

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
Date:	30 November 2023
Title:	Awards from Community Grant Schemes
Report From:	Director of Hampshire 2050

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Purpose of this Report

1. The report considers four applications for grants from the Leader's Community Grant Fund and three applications from the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund (PTCIF) for 2023/24.

Recommendations

2. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves:
 - a) Four grants totalling £53,361 from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2023/24 to cultural and community organisations in Hampshire, as set out in Appendix 1.
 - b) Three grants totalling £59,703 from the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund, as set out in Appendix 2.

Executive Summary

3. Four organisations have applied for a grant through the Leader's Community Grant Fund totalling £60,837. Three organisations have applied for a grant from the Parish Town Council Investment Fund (PTCIF) totalling £59,703 for 2023/24.
4. The report considers the applications and recommends the awards totalling £53,361 from the Leader's Community Grant Fund, and £59,703 from the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund (PTCIF) The recommended awards can be met from within existing budget provision.
5. Appendix 3 summarises five grants approved by the Corporate Director for Hampshire 2050, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services, under delegated authority, which

have been made since the Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Decision Day on 25 September 2023.

Contextual Information

6. The purpose of the Leader's Community Grant Fund 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 of this grant stream, including what the County Council can and cannot fund, can be found [here](#).
7. 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. Full details of the PTCIF, including what the County Council can and cannot fund, can be found [here](#).

Finance

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

Consultation and Equalities

9. A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.
10. 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

11. 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.
12. 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

13. 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.

14. The Council has had regard to the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the provisions of the subsidy control regime in relation to the recommended awards considered in this report.

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>
The Leader's Community Grant Fund – Revised Criteria	13 July 2023

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.

Applications to the Leader's Community Grant Fund – 2023/24

Organisation (District/Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended		
City Life Church, Southampton (Countywide)		£10,500	£10,500		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Hong Kong Welcome is a community, based in Hampshire, with the aim of welcoming new residents from Hong Kong in the South of England. Organisers engage with around 1500 Hongkongers in Hampshire and regularly run events for up to 400 people to help them integrate into life in Hampshire. Activities include advice sessions (supported by Citizens Advice), library sessions, cultural events and friendship festivals.</p> <p>Hampshire Libraries have been developing their offer for Hongkongers in Hampshire through the 'Libraries of Sanctuary' project this year, and have received funding that has been used to fund Chinese language stock, a new Hong Kong Reminiscence Box, Hong Kong events in libraries, etc. City Life Church have been important to the success of the Library Service Hong Kong support, staff/volunteers at the Church have assisted in developing the offer, marketing and promoting libraries through Hong Kong channels and connections and identifying a team of Hong Kong volunteers across Hampshire who are now coming into libraries to support the work with their community.</p> <p>This funding will enable City Life Church to fund a Hong Kong outreach worker for the next 12 months to support community sessions and cultural events.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Approximately 1500 attend weekly				
<i>Funding</i>	Total Project Costs	Shortfall	Match funding from other organisations sought	Own funds committed	HCC already committed
	£21,500	£10,500	Nil	£11,000 (for outreach worker)	Nil
	(Note previous funding awarded: Nil)				
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Yes				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Countywide				
<i>Recommendation/conditions</i>	£10,500				

Appendix 1

Organisation <i>(District/Division)</i>	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended		
Shedfield Reading Room <i>(Winchester/ Meon Valley)</i>		£10,000	£10,000		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Shedfield Reading Room has a clay-tiled roof, dating from 1869, which is beyond economic repair and has no insulation. The project is to provide a new clay-tiled roof with appropriate insulation to modern environmental standards. The building is freehold and held in trust by the trustees of the Reading Room Management Committee. The building is situated in Shedfield Conservation Area and is from the same era as the other buildings in the Conservation Area. Original clay tiles will be reused where possible, otherwise matching clay tiles will be used. Planning permission is not required for this project.</p> <p>The community will benefit from more affordable heating bills, the savings being passed directly onto the users in reduced hire charges. The majority of users are not for profit organisations and struggle with rising costs. The hall will also be able to offer more inclusive activities. The elderly are particularly affected by loneliness and this will provide a warm and comfortable environment in order to participate in the activities. Lack of roof insulation has deterred some elderly users from attending activities in winter and on occasion activities have been cancelled. The environment will benefit through reduced energy use and help mitigate climate change.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx.5000 residents				
<i>Funding</i>	Total Project Costs	Shortfall	Match funding from other organisations sought	Own funds committed	HCC already committed
	£64,000	£10,000	£27,000	£27,000	Nil
	(Note previous funding awarded: Nil)				
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Yes				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Cllr Lumby fully supports this application.				
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	£10,000				

