

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage
Date:	28 November 2019
Title:	Grant applications to the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Nicola Horsey
Rosellen Lambert

Tel: 01932 845423
01962 846022

Email: nicola.horsey@hants.gov.uk
rosellen.lambert@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to consider three applications for grants from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.
2. It recommends that the criteria for the fund is amended to state that national commemorative events are excluded.
3. It recommends a revised condition of grant to the award to Oakhanger Village Hall approved on 19 September 2019.
4. The report also provides an update on the financial position of the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.

Recommendation(s)

5. That the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage approves additional clarification of the scheme criteria to make clear that national commemorative events are excluded.
6. That the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage does not award grants from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019/20 to three applicants as outlined in Appendix 3. The applications total £8,695.

7. That the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage approves an award of £11,000 to Oakhanger Village Hall on condition that a three-year business plan is developed, to include a marketing plan. This application was previously considered on 19 September 2019.

Executive Summary

8. This report proposes an amendment to the scheme and sets out three applications for grants from the scheme. The report also provides an update on the financial position of the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.

Contextual Information

Exclusion of Commemorative Events

9. It is noted that two of the applications outlined in Appendix 2 are to support events to commemorate the upcoming 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day in May 2020.
10. While the value of the commemoration of such nationally significant historic events is recognised, the aim of the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund is to support projects which help local communities thrive, addressing issues specific to a local community in response to identified need.
11. Furthermore, it is likely that there will be similar events in most localities in Hampshire and the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund would not have the capacity to support all of them in a meaningful or equitable way.
12. For these reasons, it is recommended the scheme criteria for the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund are clarified to make clear that national commemorative events are excluded. Organisations will be signposted to alternative sources of funding.
13. The proposed revised criteria for the scheme can be found at Appendix 2.

Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grants

14. The purpose of this grant stream is to fund projects which provide community benefit and help local communities thrive and/or to help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding. In addition, small one-off grants from £1,000 to £3,000 will also be awarded to help pump-prime community events and activities. Full details, including what the County Council can and cannot fund, are set out in Appendix 1.

15. Three organisations have applied for funding from this grant stream - see Appendix 3.
16. On 19 September 2019, the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage approved an award of £25,000 to Oakhanger Village Hall towards a building extension. The award was on condition that a three-year business plan is developed, to include a marketing plan, and that East Hampshire District Council match-funding is secured.
17. While the application for match-funding to East Hampshire District Council was not successful and the organisation has therefore not met the condition of grant, they have done well to attract good sized grants from several other sources, including £10,000 from the Parish Council and a smaller £1,000 from East Hampshire District Council.
18. In light of this, it is recommended that the condition of grant is revised and that Oakhanger Village Hall is awarded up to 8.2% of project costs to a maximum of £11,000, matching other council contributions, on condition that a three-year business plan is developed, to include a marketing plan.

Finance

19. The total draft grants budget for 2019/20 for the portfolio of the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage is £938,000, made up of £813,000 revenue funding and £125,000 capital funding. Of this, £453,000 was awarded to cultural and community organisations at the Executive Member's Decision Day on 14 January 2019, leaving £485,000 for 2019/20.

20. Budget Update:

Revenue funding	£813,000
Capital funding	£125,000
Total grants budget 19/20	£938,000
Previously awarded (decision day 14 January 2019)	(£453,000)
Transfer from 18/19 capital (decision day 25 February 2019)	£98,809
Previously awarded (decision day 25 February 2019)	(£12,959)
Previously awarded (decision day 7 May 2019)	(£86,860)
Amount not taken up	£15,000
Previously awarded (decision day 11 July 2019)	(£92,184)
Previously awarded (decision day 19 September 2019)	(£153,937)
Available	£252,869
Amount not taken up	£25,000
Recommendations for approval	(£11,000)
Remaining budget	£266,869

Other Key Issues

21. Legal Implications: The Council has wide powers under Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to provide recreational facilities and to contribute by way of a grant or loan towards the expenses incurred by voluntary bodies in providing such facilities and activities.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Grant Funding for Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire	14 January 2019
Grant Funding for Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019-20	25 February 2019
Grant Funding for Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019-20	7 May 2019
Grant Funding for Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019-20	11 July 2019
Grant Funding for Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019-20	19 September 2019
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

A high level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.

Criteria for Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

What is Funded?

The priority of the scheme is to fund projects which:

- Provide community benefit and help local communities thrive
- Help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding

In addition, small one-off grants from £1,000 to £3,000 will also be awarded to help pump-prime community events and activities.

The programme is not designed to be overly prescriptive.

Applicants must support the priorities and outcomes of Hampshire County Council's [Serving Hampshire - Strategic Plan for 2017-2021](#). It forms the cornerstone of all strategies and plans across departments and service areas, and features four key aims:

- Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity
- People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives
- People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment
- People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities

What is not Funded?

