

Public Document Pack



NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting	Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs Decision Day
Date and Time	Thursday, 16th January, 2020 at 2.00 pm
Place	Chute Room, EII Court, 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. RURAL COMMUNITIES FUND – HOCKEY'S FARM SHOP GRANT AND CONFIRMATION OF 2019/20 FUNDING TO DATE (Pages 3 - 12)

To consider a report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services regarding the Rural Communities Fund.

2. PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL INVESTMENT FUND: CANINE ASSISTED LEARNING – APPLICATION CG00020116, AND CONFIRMATION OF 2019/20 FUNDING TO DATE (Pages 13 - 24)

To consider a report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services regarding the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund.

3. 2020/21 REVENUE BUDGET REPORT FOR COUNTRYSIDE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (Pages 25 - 32)

To consider a report from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services and Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources setting out proposals for the 2020/21 budget for Countryside and Rural Affairs services.

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 Countryside and Rural Affairs
Date:	16 January 2020
Title:	Rural Communities Fund – Hockey’s Farm Shop Grant and Confirmation of 2019/20 Funding to Date
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Lisa Wood
John Tickle

Tel: 01962 832350
01962 846000

Email: Lisa.wood@hants.gov.uk
John.tickle@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to introduce and seek approval for the Rural Communities Fund (RCF) application from Hockey’s Farm Shop with the reference CG00020008. The application is for contributions to support the extension of the Hockey’s Farm Shop in South Gorley.
2. This being the last available Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs Decision Day of the financial year 2019/20, this report also provides an update on the financial position of Rural Communities Fund, including details of smaller applications under £5,000 which have been agreed and are listed in Appendix 2.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs approves the RCF award of £10,000 to Hockey’s Farm Shop to support the application with the reference CG00020008.

Executive Summary

4. This report seeks to outline an application for funding (£10,000) from the Rural Communities Fund (RCF) 2019/20, under the Funds ‘Rural Retailers and Community Enterprises’ theme.

5. Detailed information regarding the application has been reviewed by the RCF Team, and has met all eligibility criteria. The Grant Assessment Form together with summary information and supporting recommendations have been presented in Appendix 1.

Contextual information

6. The Rural Communities Fund offers small grants to support Parish Councils, groups and organisations in rural Hampshire and small market towns. The overall priorities of the scheme are to build community resilience and encourage self-help. Applications are accepted to support one of four themes. Funding approval is sought for one application received under the 'Rural retailers and community enterprises' theme. The aim of this theme is to help businesses or enterprises grow, increase their productivity and ultimately improve the services that are offered to communities in rural areas. Applications are fully assessed against the grant scheme criteria and eligibility criteria presented in Appendix 3.
7. Hockey's Farm shop is sited in South Gorley, a hamlet in the rural Parish of Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley, approximately 4.5 miles north of Ringwood, with just under 1500 residents.
8. Following a local survey of customers and staff, Hockey's Farm Shop wish to improve their offering by extending the shop, joining the existing premises to the butcher's preparation room next door. This will provide space for a wider choice of local produce for customers in the local community in a more spacious shop. The larger floor space will provide easier access to wheelchair users and buggies. Having the butchery prep area opened up will also allow customers direct access to the butcher's staff who will be able to prepare and give advice on cuts of meat and how to cook, enhancing the overall service. The extension to the shop and associated increased business will also translate to being able to employ one additional full-time member of staff.
9. The proposed Rural Communities Fund contribution (£10,000) will be targeted to the final fit, and internal refit costs for the shop, including flooring, shelving, chillers.
10. Cllr Michael Thierry has commented on the application as noted within the Grant Assessment Form in Appendix 1.

Finance

11. Total project costs are estimated at £53,978. Match funding is to be funded by the business (£25,000) and a bank loan (£18,978), which equates to 81.5% of

the total cost. Their application to the Rural Communities Fund is for the remaining £10,000.

12. The RCF has a total availability of £100,000. This would leave £61,937.23 remaining for 2019/20 if this grant is approved. Please see Appendix 2 for further clarification of expenditure to date for the RCF.

Performance

13. The 3-year Business Plan submitted by Hockey's Farm Shop sets out their performance targets and demonstrates the achievable growth of the shop if they are able to complete the works as outlined in their application.

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> Rural Delivery Strategy – rural delivery funding Hampshire County Council’s Rural Delivery Strategy Rural Communities Fund – Hursley Village Store grant	<u>Date</u> March 2018 March 2014 June 2019
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>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.)</p>	
<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:

The project is expected to have a high positive impact to all members of the community, and people living in rural areas, and as such no negative impacts are anticipated.

