

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Countryside, Culture and Communities
Date:	8 December 2022
Title:	Parish and Town Council Investment Fund - Approval of Larger Grants
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to request approval from the Executive Member for Countryside, Culture and Communities for four applications to the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund (PTCIF).

Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Countryside, Culture and Communities approves the four proposed grant applications to the PTCIF as detailed under Section 9 below.

Executive Summary

3. The budget for 2022/23 for the PTCIF is £335,000. In addition, the Climate Programme Team has contributed £150,000 to the PTCIF grant scheme with the latter required to be spent by the end of March 2023. This equates to a total budget of £485,000.
4. Details of four grant applications, for which this paper seeks approval, are given in Section 9. The Detailed assessments of each application are given in Appendix A – C. The total amount requested is £72,730.

Contextual Information

5. The Rural Programme supports the County Council's support of rural Hampshire and assisting Parish and Town Councils to respond to local priorities, including management of the [PTCIF grant scheme](#).
6. The priority of the PTCIF is to support partnerships between Parish and Town Councils or local community groups and the County Council. It provides investments to schemes which respond to local needs and aims to reduce pressure on County Council Services.
7. Hampshire County Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019. In November 2021 it was agreed that the PTCIF scheme guidance would be extended to include Energy Efficiency applications from Parish and Town Councils or Community Groups for improvements to the energy efficiency of community buildings, where it can be demonstrated that the improvements contribute to [HCC's climate change targets](#).
8. Each applicant to the PTCIF is required to submit a full business plan, to include rationale, costings, quotes, and measurements. For Energy Efficiency applications, this business plan needs to provide adequate information to the Climate Programme Team for them to evaluate the financial and carbon footprint benefits of the project. If these evaluations are favourable, and demonstrate a contribution to HCC's Climate Emergency targets, then the project is supported by that team, and will be recommended for funding here.

Finance

9. Of the original £485,000 grant fund available, £387,220 remains. The four grants for which approval is sought are as follows:
 - 9.1 Hampshire Young Farmers Club (CG00025833) - £30,000 for works to improve their HQ building in Brockenhurst, as per the Assessment Form in Appendix A.
 - 9.2 Compton and Shawford Parish Council (CG00025830) - £15,369 for the installation of solar PV and batteries, as per the Assessment Form in Appendix B.
 - 9.3 Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council (CG00025891) - £12,360.88 for installation of an updated heating system, as per the Assessment Form in Appendix C.
 - 9.4 Shedfield Parish Council (CG00025903/CG00025904/CG00025939) – A total of £15,000 contribution towards the installation of an air source heat pump, associated new radiators, and solar panels, as per the Assessment Form in Appendix D.
10. This would leave £314,490 remaining in the PTCIF.

Performance

11. The Climate Programme Team has contributed £150,000 towards funding Energy Efficiency projects. This proportion of funds are available until March 2023. Grant awards to date, including these two for Compton and Shawford Parish Council and Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council, amount to £140,511. This would leave £9,489 available from this proportion of the funding.
12. The grant application from Hampshire Young Farmers Club is to be funded from the £335,000 portion of the PTCIF. This would leave £305,000 available.
13. These grants have been reviewed by the Climate Programme Team and the Rural Programme Team respectively, against the grant scheme criteria detailed via the link in Section 5, and approval is only sought following their recommendation to support.
14. It is likely that the Energy Efficiency applications in the pipeline will require more than the £9,489 remaining in this specific funding pot. Funding for Energy Efficiency projects remains a priority, and as such the £305,000 PTCIF funding remains available for such projects when this is diminished.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND 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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
EMPR Report - Update on the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund and Associated Rural Issues	25.04.2019
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
HCC Climate Change Initiatives	13 July 2021
Hampshire 2050 – Vision for the Future	22 Feb 2019

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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
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: No negative impacts are anticipated.

