

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy, Resources and Economic Development
Date:	28 July 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 three 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 three grants totalling £39,850 from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2022/23 to cultural and community organisations in Hampshire as outlined in Appendix 2.

Executive Summary

3. Three organisations have applied for grants through the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2022/23 and the funds requested total £48,912. The report considers the applications and recommends awards totalling £39,850. 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. Three 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 £172,630, leaving a balance of £500,370 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 protected characteristics.

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.
11. 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

12. 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

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>
Leader's Community Grants – Revised Criteria and Management	8 July 2021

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
Eastleigh Pride			
	<i>(Eastleigh /Eastleigh North)</i>		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>The organisation seeks funding towards Eastleigh Pride 2022 an inclusive event open to all residents of the local and wider Hampshire community to be held on 10th September 2022. The funding will contribute towards first aid, marketing costs, event insurance, event decorations, merchandise, security, acts/performers, toilets, fencing, bins, lighting and a photographer. The event aims to promote inclusivity and foster good relations within the LGBTQ+ community, and the wider community. Various business and organisations have been invited to attend and it is hoped these will offer education and insight about LGBTQ+ issues, to help foster acceptance and understanding and celebrate Eastleigh and Hampshire's diversity. The event will also help tackle social isolation and improve wellbeing and mental health by encouraging self-expression.</p> <p>Note: The organisation received £610 from Councillor Parker Jones in 2021/22 towards Eastleigh Pride 2021 and £610 from Councillor Park in 2021/22 towards Eastleigh Pride 2021</p>	£9,900	£2,850
<i>Reach</i>	3000 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total event costs are £9,900 and the organisation has committed £1,600 of its own funding. They have secured £1,600 from Councillor Park, £500 from Councillor Parker-Jones (HCC Member grants) and £1,000 from Unite. They have have approached Utilita, Southern Water, Radio Taxi's and Southwestern Railway for additional sponsorship (expected outcome 15/08/2022). They have received a £1,000 in kind donation from Pink Broadway.		

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Councillor Park fully supports the application and notes that the Eastleigh community especially those who are LGBTQ+ value the contribution that Eastleigh pride contributes to Hampshire and the Eastleigh area in particular. Councillor Parker Jones fully supports the application stating that it is a very valuable and important event.		
<i>Recommendation/conditions</i>	It is recommended the organisation is partially awarded £2,850 on condition that the remainder of the match funding is secured. Inclusive of other HCC funding sought through Member's grants, this would bring the total HCC contribution to 50% of costs.		
Making Space for Craft Ltd <i>(Havant / North East Havant)</i>			
<i>Application summary</i>	The organisation seeks funding to deliver a training programme to 30 volunteers from local charities, care facilities educational centres and the local library and community centre. The training will equip individual volunteers with the necessary skills to deliver quality creative sessions appropriate to their user group's needs, within their own organisations with minimal cost. They will then be able to deliver their own sessions to their service users which will increase health benefits and wellbeing whilst providing the opportunity for valuable social interaction for those service users. The target groups for this training work with a diverse set of users including people experiencing homelessness, people receiving support following domestic and other violence and people living with health issues, life-shortening conditions, and disabilities within the area of Leigh Park which is listed as having wards in the 10% most deprived in the UK. They have consulted widely with partner organisations and the programme has been developed in accordance with their specific needs to maximise effectiveness. The activities will take place in Havant which is an Arts Council Priority Place.	£14,012	£12,000

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
	<p>Note: The organisation received £12,150 from the Short Break Activities Programme for Children with Disabilities 2020/21 towards Reach Out, (decision day 24/02/2021). £3,810 from The Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund 2022/23 towards Make New & Mend, (decision day 24/03/2022). £544 from Councillor Branson towards Reach Out Celebration, (decision day TBC)</p>		
<i>Reach</i>	150 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit plus ongoing training delivered through legacy.		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £23,596 and the organisation has committed £350 of their own funds. They have secured £915 from the Garfield Weston Foundation, £915 from Trusthouse and £408 from Moneybarn. They have received £ 6,930 in kind donations from volunteer time and expenses.		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Councillor Branson has been invited to comment.		
<i>Recommendation/conditions</i>	It is recommended the organisation is partially awarded £12,000 on condition that it secures the remainder of the funding from other sources of match funding. This represents approximately 50% of project costs.		
SPUD (New Forest / Brockenhurst)			
<i>Application summary</i>	The organisation seeks funding toward capital costs associated with the creation of a dedicated, artist led space (The Living Room). The space will enable it to deliver creative opportunities for vulnerable members of the community struggling with mental health problems and other marginalised individuals, many of whom have become increasingly isolated as a result of the pandemic. Spud has worked closely with a range of organisations and individuals over four years to develop the project, including care providers,	£25,000	£25,000

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
	<p>social prescribers, and hArt (mental health charity). The project will enable the organisation to target hard to reach groups that it has yet to fully engage with, and the activities provided will increase wellbeing for those groups. The Living Room will also be rented out as a workshop space for other members of the community to generate income which will provide longer term financial sustainability.</p> <p>The activities will take place in the New Forest which is an Arts Council Priority Place.</p>		
<i>Reach</i>	Approximately 840 Hampshire Residents are expected to benefit annually.		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £146,500 and include funding towards a project manager however they are seeking funding only for the capital element of the works so total eligible project costs are £134,000. The organisation have committed £6,000 of their own funds. They have secured £12,500 from the Charles Burnett III Memorial Fund and a further £3,000 from private donations. They hope to secure £95,000 from the Arts Council England and have received a £5,000 in kind donation of timber supplies.		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Councillor Mans has been invited to comment.		
<i>Recommendation/conditions</i>	It is recommended the organisation is awarded up to 19% of total eligible project costs to a maximum of £25,000 on condition that a business plan is developed and submitted and match funding is secured.		
	Totals	£48,912	£39,850