Appendix 1

Rural Communities Fund 2019/20 – retailers & community enterprises

Grant assessment form

Grant reference no.:	CG00020008
Organisation name:	Hockeys Farm Shop Ltd
Project title:	Shop extension 2019
Project location:	South Gorley, New Forest

Total project cost:	£53,978
Amount requested:	£10,000
Match funding:	£43,978
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£10,000

Eligibility checklist	Yes/No
Does the project/activity take place in a rural area/village with a population of less than 5,000 residents?	Yes
Does the application demonstrate how the project will grow the business and provide value for money?	Yes
Does the application demonstrate how the project will enhance the local community?	Yes
Does the application prove the business is not in direct competition with another business in the same village?	Yes
Does the application have support from the Parish/Town Council?	Yes
Does the organisation demonstrate that without HCC support the project/activity would not be able to proceed at all or to the extent outlined in the application?	Yes
Will the project make a financial difference to the business (ref. accounts and financial forecast)?	Yes
Have all documents been submitted in line with the criteria (e.g. business plan, parish council support, freeholders' consent and lease, planning and other permissions, quotes, financial accounts)?	Yes

Project summary
<p>South Gorley is a hamlet in the rural Parish of Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley, in the New Forest, with just under 1500 residents. The private owners of the Hockeys Farm Shop received initial funding from HCC in 2014. Since then the business has grown and proved sustainable, and achieved the objectives set out in that application, and they have also self-funded the inclusion of a café and community meeting space which is well used locally.</p>

Following a local survey of customers and staff, they now wish to extend the shop by joining the existing premises to the butcher's preparation room next door. This will provide wider choice of local produce for customers in the local community in a more spacious shop. The larger floor space will provide easier access to wheelchair users and buggies. Having the butchery prep area opened up will also allow customers direct access to the butcher's staff who will be able to give advice on cuts of meat and how to cook, enhancing the overall service.

Total project costs are estimated at £53,978, to be funded by the business (£25,000) and a bank loan (£18,978). Their application to the Rural Communities Fund is for the remaining £10,000.

The Profit and Loss accounts and forecast revenue demonstrates a forecast increase in revenue, which will also translate into the addition of 1 more full-time member of staff. The application costs and forecast revenue figures have also been checked by Emily Preston of the Leader Programme and found to be robust.

The proposed Rural Communities Fund contribution will be targeted to the final fit, and internal refit costs for the shop, including flooring, shelving, chillers.

Officer comments and recommendation

Hockeys Farm Shop Ltd have provided a very well thought out application, and realistic business plan, the project demonstrating a clear benefit to the local community, and visitors to the area alike.

They have met all the criteria for an application to the Rural Communities Fund - Rural Retailers theme, and provided all relevant associated supporting documents, including evidence of planning permission, written letters of support by the Parish Council, along with their own substantial financial contribution. Emily Preston of the LEADER programme has also confirmed support for the project.

Hockeys Farm Shop Ltd have demonstrated the value of the shop to the community, its propensity to promote local produce, and support employment and the local economy as a whole. They have also provided extensive match funding for the project, equal to £43,978, or 81.5% of the total project cost.

A full paper will be submitted for the next EMCRA Decision Day on 16th January 2020 to request that the application is supported.

Officer name: Lisa Wood

Date: 30/10/2019

Local member comments

Cllr Michael Thierry has commented on the application and is supportive of a £5,000 grant.

Appendix 2

Awarded to date:				
Reference	Applicant	Project Description	Amount awarded	Date
CG00017279	Hursley Village Community Store	Improvements and internal refit to village shop and post office	£ 11,378.46	13/06/2019
CG00017300	Prescription Art Test Valley	Social Prescribing Arts project	£ 1,000.00	30/07/2019
CG00019472	Chilbolton PC	West Down Trees - Ash die back	£ 3,000.00	30/07/2019
CG00019519	Twyford PC	Water meadows regeneration	£ 4,598.90	20/08/2019
CG00019764	Romsey Show	Countryside Arena at Romsey Show	£ 2,500.00	10/09/2019
CG00019644	Barton Stacey PC	IT information hub	£ 404.81	17/09/2019
CG00016927	Langrish FP 2	Installation of kissing gate on footpath 2	£ 218.00	09/04/2019
CG00016364	Micheldever PC	5 x information mapboards throughout parish	£ 3,794.50	01/10/2019
CG00017239	Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green	Stiles to Gates Project SW of Brock's Green	£ 1,168.50	10/10/2019
CG00020099	Broughton Community Shop	EPOS, Windows	£ 1,139.50	05/12/2019
		Total awarded to date	£ 29,202.67	
This application:				
CG00020008	Hockey's farm Shop	Shop Extension	£ 10,000.00	
		Total remaining	£ 60,797.33	
Awards pending:				
Reference	Applicant	Project Description	Amount applied for	Date
tbc	Goodworth Clatford PC	Riverbank repairs - protecting open access land	£ 4,980.00	
tbc	Herriard PC	Herriard Green permissive path improvements	£ 4,316.00	
CG00020164	Alton Ramblers	Hedge Trimmer	£ 578.82	
		Total pending	£ 9,874.82	
		Total remaining (if awarded)	£ 50,922.51	