Appendix A – Hampshire Young Farmers Club

Parish and Town Council Investment Fund 2022/23

Funding assessment form

Organisation name:	Hampshire Young Farmers
Project title:	Brockenhurst Young Farmers Club
Project location:	Brockenhurst
Application reference:	CG00025833
Total project cost:	£50,500
Amount requested:	£30,000
<i>Match funding – cash:</i>	£12,170
<i>Match funding - volunteer hours:</i>	£8,330
<i>Match funding - in-kind:</i>	
Match funding – total value	£20,500
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£30,000

Eligibility checklist	Yes/No
Is the applicant a Parish or Town Council, or a Local Community Group, directly benefitting the local community, with clear management structure within its constitution or suitable governance/terms of reference?	Yes
Does the project/activity deliver against the scheme priorities (to build community resilience and ease pressure on HCC Services)?	Yes
Does the application have support from the local community and Parish/Town Council?	Yes

Project summary
<p>Brockenhurst Young Farmers are aged between 10 years – 26 years old. By supporting young individuals to learn and develop as well as giving them the tools and opportunities to reach a full potential for their futures, without the intervention of local authority help services.</p> <p>As an organisation, we have found we have been able to help combat many issues and challenges that they may be facing including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ loneliness and isolation, ➤ lack of communication, ➤ anxiety and depression, ➤ peer pressures, ➤ motivation & self-esteem, ➤ rural migration, ➤ social media, ➤ vulnerability

With a strong farming heritage present in the culture of the club which supports and promotes a community resilience and a commitment to inclusivity, you don't have to be a farmer to join young farmers!

Hampshire Young Farmers own Brockenhurst Young Farmers Club Head Quarters. It is a place where young people find development of themselves with other young people.

Brockenhurst YFC HQ is in dire need of improvement. The building is necessary in order to provide a safe and friendly place for young people to meet, learn and support each other. Without this, our youth group face many challenges and obstacles.

The funding will focus on introducing hot running water to the facility installing double glazing to replace the old metal framed single glazed windows, and improving the kitchen and toilet facilities.

HCC – Officer feedback/comments (relevant Services)

Lisa Wood - Partnering with Rural Programme Team:

The Hampshire 2050 Commission of Enquiry covered, within the [Rural Theme](#) of the inquiry, issues facing the rural farming community, in particular the youth community. A number of Strategic Priorities emerged from the research, including:

Self-help - We want to support volunteering and community-led initiatives in rural communities.

This led on to the identification of three key areas of focus - Rural Environment (leading on from the Natural Environment and Quality of Place Theme), Land based Sector and Farming (particularly as the industry is poised for major change) and Rural Communities.

This application and business plan goes to the heart of the issues faced by the rural farming community, through their headquarters in the centre of the New Forest, and supports the findings documented in the COI.

They are committed to providing a 'fit for purpose' building to support the youth and young adults in rural Hampshire, an often overlooked section of the rural and farming population, locally and for the wider Hampshire population.

By partnering with the Rural Programme team, we expect to be able to monitor the positive impacts that this project will have on the rural farming community. As their activities are not ring-fenced to only those working in farming, they also offer a vehicle for increasing interactions between all members of the youth and young adult population in rural Hampshire.

Rob Stead - Adults Health and Care:

This grant offers a great opportunity to tackle social isolation and loneliness in rural communities. Adults Health and Care knows loneliness and dislocation from your community to be one of the biggest drivers of poor and decreasing mental health and overall lower levels of wellbeing which can lead to increased reliance on council resources and support. We support this application as it focuses on, and seeks to deliver, increased social connectivity and wellbeing in rural areas, something which our HCC Local Teams have been asking for.

Being able to refer to this service will give Local Teams, Support Workers and NHS Social Prescribers a solution for younger adults at risk of social isolation and loneliness, which will deliver increased health outcomes where previously there has been limited provision. Hampshire is a predominantly rural county and being able to offer younger adults activities and the opportunity to socialise with like-minded individuals and those with an interest in rural life and skills is why we are happy to support this application.

