

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
<b>Date:</b>	8 June 2023
<b>Title:</b>	The Leader's Community Grant Fund
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Hampshire 2050

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The report considers three applications for a grant from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2023/24 and three requests to carry forward grants previously approved.

### Recommendations

2. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves three grants totalling £35,100 from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2023/24 to cultural and community organisations in Hampshire, as outlined in Appendix 2.
3. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves the carry forward of the grant awards for New Milton Memorial Centre, Hythe Pier Heritage Association and SPUD.

### Executive Summary

4. Three organisations have applied for a grant through the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2023/24 and the funds requested total £42,800. The report considers the applications and recommends the awards totalling £35,100. The recommended award can be met from within existing budget provision.
5. New Milton Memorial Centre, Hythe Pier Heritage Association and SPUD received grant awards in 2022 towards capital works. It is a condition that the grants be claimed within a year, however various delays have resulted in the timeframe for claiming to exceed a year, so these organisations have submitted a request to carry forward the grants.

### Contextual Information

6. 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. Full details, including what the County Council can and cannot fund, are set out in Appendix 1.

7. Three applications have been submitted for consideration. Details are set out in Appendix 2.
8. New Milton Memorial Centre was awarded a one-off grant on 23 June 2022 of up to 25% of total project costs to a maximum of £25,000 to support the flat roof repair and replacement project. This was on condition that the remainder of the match funding was secured. It has taken longer than expected to raise the remaining funds but is now able to proceed and building works start on 1 July with completion expected in September. As it is a condition of the grant to be claimed within a year, approval is sought to carry forward the grant award.
9. Hythe Pier Heritage Association (HPHA) was awarded a one-off grant on 26 April 2022 of up to 50% of project costs to a maximum of £25,000 to support the Hythe Train Railtrack Works project. As a capital project, it has taken longer than expected for the works to commence and be completed and so has requested to carry forward the grant award and be split into two payments of £12,500 each.
10. SPUD was awarded a one-off grant on 28 July 2022 of up to 19% of total eligible project costs to a maximum of £25,000 to support 'The Living Room' project - a dedicated space to enable creative collaborations with vulnerable members of the community, particularly older people and those living with dementia and their families/carers. This was on condition that a business plan was submitted, and match funding secured. Securing the match funding has been challenging. SPUD have now raised £15,000 elsewhere and are pursuing discussions with two other organisations for the remaining £10,000. As it is a condition of the grant to be claimed within a year, approval is sought to carry forward the grant award.

### **Finance**

11. The recommended awards can be met from within existing budget provision.

### **Consultation and Equalities**

12. A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.
13. The corporate terms and condition of grant require that any organisation in receipt of funding shall ensure that at all times it complies with the Equality Act 2010 if applicable and shall ensure that it does not discriminate against any person or persons on the basis of protected characteristics.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

14. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools

provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

15. The carbon mitigation tool decision tree indicates it is not suitable for the assessment of a programme. The decisions in this report are financial decisions in relation to a programme of one-off grant opportunities. Therefore, the tool is not suitable for this Climate Change Impact Assessment and has not been used.

### **Other Key Issues**

16. Legal Implications: Section 1 (1) of the Localism Act gives the County Council the power to do anything that individuals may generally do. This includes the power to make grants.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	no
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<a href="#">Leader's Community Grants – Revised Criteria and Management</a>	8 July 2021

**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:**

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

## Leader's Community Grants – Criteria

### What is funded?

The purpose of the scheme is to fund one-off, time limited projects which:

- provide community benefit and help local communities thrive; and
- help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding.

Proposals will be particularly welcomed where they can demonstrate how they:

- respond to the [Climate Emergency](#), as declared by the Council in June 2019; and
- reduce demand for Council services.

Proposals must support the priorities and outcomes of Hampshire County Council's [Serving Hampshire - Strategic Plan for 2021 - 2025](#). It forms the cornerstone of all strategies and plans across departments and service areas. It 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; and
- people in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities.

