

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Policy, Resources and Economic Development
<b>Date:</b>	10 November 2022
<b>Title:</b>	The Leader's Community Grants
<b>Report From:</b>	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 £58,500 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 a grant through the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2022/23 and the funds requested total £58,500. The report considers the applications and recommends three awards totalling £58,500. The recommended award 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 award can be met from within existing budget provision.

### **Consultation and Equalities**

7. A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.
8. 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**

9. 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.
10. The carbon mitigation tool decision tree indicates it is not suitable for the assessment of a programme. The decisions in this report are financial decisions in relation to a programme of one-off grant opportunities. Therefore, the tool is not suitable for this Climate Change Impact Assessment and has not been used.

## **Other Key Issues**

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

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

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

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<a href="#">Leader's Community Grants – Revised Criteria and Management</a>	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
<b>The Martin Club Ltd</b>	<i>(New Forest /Lyndhurst and Fordingbridge)</i>		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>The Martin Club Ltd is a Community Interest Benefit Society based in the village of Martin in the New Forest. They seek funding to repair the existing roof which is currently unstable. The club operates as a community facility offering opportunities for social interaction to improve the wellbeing of local residents and those from further afield. Activities include social events including; quizzes, discos, local history exhibitions and talks and film nights along with activity classes such as yoga, Pilates and table tennis. It can also be hired for private events and weddings and hosts meetings for local community groups such as the local Parish Council. Martin is a small village of approximately 425 people and the Martin club is one of the very few facilities for local people. There is small village hall however it does not cater for large groups or have disabled access. The nearest town (Fordingbridge) is located 7 miles away and public transport is very limited so the club serves as an important social facility and has been rated as an Asset of Community Value by New Forest District Council. The roof repair is an initial phase of a wider programme of works to make the club more energy efficient and sustainable by reducing costs. By repairing the roof, the club will not only remain operational but will be able to undertake the next phase of their overall project which will include the installation of roof insulation and solar panels. The club is in need of extensive repair and refurbishment and this project is the first in a phase of works designed to reduce overall operational costs and increase revenue which should reduce future reliance on public sector funding. This larger programme of works is anticipated to be complete by 2025.</p> <p>Note: The organisation was previously awarded £606 from The Rural Communities fund towards an energy efficiency report, (decision day 25/04/2022) and £500 from Councillor Heron towards the creation of a storage area, (decision day 15/06/2022).</p>	£25,000	£25,000
<i>Reach</i>	Approximately 600 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.		

## Appendix 2

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £58,950 and the organisation have secured £20,000 from New Forest District Council and £10,000 from The National Lottery Community Fund.		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	<b>Councillor Heron supports the application.</b>		
<i>Recommendation /conditions</i>	<b>It is recommended the organisation is awarded up to approximately 42% of project costs to a maximum of £25,000.</b>		
<b>Alton Community Centre</b>			
<i>(East Hampshire /Alton Town)</i>			
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>The organisation seeks funding towards the cost of a replacement roof for their Garden Room. The room is currently used to host a variety of groups including art classes, choirs, music events and prayer groups and is also used as an accessible facility by members of the community with access requirements due to its location on the ground floor. The roof has fallen into disrepair and without the repairs the facility will not be able to function resulting in reduced income and loss of the opportunity to socialise for those currently using the facility. It is hoped that the repair will also strengthen the existing roof allowing for the installation of solar panels.</p> <p>Note: The organisation received £1,000 from Councillor Joy in 2020/21 towards replacement windows with double glazing and a further £2,000 from Councillor Joy in 2020/21 towards the same project.</p>	£8,500	£8,500
<i>Reach</i>	Alton community centre has an approximate footfall of 1,500 people per week. The Garden room is a popular room for hire at the facility and has approximately 50 users per day.		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £17,000 and the organisation has applied for £8,500 from East Hants District Council.		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	<b>Councillor Joy fully supports the application.</b>		

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
<i>Recommendation /conditions</i>	<b>It is recommended the organisation is up to 50% of total project costs by Hampshire County Council to a maximum of £8,500 on condition that the match funding from EHDC is secured.</b>		
<b>Shedfield Recreation Ground Charity</b> <i>(Winchester / East Meon)</i>			
<i>Application summary</i>	Shedfield Recreation Charity manage the Shedfield recreation ground on behalf of the parish council and are a registered charity which aims to provide leisure activities to the local community. They are seeking funding to urgently repair the roadway to the pavilion and improve the carpark so that residents can safely access the facility. Currently many users are parking on nearby roads and this is causing an issue for local residents. Shedfield Recreation ground is one of very few community facilities in the area and serves an important role in providing the community with a recreational space for sport and other social activities. A survey conducted in 2012 identified that 89% of residents considered it an important asset within the community. Feedback from residents has indicated that the condition of the pavilion, including the access road was in need of upgrade and completing this work is the first step in a larger overall programme of works to improve the facilities. It is hoped the works will increase usership of the facilities by improving functionality and the range of uses on offer and this is expected to help the organisation become less reliant on public sector funding in the longer term by increasing income.	£25,000	£25,000
<i>Reach</i>	It is anticipated that there will be up to 50 daily users of the facilities.		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £53,141 and the organisation have secured £21,000 from Winchester City Council. The remainder of the project costs will be made up with funding from the Parish Council.		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	<b>Councillor Lumby fully supports the application.</b>		
<i>Recommendation /conditions</i>	<b>It is recommended the organisation is awarded up to 47% of total project costs to a maximum of £25,000.</b>		

## Appendix 2

<b>Organisation</b> <i>(District / Division)</i>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>£58,500</b>	<b>£58,500</b>