

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	7 December 2017
Title:	Community Buildings Capital Fund 2017/18 (requests for £25,000 and under)
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside for £44,120 of funding from the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2017/18 for The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre in Havant.

2. Contextual information

2.1. Earlier in 2017, the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside was approached by The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre to ask whether the County Council would provide a capital grant towards the cost of improving the organisation's building to increase income streams. The proposal includes installing new equipment to enable live streaming from places such as the National Theatre which would attract new audiences. The proposal also includes improving the acoustics between The Spring's theatre space and an adjacent room which is available for hire. This would enable The Spring to hire out the room when the theatre is in use, currently this is not possible. These improvements are expected to generate nearly £10,000 additional income per year.

2.2. The total cost of the work is £50,280, of which The Spring is requesting £44,120. The remainder of the funding will be met by the organisation.

2.3 Currently, The Spring receives an annual Cultural and Recreation Investment Grant from the County Council of about £107,476 a year. It is suggested that if the capital investment was forthcoming then The Spring would be able to reduce its revenue grant from the County Council by 10% in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22, i.e. 30% in total. As it would take time to do this work,

and realise the benefits, The Spring has asked for the 2018/19 revenue grant to remain at a similar level as 2017/18's, i.e. £107,476.

3. Budget position 2017/18

	£
Budget approval for 2017/18	125,000
Transfer from revenue grants 2017/18 (6 December 2016)	150,320
Remainder from 2016/17 funds at 21 March 2017	67,667
Unspent / returned funds reported at 15 June 2017	2,887
Unspent / returned funds since 15 June 2017	3,023
Transfer from revenue grants 2017/18 (18 Sept 2017)	64,055
	<hr/> 412,952
Awards approved at 15 June 2017	136,210
Awards approved at 18 September 2017	43,730
Grants recommended for approval in this report	44,120
Remaining balance for allocation in 2017/18	188,892

4. Criteria of grant

4.1. Criteria for the Community Buildings Capital Fund are set out in Appendix 1.

5. Other considerations

5.1. 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.

6. Recommendation(s)

6.1. That the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:

a) Approves grant funding of £44,120 from the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2017/18 for The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre.

CORPORATE OR 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

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

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:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) 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.

1.1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

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

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. Not applicable.

Criteria for Community Buildings Capital Fund

What is funded?

The Community Buildings Capital Fund supports capital based projects including refurbishment and improvement of Hampshire community centres, village halls and charitable and voluntary organisations (which offer a full and varied open access community programme).

Hampshire County Council can fund up to a maximum of 50% of the total project costs not exceeding a maximum grant of £25,000.

The aim of this funding programme is to focus on projects which provide improvements that reduce running costs and develop facilities which support early intervention and prevention through helping people to stay safe, eat well, be active, access information and advice and connect with others.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- installation of insulation, new windows and a modern central heating system which could have a significant effect on heating costs as well as carbon footprint
- building of an extension onto an existing centre to accommodate the needs of other local community groups which were previously housed in an old, inadequate building with high maintenance and heating bills
- installation of a [Changing Place toilet](#) or improvements to access or facilities for people with disabilities to make community venues more inclusive. 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.

The programme is not designed to be overly prescriptive and developed innovative ideas for projects are encouraged.

What isn't funded?

The following organisations are not funded under this scheme:

- Parish Councils
- Other local authorities
- Groups and organisations whose main priority is of an individual focus or single use e.g. playgroup, lunch clubs or youth groups
- Uniformed organisations
- School properties, including preschools
- Sports clubs or venues
- Theatres

The following projects are not funded under this scheme:

- The purchase of land.
- Equipment not directly attributable to the building i.e. we will fund fitted kitchen equipment and sound systems, but would not fund a television or hi-fi system. We will also not fund equipment intended for the use of a separate trading arm or commercial organisation using the premises.
- 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.

Organisations will not normally 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

The Community Buildings Capital Fund is open to the following community based organisations who benefit a local community/local communities in Hampshire, support the priorities and outcomes of Hampshire County Council's [Serving Hampshire - Strategic Plan for 2017-2021](#) and improve the health and wellbeing for all, improving the quality of life for all, particularly those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged:

- Village halls (not parish-run halls)
- Community associations
- Charitable and voluntary organisations which offer a full and varied open access community programme.

These 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.

Grant criteria

Capital based projects must fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Building repairs, extensions and refurbishments
- Capital improvements that reduce running costs
- Health and Safety issues
- Equipment that will become a permanent fixture within the building which improves access and/or increases usage (the exception to this are tables, chairs and storage units which will also be funded)
- Capital based feasibility studies.

Organisations need to demonstrate:

- The provision of open access community programmes/activities from the community building for the benefit of the local community.
- The impact the capital based project will make to the local community, the organisation and wider society (if appropriate).
- The local community has been involved in identifying the need for the project and support it.

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. All documentation will be used, alongside the application form, to assess against the grant criteria.

Feasibility studies

In order to assist voluntary organisations apply for funds from other sources, Hampshire County Council may support the costs of feasibility studies. Applications will be considered for 50% of the costs of such studies up to a maximum of £500.

**Community Buildings Capital Fund 2017/18
Application assessment summary**

Each grant application has been assessed against the Community Buildings Capital Fund criteria (Appendix 1) using a standard template.

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Total project costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre (Havant/ Emsworth and St Faiths)	Acoustic separation works and installation of live streaming equipment (£50,280)	The organisation seeks funding towards acoustic separation works to increase concurrently hireable space and the installation of live streaming equipment to attract new audiences and increase income generation. These improvements are expected to generate nearly £10,000 additional income per year. 120,000 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit. The organisation has committed £6,159 of its own funds to the project. Councillor Bolton was invited to comment. It is recommended that The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre is awarded up to 90% of project costs to a maximum of £44,120 on condition that its revenue grant from the County Council be reduced by 10% in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22, i.e. 30% in total.	£44,121	£44,120