Organisation <i>(District/Division)</i>	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended		
Blandford Hall <i>(New Forest/ Lyndhurst & Fordingbridge)</i>		£26,000	£25,000		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>The hall is used for meetings and social gatherings, including use as a Warm Hub over the winter months. It provides facilities for the local Church and is used as a Polling Station, a children's playgroup and a range of activities. The local community shop is housed in an annexe.</p> <p>The refurbishment will create a more accessible, modern and appealing environment for the benefit and wellbeing of the local community. Improvements include up to date toilets, including accessible facilities, widened doorways for disabled access around the hall and into the community shop, new kitchen and equipment, improved energy efficiency - energy efficient infra-red heating, new LED lighting and installation of a comprehensive entertainment system to enable talks, films, theatre and social event, improved ventilation, acoustic panelling and a hearing loop.</p> <p>Facilities will be more appropriate for local agencies/ services and for the use of hall users and the local church. There will be enhanced storage facilities to remove unsafe obstructions in the Lobby and de-clutter the toilets. A new kitchen to meet user needs and current hygiene regulations will be provided. The hall space will have effective lighting, efficient heating, and acoustic dampening which will encourage greater use and improve conditions for those currently discouraged by the current condition of the hall. Once complete, it is anticipated that the activities on offer and general usage will increase.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 450 Residents				
<i>Funding</i>	Total Project Costs	Shortfall	Match funding from other organisations sought	Own funds committed	HCC already committed
	£172,407	£25,907	£145,500	£6,000	
	(Note previous funding awarded: Warm Hub Grant 2022/23 - £1,900)				
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Yes				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Councillor Heron fully supports this application.				
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	£25,000				

Appendix 1

Organisation (District/Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended		
Age Concern Hampshire (Countywide)		£14,337	£7,861		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>The project provides funding towards IT and Social Group Sessions in Basingstoke and Locks Heath, helping older people with provision of and/or enhanced digital engagement. Since the pandemic, more services are being provided online. This has made it more difficult for digitally excluded older people to find information and apply for the support they need. For example, bus timetables, bin collection dates, Blue Badge applications, etc.</p> <p>The project will be supported by a project coordinator and delivered by trained and DBS checked Age Concern Hampshire (ACH) volunteers. Resources needed include device training, PC's and connectivity to facilitate remote internet access for clients and carers who do not have access to the internet or smart devices, which has been sourced as an 'in kind' donation. This funding request will contribute towards recruitment, enrolment, induction, and training of volunteers as well as ongoing coordination and management of the project. The coordinator of the project will involve a range of third-party services and groups in order to provide beneficiaries with accessible information with a clear pathway to support where needed. Third parties will include (but not limited to) public and voluntary sector organisations to provide information on falls prevention/exercise, bereavement support, scam awareness/trading standards, Blue Badge, Attendance Allowance, mental health/dementia support, fire safety, local groups restarting, etc. The project co-ordinator works with a network of referrers such as social prescribers, care navigators, Dementia Support Workers, Housing Associations and many more to understand areas of need to target.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 150 Residents				
<i>Funding</i>	Total Project Costs	Shortfall	Match funding from other organisations sought	Own funds committed	HCC already committed
	£23,212	£14,352	£8,860	Nil	
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	In part as staff costs are not eligible in the Scheme criteria. Remaining project costs are eligible and total £7861.				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Countywide				
<i>Recommendation/conditions</i>	£7,861				
TOTALS			£60,837	£53,361	

Applications to the Parish Town Council Investment Fund (PTCIF) – 2023/24

Organisation (District/Division)	Proposal			Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall (Winchester / Itchen Valley)				£28,000	£28,000
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall Trust have self-funded extensive energy efficiency measures in the village hall in line with their climate emergency stance, including ceiling insulation, LED lighting, thermal curtains, draught proofing and installed 36 solar panels and battery storage. This has resulted in a 14% reduction in gas use, and an 18% reduction in electricity use. The final stage of their energy efficiency measures intends to move them entirely away from the use of fossil fuels, replacing their inefficient gas central heating system (two old gas boilers) with a ground source heat pump (GSHP).</p> <p>Their proposed solution will allow them to reduce their annual heating costs by £4078 (based on proposed tariff increases) and provides an alternative to the purchase of two new gas-fired boilers. This equates to a repayment period of under 7 years for the County Council’s proposed contribution. They have also committed to moving to a ‘100% green energy’ electricity tariff which will guarantee a zero-carbon operation from next year, once energy efficiency measures have been implemented.</p> <p>Climate Change Programme Team comments: The Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall ground source heat pump project will eliminate the use of fossil fuels in this building. It is forecast that the project will save 9.89 tonnes of CO2 a year. Once the organisation moves to a green energy electricity tariff, they have the opportunity to save a total of over 18 tonnes CO2/year.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 2250 pp / month				
<i>Funding</i>	Total Project Costs	Shortfall	Match funding from other organisations sought	Own funds committed	HCC already committed
	£62,232	£28,000	£34,000 (approved)	£232	£0
	(Note previous funding awarded: £1950 for EPC in 2022)				
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Approved - Winchester City Council (£28000) Offgen boiler replacement grant (£6000)				

