

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	22 September 2017
Title:	Grants to Voluntary Organisations and Other Bodies
Report From:	Director of Transformation and Governance – Corporate Services

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to consider six requests received for financial assistance from the Policy and Resources grants budget. Further details can be found in Appendix 2 of the report.

2. Budget position

2.1. The budget allocation for 2017/18 is £222,000. Commitments made at previous meetings, reduces this figure available at the meeting on 22 September 2017 to £169,000.

3. Criteria of grant

3.1. A copy of the criteria used for considering grants from the Policy and Resources grants budget is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 Subject to certain restrictions, the County Council has the power under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do including the power to give grants.

5. Recommendation

5.1. That grants totalling £22,495 be awarded as outlined in Appendix 2 of this report.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
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

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.)

DocumentLocation

Application form and correspondence received from organisations

Director of Transformation and Governance - Corporate Services

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. 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 under the Act;

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic 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 characteristic connected to that characteristic;

Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic 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 which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The application procedure includes equalities monitoring information as agreed as part of the corporate review of grants programmes and procedures. Further information may be found on individual requests.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

The proposals in this report aim to improve the wellbeing of Hampshire residents and reduce the risk of crime occurring.

FUNDING CRITERIA FOR THE POLICY AND RESOURCES GRANTS

The following criteria should be taken into consideration when preparing a submission for funding. They are intended as guidelines and not prescriptive rules:

1. Assistance will be considered only in response to direct applications from properly constituted organisations seeking assistance. You must show in your application that your organisation is properly and legally organised and has its own bank account.
2. Where appropriate, applications will be referred to the relevant service department (e.g. Adult Services, Culture, Communities and Business Services, Children's Services, etc.) for consideration.
3. Preference will be given to applications for specific projects or activities rather than general running costs of organisations. These grants are not intended to replace shortfalls in service delivery budgets or replace funding for other support you may be able to obtain, or that you have obtained from us in the past.
4. Grants will not usually be made in respect of applications from the following:-
 - District or Parish Councils
 - Government Institutions
 - Schools
 - Overseas and out of County organisations which have no direct Hampshire involvement
 - Branches or organisations assisted centrally with a sum from the County Council
 - Bodies requesting funds for onward distribution to other charities e.g. mayoral appeals, carnivals, fetes, or for their own fundraising events.
5. Applications will not be accepted from political parties or groups affiliated with a political party or from lobbying/campaigning organisations.
6. Applications will only be considered from faith groups who can demonstrate their facilities are open and used by the local community other than for church related activities and then only for works in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act.
7. Requests may be considered from County wide groups (e.g. Guides, Scouts, Hampshire County Youth Orchestra) for specific trips, e.g. for an international jamboree or cultural tour. Individual requests will not usually be considered.
8. Where possible self-help within organisations should be encouraged and to this end, grants are normally a percentage of the sum required to complete the project.
9. As a general rule, grants in excess of £5,000 will not be awarded.
10. In general, grants will only be awarded to projects which are taking place in the same year as application for funds.

OPEN SIGHT, HAMPSHIRE (CG00014087)

A grant is being sought from the County Council to update Open Sight, Hampshire's IT system by replacing an existing server which can better meet the day to day needs of the organisation.

Open Sight, based in Eastleigh, operates on a countywide basis providing services to over 3,500 people a year who have, or who are at risk of developing sight loss and supports over 350 regular volunteers.

Total cost: £11,208 (equipment - £7,540, labour - £1,800 and VAT - £1,868)

Total income: £2,160 (own funds)

Shortfall: £9,048

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Transformation and Governance

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£9,048

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

Adults' Hampshire Community Grant Programme - Seeing the Pathway to Employment project - £17,675 for 2017/18

This is a countywide organisation based in Eastleigh which has been supported with grants from Members' Devolved budgets in the past.

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

This is a countywide organisation

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services: IT infrastructure costs would not normally be supported through CCBS grant schemes and organisations would normally be expected to consider these kinds of anticipated costs in their financial strategy and reserves policy.

Director of Transformation and Governance – Corporate Services: This organisation provides support and information to their clients through home visits, benefits advice, family support services and social clubs. A one-off grant of £5,000 is recommended to support this request for capital equipment.

RECOMMENDATION

£5,000

THE FRIENDS OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY YOUTH ORCHESTRA (CG00014173)

The Friends of Hampshire County Youth Orchestra is seeking a grant of £5,000 from the County Council towards the cost of the Orchestra's tour of Germany in 2018.

The Charity is looking to raise a £20,000 subsidy to provide financial help to members of the Orchestra by reducing parental contributions - currently estimated at £700 each.

Total cost: £20,000 subsidy

Total income: £2,000 (own funds). Funding requests have also been submitted to other bodies

Shortfall: £18,000

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Transformation and Governance

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£5,000

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

This budget:

Two grants totalling £5,650 were awarded from this budget towards its tour in 2016

Member grants approved for 2018 tour:

Six Members have approved grants totalling £1,900.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services: The activity is worthwhile. They are also seeking funds from Trusts which may reduce the shortfall in the project. Their application shows they have 24 months reserves – this Department would not normally support an organisation with more than one year's reserves.

Director of Transformation and Governance – Corporate Services: The Orchestra has a membership of around 150 energetic, hardworking and dedicated young musicians and a grant of £5,000 towards this tour is supported.

