Basse Normandie.

The benefits for Hampshire are seen as greater weight for political lobbying, ensuring access to any funding streams for the member regions involved and to enhance recognition for the Channel and cooperation between regions bordering it. This has already led to potential under the proposed new Interreg programme for 2007-13.

4. Basse Normandie Accord

The Hampshire-Basse Normandie Accord was signed on 27 October 1989, formalising close links between the two regions which date back over centuries. The main focus at the time was to work together as the Single Market approached in 1992 and to assess the impact of the Channel Tunnel on the economies of both regions. The latter concerns turned out to be unfounded but this special connection has led to extensive sharing of knowledge and exchanges across a wide range of subjects from social care to transport. This partnership has strengthened and developed over the years and provides a firm base for our joint activities. Both regions are active members of AER, CPMR and Arc Manche.

5. RETIS (the European Transregional Network for Social Inclusion)

Established in 2002 and funded by the EU, RETIS is a political network composed of European regional and local authorities working together to implement and develop social inclusion policies and promote citizenship and democracy regionally and locally. Through membership of AER and informal promotion of work on Local Strategic Partnerships, Hampshire County Council was invited to join RETIS. Councillor Kirk is a Vice-President.

Involvement in RETIS will continue to provide an opportunity to further extend our sphere of influence in the European arena and to share some of the many examples of good practice from the Hampshire experience, particularly in the areas of user engagement and empowerment. In addition, it provides an opportunity to learn from the experience of other European regions many of which face similar geographic and demographic changes and challenges. It may also provide early information about access to EU funding streams.

6. Dynamo Regions

South East England House (SEEH) in Brussels has concentrated its efforts in lobbying for continued access to EU structural funds post-2007 by working with a selection of European regions with similar characteristics and concerns. This Group is called 'Dynamo Regions', a description that reflects the dynamism of the participating regions and the impact these regions make on the national and European economy. These regions face the dual challenge of maintaining and promoting continued economic growth to boost prosperity whilst responding to the ever more urgent need to use our natural resources wisely, promote more sustainable lifestyles and reduce environmental impacts.

7. POLIS - (Promoting Operational Links through Integrated Systems)

HCC currently sits on the management committee of POLIS and has one year left of a three year term. Councillor Perry is the chair of the POLIS political group. Over the coming year, one of the main themes for this pan-European grouping will be the development of four transport pillars covering mobility and traffic efficiency, health and environment, safety and security and social and economics. Local transport plans and accessibility auditing remain on the agenda and the network will continue to lobby the EC on policy and future research and development opportunities.

8. Hampshire, Isle of Wight, West Sussex and Southampton Brussels Office Partnership (HWWS)

The County Council has been represented in Brussels since 1997. Currently, the Brussels Office represents the sub-regional partnerships of Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, West Sussex County Council and Southampton City Council. The Hampshire input includes Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

By working together as a partnership we:-

- Ensure a better understanding of the impact of Europe on local government
- Track and analyse policy and provide first class intelligence for officers and members in the home authorities
- Represent and lobby on behalf of the partnership and raise the profile of the sub-region and the role of local government

The partnership also has a business plan, which sets out priorities for the partnership. This means it is not exclusively Brussels-focused but identifies joint working opportunities in the UK and in Brussels. The current priority areas are:-

- Reform of EU regional policy and the structural funds
- Environment
- Governance and regionalism
- Social care and inclusion
- Agriculture and rural development

These are areas of importance to the partners and where working together can enhance impact both in the UK and in Brussels.

The Brussels Office is co-located in South East England House (SEEH) with other representative partnership offices for the South East i.e. Kent, South East Partners (East Sussex, Brighton and Hove), Thames Valley and SEED/SEERA. This provides the opportunity to cooperate at a regional level when appropriate.

9. Aalborg Commitments

The County Council signed up (with over a hundred other European local government signatories) to the Aalborg Commitments on sustainability in June 2004 - www.aalborgplus10.dk.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

European and International projects tend to be service related and led by individual departments.