The following organisations are not funded under this scheme:

- Individuals
- Services provided solely within the unitary authority areas of Portsmouth City Council and/or Southampton City Council
- Other local authorities, including District, Parish and Town Councils
- Commercial/Profit-Making organisations
- Schools, including pre-schools and colleges
- Large, national organisations or 'household name charities'

The following projects are not funded under this scheme:

- The purchase of land.
- Capital works that have already been carried out. We cannot retrospectively fund projects; grants are awarded for works to be carried out in the future.
- Ongoing staff costs. We may fund a fixed-term member of staff or consultant to carry out a time-limited piece of work.
- Fund-raising activities.
- Projects which meet the aims of other Hampshire County Council grant schemes. Where relevant, applications may be transferred to more appropriate schemes.

Organisations will not be awarded more than one grant per financial year and previously funded projects must be completed before a new application is made.

Grant Criteria and Eligibility

Organisations must be properly constituted with clear and effective local governance and management structures. Organisations will not normally be eligible for grants where they hold unallocated reserves in excess of one year's running costs. Where it is judged that unallocated reserves are unreasonably in excess of what is required or not allocated for legitimate purposes, those organisations may receive a reduced grant. All charitable organisations are expected to have an agreed reserves policy that addresses their financial risk.

Projects should be well developed with match-funding secured. Organisations should have also applied to local District or Parish Councils where local funding opportunities exist.

Hampshire County Council will normally fund up to a maximum grant of £100,000. Please contact CCBS Grants to discuss any proposals in excess of this.

Match funding or clear evidence of seeking match funding is highly desirable although not essential.

We would expect any applications for new buildings or large extensions to show consideration has been given to the development of a [Changing Place](#) even if it is not included in the final project.

All applicants will be expected to have obtained permission from the landlord to undertake the capital work. If required applicants will also be expected to have obtained (or engaged in the process of) planning permission and/or listed buildings consent (if appropriate) to carry out the works.

Where appropriate, depending on the grant sum requested, the organisation will be expected to submit supporting documentation.

Revised Criteria for Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

What is Funded?

The priority of the scheme is to fund projects which:

- Provide community benefit and help local communities thrive
- Help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding

In addition, small one-off grants from £1,000 to £3,000 will also be awarded to help pump-prime community events and activities.

The programme is not designed to be overly prescriptive.

Applicants must support the priorities and outcomes of Hampshire County Council's [Serving Hampshire - Strategic Plan for 2017-2021](#). It forms the cornerstone of all strategies and plans across departments and service areas, and features four key aims:

- Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity
- People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives
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What is not Funded?

The following organisations are not funded under this scheme:

- Individuals
- Services provided solely within the unitary authority areas of Portsmouth City Council and/or Southampton City Council
- Other local authorities, including District, Parish and Town Councils
- Commercial/Profit-Making organisations
- Schools, including pre-schools and colleges
- Large, national organisations or 'household name charities'

The following projects are not funded under this scheme:

- The purchase of land.
- Capital works that have already been carried out. We cannot retrospectively fund projects; grants are awarded for works to be carried out in the future.
- Ongoing staff costs. We may fund a fixed-term member of staff or consultant to carry out a time-limited piece of work.
- Fund-raising activities.
- National commemorative events.

- Projects which meet the aims of other Hampshire County Council grant schemes. Where relevant, applications may be transferred to more appropriate schemes.

Organisations will not be awarded more than one grant per financial year and previously funded projects must be completed before a new application is made.

Grant Criteria and Eligibility

Organisations must be properly constituted with clear and effective local governance and management structures. Organisations will not normally be eligible for grants where they hold unallocated reserves in excess of one year's running costs. Where it is judged that unallocated reserves are unreasonably in excess of what is required or not allocated for legitimate purposes, those organisations may receive a reduced grant. All charitable organisations are expected to have an agreed reserves policy that addresses their financial risk.

Projects should be well developed with match-funding secured. Organisations should have also applied to local District or Parish Councils where local funding opportunities exist.

Hampshire County Council will normally fund up to a maximum grant of £100,000. Please contact CCBS Grants to discuss any proposals in excess of this.

Match funding or clear evidence of seeking match funding is highly desirable although not essential.

We would expect any applications for new buildings or large extensions to show consideration has been given to the development of a [Changing Place](#) even if it is not included in the final project.

All applicants will be expected to have obtained permission from the landlord to undertake the capital work. If required applicants will also be expected to have obtained (or engaged in the process of) planning permission and/or listed buildings consent (if appropriate) to carry out the works.

