

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs
<b>Date:</b>	12 January 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend approval of grant funding to culture and community organisations totalling £40,000 in 2020/21 and £179,000 in 2021/22.

### Recommendations

2. That the Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs approves grant funding to culture and community organisations totalling £40,000 in 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1, and
3. That the Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs approves grant funding to culture and community organisations totalling £179,000 in 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 2, subject to approval of the Council budget for 2021/22.

### Executive Summary

4. The report considers applications from four community organisations to support transitions to Independent Community Libraries and recommends awards totalling £40,000 in 2020/21.

5. The report also considers applications from four cultural and community organisations and recommends awards totalling £179,000 in 2021/22, subject to approval of the Council Budget.

### **Contextual information**

6. On 28 July 2020, as part of decisions on the Library Service Transformation – Strategy to 2025, the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage agreed that, as part of an offer for community organisations to take on closing branches and deliver services through them as Independent Community Libraries, one-off pump-priming awards of up to £10,000 could be made. These awards are intended to support start up and transition costs. Applications have been received from five organisations to date for such funding, totalling £50,000.
7. The Executive Member has declared a potential conflict of interest in one of these five applications, from Lyndhurst Community Association. In accordance with Part 3, Chapter 2, Para 2.3 of the Constitution, the Leader has deputed the decision to another Executive Member and it is therefore not included in this report.
8. Further details of the remaining four Independent Community Library applications, each of which are recommended for approval, are set out in the table titled Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations 2020/21 in Appendix 1. Further applications are anticipated and will be brought to future decision days.
9. As part of a restructure of grant schemes, on 14 January 2019, the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage took a decision to transition from ongoing revenue funding to cultural organisations through the Culture and Recreation Investment Fund to one-off awards through the newly created Recreation and Heritage Community Fund. As part of this decision, it was agreed there would be a phased reduction in awards for five organisations, and this was extended to a sixth organisation in a decision taken on 25 February 2019. On 16 January 2020, final awards in 2020/21 for five of these organisations were agreed by the Executive Member, with a recommended award in 2021/22 for The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, and subject to application, assessment, and approval of the County Council budget for 2021/22. An application for £75,000 has been received and is recommended for approval. Further details are set out in the table titled Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations 2021/22 in Appendix 2.
10. Four community organisations delivering neighbourhood services in some of the most deprived wards in Hampshire, previously funded through the Community Investment Fund, have continued to be supported through the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund. Applications from two of these

organisations for funding totalling £17,000 in 2021/22 have been received and both are recommended for approval. Further details are set out in the table titled Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations 2021/22 in Appendix 2.

11. At his Decision Day on 16 July 2015, the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside agreed that the County Council's Sports Team, known as SHIOW, would form as a Community Interest Company, known as Energise Me, and move out of the Council in April 2016. A three-year funding package was agreed which was £196,000 for 2016/17, £150,000 for 2017/18 and £100,000 for 2018/19. On 7 December 2017, the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside agreed a further £100,000 for 2019/20. The Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage agreed a further £100,000 for 2020/21 on 14 January 2019 and a further £87,000 for 2021/22 on 16 January 2020. Details of an application to support this award for 2021/22 are set out in the table titled Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations 2021/22 in Appendix 2.

## **Finance**

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

## **Consultation and Equalities**

13. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) were carried out and published alongside the Changes to Culture and Communities Grants report which went to the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage on 14 January 2019.

## **Other Key Issues**

14. 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.

**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
<b>OR</b>	
<b>This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</b>	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
New Governance Arrangements for the Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight Team	16 July 2015
Grant Funding for Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2018/19	07 December 2017
Changes to Culture and Communities Grants	14 January 2019
Grant Funding for Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019/20	25 February 2019
Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire	16 January 2020
Library Service Transformation – Strategy to 2025	28 July 2020

