

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, and Rural Affairs
Date:	29 November 2021
Title:	Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations
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 consider an application for grant funding to an independent community library in Hampshire.

Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, and Rural Affairs approves £1,200 grant funding to Milford on Sea Community Library.

Contextual Information

3. 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.
4. An application has been received from Milford on Sea Independent Community Library. Further details and recommendations are set out in the table titled Grant Funding to Independent Community Libraries 2021/22 in Appendix 1.

Finance

5. The recommendation in this report is covered by a grant provision carried forward from 20/21 to cover known commitments, including grant funding to Independent Community Libraries.

Consultation and Equalities

6. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) were carried out and published alongside the Library Service Transformation – Strategy to 2025 report which went to the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage on 28 July 2020.
7. The corporate terms and condition of grant require that Milford on Sea Community Library 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 race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age or otherwise.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

8. 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.
9. 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

10. 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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Library Service Transformation – Strategy to 2025	28 July 2020
Revenue Budget and Precept 2021/22	21 February 2021
EIA - Library Service Consultation – Milford-on-Sea Council supported community managed Library transition to an Independent Community-Managed Library or close	17 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:

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

Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) were carried out and published alongside the Library Service Transformation – Strategy to 2025 report which went to the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage on 28 July 2020.

Grant Funding to Independent Community Libraries, 2021/22

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Milford on Sea Community Library	<p>The organisation has operated for several years as a Community Managed Library within the Library Service network. It intends to operate an Independent Community Library from its existing premises, Milford Village Hall, which it is a sub-committee of. The organisation seeks funding towards equipment, furniture, storage, bookstands and stationery. The organisation was previously awarded £3,100 and therefore if this amount is awarded they will have received a total of £4,300.</p> <p>It is recommended that Milford on Sea Community Library is awarded £1,200.</p>	£1,115.21	£1,200
Total		£1,115.21	£1,200