Where appropriate, depending on the grant sum requested, the organisation will be expected to submit supporting documentation.

**Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019/20
Application Assessment Summary**

Each grant application has been assessed against the fund criteria (Appendix 1) using a standard template.

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Project Costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
New Milton Residents' Association New Forest / New Milton	New Milton VE75 Commemorations in 2020 £3,950	<p>The New Milton Residents' Association leads a Steering Group of community organisations, educational representatives, local businesses and residents planning a series of events in May 2020 to commemorate VE75. This application is for the cost of crowd control barriers and an 'Avenue of Remembrance' to include biographical and historical information on local people who lost their lives during World War II. The programme of events was awarded £1,500 County Councillor Grant from Cllr Kendal towards production of the event brochure and an application for £800 has been submitted to Cllr Carpenter for a party for young people. Collection buckets will be present at events and these funds and any profits from the overall programme will be donated to SSAFA; this is therefore a fund-raising project which is not eligible under the scheme criteria. The application shows no evidence of applying for funding from local council/s which is an expectation of the scheme. If this application is not successful, sponsorship will be sought from local businesses, suggesting the event will be able to take place without support from the Council.</p> <p>25,000 Hampshire Residents are expected to benefit from the project. The organisation expects to generate £2,200 from concert profits. Councillor Kendal was invited to comment.</p> <p>Note: The VE75 series of events organised by the consortium was awarded £1,500 County Councillor Grant from Cllr Kendal towards production of the event brochure and an application for £800 has been submitted to Cllr Carpenter for a party for young people.</p> <p>In light of existing Council support for the project via County Councillor Grants and as the application does not meet the RHCF criteria, as a fundraising activity and not showing evidence of applying to local council/s, it is recommended the application is not supported.</p>	£1,750	£0

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Project Costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Starburst Foundation Rushmoor / Aldershot South	Starburst Theatre Academy £12,900	<p>The organisation seeks funding to develop the former Registration Offices in Aldershot to use as a theatre academy and the applications is for the installation of heating and a sprung floor and the purchase of a piano and other equipment. Starburst has a Tenancy at Will only, with no guarantee of ongoing tenure, and no evidence of permission of the landlord to carry out the works. The organisation raises money in order to fund the purchase of specialised equipment for individuals in a number of ways including the staging of amateur theatre shows. Starburst supports children in the Hampshire, Surrey, Berks borders. No application has been made to the local council/s which is an expectation of the scheme. As the ultimate aim of the organisation is to raise money through theatre performances which it then grants to individual young people with special needs towards goods and equipment, this is in effect a fundraising project which is not eligible under the scheme criteria. The project has already been awarded £1,000 County Councillor Grant. Project costs and income balance and there is no shortfall. 200 Hampshire Residents are expected to benefit from the project. The organisation has committed £11,900 of its own funds to the project and has secured £1,000 from County Councillor Grant. This matches the full project costs. Councillor Withers was invited to comment.</p> <p>Note: The organisation has received £500 County Councillor Grants towards this event for the last two years.</p> <p>As there is no shortfall in the project costs and as the application does not meet the scheme criteria, as a fundraising activity and not showing evidence of applying to local council/s, it is recommended the application is not supported.</p>	£4,945	£0
Lee on the Solent Residents Association Gosport / Lee	My Guide - ensuring no one is left out £12,380	<p>To mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in May 2020 the organisation plans to hold a weekend long community event and provide a commemorative gift (mug or spoon) to the children of Lee. Local people will also be engaged via social media and encouraged to participate through an augmented reality treasure trail app. The aim of the project, in addition to commemorating the anniversary, is to form the foundation for an ongoing annual event to raise funds for various community projects that will benefit all. The application does not provide evidence of community consultation to support the ambition of the project or of community need. The organisation expects to secure £2,000 County Councillor Grants</p>	£2,000	£0

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Project Costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
<i>Lee on the Solent Residents Association, cont.</i>		<p>(Burgess and Carter) towards the project and has already secured £3,000 from local businesses. Although there is a shortfall presently, there is time to secure additional sponsorship and the application states this is the approach they will take if this application is not successful.</p> <p>5,000 Hampshire Residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £2,850 of its own funds to the project. It has secured £1,000 from Councillor Burgess, £500 from Atlantic Refrigeration Limited, £500 from Oxford Innovation Centre and has applied for £1,000 from Councillor Carter and £2,000 from Wates Construction, (expected outcomes November 2019). Councillor Burgess supports the recommendation.</p> <p>In light of existing Council support for the project via County Councillor Grants, as the application does not provide sufficient evidence of community need or consultation and as the application suggests that sufficient sponsorship will be achieved to deliver the project, it is recommended the application is not supported.</p>		
TOTAL			£8,695	£0