Appendix 3

Rural Communities Fund - rural retailers and community enterprises scheme guidance

Introduction

The 'rural retailers and community enterprises' theme of the [Rural Communities Fund](#) provides funding for retailers and community enterprises in rural Hampshire.

The priorities of the theme are to:

- Help retailers grow and increase their productivity by enhancing the services they offer and providing new ones.
- Help develop both new and existing community enterprises that have a retailing element and show potential to develop into a profitable business that will impact positively on the local area, community and economy.
- Support the introduction or expansion of local products and locally produced food and drink into rural retailing outlets, in particular through collaboration with Hampshire Fare and other local businesses and producers.

Grant criteria and eligibility

- Applications must include a short three year business plan (template provided in the Supporting Information Form).
- Projects must demonstrate how they will grow their business and provide value for money.
- Projects must show how they will enhance the local community.
- Projects must prove that they are not in direct competition with another business in the same village.
- Projects must be in an area/village with a population of less than 5,000 residents.
- Successful applicants must complete the project and all purchases within 12 months and send all information required to claim the grant.

Funding criteria

We can provide grants of between £1,000 and £10,000. Eligible businesses/enterprises must contribute a minimum of 50% of total eligible costs. Therefore, the total minimum project cost would be £2,000 (achieving a grant of £1,000).

For commercial businesses, the match funding cannot be sourced from any other grant making authority. Successful applicants will receive 50% of the grant upfront and the final 50% when the project is complete.

For community enterprises, the match funding can be sourced from other grants. Successful applicants will receive 100% of the grant upfront, however any unspent funding must be returned when the project is complete.

Who can apply

The scheme is open to any retailing business/enterprise selling any of the following: - food/drink; essential fresh produce; locally sourced food (applicants are encouraged to consider becoming members of Hampshire Fare). Craft industries may be considered if a positive impact on other local food retailing businesses can be demonstrated.

Eligible businesses/enterprises include:

- Retailing businesses or community buildings comprising post offices
- Village shops
- Village markets
- Butchers
- Bakeries
- Farm shops
- Cafes and tea rooms
- Newsagents

- Mobile facilities
- Pubs
- Community owned woodlands (if comprising a retail element such as a café)
- Pop up shops/cafes

What we can fund

- Introducing/increasing the range of locally produced high quality foods
- Improvements to sales area e.g. food counters, shelving, lighting, heating etc.
- Internal modernisation e.g. flooring, internal fit-out, energy saving devices etc.
- External appearance e.g. signage, shop front improvements, window blinds etc.
- Development of parking facilities e.g. creating additional parking or improvements to layout of existing parking
- Development of local delivery services
- Security e.g. CCTV, alarms etc.
- Developing websites and advertising (to support the eligible retail activity)
- Upgrade of equipment to improve business efficiency e.g. improved energy efficiency, stock control (e.g. epos systems)
- Retail advice and guidance, marketing and promotion e.g. we encourage applicants seeking to improve the efficiency of their business to get independent advice and a grant can be used for reports/business plans to help do this in the first instance, as well as to implement the recommendations made (as a second application)
- Projects supporting creative locations for essential services, such as shops within pubs, village halls, churches or parish halls etc.
- Setting up a community enterprise that will develop rural retail services
- Collaborative projects with local producers and other local retailers

What we can't fund

The scheme will not fund:

- Businesses within population areas of more than 5,000 residents. Priority will be given to smaller settlements with limited services.
- Like for like replacement equipment or any general maintenance. We will only fund items that will add new value to the business/enterprise.
- Running costs e.g. staff costs, purchase of stock or perishable items
- Standard computer equipment
- Non-independent commercial organisations (i.e. with more than one outlet)
- Loans

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs
Date:	16 January 2020
Title:	Parish and Town Council Investment Fund: Canine Assisted Learning – Application CG00020116, and Confirmation of 2019/20 Funding to Date
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Lisa Wood
John Tickle

Tel: 01962 832350
01962 846000

Email: lisa.wood@hants.gov.uk
john.tickle@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund (PTCF) application from Hart Rotary Club, with the reference CG00020116, entitled 'Canine Assisted Learning'. Detailed information regarding the application as presented to the Rural Programme Board is included in the Grant Assessment Form attached as Appendix 1.
1. This being the last Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs Decision Day of the financial year 2019/20, this report also provides an update on the financial position of the PTCF, including details of smaller applications under £5,000 which have been agreed and are listed in Appendix 2.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs approves the PTCF award of £30,000 to Hart Rotary Club to support the application as referenced above.