1. Environment Department

The Environment Department is one of the County Council's most active players with regard to European and international issues.

PILOT

The County Council, through the Environment Department, is a partner in a project called PILOT which is being managed by the POLIS group. The project is contributing to EU policy development and best practice on sustainable urban transport. HCC involvement is through membership of an expert advisory group helping develop plans in four European cities by exporting Hampshire's approach to this type of work. In terms of the corporate strategy, the scheme supports both the overall aim of quality of life and more specifically 'stewardship of the environment'.

CIVITAS Project MIRACLES

Working alongside the cities of Barcelona, Rome and Cork, Hampshire is nearing completion of the four-year CIVITAS project that is demonstrating a package of environmentally friendly transport solutions for the city of Winchester. These include the monitoring of vehicle emissions to support the air quality action plan, the introduction of: parking discounts for environmentally

friendly cars, a public cycle loan scheme “bikeabout”, new concepts for the delivery of goods, a number of integrated transport information systems and reducing the emissions of private and public vehicle fleets including local buses.

Hampshire leads the UK element of this high profile project which builds on previous experience gained in DfT’s Clear Zones initiative and the Winchester Movement and Access Plan. Through the demonstration measures, the project aims to influence traveller behaviour towards a more sustainable future and guide the development of transport policies. Working alongside partners in Europe the project benefits from a wider perspective on the problems we are all trying to solve.

Through communicating with others the County council has been able to learn from our partners and develop solutions together. This supports a number of corporate strategy aims:-

- Aim 2 Stewardship of the Environment,
- Aim 3 Achieving economic prosperity,
- Aim 4 Building strong and safe communities,
- Aim 5 Improving services,
- Aim 6 Developing Councillors and staff.

Know-how partnership with Nizhny Novgorod

This partnership to share public transport planning knowledge and expertise with Nizhny Novgorod is drawing to a close and funding opportunities are being examined for a similar exchange on a waste management project theme.

MAPPED

The County Council is currently implementing the MAPPED project (Mobilisation and Accessibility Planning for PEople with Disabilities) involving partners in the UK, Italy, Spain and the Republic of Ireland. The aim is to provide help for people with disabilities in planning their journeys by developing an intelligent route planning system that will take particular note of their special requirements. Electronic maps will illustrate such features as gradients of streets and presence of steps, alongside more traditional planning aids as multi-modal travel information in real-time and access guides.

This project builds upon the successful PEPTRAN project which developed a portable journey planning system for public transport and pedestrian navigation. In MAPPED, a common system will be implemented in the partner cities of Dublin and Winchester enabling lessons to be learned from a cross-site evaluation. MAPPED supports the following Corporate Strategy Aims:-

- Aim 1 Maximising life opportunities,
- Aim 2 Stewardship of the environment,
- Aim 4 Building strong and safe communities,
- Aim 5 Improving services,
- Aim 6 Developing Councillors and staff.

ESPACE

ESPACE (European Spatial Planning: Adapting to Climate Events), is a four year project funded by the European Commission’s North West Europe INTERREG IIIB Programme and the UK Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The ESPACE project aims to:-

- prepare us for the impacts of climate change,
- develop solutions and policies to deal with these impacts, and
- recommend that adaptation to climate change is recognised within planning systems at the local, regional, national and European levels.

The outcomes of ESPACE directly relate to Hampshire County Council's corporate aims of 'building stronger and safer communities' and 'stewardship of the environment'.

