

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	16 December 2021
Title:	Investing in Hampshire Fund Bids – Winchester Excavations
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Emma Noyce

Tel: 0370 779 8373

Email: emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the award of a grant from the Investing in Hampshire Fund, to projects which will contribute to cultural development and economic recovery and growth in Hampshire

Recommendation

2. To approve an award of £200,000 to *Winchester Excavations*, which will include a significant contribution to the digitisation of the publications, and on condition of match funding and the phasing of payment according to the spend.

Executive Summary

Winchester Excavations

3. Between 1962 and 1971 the *Winchester Excavations Committee* (WEC) carried out the largest programme of archaeological excavations and historical research ever undertaken in a British city with more than 2000 people digging on its sites. The centre of interest was the city itself; the urban phenomenon and how it waxed and waned over 2000 years from the Iron Age, through Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval times down to the emergence of the modern city in the Victorian period.

- 3.1. In recent years Winchester Excavations Committee has been undertaking a major fund-raising campaign with the twin aims of publishing the remaining volumes of work and bringing the outcomes of the analyses to a wider audience

Contextual Information

Winchester Excavations

4. Between 1962 and 1971 WEC carried out the largest programme of archaeological excavations and historical research ever undertaken in a British city with more than 2000 people digging on its sites. A team of innovative professional archaeologists were supported by students from the UK, mainland Europe and the USA as well as by many local people who both worked on the excavations and housed volunteers. The centre of interest was the city itself; the urban phenomenon and how it waxed and waned over 2000 years from the Iron Age, through Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval times down to the emergence of the modern city in the Victorian period.

5. The impact of the excavations has been considerable:

'One of the most important excavations worldwide of the 20th century' – The Times, Millennium Edition, 1 01. 2000.

'No one excavation had a greater impact on archaeology in Britain in the later twentieth century than Martin Biddle's project in Winchester in the 1960s' – Professor John Collis in Great Excavations, edited by John Schofield 2011.

6. Since the Committee was set up in 1968 more than £2.3million has been raised from government departments, local authorities, individuals, trusts and funds and other local and national organisations.
7. In recent years Winchester Excavations Committee has been undertaking a major fund-raising campaign with the twin aims of publishing the remaining volumes and bringing the outcomes of the analyses to a wider audience
8. In the last five years the WEC have raised £425,000 in addition to the grant of £200,000 from Hampshire County Council in 2018. They are now on the final push to complete the task and publish as many of the remaining volumes as possible and are seeking to raise a further £390,000 over the next four years.
9. The Publications programme includes:
 - **Winchester Studies 10: Environment, Agriculture, and Gardens of Early Winchester**
 - **Winchester Studies 3.i: Prehistoric, Roman, Post-Roman Winchester.**
 - **Winchester Studies 4.i: The Anglo-Saxon Minsters**

- **Winchester Studies 6.i: Fortress, Palace, Garrison, and County Seat**
- **Winchester Studies 7.i, Artefacts from Medieval Winchester: Ceramics of Medieval Winchester**
- **Winchester Studies 9.ii, The Animals of Early Winchester**
- **Winchester Studies 5, The Brooks and Other Town Sites of Medieval Winchester,**
- **Winchester Studies 6.ii, Wolvesey Palace**

Digitisation

10. The majority of Winchester Studies volumes were published in hard copy form and Winchester Excavations Committee holds their digital rights. The remaining Winchester Studies volumes which will in future be available simultaneously electronically and in print form and the volumes already published in hard copy will be digitised. All will be fully searchable and available as free downloads.

Public engagement

11. Volunteers and public engagement have been a key component of WEC's work from the start and this is a vital strand of the next phase of work. Michael Wood, Professor in Public History at the University of Manchester is helping to develop an integrated strategy in partnership with other major stakeholders. These include the Hampshire Cultural Trust, the University of Winchester, Hyde 900, Hampshire Field Club and Archaeology Society, Winchester Cathedral, Winchester College, Winchester Archaeology Rescue Group as well as Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council. In addition to our existing initiatives, we envisage that the programme will produce interactive and on-line resources, special exhibitions, lectures in the Cathedral, schools and community centres across Hampshire as well as enriching curricula in schools and the University of Winchester. In partnership with the Hampshire Cultural Trust, we shall also enhance access by scholars to these unique finds.
12. The WEC is requesting a further £200,000 contribution from HCC to support the activities outlined above over a four-year period, match-funded by other fundraising initiatives. This will complete the work.

Finance

13. The total estimated costs of the WEC work over the next four years are in the region of £400k. They are requesting £200k from HCC to be match-funded by other donations.

14. Any awards approved under the Investing in Hampshire Fund are only paid out after evidence has been provided to the Director of Corporate Operations of appropriate expenditure on the relevant project.

Consultation and Equalities

15. A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grant is intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.
16. This particular project has been designed to extend the reach of cultural provision in Hampshire.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

17. 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.
18. The carbon mitigation tool decision tree indicates it is not suitable for the assessment of a programme. The decision in this report is a financial decision 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

19. 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:	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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Not applicable	

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 grant is intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.

FUNDING CRITERIA FOR INVESTING IN HAMPSHIRE

The following criteria should be taken into account when considering a request for funding.

1. Assistance will be considered only in response to direct applications from properly constituted organisations seeking assistance for one-off funding only. The application must show that the organisation is properly and legally organised and has its own bank account. Funding would only be awarded if the proposal was to support activity within agreed County Council priorities.
2. Applications will be considered for the items listed below, where these are within agreed priorities and generally only where other substantial funding exists:
 - Specific capital projects for the improvement or maintenance of significant assets or facilities within Hampshire
 - Projects that will support economic development and business growth within Hampshire.
3. Other applications will be considered at the absolute discretion of the Leader where he considers that the award will make a contribution for the wider benefit of Hampshire and its residents.
4. The wider economic and other benefits to the residents of Hampshire should be considered together with any complementary benefits for Hampshire County Council.
5. Awards will not usually be made in respect of applications from the following:-
 - Government Institutions
 - Schools
 - Overseas and out of County organisations which have no direct Hampshire involvement
 - Bodies requesting funds for onward distribution to other charities e.g. mayoral appeals, carnivals, fetes, or for their own fundraising events.
6. Apart from exceptional circumstances, the requesting body would be expected to provide their own funding towards the project.
7. As a general rule, grants in excess of £250,000 will not be awarded unless significant benefits and funding are available. In exceptional cases, where the benefits are significant and directly relate to services and functions close to the County Council's key objectives, then an award greater than the level above would be considered.

8. Given the longer-term nature of capital projects, requests can be considered well in advance, but funding will only be released once evidence of capital expenditure has been provided to the County Council or other arrangements made, consistent with the agreement of the Director of Corporate Operations.