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks to outline an application for funding (£30,000) from the PTCF 2019/20.
2. Detailed information regarding the application has been reviewed by the Rural Team and has met all eligibility criteria. The Grant Assessment Form together with summary information and supporting recommendations have been presented in Appendix 1.
3. The PTCF aims to support local partnerships and provide pump priming investments to pilot new innovative ways of working. Successful applications will need to demonstrate how they build resilience within a local community and in response to the growing pressure on County Council services.

Contextual information

4. The PTCF was established in November 2018 to support working partnerships with Parish and Town Councils, and local Community Groups. The aim of the fund is to provide pump priming investments to pilot new innovative ways of working, building resilience within a local community, and responding to the growing pressure on County Council services. Applications are fully assessed and approved by the partnering HCC Service, in this instance Children's Services, and against the fund criteria (see Appendix 3).
5. Hart Rotary Club (HRC) are working in partnership with Canine Assisted Learning (CAL) to support and facilitate a project to provide specialist canine support to enhance the emotional wellbeing and mental health of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people. Dogs are used by trained practitioners as communication tools to help eligible children in the age range 3-18 to develop strategies to regulate their emotions and to address a range of mental health issues such as anger, anxiety and low self-esteem. Practitioners are also mental health first aiders.
6. In 2018, a preliminary small-scale trial was funded by HRC and Cllr David Simpson (see CG00016531). Whilst promising outcomes were achieved and an individual case study was produced, it remains a challenge to incorporate funding for such early intervention methods into the mainstream school activity. A full pilot study is required to demonstrate the value of the approach across a wider sample group incorporating a robust evidence base.
7. The project partners Canine Assisted Learning (CAL) with Rachel Johnson, Early Years County Advisor for Hampshire County Council Children's Services. This application would support 600 contact hours of bespoke Animal Assisted Intervention time divided between each school, plus report writing

time, supervision, travel, expenses and insurances. In total this would include working with 32 children from the ages of 3 to 18 years over the course of the pilot.

8. The project has gained strong support from Children's Services as per the statements submitted in the Grant Assessment Form in Appendix 1.
9. The project is well supported by County Councillor David Simpson as local member for Hartley Wintney and Yateley West.

Finance

10. The PTCF was established in November 2018 with an availability of £500,000. The fund can offer both Capital and Revenue targeted investments to support to locally led initiatives which meet the criteria of the fund, usually up to £30,000 (see Appendix 3).
11. The total award sought is £30,000 in revenue funding to cover the cost of Animal Assisted Intervention time, plus report writing time, supervision, travel, expenses and insurances over the academic year long pilot.
12. With £400,453 currently remaining in the PTCF, were the organisation to receive the full amount requested, this would leave £370,453 remaining in the PTCF account. Please see Appendix 2 for further clarification of expenditure to date from the PTCF.

Performance

13. The Full Business Plan provided for the project spans a period of one academic year, from July 2020 to September 2021, within which are two evaluation milestones coinciding with the end of each term, providing regular updates to the Rural Programme Board and Children's Services.
14. Review of the application's Full Business Case and Summary Assessment Form (see Appendix 1) is supported in principle by the Rural Programme Board and HCC's Early Years County Advisor.

Future direction

15. The County Council's Children's Services Team recognises and supports the value which this innovative approach could deliver for schools in Hampshire. Close monitoring of the programme will be employed to ensure the targets are met.
16. This project will seek to evidence the benefits of early intervention, and use the data collected to drive sustainability for the long term by increasing the

possibility of success in securing funding from other sources, through the publication of broader case studies and an overall evidence paper. Schools have shown a great deal of interest in incorporating this type of therapy/approach into their curriculum, but financial limitations mean this is extremely challenging without sufficient data to back up its effectiveness. Once proven, it is anticipated that schools would be able to allocate funding from the individual child's 'Pupil Premium' money.