LIFE3 – Sustainable Wetland Restoration in the New Forest

The LIFE3 – Sustainable Wetland Restoration in the New Forest (2002 – 2006) project follows on from the LIFE2 project (1997-2001). LIFE3 is a partnership working project with Hampshire County Council as the lead partner. It is a £2.9 million project which has received £1.2 million (40%) from the European Commission LIFE-Nature fund. The remaining cost is provided by the remaining six partners who together form the New Forest LIFE3 partnership. The project aims to:-

- restore over 600 hectares of rare and vulnerable wetland habitat in the New Forest in accordance with the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) management plan,
- establish the long-term sustainability of these wetland habitats through the development of a mechanism which ensures the integrated management of three main water basins in this area,
- create suitable conditions for the regeneration of a significant further area of priority habitat in the New Forest.

The outcomes of LIFE3 relate to Hampshire County Council's Corporate Strategy aims of 'stewardship of the environment' and 'building strong and safe communities'. The LIFE3 project will:-

- improve the quality of nature conservation areas in the New Forest area of Hampshire,
- enhance biodiversity and protecting habitats of threatened species through project restoration works and long-term sustainability of New Forest wetland habitats,
- involves the local New Forest community in our consultative forum to aid decision making for project restoration works,
- informs the community about the project and the benefits of the project for New Forest wetland habitats and local people in Hampshire.

European Natural Resources Initiative (NRI)

Following the launch of the Hampshire Natural Resources Initiative (NRI) in 2002, Hampshire County Council established a European NRI in Brussels during Green Week in 2003. The network of six European regions, which is addressing the more efficient use of natural resources, has met twice since and reconvened at Green Week 2005. This supports the 'stewardship of the environment' aim of the corporate strategy.

BRANCH

Hampshire County Council is a partner in the development of this English Nature led project called BRANCH (Biodiversity Requires Adaptations in Northwest Europe under a CHanging climate). This Interreg IIIB bid involves partners from the UK, France and the Netherlands, and focuses on the effects that climate change will have upon biodiversity, in particular those species and habitats that are designated under the European Habitats and Birds Directives.

The overall aim of the project is to develop, trial and promote the policies and tools that are necessary for Europe's biodiversity to adapt to the predicted impacts of climate change.

The project supports the 'stewardship of the environment' aim of the corporate strategy by gaining increased knowledge of how spatial planning can be used to assist in the management of the effects of climate change on biodiversity and achieving sustainable management of biodiversity for the county of Hampshire in light of climate change.

2. Adult and Children's Services

The newly formed Adults and Children's Services departments are well placed to implement the corporate Vision for International Relations and have a well-established and proactive approach to exploring opportunities for resourcing and learning that will benefit vulnerable groups in Hampshire.

Future Europeans - 'The right start in life for children and young people in Europe'

Children's Services are leading on a workshop at this International Conference taking place in November 2005. The event is supported by the Committee of the Regions and included in the official programme of UK Presidency events as an associated event. This workshop will examine how a partnership of South East Local Authorities (Hampshire, West Sussex and Surrey) are delivering the outcomes of the Children Act through integrated child-focussed local services. The new Director for Children's Services is also chairing a discussion panel on the first morning which includes key speakers from the Commission, Committee of the Regions and Department of Health. HCC are bringing a number of young people to the event which supports the corporate strategy aim of 'maximising life opportunities'.

DAPHNE

Hampshire County Council has been working in partnership with three other European regions and has just been notified that it has been successful in a bid for funding from the EU DAPHNE programme. This two year project will focus on delivering the preventative agenda through dissemination of material and training in Schools in Hampshire. The bid was led the Hampton Trust in partnership with the Children's Services and Mental Health. The Trust will also be working with many multiagency networks such as the Domestic Violence Forum and Local Strategic Partnerships across Hampshire to support the corporate priority of 'building strong and safe communities' and 'improving services'.

ALIVE

Through attendance of AER Committee B, Hampshire has been an active player in a European network of nine regions working together to better understand the policy implications of ageing. The network is continuing to explore the possibility of developing an EU funded project, so that new methods for an innovative regional policy can be developed. Hampshire is particularly keen to work with member regions in the area of assistive technology to support Adult Services' priority of supporting older people to remain living independently at home wherever possible and the County Councils corporate strategy aim of 'improving services'.