**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:**

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

## Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations, 2020/21

Organisation	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Elson Community Library and Hub	The organisation intends to operate an Independent Community Library from the Elson Library building and seeks funding to support transition through the purchase of IT and reprographics equipment, a booking system, furnishings and equipment, signage and promotional resources. This is a new organisation which has completed registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. <b>It is recommended that Elson Community Library and Hub is awarded £10,000.</b>	£10,000	£10,000
Horndean Community Association	This established community organisation intends to operate an Independent Community Library from its own facilities, following the closure of Horndean Library. This will allow the community library services to be embedded within other community services delivered by the Community Association and for each element to benefit from cross-referral and footfall. It seeks funding to support transition through removal costs for items to be handed over by Hampshire County Council Library Service, reconfiguration of existing spaces to provide suitable venues for both community library and existing community activities and IT equipment to support community library service delivery. <b>It is recommended that Horndean Community Association is awarded £10,000.</b>	£10,000	£10,000
Lee Hub - Independent Community Library	The organisation intends to operate an Independent Community Library from the Lee-on-the-Solent Library building and seeks funding to support transition set up costs such as signage, training, Library Management System software and IT equipment, furniture, community cafe equipment, accessibility equipment (hearing induction loop) some running costs while reserves are and some costs which would not be eligible such as establishment of a future book fund. As the overall project costs are significantly more than the funding available through this grant, ineligible elements can be discounted without impacting on the recommended award. This is a new organisation in the process of registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. <b>It is recommended that Lee Hub - Independent Community Library is awarded £10,000, on condition registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, or similar eligible organisational structure, is completed.</b>	£10,000	£10,000
Odiham Parish Council	The organisation intends to operate an Independent Community Library as a Book Exchange from the Odiham Library building and seeks funding to support transition set up costs including IT equipment and broadband and Wi-Fi connectivity to support running of community library services and community access to the internet, and promotional activity and marketing to establish the Book Exchange as a brand and service within the community. A portion of the grant would be used to fund the administrative support needed during the first year to coordinate and manage the community library, library premises and volunteer administration including processing volunteer DBS applications, volunteer induction training and volunteer rotas. It plans to support the formation of a separate independent constituted organisation who would take over this administrative role. <b>It is recommended that Odiham Parish Council is awarded £10,000.</b>	£10,000	£10,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£40,000</b>	<b>£40,000</b>

## Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations, 2021/22

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Awarded 2020/21	Amount Requested 2021/22	Amount Recommended 2021/22
Alamein Community Association  (Test Valley / Andover West)	<p>This is a small community association serving a community in the top 15% most deprived areas in Hampshire and the top 40% in England. It develops and delivers a range of activities and projects to address local needs including drop-in advice groups, job club, food bank, IT skills and activities for vulnerable groups including children and young people and older people. The building, owned by Test Valley Borough Council, is small and its layout and location limit commercial use. A new lease is in the process of being negotiated. Through 2020, the organisation had to close between March and September and for November but has hosted a food bank and continued to deliver community services outside these times. Income generation through room hire has been impacted.</p> <p>The organisation expects to receive £3,000 from Test Valley Borough Council. Test Valley Borough Council also support the organisation through provision of the building.</p> <p><b>It is recommended that Alamein Community Association is awarded £5,000, on condition the lease is agreed. If the lease is not secured by the start of the grant period and the organisation continues to operate from the building under a 'holding over' agreement, it is recommended the award is paid in staged payments rather than in one payment up front.</b></p>	£5,000	£8,000	£5,000
Energise Me  (Countywide)	<p>Formerly part of Hampshire County Council and known as Sport Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Energise Me is one of Sport England's 43 Active Partnerships across England who work collaboratively with local partners to create the conditions for an active nation using the power of sport and physical activity to transform lives. The organisation manages two funding schemes on behalf of the Council: the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme supports athletes to reach their goals in Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games disciplines, and a bursary scheme for coaches, volunteers and officials in Hampshire, to develop a better qualified and better educated workforce to support the development of physical activity and sport across Hampshire in clubs, schools and community. In 2020 it supported 190 athletes through the Talented Athletes Scheme, including £39,750 in grants awarded to 117 athletes and 15 physiotherapy sessions. Grant funding also contributes towards some running costs and LGPS pension contributions.</p> <p><b>It is recommended that the organisation is awarded £87,000, in line with the decision taken on 16 January 2020.</b></p>	£100,000	£133,000	£87,000

## Appendix 2

<b>Organisation (District / Division)</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Amount Awarded 2020/21</b>	<b>Amount Requested 2021/22</b>	<b>Amount Recommended 2021/22</b>
The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre  (Havant / Emsworth and St Faiths)	The Spring is Havant's only professional arts venue and museum and is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation. Previously funded through the Culture and Recreation Investment Fund, this is the final award in an agreed withdrawal of HCC funding, linked to capital investment grants agreed on 07 December 2017 to support new income generation opportunities and reduce reliance on local authority support. <b>It is recommended that the organisation is awarded £75,000. This will be the last award from the Council to support revenue costs.</b>	£86,000	£75,000	£75,000
Wecock Community Association  (Havant / Cowplain and Hart Plain)	A large community association, this organisation delivers a wide range of activities and services to address the social and economic needs of the area which is ranked in the top 1% most deprived areas in Hampshire and the top 20% in England. There is a strong volunteering ethos in the centre with over 100 volunteers of all ages. It provides activities for children and young people, older people, skills development and work experience for volunteers, job club, healthy lifestyles programmes, adult and community learning, food bank, charity shop, community café, launderette and IT access. During 2020, it has remained open to deliver community services and support, hosted a food bank and worked in partnership to develop a supported accommodation offer for six vulnerable individuals. Income generation through room hire has been impacted. Havant Borough Council supports the Association through provision of the building and rates exemption, including a discretionary rate relief element. <b>It is recommended that Wecock Community Association is awarded £12,000.</b>	£12,000	£12,000	£12,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£203,000</b>	<b>£228,000</b>	<b>£179,000</b>