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> EMPR Report – Parish and Town Council Investment Fund.	<u>Date</u> 26/09/2018
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>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.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>

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:

The project is expected to have a high positive impact to all individuals involved, and as such no negative impacts are anticipated.

Appendix 1.

Parish and Town Council Investment Fund 2019/20 Funding assessment form

Organisation name:	Hart Rotary Club
Project title:	Canine Assisted Learning
Project location:	Schools in Hart District
Application reference:	CG00020116
Total project cost:	£30,000
Amount requested:	£30,000
<i>Match funding – cash:</i>	
<i>Match funding - volunteer hours:</i>	
<i>Match funding - in-kind:</i>	
Match funding – total value	
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£30,000

Eligibility checklist	Yes/No
Is the applicant a Parish or Town Council, or a Local Community Group, directly benefitting the local community, with clear management structure within its constitution or suitable governance/terms of reference?	Yes
Does the project/activity deliver against the scheme priorities (to build community resilience and ease pressure on HCC Services)?	Yes
Does the application have support from the local community and Parish/Town Council?	Yes

Project summary
<p>Hart Rotary Club (HRC) are working in partnership with Canine Assisted Learning (CAL) to support and facilitate a project to provide specialist canine support to enhance the emotional wellbeing and mental health of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people in 4 schools Pre-school to Secondary school in the Hart area.</p> <p>Dogs are used by trained practitioners as communication tools to help individuals develop strategies to regulate their emotions and to address a range of mental health issues such as anger, anxiety and low self-esteem. Practitioners are also mental health first aiders.</p> <p>In 2018, a preliminary small-scale trial was funded jointly by (HRC) and Cllr David Simpson (see CG00016531). Whilst promising outcomes were achieved and an individual case study was produced, it remains a challenge to incorporate funding for such early intervention methods into the mainstream school activity. A full pilot study is required to demonstrate the value of the approach across a wider sample group incorporating a robust evidence base.</p>

In partnership with Rachel Johnson, Early Years County Advisor for Hampshire County Council Children's Services, and CAL, this application would support 600 contact hours of bespoke Animal Assisted Intervention time divided between each school, plus report writing time, supervision, travel, expenses and insurances. In total this would include 32 children from the ages of 3 to 18 years over the course of the pilot.

If successful, this project will seek to evidence the benefits of early intervention, and use the data collected to drive sustainability for the long term by increasing the possibility of success in securing funding from other sources, through the publication of broader case studies and an overall evidence paper. Schools have shown a great deal of interest in incorporating this type of therapy/approach into their curriculum, but financial challenges mean this is extremely challenging without sufficient data to back up its effectiveness. Once proven, it is anticipated that schools would be able to allocate funding from the individual child's 'Pupil Premium' money where deemed appropriate. Similarly, funding and support could be more easily sought from sponsorship, and district/ county councils where the data demonstrates a cost saving to the organisation in the long term.

Adults Services DMPT have also expressed an interest in the outcomes of this pilot, wishing to do more with animal therapy particularly with older socially isolated individuals and those in residential care, and will be using the findings of this pilot to determine the value of this type of intervention to inform possible future projects.

HCC – Officer feedback/comments (relevant Services)

Rachel Johnson – Early Years County Advisor – Children's Services

This pilot project is aligned with the HCC Children and Young People's Plan Vision;

'Building resilience in families with organisations that work with children, young people, their families and the workforce.' Employ strategies with all agencies to promote emotional wellbeing and good mental health.'

'Continue to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged children.'

The outcome we seek is robust and wider scientific data on the effectiveness of this approach to additional learning. The findings will be used to promote the concept of CAL therapy and seek funding sources elsewhere e.g. schools, local groups, businesses and other sponsorship opportunities. Proven, robust and evidence-based outcomes will enable HCC Childrens Services to strengthen the strategies available to schools to support children who struggle to access and engage in learning.

It directly supports the work of colleagues in the Primary Behaviour Service (PBS), the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service, Inclusion Team and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Educational Psychology (HIEP). Due to the increase in workload associated with children and young people with mental health challenges, PBS has recently employed mental health workers to work in schools, with a focus on early intervention/prevention. The work of CAL will directly support this initiative, and also free up the time these individuals can put towards increasing the number of children who can benefit from their support.

Financially there is significant evidence to support the fact that CAL can reduce the need for one to one Teaching and Learning Support Assistants (TLSA) which, if proved through this trial, will have a significant cost saving attached to it.

The Greenoaks Federation (amalgamating Oakwood Infant and Greenfields Junior schools) have confirmed that their most expensive child currently costs £17,000 per year, made up of his one to one TA plus other PBS and HIEP external agency support. This project would aim to significantly reduce these additional costs across the 32 individuals who will be targeted, with the potential cost savings far outweighing the cost of the pilot, potentially over £50k.