Officers from the Adult's Services also recently visited Finland learn about their use of Wristcare technology and are now implementing it in Hampshire to help older people to remain living at home independently for longer.

International Recruitment

Adult Services have successfully recruited four adaptation nurses and forty care assistants through a contract with Southampton Care Associates to work in the new nursing homes across Hampshire developed through the Enhance project. As part of the this project, HR continue to actively recruiting care staff from across the EU. This recruitment drive supports the corporate aims of 'maximising life opportunities', 'building strong and safe communities and 'improving services'.

Family Group Conferencing (FGC)

Hampshire have pioneered the introduction of FGC in the Children's sector after previous study visits to New Zealand. The department is now in contact with several organisations in Hampshire about starting a family mentoring plan to give families with children in care better support with a

view to introducing FGC to other care areas in a bid to support the corporate priority of 'building strong and safe communities'.

The visit of Dr Cindy Kiro (New Zealand's Commissioner for Children) to Hampshire in April 2005 has seen the development of a new focus for children's services in Hampshire which has at its heart supporting families to reach their own decisions about the future welfare of their children.

Kinship Care

Through working with and learning from the experience in other countries, Children's Services has developed policies and services for kinship care to support children to live within their extended families when they need to be cared for away from home. This is a high priority for Hampshire and supports the corporate aim of 'maximising life opportunities' and 'building strong and safe communities'.

International Conferences and Partner SearchesThe department continually explores opportunities through partnership working to share best practice and ultimately deliver better services. A good example are the links made with several European regions in the context of evidence based learning to assist in the production of Hampshire's Joint Investment Action Plan for the rehabilitation of disabled people back to work. Examples of recent international evidence-based research includes an analysis of Direct Payments/Personalised Budgets across the EU and an analysis of how other countries promote wellbeing and prevent dependency in the older persons sector. These activities all help to achieve the corporate strategy aim of 'improving services' in social care in Hampshire.

3. Recreation and Heritage Department

At a Departmental level, Recreation and Heritage has continued to provide officer support to members representing Hampshire on Committee D of the Assembly of European Regions.

Library and Information Service

Support is provided through Hatrics (a long established library cooperative providing information to business) to the Southern Area European Information Centre based in Southampton. As a result of the link with Basse Normandie through the Accord, Caen Public Library Service has been in membership since 1992 and regularly attends the Hatrics AGM. This supports Hampshire's corporate priority of 'achieving economic prosperity' and 'improving services'.

The Library and Information Service may also be involved in a project to help develop library services to businesses in the new member states of Eastern Europe. Southampton City Library is expected to be the main partner through Hatrics.

Hampshire's Library and Information Service recently hosted a day visit by senior library officials from Lithuania, who are undertaking a study tour in the UK. They were briefed on joint working between libraries, museums and archives in Hampshire and the Discovery Centre programme. It is hoped that this contact may open up the possibility of collaboration on projects of mutual interest.

Hampshire Archives Trust (HAT)

HAT fulfils an important outreach role for the Hampshire Record Office and undertakes visits to other European countries. Twenty five HAT members visited archives, libraries and historic sites in Ireland in 2003. The visit helped to raise the status of archive services in Ireland, which in many ways are not as well developed as those in the UK and other European countries. It also

established connections between archive collections in Hampshire and Ireland relating to families with landowning interests in both countries. These are likely to provide a focus for future cooperation and help achieve Hampshire's corporate strategy aim of 'improving services' and 'developing councillors and staff'.

Countryside Service

Countryside Service is continuing informal links with European partners following on from links made through the EU's Raphael programme (Community Action Programme in the field of Cultural Heritage) and LIFFE projects. They have joined Europark, undertaken exchanges to Basse Normandie through the Accord and formed links with the Conservatoire Littoral. There is also a link with Basingstoke Canal to Canal d'Orleans. These activities have helped support the corporate strategy aim of 'improving services'.

