

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	19 January 2021
Title:	Grants to Voluntary Organisations and Other Bodies
Report From:	Director of Transformation and Governance – Corporate Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to consider a grant request received from the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust from the Policy and Resources grants budget.

Recommendation

2. That a one-off grant of £25,000 be awarded in 2020/21 from the Policy and Resources grants budget to the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust.

Executive Summary

3. This report is to consider a request received for financial assistance from the Policy and Resources grants budget. Details of the request are outlined in Appendix 2 to this report.

Grants Criteria

4. A copy of the criteria used for considering grants from the Policy and Resources grants budget is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Legal Implications

5. Subject to certain restrictions, the County Council has the power under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do including the power to give grants.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
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

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>
Application form and correspondence received from organisation	Director of Transformation and Governance

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:

The application procedure includes equalities monitoring information as agreed as part of the corporate review of grants programmes and procedures. Further information can be found on the individual request.

FUNDING CRITERIA FOR THE POLICY AND RESOURCES GRANTS

The following criteria should be taken into consideration when preparing a submission for funding. They are intended as guidelines and not prescriptive rules

1. Assistance will be considered only in response to direct applications from properly constituted organisations seeking assistance. You must show in your application that your organisation is properly and legally organised and has its own bank account.
2. Where appropriate, applications will be referred to the relevant service department (e.g. Adult Services, Culture, Communities and Business Services, Children's Services, etc.) for consideration.
3. Preference will be given to applications for specific projects or activities rather than 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.
4. Grants will not usually be made in respect of applications from the following:-
 - District or Parish Councils
 - Government Institutions
 - Schools
 - Overseas and out of County organisations which have no direct Hampshire involvement
 - Branches or organisations assisted centrally with a sum from the County Council
 - Bodies requesting funds for onward distribution to other charities e.g. mayoral appeals, carnivals, fetes, or for their own fundraising events.
5. Applications will not be accepted from political parties or groups affiliated with a political party or from lobbying/campaigning organisations.
6. 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 are for small one-off projects.
7. 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.
8. Where possible self-help within organisations should be encouraged and to this end, grants are normally a percentage of the sum required to complete the project.
9. As a general rule, grants in excess of £5,000 will not be awarded.
10. In general grants will only be awarded to projects which are taking place in the same year as application for funds.

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLANDS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST (HIHCT)

A sum of £25,000 is being sought by the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust to enable it to award smaller grants to churches within Hampshire to help with their one-off projects.

The Trust considers applications for grants and loans from churches of all denominations which are members of 'Churches Together', for work to preserve, maintain or repair the fabric of the church, including modifications for disabled access or for health and safety reasons.

Total expenditure: £108,000

Total projected income: £83,000 (own funds and subscriptions)

Shortfall: £25,000

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Transformation and Governance – Corporate Services

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£25,000

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY LOCAL MEMBERS

Grants of £25,000 have been awarded from this budget since 2012.

In 2019/20, the County Council's grant allowed 15 churches in Hampshire to receive funding totalling £62,000.

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

This is a countywide organisation.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Transformation and Governance – Corporate Services: The Trust welcomes applications for grants and loans from Christian churches of all denominations who are members of 'Churches Together in England'.

A grant would enable people in Hampshire to enjoy a rich and diverse environment by enhancing and protecting Hampshire's heritage and culture and maintaining the unique character of the County.

RECOMMENDATION:

£25,000