Officer comments and recommendation

Lisa Wood – Rural Programme Support Officer

This project's Business Case presents a well-planned project, focussing on a new way of working, and with the potential for substantial easing of pressure for HCC Children's Services, both financially and in freeing up existing resources.

The programme has been clearly set out with measurable targets against planned benchmarks. Regular monitoring is planned with updates to the PTC Fund team, Children's Services, and Adults H&C. The Children's Services grant team has also reviewed this application and, whilst unable to directly fund a project of this type, are supportive of the project.

There is no match funding for this project, and none is required for eligibility to receive funding, however, given the strength of the application, and the clear support from other departments and Cllr Simpson, I would recommend the award of £30,000.

Local Member comments

Cllr David Simpson is strongly supportive of the project, and has provided minor funding previously (see CG00016531 – 2018/19 grant application)

Date: 21/11/2019

Appendix 2.

Awarded to date:				
Reference	Applicant	Project Description	Amount awarded	Date
CG00017244	Fawley Parish Council	Health and wellbeing project with community engagement to encourage elderly and vulnerable to remain in their own homes for longer	£ 30,467.00	18/06/2019
CG00017238	Hamble Parish Council	New electronic equipment for use within their new 'Community Hub' building, to build on Barclays life skills training and to promote involvement with 'Connect to Support Hampshire'	£ 3,230.00	08/04/2019
CG00019665	Pavilion on the Park (the Eastleigh	New outreach service in a local estate which steps beyond the usual befriending service and focusses on building peoples resilience to leave their houses and make the most of local services. The specific aim of this project will be piloting a new way of tackling social isolation and loneliness in the community	£ 29,600.00	29/10/2019
CG00019664	Basingstoke shed in a bus	Purchase and refit a bus to create a mobile Men's Shed to cater for their needs and also those of other groups in the area.	£ 18,220.00	20/08/2019
CG00019666	Hayling Island Volunteers	WAVE - Hayling Island Youth Hub	£ 18,030.00	31/10/2019
Total awarded to date			£ 99,547.00	
This application:				
CG00020116	Hart Rotary Club	Canine Assisted Learning	£ 30,000.00	
Total remaining			£ 370,453.00	
Awards pending:				
Reference	Applicant	Project Description	Amount applied for	Date
tbc	Leigh Park - Lunch bank PO9	EPOS, Windows	£ 4,873.00	
Total pending			£ 4,873.00	
Total remaining (if awarded)			£ 365,580.00	

Appendix 3.

Eligibility and criteria of the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund

To secure investment from the Fund, the local partnership should ensure:

- They include representatives from both the relevant PTC/s or CG and the relevant County Council service
- The scheme will deliver measurable results against the priorities of the Fund
- The scheme has a project or business plan along with any additional documentation deemed necessary by the County Council service involved. For example, safeguarding measures for schemes engaging social isolation, or design standards for rights of way projects. Templates and support will be provided as necessary
- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all members in the local partnership
- Clear demonstration that without support from the Fund the scheme would not be able to proceed at all or to the extent outlined in the application
- Applicants with significant funds in place or higher levels of reserves must demonstrate why investment from the Fund is needed
- It is recognised that applicants will have varying levels of resources and reserves, therefore some flexibility will be permitted in terms of the amount of match funding required. Schemes will be assessed upon the value and financial saving the scheme will create to the community and in support of County Council services
- If the scheme is ongoing, how it will remain sustainable after the initial investment has been made
- An effective monitoring and reporting process are in place, including a final review of the benefits of continuing and/or variability of wider roll out of the scheme to more communities

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HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs
Date:	16 January 2020
Title:	2020/21 Revenue Budget Report for Countryside and Rural Affairs
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services and Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources

Contact name: Felicity Roe
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Section A: Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to set out proposals for the 2020/21 budget for Countryside and Rural Affairs services in accordance with the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) approved by the County Council in November 2019.

Section B: Recommendation(s)

To approve for submission to the Leader and the Cabinet:

2. The revised revenue budget for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 1.
3. The summary revenue budget for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1, subject to approval by Cabinet of the provisional cash limits.

Section C: Executive Summary

4. The deliberate strategy that the County Council has followed to date for dealing with grant reductions and the removal of funding that was historically provided to cover inflation, coupled with continued demand pressures over the last decade is well documented. It involves planning ahead of time, through a two-yearly cycle, releasing resources in advance of need and using those resources to help fund transformational change.
5. This strategy has served the County Council, and more particularly its services and community well, as it has delivered transformation programmes on time and on budget with maximum planning and minimum disruption. Put simply, it

is an approach that has ensured Hampshire County Council has continued to avoid the worst effects of funding reductions that have started to adversely affect other local authorities and enabled us to sustain some of the strongest public services in the country.