Sports

The Sports Service have the European Sporting Exchange Award (established in 1994) which funds top quality coaches to come to Hampshire with the objective of helping to improve Sports' Services in Hampshire.

Tourism

The Tourism Section also has a history of working with European neighbours in a bid to support the corporate priority of helping to achieve economic prosperity in Hampshire. They are members of Tourism South East who do overseas promotion in conjunction with Visit Britain. The Tourism Section successfully bid for and delivered three EU Konver funded projects during 1999 – 2001, as well as working with colleagues in the Countryside Service to develop the Pilgrim's Trail. This was a millennium project promoting a long distance walking route from Winchester to Portsmouth and then, via cross Channel ferry to join a French long distance trail which finishes at the Norman Sanctuary of Mont St Michel in Brittany.

4. Property, Buildings And Regulatory Services

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

The international renown of Hilliers has led to a number of international links and requests for expertise from organisations from across the world.

Trading Standards

With funding from the European Commission, trading standards were invited to assist the DTI on the coordination of enforcement activities under the General Product Safety Directive. This gave rise to the opportunity for Hampshire to coordinate a regional cooperation project involving a joint product sampling initiative across ten countries.

The department is also working with the DTI on two European enquiries relating to allegedly unsafe products produced in Hampshire. There are new environmental requirements relating to boat engines - emissions and noise - and with expertise in this area, the DTI have asked Hampshire to take a lead in advising the trade.

Quantitative Ingredient Declarations (QUID)

The Head of Science & Food Standards has been involved in an EU-funded Thematic Network relating to Quantitative Ingredient Declarations (QUID) on food labels. This involves testing samples along with another twenty five official EU Food Control Laboratories and then meeting up to compare results and agree protocols

The Head of Science & Food Standards hosted a visit from a delegation from the Kuwait Institute for Science and Research in December 2003 to see the Southampton Port Health facilities and Hampshire County Council's Laboratory in Portsmouth, as a model for a national food enforcement system in Kuwait.

5. Economic Development Office (EDO)

Hampshire County Council's EDO recognises the importance of the European and international dimension in achieving economic prosperity in Hampshire. It has built up its interest and involvement in Europe through:-

- networking and working in partnership with organisations to deliver European information to local businesses, to encourage inward investment for a healthy local economy,
- EU regional policy influence, and
- EDO has had notable success in obtaining European funds for various projects.

EDO works in close association with and part funds the Southern Area European Information Centre (EIC) to support Hampshire's corporate aim of 'achieving economic prosperity'. This is the European Commission's local contact point providing information and guidance on a number of issues affecting SMEs. Services they provide to business include:-

Business introduction service - facilitating contacts between SMEs across Europe

Europartenariat - programme of events helping to facilitate and promote international co-operation and trade within Europe

Tender Search Service - monitoring service for public procurement contracts in Europe, including contract announcements which can be sent to companies via email

Match-funding service - helping companies draw down funds from Europe

Eur-Lex - research facility providing information on European legislation.

EURO - the EIC is a point of contact for advice and information on European currency issues

The Southern Area EIC is also part of the Steering Committee for the South East Regional Euro Forum (SEEAF).

TransChannel Partnership Network

Working alongside other partners in Hampshire, Dorset, and West Normandie, the EDO participates in the TransChannel Partnership Network to help with locating business opportunities and personal contacts across the Channel. The network features three different modules:

- "Who's Who" - giving access to the institutional members of the TransChannel network
- "Forum" - giving access to business opportunities posted by private companies and Network members
- "Services" - giving access to links with outside organisations

External Funding Unit

The External Funding Unit, based within EDO, is responsible for advising and coordinating external funding opportunities and bids (including European) corporately.

