

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Member for Policy, Resources and Economic Development |
| Date: | 23 June 2022 |
| Title: | The Leader's Community Grants |
| Report From: | Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services |

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Purpose of this Report

1. The report considers five applications for grants from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2022/23.

Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Policy, Resources and Economic Development approves five grants totalling £71,650 from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2022/23 to cultural and community organisations in Hampshire as outlined in Appendix 2.

Executive Summary

3. Five organisations have applied for grants through the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2022/23 and the funds requested total £71,650. The report considers the applications and recommends awards totalling £71,650. The recommended awards can be met from within existing budget provision.

Contextual Information

4. The purpose of this grant stream is to fund projects which provide community benefit and help local communities thrive and/or to help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding.

Full details, including what the County Council can and cannot fund, are set out in Appendix 1.

5. Five applications have been submitted for consideration. Details are set out in Appendix 2.

Finance

6. The recommended awards can be met from within existing budget provision.
7. The total budget available for the Leader's Community Grant in 2022/23 is £673,000 (this figure includes unspent allocation carried over from 2021/22). If the recommendations in this report are approved, the total awarded in this financial year is £132,780, leaving a balance of £540,220 remaining.

Consultation and Equalities

8. A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.
9. The corporate terms and condition of grant require that any organisation in receipt of funding 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

10. 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.

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

11. Legal Implications: Section 1 (1) of the Localism Act gives the County Council the power to do anything that individuals may generally do. This includes the power to make grants.'

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

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|---|-----|
| 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

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| Links to previous Member decisions: | |
| <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
| Leader's Community Grants – Revised Criteria and Management | 8 July 2021 |
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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.

Leader's Community Grants – Criteria

What is funded?

The purpose of the scheme is to fund one-off, time limited projects which:

- provide community benefit and help local communities thrive
- help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding

Proposals will be particularly welcomed where they can demonstrate how they:

- respond to the [Climate Emergency](#), as declared by the Council in June 2019
- reduce demand for Council services

Proposals must support the priorities and outcomes of Hampshire County Council's [Serving Hampshire - Strategic Plan for 2021 - 2025](#). It forms the cornerstone of all strategies and plans across departments and service areas. It features four key aims:

- Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity
- people in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives
- people in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment
- people in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities

Applications can be made for over £1,000 to a maximum of £25,000 and may be for activity costs and/or capital costs. Applications in excess of £25k will occasionally be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Secured match funding or clear evidence of seeking match funding is highly desirable. Organisations should have also applied to local District or Parish Councils where local funding opportunities exist.

Supporting documentation will be required for all applications.

Who can apply?

Organisations wishing to apply must be properly constituted with clear and effective governance and management structures. They must be delivering activities or services that benefit Hampshire residents. Organisations will not normally be eligible for grants where they hold unallocated reserves in excess of one year's running costs. Where it is judged that unallocated reserves are unreasonably in excess of what is required or not allocated for legitimate purposes, those organisations may receive a reduced grant. All organisations are expected to have an agreed reserves policy that addresses their financial risk.

The following organisations are not normally funded under this scheme:

- individuals
- services provided solely within the unitary authority areas of Portsmouth City Council and/or Southampton City Council
- other local authorities, including District, Parish and Town Councils

- commercial/profit making organisations
- schools, including pre-schools and colleges
- large, national organisations or 'household name charities', including local branches
- political parties or groups affiliated with a political party or from lobbying/campaigning organisations.
- 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 then only for works in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act
- 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.
- Self-help by organisations is encouraged, and therefore grants are normally only a percentage of the sum required to complete a project.

When to apply

Applications are welcomed at any time and will be dealt with on a 'first come, first served' basis. Recommendations for awards will be taken to the next available Executive Members decision day. This may be up to three months after the application is received, in line with meeting schedules.

Projects should be well developed, with match-funding secured, and any supported projects will normally be expected to commence within six-months of the decision date. All applicants for building works will be expected to evidence freehold or to have obtained permission from the landlord. If required, applicants will also be expected to have obtained (or engaged in the process of) planning permission and/or listed buildings consent (if appropriate) to carry out the works before applying.

What is not funded?

The following projects are not funded under this scheme:

- the purchase of land
- capital works that have already been carried out - we cannot retrospectively fund projects; grants are awarded for works to be carried out in the future
- 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
- ongoing staff costs - we may fund a fixed-term member of staff or consultant to carry out a time-limited piece of work
- repeat applications to cover previously funded activities/annual applications for the same activities
- profit-making or fund-raising activities, or onward distribution of funds
- projects which meet the aims of other Hampshire County Council grant schemes - where relevant, applications may be transferred to more appropriate schemes

- applications for £1,000 or less - where relevant, these should be directed to the Members' Devolved Grants Scheme.

Organisations will not be awarded more than one grant per financial year and previously funded projects must be completed before a new application is made. Previous levels of Council funding will be taken into account when assessing applications.

Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations, 2022/23

| Organisation (District / Division) | Proposal | Amount Requested | Amount Recommended |
|--|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| New Milton Memorial Centre (New Forest / New Milton) | <p>The organisation seeks funding to repair the Memorial Centre roof which is in need of urgent replacement. Without funding the centre may have to temporarily close. The organisation has a 5-year business plan in place detailing a long term strategy to increase the amount of people accessing the centre with a view to increase longer term financial sustainability. This application is purely in relation to the urgent roof repair and without this work taking place the longer-term plan of works will be significantly impacted, resulting in loss of current and future income. The centre is well used by a variety of groups and has up to 500 weekly users who benefit from various cultural, educational and wellbeing activities.</p> <p>The total project costs are £99,700 and the organisation has committed £14,000 of its own funds. It has applied for £20,000 from the Selwood Charitable Trust, £12,000 from the Colefax Charitable Trust, £10,000 from the Alice Ellen Cooper-Dean Charitable Foundation, £12,000 from the Graham Kirkham Foundation, £6,000 from the Barker Mill Foundation, £25,000 from Hoburne Holiday Parks and £10,000 from the Bernard Sunley Foundation.</p> <p>Note: The organisation received £350 from Councillor Carpenter in 2019/20 towards repairs to the carpark.</p> <p>Councillor Kendal supports the application. It is recommended that the organisation is awarded up to 25% of total project costs to a maximum of £25,000 on condition that the remainder of the match funding is secured and on receipt of a up to date reserve policy.</p> | £25,000 | £25,000 |
| Broadlands Group RDA (East Hampshire / Alton Rural) | The organisation aims to improve the lives of local young people and adults with physical, learning, and mental health disabilities through regular horse riding, carriage driving and equine contact therapy. The project seeks to increase the existing carriage driving provision increasing inclusivity for those unable to take part in horse-back riding due to physical | £14,000 | £14,000 |

| Organisation (District / Division) | Proposal | Amount Requested | Amount Recommended |
|---|---|------------------|--------------------|
| | <p>and/or mental health disabilities. This will be achieved by carrying out maintenance work to 12km of public byways from the South Downs to the Broadlands increasing their accessibility. The funding sought will cover the cost of materials, tools and contractors to complete the works. Expected benefits include benefits increased health and wellbeing and a reduction of pressure on Adult Services and the NHS. Volunteers supporting the project will also benefit from increased wellbeing and opportunity to socialise and develop skills. Once the works are complete it is anticipated that the track will be maintained annually by a team of volunteers.</p> <p>The total project costs are £34,000 and the organisation has committed £2,000 of its own funds. It has applied for £14,000 from East Hants District Council (expected outcome TBC) and expect to generate £4,000 from donations and fundraising.</p> <p>Hampshire Countryside Service is supportive of the application.</p> <p>Note: The organisation received £500 from Councillor Humby in 2020/21 towards tools and equipment and £500 from Councillor Kemp-Gee in 2021/22 towards a Hardship bursary fund.</p> <p>Cllr Kemp Gee fully supports the application.</p> <p>It is recommended that the organisation is awarded up to 41.15% of total project costs to a maximum of £14,000 on condition that match funding is secured from East Hants District Council.</p> | | |
| Church Crookham and Fleet Men's Shed (Hart / Church Crookham and Ewshot) | <p>The organisation seeks funds to expand its existing provision by refurbishing a second building on site to be used as a Men's Shed. There is currently a waiting list of 14 members and the expansion will allow the organisation to cater for these and other new members. The funding sought will pay for the materials and equipment necessary to complete the refurbishment with the work being carried out by the members themselves. Men's sheds provide a valuable opportunity for retired people to interact with others giving them a sense of purpose and routine and can help tackle social isolation and loneliness. They are not exclusive to this age range and Church Crookham Men's Shed is attended by a variety of ages from</p> | £6,600 | £6,600 |

| Organisation (District / Division) | Proposal | Amount Requested | Amount Recommended |
|---|---|------------------|--------------------|
| | <p>18 and over with participants being given the opportunity to share and learn new skills. The total project costs are £14,730 and the organisation has secured £8,220 from various donations and small grants.</p> <p>Note: The organisation received £500 from Councillor Bennison in 2019/20 towards Marketing, £1,000 from Councillor Bennison in 2019/20 towards Covid 19 Headbands and Visors and £1,000 from Cllr Forster in 2021/22 towards Membership Growth.</p> <p>Councillor Parker supports the application. It is recommended the organisation is awarded £6,600.</p> | | |
| <p>New Forest Heritage Trust (New Forest / Lyndhurst and Fordingbridge)</p> | <p>The organisation seeks funds towards the cost of high-quality projection and audio equipment to allow it to expand services by having video-based exhibitions and evening film showings at the free to access Exhibition Gallery at the New Forest Heritage Centre. The Gallery is free for all visitors. There is a regularly changing programme of exhibitions from local artists and photographers along with exhibits featuring local historical artefacts. This provides an accessible and valuable local cultural experience to those that attend.</p> <p>The New Forest is a priority place under the Levelling up for Culture Scheme.</p> <p>The total project costs are £1,650 and the organisation expects to generate £600 from Crowdfunding from Friends of the Trust.</p> <p>Councillor Heron supports the application. It is recommended that the organisation is awarded £1,050.</p> | £1,050 | £1,050 |
| <p>Crandall Village Hall (Hart / Odiham & Hook)</p> | <p>The organisation seeks funding for the installation of new lighting, a sound system, and a projector to create a modern accessible room for local community groups, schools and other organisations. The facility caters for young people, people with disabilities, older residents and those on low incomes and regularly hosts a variety of events included classes, meetings, activities for children, plays and fundraising events. The organisation has been impacted by COVID-19 and during that time it lost over 70% of their regular income. By providing good quality modern</p> | £25,000 | £25,000 |

| Organisation (District / Division) | Proposal | Amount Requested | Amount Recommended |
|--|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| | <p>facilities that cater for all residents' needs it will increase bookings by appealing to a wider audience, there will also be increased savings through the installation of LEDs lighting.</p> <p>The organisation has secured £9,000 from the Lottery for All fund and has applied for £20,000 from Tarmac/Entrust (expected outcome 30/07/2022).</p> <p>Councillor Glen fully supports the application.</p> <p>It is recommended that the organisation is awarded up to 47.5% of total project costs to a maximum of £25,000 on condition that the remainder of the match funding is secured.</p> | | |