

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Commercial Strategy, Human Resources and Performance
Date:	19 January 2021
Title:	Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire
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 recommend approval of grant funding to Lyndhurst Community Association totalling £10,000 in 2020/21.

Recommendation(s)

2. That the Executive Member for Commercial Strategy, Human Resources and Performance approves grant funding to Lyndhurst Community Association totalling £10,000.

Executive Summary

3. The report considers an application from Lyndhurst Community Association to support the transition to an Independent Community Libraries and recommends an award of £10,000 in 2020/21.

Contextual information

4. 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. A decision on four of applications is due to be taken by the Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs on 12 January 2021.

5. The Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs 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 the Executive Member for Commercial Strategy, Human Resources and Performance.
6. Lyndhurst Community Association intends to operate an Independent Community Library from its own premises, including some space previously leased by Hampshire County Council Library Service. It seeks funding to reconfigure the existing space to create a community-run children's library and a separate adults Book Exchange, with funding to contribute towards building works, IT equipment, network installation and training.
7. Due to the timing of the lease, Lyndhurst Library closed in November 2020 and the organisation has been in a position to start preparations for transition earlier than others; a Without Prejudice letter has been supplied, noting that this does not guarantee funding will be awarded, to enable them to commence works included in the application, as grants do not normally fund retrospectively.
8. It is recommended that the application is supported and that Lyndhurst Community Association is awarded £10,000.

Finance

9. The recommended award can be met from within existing budget provision.

Consultation and Equalities

10. 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

11. 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

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
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire	12 January 2021
Library Service Transformation – Strategy to 2025	28 July 2020
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

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. Grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.