Applications can be made for over £1,000 to a maximum of £25,000 and may be for activity costs and/or capital costs. Applications in excess of £25,000 will occasionally be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Secured match funding or clear evidence of seeking match funding is highly desirable. Organisations should have also applied to local District or Parish Councils where local funding opportunities exist.

Supporting documentation will be required for all applications.

### Who can apply?

Organisations wishing to apply must be properly constituted with clear and effective governance and management structures. They must be delivering activities or services that benefit Hampshire residents. 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 organisations are expected to have an agreed reserves policy that addresses their financial risk.

The following organisations are not normally 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', including local branches;
- political parties or groups affiliated with a political party or from lobbying/campaigning organisations;
- 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;
- 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; and
- self-help by organisations is encouraged, and therefore grants are normally only a percentage of the sum required to complete a project.

### **When to apply**

Applications are welcomed at any time and will be dealt with on a 'first come, first served' basis. Recommendations for awards will be taken to the next available Executive Member Decision Day. This may be up to three months after the application is received, in line with meeting schedules.

Projects should be well developed, with match-funding secured, and any supported projects will normally be expected to commence within six-months of the decision date. All applicants for building works will be expected to evidence freehold or to have obtained permission from the landlord. 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 before applying.

### **What is not funded?**

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;
- 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;
- ongoing staff costs - we may fund a fixed-term member of staff or consultant to carry out a time-limited piece of work;
- repeat applications to cover previously funded activities/annual applications for the same activities;
- profit-making or fund-raising activities, or onward distribution of funds;

- projects which meet the aims of other Hampshire County Council grant schemes - where relevant, applications may be transferred to more appropriate schemes; and
- applications for £1,000 or less - where relevant, these should be directed to the Members' Devolved Grants Scheme.

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. Previous levels of Council funding will be taken into account when assessing applications.



## Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations - 2023/24

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
<b>East Boldre Community Stores Ltd</b>		<i>(New Forest/Brockenhurst)</i>	
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>East Boldre Community Stores Ltd is a Community Benefit Society. They have acquired the former Baptist chapel in East Boldre. This project will focus on the works needed to repair and alter it in order to create the shop and community spaces and to cover shopfitting and equipment.</p> <p>The building project will create safe, accessible retail and community spaces and to minimize highways impact of the shop's customers and deliveries. The chapel's central location will maximise footfall and the number of residents who can walk or cycle to the shop. The ancillary community space will host shop's events, workshops (IT, bike repair...), community groups and touring exhibitions (via St Barbe Museum) to bring people together, improve skills and make arts/culture more easily accessible, fostering a friendly atmosphere between staff, volunteers and customers and so provide a local focal point for exchanging news, views and information. East Boldre Community Stores Ltd have provided all relevant documentation and a fully costed implementation plan for the works, including approved planning permission.</p>	£25,000	£25,000
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 1800 Hampshire residents.		
<i>Funding (inc. match)</i>	<p>The total project costs are £331,817.</p> <p>Community Share Offer: £221,000; Match funding from other grants: £27,000; Grant applications submitted to Princes Countryside Trust, Lottery Heritage Fund and Charles Burnett Memorial Fund for £58,508</p> <p>25 May 2023 update – confirmation received that Phase 2a of the build project (which would utilise this grant award) is fully funded.</p> <p>(Note: 2022/23 Councillor grant of £500 towards this project)</p>		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Cllr Mans supports the application.		
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	<b>It is recommended that the organisation is awarded £25,000, split into 3 staged payments of £10,000 (upfront) £10,000 and £5,000, following submission of supporting invoices.</b>		