RECOMMENDATION

£5,000

1ST SARISBURY GREEN SCOUT GROUP (CG00014176)

1st Sarisbury Green Scout Group currently rents a multi-purpose space at the Burr ridge Village Hall and is seeking grant aid to help build a log cabin style scout hut on Burr ridge Recreation Ground at an approximate total cost of £190,000.

The Group has received support for the project from the residents association and the National Trust who will allow use of its track to provide access to the site and River Hamble.

Fareham Borough Council is due to consider a grant request of £25,000 for this project (outcome expected October 2017).

Total cost: £190,000 (groundworks, structure, trades/fit-out etc.)

Total income: £134,250 * does not include FBC nor HCC's possible contribution

Shortfall: £55,750

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Transformation and Governance

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£5,000

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

This budget: Nil

Other County Council funding: In 2017/18 around £18,500 has so far been given to scouting in Hampshire, the majority of which came from Children's Services' Short Breaks (£15,000) to support young people at Scout Group meeting/events.

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Seán Woodward is supportive of the project.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services: This project would not be eligible for the Community Buildings Capital Fund, as uniformed groups are amongst the list of organisations not funded through this scheme. There are already a good number of community venues within 5 miles of Burr ridge, including Victory Hall, Warsash, which recently benefited from an award of £148,000 for a large Community Buildings Capital Fund project. Other smaller capital projects have also been supported in the vicinity.

Director of Transformation and Governance – Corporate Services: The new facility would provide a more suitable venue where young people can meet, learn new skills and gain in confidence. A grant of £5,000 is recommended.

RECOMMENDATION

£5,000

SARISBURY GREEN UNITED REFORM CHURCH (CG00014282)

Sarisbury Green United Reform Church is seeking grant aid to refurbish and redecorate the interior of its Ellen Newbury Hall building.

Other users of this facility include: Toybox, Brownies and Short Mat Bowls Club.

Total cost: £43,400 (redcoration, flooring and insulation)

Total income: £33,000 (£28,000 own funds; £5,000 Fareham BC – outcome awaited)

Shortfall: £10,400

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Transformation and Governance

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£8,000

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

This budget: Nil

Local Member grants: None have been submitted

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Seán Woodward is the local member for this area.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services: This project looks more appropriate to the Community Buildings Capital Fund, although their community programme looks rather small, so they would probably not qualify for a very large award and some additional information would be required to support the application. There are a good number of community venues within 5 miles of Burr ridge, including Victory Hall, Warsash, which recently benefited from an award of £148,000 for a large Community Buildings Capital Fund project. Other smaller capital projects have also been supported in the vicinity.

Director of Transformation and Governance: The amount requested does exceed the usual award given from this budget. However, a grant of £5,000 would enable them to reach their fundraising target sooner and provide a more welcoming environment to those organisations using the building.

RECOMMENDATION

£5,000

1864 - HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SUPPORTERS' CLUB (CG00014223)

Hampshire Cricket Club launched as a Dementia Friendly organisation in 2014.

As part of its commitment to making its matches more accessible, 1864 - Hampshire Cricket Supporters' Club organise Memory Days which provide opportunities for those living with dementia to attend County Championship cricket at the Aegas Bowl with family members/carers. Materials are also provided on the day, which are used for reminiscence and to stimulate group discussion.

The number of beneficiaries would be around 1,950. This includes not only those attending the cricket but also their families and carers at the various community events held throughout the year.

Costs: £4,990 (holding 9 Memory Days during the cricket season and additional events at care homes and community facilities through the winter months)

Total income: £0

Shortfall: £4,990

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Transformation and Governance

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£4,990

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

This budget:

Nil

Local Member grants: None have been submitted

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

This is a countywide organisation.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Adults' Health and Care: This is an innovative activity which allows for care and support to take place in a non-traditional and enjoyable setting. This Club is one of 440 businesses and organisations signed up to the Hampshire Dementia Action Alliance. A grant is recommended.

Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services: This looks a very worthwhile project.

RECOMMENDATION

£2,495

NORTH HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL FUND (CG00014250)

The North Hampshire Medical Fund (NHMF) is seeking grant aid of £5,000 to provide a new ultrasound machine to undertake state-of-the-art cancer procedures. The machine would benefit the radiology department at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital by allowing physicians to treat previously untreatable cancer patients, with safer and more accurate treatment whilst reducing pressure on waiting lists.

Total cost: £51,090

Total income: £15,550 (£13,750 own funds and £1,800 Member grants)

Shortfall: £35,540

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Transformation and Governance

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£5,000

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

This budget: Nil

Local Member grants: Five Members within the Basingstoke area have been contacted for funds from their devolved budgets, two of which have approved monies totalling £1,800 and two have rejected.

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

Multiple applications submitted from this organisation (see preceding paragraph).

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Adult's Health and Care (Public Health): Whilst the Council has a duty to improve the health of the population, this intervention would fall within NHS responsibilities. Furthermore, this machine would be located in one part of Hampshire without consideration for equitable access across the county. The application suggests that 690 people currently benefit from the ongoing service but does not state how many additional patients would be treated or what additional benefit this machine would bring to patients.

Director of Transformation and Governance: NHMF is a charity set up to fundraise for medical equipment for Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and has already received grants from the local Members' budgets (see above financial paragraph).

Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services: A relatively small proportion of the funds required have been secured so far.

RECOMMENDATION

Nil