6. In line with this strategy there will be no new savings proposals presented as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process. Savings targets for 2021/22 were approved as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in July 2018 and detailed savings proposals have been developed through the Transformation to 2021 (Tt2021) Programme which were agreed by Cabinet and County Council during October and November last year. Any early achievement of resources from proposals during 2020/21 as part of the Tt2021 Programme will be retained by departments to use for cost of change purposes.
7. Alongside this, delivery of the Transformation to 2019 (Tt2019) Programme continues. The anticipated delay to delivery of some elements of the programme has been factored into our financial planning and whilst sufficient one-off funding exists both corporately and within departments to meet any potential gap over the period, the need to commence the successor programme does mean that there will be overlapping change programmes.
8. Overall the outturn forecast for 2019/20 for the Culture, Communities and Business Services Department (of which the Countryside and Rural Affairs services are a part) is to break even against the budget and this position will be included in a consolidated position for the Culture, Communities and Business Services Department in the report to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources.
9. The proposed budget for 2020/21 analysed by service is shown in Appendix 1.
10. This report seeks approval for submission to the Leader and Cabinet of the revised budget for 2019/20 and detailed service budgets for 2020/21 for Countryside and Rural Affairs services. The report has been prepared in consultation with the Executive Member and will be reviewed by the Culture and Communities Select Committee. It will be reported to the Leader and Cabinet on 3 February 2020 to make final recommendations to County Council on 13 February 2020.

Section D: Contextual Information

11. The current financial strategy which the County Council operates, works on the basis of a two year cycle of delivering change to release resources and close the anticipated budget gap. This provides the time and capacity to properly deliver major transformation programmes every two years, with deficits in the intervening years being met from the Budget Bridging Reserve (BBR) and with any early delivery of resources retained by departments to use for cost of change purposes or to cash flow delivery and offset service pressures. The model has served the authority well.

12. The County Council's action in tackling its forecast budget deficit and providing funding in anticipation of further reductions, has placed it in a very strong position to produce a 'steady state' budget for 2020/21, giving itself the time and capacity to develop and implement the Transformation to 2021 (Tt2021) Programme to deliver the next phase of savings totalling £80m. This also avoids the worst effects of sudden and unplanned decisions on service delivery and the most vulnerable members of the community. Consequently, there are no departmental savings targets built into the 2020/21 budget. However, other factors will still affect the budget, such as council tax decisions and inflation.
13. The Spending Round 2019 (SR2019) announcement took place on 4 September and the content of the proposed settlement and the issues it addressed were pleasing to see as they mirrored the key issues that we have been consistently raising for some time directly with the Government and through our local MPs.
14. In overall terms, there was a net resource gain to the County Council, albeit that is only for one year at this stage. However, the cost pressures we face, particularly in adults' and children's social care services are significantly outstripping the forecasts that were included in the original Tt2021 planning figures.
15. Without the additional injection of funding, the County Council would have faced a revised deficit position of nearly £106m by 2021/22, but the additional resources bring us back to a broadly neutral position. It is worth highlighting that the additional grant from the £1bn plus the 2% adult social care precept generates additional resources of around £29m for the County Council, but this must be measured against growth pressures and inflation across adults' and children's social care services which total nearly £57m for 2020/21 alone.
16. The Autumn Budget which was planned for 6 November was cancelled and it is now anticipated that there will be a Budget in Spring 2020. The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was announced on 20 December 2019 and confirmed the grant figures and council tax thresholds for 2020/21 in line with the SR2019 and the clarification provided in the subsequent technical consultation. The final grant settlement for 2020/21 is not due out until this report has been dispatched, however it is not anticipated that there will be any major changes to the figures that were released in December 2019.
17. The Culture, Communities and Business Services Department has been developing its service plans and budgets for 2020/21 and future years in keeping with the County Council's priorities and the key issues, challenges and priorities for the Department are set out below.