## Appendix 2

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
	(Note: It is noted that 'Rural Retailers' schemes are normally funded by the Rural Communities Fund, but this has a maximum grant award of £5000. Due to the scale of this project, and the community benefit and involvement, the application was accepted to the Leader's Community Fund.)		
<b>Starburst Studios</b> <span style="float: right;">(Rushmoor / Farnborough West)</span>			
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>The organisation is seeking funding towards the refurbishment and taking over the management of Yateley Village Hall, to offer daily hire to local community users at reasonable cost and creating a community hub of engagement.</p> <p>The Starburst Theatre Academy focuses on musical theatre and engages with local children, also offering a scholarship program for disadvantaged children and engaging with a local special needs school to widen therapeutic activity for their children.</p> <p>The Academy wish to take on the management of Yateley Village Hall as they expand their provision. The Hall needs updating and the building works will remove existing walls and partitions and reconfigure the layout to create more workable spaces, including 3 studios downstairs and 2 studios upstairs, along with a meeting room that will be provided 'free of charge to all'. The new décor will embrace the Yateley Village hall's history and showcase it over the years. The refurbishment has full support of Yateley Town Council with oversight and involvement in all aspects of the works to be carried out and has been approved by Hart District Council. The scheme of works has been designed and costed and contractors have been identified.</p>	£15,000	£7,500
<i>Reach</i>	350+ (weekly)		
<i>Funding (inc. match)</i>	<p>Project costs £60,000            £11,000 donation from Hurst Lodge School, Yateley            £42,000 from rental income</p> <p>(Note: 2019/20 Councillor grant of £1,000 towards the purchase of equipment; 2020/21 Councillor grants totalling £2,000 towards security access system for the Aldershot centre.)</p>		

## Appendix 2

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Local Member Comments	Councillors Cooper and Davies have been contacted for comment. Councillor Collett is fully supportive.		
Recommendation/ conditions	<b>£7,500 subject to match funding from other sources.</b>		

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
<b>Youth and Families Matter</b>			
<i>(New Forest/Totton South &amp; Marchwood)</i>			
Application summary	<p>The organisation is seeking funding for a new website that will provide information for and connectivity to the entire breadth of charitable services Youth and Families Matter provides in Totton.</p> <p>The current website is no longer compatible with current hosting platforms and have been advised that given the age of the platform, a brand-new website is the best way forward and will maintain awareness of YFM's services online.</p> <p>In 2023, YFM is expecting to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- over 2500 support sessions for children and young people referred by schools, social services, GPs, parents or other agencies, working with the child/young person to create objectives to help address the challenges they face, signpost to additional support and work with other agencies to improve safeguarding;</li> <li>- over 4000 hours of one-to-one support for families and vulnerable adults facing difficult challenges or circumstances;</li> <li>- family / adult crisis support, signposting to additional available help and collaboratively creating goals and objectives to move beyond current circumstances;</li> <li>- approx. 200 group support sessions covering a cross-section of wellbeing, mental health and parenting themes.</li> <li>- over 3000 bags of food to households facing hardship, distributed via their Basics Bank.</li> <li>- donations of high-quality frozen foods, distributed in partnership with COOK;</li> </ul>	£2,800	£2,600

## Appendix 2

<b>Organisation (District / Division)</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
	<p>- accommodation and administration of the FareShare weekly larder, working in partnership with them to provide a Community Hub with support workers on hand - both from YFM and other local organisations including Citizens Advice and the housing team from New Forest District Council.</p> <p>Once the new website is running, the organisation will put in place ongoing website management and maintenance which will be funded from within existing budgets.</p>		
<i>Reach</i>	2,700		
<i>Funding (inc. match)</i>	<p>Cost of project £5,310</p> <p>(Note: 2018/19 Culture &amp; Community Activity Grant of £1,500 towards community breakfast 2018/19 Councillor grant of £1,000 towards respite trips; 2019/20 Councillor grant of £1,500 towards a video production project; 2020/21 Councillor grant of £1,000 towards Covid 19 recovery work; 2021/22 Councillor grant of £1,900 towards targeted summer activities; 2022/23 Councillor grant of £2,300 towards lunchtime support workshops)</p>		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Councillor Harrison supports the application.		
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	<b>Up to 50% of project costs, totalling £2,600.</b>		
<b>TOTALS</b>		£42,800	£35,100