

REPORT OF THE
Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs
PART II

1. RURAL COMMUNITIES FUND

- 1.1. At his decision day on 13 June 2019, the Executive Member awarded grant funding to Hursley Community Shop Association for contributions to support the internal refit and improvement of the Hursley Village Store and Post Office. This grant was awarded from the Rural Communities Fund (RCF).
- 1.2. The RCF continues to offer support to Hampshire's rural communities by providing small grants and support for locally led initiatives. The fund provided a total award of £73,000 through 2018/19, with four to five times match funding achieved. Uptake by rural communities increased in the latter half of the year setting a trend which continues into 2019/20, with forecast awards for the current year at £100,000 to £120,000.

2. PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL INVESTMENT FUND

- 2.1. At his decision day on 13 June 2019, the Executive Member awarded grant funding to Fawley Parish Council to enable the purchase of specialist exercise equipment for a community led activity programme for those with physical mobility challenges. This grant was awarded from the Parish and Town Investment Fund (PTIF).
- 2.3. The PTIF of £500,000, launched in November 2018, seeks to encourage innovation in response to growing pressures upon County Council Services. Investing in locally led initiatives it looks to build community capacity and resilience through supporting pilots for new ways of working. Offering both capital and revenue investments to local councils and community groups, there has been a strong early uptake with over 100 enquiries and with 25 applications in progress.

Further details can be found at the link below:

[Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs Decision Day – 13 June 2019](#)

COUNCILLOR EDWARD HERON
Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs