

Public Document Pack



NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting	Executive Member for Policy and Resources Decision Day
Date and Time	Tuesday, 5th December, 2017 at 2.00 pm
Place	Chute Room, Ell Courth South, The Castle, Winchester
Enquiries to	members.services@hants.gov.uk

John Coughlan CBE
Chief Executive
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting may be recorded and broadcast live on the County Council's website. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the Filming Protocol available on the County Council's website.

AGENDA

1. RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES - REVIEW OF RENTS IN APRIL 2018
(Pages 3 - 8)

To consider a report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services on appropriate levels of rent to be charged in respect of County Council's housing accommodation with effect from 1 April 2018.

2. CHARITIES' ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2016/17 (Pages 9 - 16)

To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services seeking approval of the accounts for 2016/17 for charities where the County Council is sole trustee.

3. GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES
(Pages 17 - 22)

To consider a report of the Director of Transformation and Governance – Corporate Services regarding requests received for financial assistance from the Policy and Resources grants budget.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during the following items of business, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the reports.

5. OLDER PERSONS EXTRACARE HOUSING: NIGHTINGALE LODGE, ROMSEY - OUTCOME OF TENDER (Pages 23 - 32)

To consider an exempt report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services seeking approval to the business case to support the delivery of an Extracare development.

6. ROBERT MAY'S SCHOOL, ODIHAM - ADDITIONAL LAND (Pages 33 - 40)

To consider an exempt report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services regarding the acquisition of additional land required at Robert May's School in Odiham.

7. SCHEDULE OF ROUTINE TRANSACTIONS (Pages 41 - 48)

To consider an exempt report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services regarding proposed routine transactions.

ABOUT THIS AGENDA:

On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.

ABOUT THIS MEETING:

The press and public are welcome to attend the public sessions of the meeting. If you have any particular requirements, for example if you require wheelchair access, please contact members.services@hants.gov.uk for assistance.

County Councillors attending as appointed members of this Committee or by virtue of Standing Order 18.5; or with the concurrence of the Chairman in connection with their duties as members of the Council or as a local County Councillor qualify for travelling expenses.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	5 December 2017
Title:	Residential Properties – Review of Rents in April 2018
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Chris Jelliffe

Tel: 01962 846617

Email: chris.jelliffe@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to consider the appropriate level of rents to be charged in respect of Hampshire County Council's housing accommodation with effect from 1 April 2018.

1.2. This paper

- Provides details of the nature of the residential estate.
- Confirms the policies for the annual review of rents.
- Sets out recent trends in rental levels in both the public and private sectors.
- Proposes an increase in rent for the affected properties of 3%.

2. Background

2.1. The County Council currently owns a total of 86 dwellings. This compares to a figure of 110 dwellings four years ago. There continues to be a steady reduction in numbers each year, reflecting the County Council's policy to dispose of dwellings where feasible, or convert for operational use.

2.2. The 86 dwellings currently owned can be categorised as follows:

Type of Accommodation	Number
Surplus and occupied by secure tenants.	16
Occupied by service tenants (mainly school caretakers)	14
Included with lettings of County Farms	43
Let temporarily pending re-use or sale	6
Vacant (uninhabitable) pending re-use	2
Vacant and being sold	5
Total	86

2.3. The secure tenants, service tenants and some temporary tenants, pay rent based on an adopted rent assessment system which was developed to provide a mechanism for applying fair rents across the whole Estate. The average monthly rent paid by these tenants is around £550. The County Council's policy has been to review rents under the assessment system each April.

2.4. In undertaking the review, consideration is given to changes in market values over the preceding period, any changes in rental levels in the public sector and the nature of the stock of the County Council's housing accommodation. In recent years, rents charged by the County Council have been increased by between 3% and 5% each year, with the average annual increase being 4%.

3. Rental Trends

3.1. Rental levels in the private rented sector have seen a modest rise over the past twelve months. Demand for accommodation continues to exceed supply, with a number of landlords deciding to leave the market and sell up. This reflects recent legislative and tax changes which make Buy-to-Let less attractive, and this trend is expected to continue. Economic uncertainty also means less people buying residential property and renting accommodation instead. The increases across Hampshire have varied, but on average rises of around 2%-3% have occurred. This level of increase is supported by a number of regional surveys and market reports.

3.2. The setting of rents in the public sector for housing associations and housing authorities has for many years been determined by government policy. Until recently, rental increases in the sector reflected a system of target rents and rent caps. Social housing landlords increased their rents by a formula based on the Retail Price Index plus 0.5% plus an additional £2 per week. This resulted in annual increases well in excess of inflation, typically 5%-6%. However, from April 2016 there was a significant change of policy, with the

Government requiring housing associations to cut rents by 1% a year for the next four years. This change was made with the specific aim of reducing the Country's expenditure on housing benefit.

4. Proposals

- 4.1. It is proposed that the level of rents charged for County Council residential properties with effect from 1 April 2018 be increased by 3%. This equates to an average increase for each tenant of around £16 per month. The proposed percentage increase is in line with rises seen over the past year in the private rented sector, and reflects the need for the County Council to receive income to enable the properties to be maintained. For information, the latest figures for inflation indices, year-on-year, shows the Consumer Prices Index at 2.9% and the Retail Price Index at 3.9%.
- 4.2. It is expected that rents in respect of dwellings held by housing associations will not increase this year, but this is an artificial device to reduce the housing benefits bill. The County Council has always given greater weight to the position regarding private sector rents when setting rental levels. It is considered that the proposals set out in this report will maintain County Council rents at an affordable level. The level of rents reflects the nature of the County Council's housing stock and the occupation arrangements.

5. Consultation and Equalities

- 5.1. There has been no formal consultation undertaken with regard to the proposal in this report, and no material equality impacts have been identified.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1. That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approves the proposal that rents charged in respect of Hampshire County Council dwellings let to staff and other tenants be increased by 3% with effect from 1 April 2018.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	No

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.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. 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 under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The proposal relates to an increase in rental levels for all County Council tenants where rents are assessed under the adopted points Assessment System. All affected tenants are either existing members of staff or former members of staff or their families. Whilst the rental increase will have a small financial impact on all tenants, it is appropriate that annual inflationary increases are implemented in line with other landlords. The only category of persons which might be particularly relevant to the proposal relates to age, as the average age of County Council tenants is relatively high. The increase however is only of an inflationary nature and tenants who are so entitled already claim housing benefit.

Completed EIA below:



EIA1166497.pdf

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The County Council has a legal obligation in Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all the decisions it makes on the

prevention of crime. The proposal contained in this report has no impact on the prevention of crime.

3. Climate Change:

- a) The potential impact of this proposal on climate change has been considered and no impact has been identified.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member – Policy and Resources
Date of Decision:	5 December 2017
Decision Title:	Charities' Annual Accounts for 2016/17
Report From:	Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services

Contact name: Andrew Bouflower

Tel: 01962 847407

Email: andrew.bouflower@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report presents the accounts of charities administered by the County Council for approval by the Executive Member on behalf of the County Council as sole trustee. Under the Charities Act 2011 this satisfies the reporting requirements as the charities' gross annual income is less than £25,000.

2. Issues covered in the Report

- 2.1. This report contains the accounts of charities under the remit of the Executive Member (Policy and Resources) for which the County Council acts as sole trustee. There are certain other charities, for which the Council acts as trustee, which have different reporting lines for approval of the accounts. The following three trusts have sufficient size balances that require their accounts to be submitted for approval trusts:
- The Michael Austin Harlick Trust Fund
 - The Dayas Music Scholarship Trust Fund
 - The Mace Educational Trust.
- 2.2. Trusts with investment balances invest in a mix of managed unit trusts established for charities in line with the County Council's investment policy for trust funds agreed by the former Charities Panel in July 1998. The Charibond and Charinco funds are both invested in a range of fixed-interest and index-linked bonds, which produce a relatively high income yield. The investment in Charifund gives the trusts exposure to equities, which can have more variable yields but provide more scope for growth in the trusts' capital.

- 2.3. Both bond and equity funds have produced relatively good income returns in 2016/17. Income returns from the charities' bond investments (Charibond and Charinco) were an average of 3.7% and equity fund (Charifund) returns were 4.6%.
- 2.4. It has been a relatively good year for investments, as the market value for both equities and bonds has increased in the year to 31 March. The capital value of the charities' equity investments has increased by 10.2% and bond investments by 2.8%. This has offset the losses in capital values seen last year. The capital value of both equity and bond investments will vary over time and diversified investment in both asset classes provides a good income source, which is the main aim of the charities' investments.

3. Trust fund accounts

Michael Austin Harlick Trust Fund

- 3.1. Michael Austin Harlick was an ex-prisoner of war from Gosport who established a trust in his will to be used for the provision of medals, challenge cups and trophies for the children of Hampshire schools, and for the encouragement of pupils in all forms of sporting activity.
- 3.2. The accounts attached in Appendix 1A show that the trust has maintained its healthy financial position. The Trust's income from investments was £9,800 and its expenses in grants paid were £9,700, so the Trust therefore continues to have a healthy cash balance of £30,300.

Dayas Music Scholarship Trust Fund

- 3.3. Although the County Council is sole trustee, this trust is administered by the Hampshire Music Service in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, Director of Corporate Resources, Chief Executive and County Music Adviser.
- 3.4. It was established in 1978 under the will of Mary Gwendolyn Sayer Hayton (née Dayas). It provides music scholarships, preferably, but not necessarily, for pianoforte, for applicants living in Hampshire.
- 3.5. Accounts for the trust are shown in Appendix 1B. The accounts show that the trust is in a financially strong position. There has been £2,900 spent on grants in 2016/17 and the total income from investments was £5,100. This has allowed an increase in the cash balance to £11,300.

The Mace Educational Trust

- 3.6. This Trust was established in 2000 under the will of Evelyn Mace. Income to the Trust is used for the provision of scholarships for higher education for students under 25 who are, or have been, in the care of Hampshire County Council, and for scholarships for students due to start a drama or poetry higher education course.
- 3.7. All grants made have been subject to the specific approval of the Executive Member (Policy and Resources) and the trust is administered in the Corporate Services Department. Accounts for the Trust are shown in Appendix 1C.

- 3.8. The Trust's expenditure on grants of £3,000 was lower than its income from investments of £4,500 so the Trust therefore increased its cash balance to £8,500, in addition to its other investments.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1. The County Council is no longer required to supply to the Charity Commission annual statements of account and reports for the smaller charities for which it acts as Trustee, which have a gross annual income of less than £25,000 a year.
- 4.2. These small charity accounts must be approved directly by the Executive Member (Policy and Resources) on behalf of the County Council as sole trustee.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. There are no financial implications for the County Council.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. The proposals set out in the report will enable the Council to fulfil its obligations under charities law.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1. That the accounts for the charities listed below for 2016/17 be approved:
- Michael Austin Harlick Trust Fund
 - Dayas Music Scholarship Trust Fund
 - Mace Educational Trust.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires, under the Charities Act 2006, a decision to approve the accounts and reports appended to this report because the County Council acts as sole trustee to the charities mentioned in the report.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

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	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. 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 under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.3. Equality objectives are not considered to be adversely affected by the proposals in this report.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The proposals in this report are not considered to have any direct impact on the prevention of crime.

3. Climate Change:

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No specific impact.

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No specific impact.

Michael Austin Harlick Trust Fund
Registered Charity Number: 900351

Accounts from 1 April to 31
 March

	2015/16 £	2016/17 £
Fund Balance as at 1 April	254,827	252,792
Income		
Income from Charibond	8,085	6,189
Income from Charinco	1,824	1,824
Income from Charifund	1,776	1,827
	11,685	9,840
Expenditure		
Grant payments	13,720	9,663
Fund Balance as at 31 March	252,792	252,969
Represented by:		
Investment at cost (see below)	222,666	222,666
Cash Balance	30,126	30,303
	252,792	252,969

INVESTMENTS (16/17)

Holding	Stock	Book Cost £	Market Price as at 31.03.2017 £	Market Value as at 31.03.2017 £
134,533	Charibond	163,850	1.30	174,314
22,806	Charinco	39,518	1.99	45,338
2,564	Charifund	19,298	15.59	39,977
		222,666		259,629

The Dayas Music Scholarship Trust Fund
Registered charity number: 280413

Accounts from 1 April to 31 March

	2015/16 £	2016/17 £
Fund balance as at 1 April	108,562	111,495
Dividends and interest on investments	5,322	5,078
Less: Award payments	2,089	2,902
Less: Hampshire Music Service - Administration of Trust	300	300
Fund balance as at 31 March	<u>111,495</u>	<u>113,371</u>
Investments at cost (see below)	102,074	102,074
Cash balance	9,421	11,297
	<u>111,495</u>	<u>113,371</u>

Market Value of Investments

Holding	Stock	Book Cost £	Market Price as at 31/03/17 £	Market Value as at 31/03/17 £
31,194	Charibond	36,031	1.30	40,419
20,820	Charinco	37,302	1.99	41,389
2,776	Charifund	28,741	15.59	43,279
		<u>102,074</u>		<u>125,087</u>

MACE Educational Trust

Accounts from 1 April to 31 March

	2015/16 £	2016/17 £
Fund Balance as at 1 April	106,937	105,541
Income		
Income from Charifund	1,700	1,748
Income from Charibond	3,604	2,759
	5,304	4,507
Expenditure		
Grant payments	6,700	3,000
Fund Balance as at 31 March	105,541	107,048

Represented by:

Investment at cost	98,500	98,500
Cash Balance	7,041	8,548
	105,541	107,048

**Market Value of Investments
(2016/17)**

Holding	Stock	Book Cost £	Market Price as at 31.03.17 £	Market Value as at 31.03.17 £
2,454	Charifund	24,500	15.59	38,262
59,968	Charibond	74,000	1.30	77,701
		98,500		115,963

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date of Decision:	5 December 2017
Decision Title:	Grants to Voluntary Organisations and Other Bodies
Report From:	Director of Transformation and Governance - Corporate Services

Contact name: Louise Pickford

Tel: 01962 847355

Email: louise.pickford@hants.gov.uk

1. **Executive Summary**

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

2. **Budget Position**

- 2.1 Following commitments made at previous meetings, the Policy and Resources grants budget available at the meeting on 5 December 2017 is £128,505.

3. **Grants Criteria**

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

4. **Legal Implications**

- 4.1 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.

5. **RECOMMENDATION:**

- 5.1 That a grant of £25,000 be awarded to the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust as shown in Appendix 2 of the report.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	n
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	no
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>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
None		
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
None		

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 forms and correspondence received from organisations	Director of Transformation and Governance - Corporate Services

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. 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 under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

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- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. 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 may be found on individual requests.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

The proposals in this report aim to improve the wellbeing of Hampshire residents and reduce the risk of crime occurring.

3. Climate Change:

There is no significant link to Climate Change as a result of this decision.

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 then only for works in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act.
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 (CG00014650)

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 individual restoration projects.

The Trust has confirmed that it has set aside £38,500 of its own funds and raised a further £4,500 from its "Ride and Stride" event, to distribute to churches.

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 OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

This budget:

Grants of £25,000 p.a. have been awarded from this budget over the last four years.

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

This is a countywide organisation.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Transformation and Governance – Corporate Services: The grant awarded to the Trust last year assisted 10 churches in Winchester, East Hampshire, Rushmoor, Basingstoke, Test Valley and New Forest. Projects included installing a disabled pathway and interior facilities, both of which helped to improve community accessibility.

A grant of £25,000 for 2017/18 would allow the Trust to make a number of smaller grants to churches which are available for all churches regardless of denomination. This award would support the County Council's Strategic objective of enabling 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

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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