Receipt of European Funds

| Year | £ | Name & Activity | Fund | Department/Service |
|-----------|---------|--|----------------|--|
| 1998/2001 | 12,630 | Pre-industrial watermills (Chase Mill Restoration) | Raphael | Recreation & Heritage |
| 1999/2000 | 15,694 | Benchmarking visitor attractions 1 (Tourism) | KONVER | Policy Unit |
| 2000/2001 | 9,459 | Benchmarking visitor attractions 2 (Tourism) | KONVER | Chief Executive's Policy Unit |
| 1999/2001 | 48,250 | Defence of the Realm | KONVER | Policy Unit |
| 1999/2000 | 924,434 | Achieving Natura 2000 Objectives in the New Forest | LIFE 2 Nature | Environment |
| 1999/2000 | 25,730 | Indicators for biodiversity | DG Environment | Environment |
| 1999/2000 | 55,130 | Pedestrian and public transport navigation (hand held) | PEPTRAN | Environment |
| 1999/2000 | 14,619 | Incident management on road network | PRIME | Environment |
| 1999/2000 | 20,054 | Transport | ENTIRE | Environment |
| 1999/2000 | 2,984 | Transport | INFORMM | Environment |
| 1999/2000 | 56,000 | Moldova (Public transport advice) | TACIS | Environment |
| 2000/2001 | 210,858 | Romanse (Transport telematics) | Euroscope | Environment |
| 2000/2001 | 109,520 | New Directions (Training for work) | ESF | Southern Focus Trust (for Social Services) |

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---|---------------------|---|
| 2000/2001 | 6,600 | Greenwood new entrants (Training for work) | ESF | Wessex Coppice Group |
| 1999/2001 | 158,463 | Infoville | Information Society | IT |
| 1999/2000 | 3,000 | Technical Assistance (helping applicants to the ESF) | ESF | Economic Development |
| 1999/2000 | 5,111 | Euromanagement | | Economic Development |
| 1999/2002 | 57,504 | SME resource facility | KONVER | Economic Development |
| 1999/2002 | 34,807 | Best practice | KONVER | Economic Development |
| 1999/2002 | 35,072 | International Investors Aftercare | KONVER | Economic Development |
| 2000/2002 | 27,000 | Russia project | Know How Fund | Economic Development |
| 2001/2002 | 38,488 | Farmers Markets | ESF | Economic Development |
| 2001/2002 | 88,405 | Wired Wessex (Network for creative and media industries) | ESF | Economic Development |
| 2001/2002 | 34,616 | Rural Retailer (Training for village shopkeepers) | ESF | Economic Development |
| 2001/2002 | £1,000,000 | Forest Friendly Farming (rural development in the New Forest) | LEADER+ | Local Action Group (including Hampshire County Council) - Tim Brock |
| 2002/2004 | 107,000 | SHARP (Training for rural producers) | ESF | Economic Development |
| 2002/2006 | 1,118,454 | Wetland restoration in the New Forest | LIFE 3 Nature | Environment Dept |
| 1999/2003 | 110,000 | Saline Lagoons (Solent) | LIFE 2 Nature | Recreation & Heritage & Environment |
| 2003/2007 | 1,700,000 | Espace (Climate change) | Interreg IIIB | Environment Department |
| 2000/2002 | 42,700 | MobiService Centres (Developing best practice for traffic control centre across Europe) | INFOSoc | Environment Department |

| | | | | |
|-----------|---------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2000/2003 | 6,000 | PRISCILLA (Bus priority techniques) | INFOSoc | Environment Department |
| 2002/2006 | 750,000 | Urban transport environmental initiative | MIRACLES(CIVITAS)DG Transport/Env | Environment Department |
| 1999 | 24,900 | Moldova Project (public transport advice) | Know How Fund | Environment Department |
| 2001/2002 | 61,000 | Russia Project (public transport advice) | Tacis | Environment Department |
| 2003/2004 | 97,000 | Russia Project (public transport advice) | IBPP | Environment Department |
| 2004/2007 | 950,000 | MAPPED (transport for the disabled) | IST | Environment Department |

7,961,482