Officer comments and recommendation

Lisa Wood – Rural Affairs Programme Support Officer

This project's Business Case presents a well-planned, targeted youth programme, focussed on working with members of the youth population in a known provision target area for HCC.

The programme has been clearly set out with measurable targets against planned benchmarks. Regular monitoring is planned with updates to the Rural Programme team and Adults H&C.

In light of the above, and the efforts to supplement the service with substantial pledged volunteer time, as well as £12,170 match funding from other grants, I would recommend this application is taken to the next available Decision Day for approval for the requested £30,000.

Local Member comments

Feedback requested from Cllr Fran Carpenter – no response

Felicity Roe: Any comments and approval of above recommendation

Supported to proceed to Decision Day

Date: 20/10/2022

Appendix B – Compton and Shawford Parish Council

Parish and Town Council Investment Fund 2022/23

Funding assessment form

Organisation name:	Compton & Shawford Parish Council
Project title:	Pavilion Solar Panels
Project location:	Compton & Shawford
Application reference:	CG00025830
Total project cost:	£15,369.00
Amount requested:	£15,369.00
<i>Match funding – cash:</i>	
<i>Match funding - volunteer hours:</i>	
<i>Match funding - in-kind:</i>	
Match funding – total value	
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£15,369.00

Eligibility checklist	Yes/No
Is the applicant a Parish or Town Council, or a Local Community Group, directly benefitting the local community, with clear management structure within its constitution or suitable governance/terms of reference?	Yes
Does the project/activity deliver against the scheme priorities (to build community resilience and ease pressure on HCC Services)?	Yes
Does the application have support from the local community and Parish/Town Council?	Yes

Project summary

Compton & Shawford Parish Council own the clubhouse at the Memorial Playing Fields at Compton. The venue is incredibly popular and serves a wide variety of clubs and groups within the community. The building is let on a 25 year lease, until September 2032, to Compton & Shawford Sports Club who is responsible for the management of the sports club and have been there since it was built in 2003.

The club serves a growing community in the surrounding areas of Compton, Shawford and Otterbourne with over 300 people a week using the facilities within the clubhouse alone (pre-pandemic.) Whilst the sports club has traditionally been the main user of the building, in recent years it has grown to become central to the community with yoga classes, the Ladies Guild, Pre-School quiz, private hire for local parties, beer and wine tasting, Jigglywrigglers and cookery demonstrations, and the walkers club.

The project is intended to install a solar and battery system scaled to achieve a target of around 75% of the average total electrical consumption of the facility.

Consumption of energy on site can be periodic, often the tennis court floodlights are used a lot at night for example, therefore at peak, solar power production

surplus energy will be sold to the Grid. Whereas during peak consumption, there will be reliance on battery systems, topped up with energy imported at off-peak times.

HCC – Officer feedback/comments (relevant Services)

Lisa Wood - Rural Programme Team:

Compton and Shawford PC have provided a comprehensive application providing evidence of their projected costs and demonstrating a potential cost saving of £3120 annually against a project cost of £15,368.

Their submission does not include any match funding, but they have already undertaken other energy saving measures, such as converting all lights to LED. They are currently actively investigating the cost benefits of changing the internal fluorescent lights to LED, and we would require that this work should be completed first, as a condition of the grant.

Subject to signoff by the Climate Change Programme Manager, this project would be recommended for approval.

Christopher Dear – Climate Emergency Dept.

Compton and Shawford PC have already demonstrated their commitment to the climate emergency by taking steps to ensure their building is very energy efficient. The installation of solar PV will help the applicant to become increasingly self-sufficient in terms of energy consumption. The project is forecast to achieve annual financial savings of in excess of £3,000 and realise annual carbon savings of 1.45tCO₂e.

On this basis, the application is supported.