Section E: Departmental Challenges and Priorities

18. Countryside and Rural Affairs services are delivered by the Culture Communities and Business Services (CCBS) Department. The Department delivers a wide range of services with gross expenditure in the region

of £88.7m (20/21 £88.7m) a year and income streams of around £55.1m (20/21 £55.1m), leaving a cash limit of £33.6m. In addition, the Department is responsible for:

- Business units with a combined turnover of £60m.
 - Managing the repairs and maintenance of the corporate estate (£8.6m).
 - Service level agreements with 469 schools (£14m).
 - HM Coroner Service in Hampshire (£2m).
 - The relationship with various major Trusts including the Hampshire Cultural Trust.
19. The cash limited budget for this portfolio covers the statutory Rights of Way service which has previously been reported as part of a wider Countryside Service budget (the remainder of the service budget is reported to the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage).
20. In addition to the cash limited budget the Executive Member is responsible for approving business cases seeking funding from the recently established Parish and Town Council Investment Fund.

Section F: 2019/20 Revenue Budget

21. Enhanced financial resilience reporting, which looks not only at the regular financial reporting but also at potential pressures in the system and the achievement of savings being delivered through transformation, has continued through periodic reports to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and to Cabinet.
22. Overall the outturn forecast for 2019/20 for the Culture, Communities and Business Services Department (of which the Countryside and Rural Affairs services are a part) is to break even against the budget and this position will be included in a consolidated position for the Culture, Communities and Business Services Department in the report to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources.
23. The budget for Countryside and Rural Affairs services has been updated throughout the year and the revised budget is shown in Appendix 1.

Section G: Revenue Savings Proposals

24. In line with the current financial strategy, there are no new savings proposals presented as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process. Savings targets for 2021/22 were approved as part of the MTFs by the County Council in July 2018. Savings proposals to meet these targets have been developed through

the Tt2021 Programme and were approved by Executive Members, Cabinet and County Council in October and November last year.

25. Some savings will be implemented prior to April 2021 and any early achievement of savings in 2020/21 can be retained by departments to meet cost of change priorities. It is anticipated that £0.8m of savings for the CCBS Department will be achieved in 2020/21, the share of which relating to Countryside and Rural Affairs services is £0.1m, and this has been reflected in the detailed estimates contained in Appendix 1.

Section H: Budget Summary 2020/21

26. The budget update report presented to Cabinet on 6 January included provisional cash limit guidelines for each department. The cash limit for the CCBS Department services in that report was £33.6m which was a £3m increase on the previous year. £1.37m of the Department's 2020/21 cash limit relates to Countryside and Rural Affairs Services. This represents a net increase of £224,000, however this is largely the result of re-profiling budget provision between CCBS service budgets offset by the transfer of the Rural Affairs budget from Policy and Resources and does not reflect any reduction in service provision. A summary of the change is set out below:
 - Rural Affairs transfer (£274,000 increase)
 - Inflation (£38,000 increase)
 - Budget re-profiling (£84,000 reduction)
 - Business rates adjustment (£4,000 net reduction).
27. Appendix 1 sets out a summary of the proposed budgets for the service activities provided by Countryside and Rural Affairs Services for 2020/21 and show that these are within the cash limit set out above.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Transformation to 2021 – Revenue Savings Proposals (Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs) http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s38377/2019-09-19%20FINAL%20EMCRA%20RPT%20T21%20Savings%20Proposals.pdf	19 September 2019
Medium Term Financial Strategy Update and Transformation to 2021 Savings Proposals http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s39439/MTFS%20Tt2021%20Report.pdf	Cabinet – 15 October 2019 County Council – 7 November 2019
Budget Setting and Provisional Cash Limits 2020/21 (Cabinet) http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s42775/Dec%20Report%20-%20Cabinet%20-%20FINAL.pdf	6 January 2020
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>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.)</p>	
<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:

The budget setting process for 2020/21 does not contain any proposals for major service changes which may have an equalities impact. Proposals for budget and service changes which are part of the Transformation to 2021 Programme were considered in detail as part of the approval process carried out in October and November 2019 and full details of the Equalities Impact Assessments relating to those changes can be found in Appendices 5 to 8 in the October Cabinet report linked below:

<http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s39447/Appendix%20%20EMPR%20EIAs.pdf>

Budget Summary 2020/21 – Countryside and Rural Affairs

Service Activity	Original Budget 2019/20 £'000	Revised Budget 2019/20 £'000	Proposed Budget 2020/21 £'000
Countryside – Rights of Way	1,112	1,062	1,001
Rural Affairs ¹	0	272	275
Net Contribution to / (from) Cost of Change	34	34	94
Net Cash Limited Expenditure	1,146	1,368	1,370
Total Recreation & Heritage	17,480	19,244	18,623
Total Policy & Resources	11,972	12,944	13,622
Total CCBS Net Cash Limited Expenditure	30,598	33,556	33,615

¹ Moved from Policy and Resources Non-Departmental Budgets (Direct)