Appendix 2

<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Cllr Jackie Porter is supportive of the grant award and is keen to see them continue to provide valuable guidance and information to residents of Hampshire via their annual 'Green Fairs' – the next fair is planned for July 2024, post installation of the GSPH.
<i>Recommendation/conditions</i>	£28,000 (conditional on a successful, contractor managed, borehole test for which there is no associated cost)

Organisation <i>(District/Division)</i>	Proposal			Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Abottswood Community Association <i>(Test Valley / Romsey)</i>				£25,713	£25,713
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Abottswood Community Centre wish to install solar PV panels and batteries.</p> <p>The community centre already has a favourable energy rating of B, so is a good candidate for support for a green energy generation project. Abottswood have provided extensive documentation demonstrating best value for money. The project indicates a financial saving of £4080/yr. This calculates to a favourable repayment period of 6-7 years. Following support from the Climate Change Programme Team, officers would recommend this application for funding.</p> <p>Climate Change Programme Team comments: The forecast annual tonnes of carbon saved is predicted to be 3.21 tCO2e for the installation of solar panels. This will help reduce Abottswood Community Centre reliance on fossil fuels, which therefore reduces the carbon footprint of the building.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 5000				
<i>Funding</i>	Total Project Costs	Shortfall	Match funding from other organisations sought	Own funds committed	HCC already committed
	£25,713	£25,713	£ 0	£0	£0
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	(Note: Match funding is not a requirement to this grant but is preferable. The building is leased from TVBC. The lease is 25 years and runs until 2 April 2043. No funding available from TVBC, but they are covering the legal cost of changes to the lease)				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Cllr Adams-King is supportive of the grant award.				
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	£25,713 (they have confirmed that no planning permission is required)				

Organisation <i>(District/Division)</i>	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended		
Upham New Millennium Village Hall <i>(Winchester / Bishops Waltham)</i>		£5,990	£5,990		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Upham New Millennium Village Hall (UVH) provides support to a wide community area in addition to supporting the parish of Upham.</p> <p>Following recent increases in energy bills, UVH's electricity costs have increased from 16p/kW to 76p/kW, resulting in an annual electricity cost rise from approximately £3,864 to £17,790 and is forecast next year to be in excess of £22,000. UVH does have some reserves, although a significant amount is tied up in an endowment fund. Unless they implement cost saving measures, their current electricity costs could subsume their entire reserves. They seek to reduce these costs, whilst at the same time contributing to a more energy efficient facility. They are applying for funding to install energy efficient LED lighting throughout the building, which will have a positive impact on carbon reduction, whilst also enabling them to keep the village hall open and running without passing on significantly higher hire charges to their community, who are also not able to contribute more financially. The new lighting will support a £5,470 reduction in their energy bills annually (to £12,000).</p> <p>Climate Change Programme Team comments: The forecast annual tonnes of CO2 savings is 1.53 t CO2e.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 300pp/month				
<i>Funding</i>	Total Project Costs	Shortfall	Match funding from other organisations sought	Own funds committed	HCC already committed
	£5,990	£5,990	£ 0	£0	£0
	<i>(Note previous funding awarded: N/A)</i>				
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	<i>(Note: Match funding is not a requirement to this grant but is preferable. The Trustees have stated that following a massive increase in their monthly running costs, they are not able to contribute)</i>				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	As local member, Cllr Humby is supportive of the application. Approval authority to be delegated to Cllr Roz Chadd.				
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	£5,990				
TOTALS				£59,703	£59,703

Summary of Officer Decisions Made since 25 September 2023

Grant Stream	Organisation	Project	Grant Approved	Date Approved
Leader's Community Fund	Sasha's Project	Service of Reflection in November (to coincide with International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day) to provide time and space for those in the community who have been affected by suicide.	£1,000	28/09/2023
Parish & Town Council Investment Fund	Heckfield Parish Council	Energy Efficiency Audit	£1495	04/10/2023
Parish & Town Council Investment Fund	Houghton Village Hall	Energy Efficiency Audit	£1495	10/10/2023
Parish & Town Council Investment Fund	Test Source Community Energy	Setting up a community led and owned solar energy supply	£4695	22/09/2023
Rural Community Fund	Grayshott Parish Council	Borehole water for community allotment	£2810	10/10/2023
Rural Community Fund	Pilley Community Shop	Improved security	£2332	08/11/2023