Officer comments and recommendation

Lisa Wood – Rural Affairs Programme Support Officer

This project's Business Case presents a positive continuation of their well-planned energy efficiency programme, focussed on delivering against HCC's Climate Emergency targets. The supporting statement from Chris Dear mirrors this evaluation.

For the reasons stated above, and subject to the completion of additional internal lighting alterations to LED, I would recommend the organisation is awarded £15,369.

Appendix C – Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council

Parish and Town Council Investment Fund 2022/23

Funding assessment form

Organisation name:	Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council
Project title:	Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village hall – Energy Efficiency Project
Project location:	Mapledurwell & Up Nately
Application reference:	CG00025891
Total project cost:	£12360.88
Amount requested:	£12360.88
Match funding – cash:	
Match funding - volunteer hours:	
Match funding - in-kind:	
Match funding – total value	
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£12360.88

Eligibility checklist	Yes/No
Is the applicant a Parish or Town Council, or a Local Community Group, directly benefitting the local community, with clear management structure within its constitution or suitable governance/terms of reference?	Yes
Does the project/activity deliver against the scheme priorities (to build community resilience and ease pressure on HCC Services)?	Yes
Does the application have support from the local community and Parish/Town Council?	Yes

Project summary
<p>The hall has very aged heating and lighting systems. It was agreed an Energy Efficiency Audit with recommendations by a qualified specialist (NFU Energy) was required to advise and make suggestions as to how the Trustees and Board members of the Village Hall and the Parish Council from whom the hall is leased could improve our energy consumption, reduce our carbon footprint and be a more sustainable community asset.</p> <p>The Parish and Town Council Investment fund has already supported the parish with funding for this report and for recommended building fabric works.</p> <p>This application seeks funding of £12360.88 to change the heating system (which accounts for approx. 78% of electricity usage) from inefficient night storage heaters to a split inverter A/C Unit.</p>
HCC – Officer feedback/comments (relevant Services)
<p>Lisa Wood - Partnering with Rural Programme Team:</p>

Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village hall have provided the results of the Energy Efficiency Audit carried out by NFU to demonstrate the benefits for each element of their planned Energy Efficiency project.

This final application seeks funding from the Parish And Town Council Investment Fund in line with HCC's energy efficiency grant funding, to address their antiquated heating system.

They have provided a comprehensive application providing evidence of their projected costs and demonstrating a potential cost saving of approx. £8000 annually against a project cost of £12,360.88.

They are in the process of addressing all 'fabric first' energy improvement elements of their Village Hall, and this funding would be conditional on that work being completed first.

Subject to review by Chris Dear, I would support this application.

Chris Dear - Climate Programme Team:

Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council have already demonstrated their commitment to the climate emergency and HCC has already recognised this by awarding grant funding to support an initial energy audit, and subsequent building improvements. Taking account of the recommendations of the audit report, this application seeks to continue to reduce carbon emissions and make the village hall increasingly energy efficient by installing a modern, efficient heating system. HCC forecasts annual financial savings of almost £8,000 and an annual carbon saving of 3.27tCO₂e.

On that basis, the application is supported.

Officer comments and recommendation

Lisa Wood – Rural Affairs Programme Support Officer

This project's Business Case presents a positive continuation of Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council's well-planned energy efficiency programme, focussed on delivering against HCC's Climate Emergency targets. The supporting statement from Chris Dear mirrors this evaluation.

For the reasons stated above, and subject to the completion of additional internal building fabric works, I would recommend the organisation is awarded £12,360.88.

Appendix D – Shedfield Parish Council

Parish and Town Council Investment Fund 2022/23

Funding assessment form

Organisation name:	Shedfield Parish Council
Project title:	Shedfield Pavilion – ASHP, Radiators, Solar
Project location:	Shedfield
Application references:	CG00025903, CG00025904, CG00025939
Total project cost:	£30,698
Amount requested:	£15,000
<i>Match funding – cash:</i>	£15,698
<i>Match funding - volunteer hours:</i>	
<i>Match funding - in-kind:</i>	
Match funding – total value	£15,698
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£15,000

Eligibility checklist	Yes/No
Is the applicant a Parish or Town Council, or a Local Community Group, directly benefitting the local community, with clear management structure within its constitution or suitable governance/terms of reference?	Yes
Does the project/activity deliver against the scheme priorities (to build community resilience and ease pressure on HCC Services)?	Yes
Does the application have support from the local community and Parish/Town Council?	Yes

Project summary
<p>Shedfield Parish Council are extending their pavilion hall so that they can offer a better space to any community groups that may wish to use the new facilities provided. The entire project is costing £530,000 funded by large contributions from the FA, WCC, and the rest from the Parish Council.</p> <p>As part of this they aim to improve the current main pavilion community space and office space which currently is small, cramped and in a poor state of repair. It is also in a poor condition with regard to energy efficiency measures. Following their energy efficiency audit and building fabric measures, all funded by this scheme, the installation of energy creation measures and associated radiators is the final stage of works to be carried out to address their building energy efficiencies.</p>
HCC – Officer feedback/comments (relevant Services)
<p>Lisa Wood - Rural Programme Team:</p> <p>Shedfield Parish Council have provided the results of the Energy Efficiency Audit carried out by Focus Green to demonstrate the benefits for each element of their Community Building Improvement project.</p>

Using substantial funding from WCC and the FA, as well as contributions from the Parish Council, a wide scale improvement and extension project of their community facility is ongoing. The Parish Council conducted an extensive tender process prior to commencing with the build, and selected Quaystone as their preferred partner. This occurred prior to the grant fund being made available by HCC. Their full tender document and project gaant chart have been shared to confirm that quotes as stated.

This and subsequent applications seek funding from the Parish And Town Council Investment Fund in line with HCC's energy efficiency grant funding. Their 'fabric first' approach has ensured that all elements of energy saving within the building have already been addressed first.

This request for funding focuses solely on the installation of solar panels on the existing building. Their energy audit demonstrates kW/hr savings of 2500 annually (£1309), against a project cost of £6250 (£5000 requested), a repayment period of between 4 and 5 years.

This request for funding focuses solely on the installation of an air source heat pump. Their energy audit demonstrates kW/hr savings of 2070 annually (£1308), against a project cost of just over £19,000 (£5000 requested), a repayment period of between 4 and 5 years.

This request for funding focuses solely on the installation of the radiators required to operate with their air source heat pump. Their energy audit demonstrates kW/hr savings of 1623 annually (£849), against a project cost of just over £5435 (£5000 requested), a repayment period of between 4 and 5 years.

Subject to review by Chris Dear I would support this application.

Chris Dear - Climate Emergency Dept:

Shedfield Parish Council have already demonstrated their commitment to the climate emergency and HCC has already recognised this by awarding grant funding to support works for the transformation of their pavilion hall.

Taking account of the recommendations of the audit report, this application seeks to continue to reduce carbon emissions and make the facility increasingly energy efficient by installing solar PV. Based on figures provided by Shedfield Parish Council, HCC forecasts that this measure will deliver annual financial savings of almost £1,309 and an annual carbon saving of 0.58tCO₂e.

In addition, as a combined package, taking account of figures provided by Shedfield, HCC forecasts that replacing the radiators and installing a heat pump will deliver annual financial savings of almost £1,932 and an annual carbon saving of 0.86tCO₂e.

On that basis, the application is supported.

Officer comments and recommendation

Lisa Wood – Rural Affairs Programme Support Officer

This project's Business Case presents a positive continuation of Shedfield Parish Council's well-planned energy efficiency programme, focussed on delivering against HCC's Climate Emergency targets. The supporting statement from Chris Dear mirrors this evaluation.

For the reasons stated above, I would recommend the organisation is awarded £15,000.