

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
<b>Date:</b>	19 January 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Parish and Town Council Investment Fund - Approval of Larger Grants
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Hampshire 2050

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to request approval from the Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services for an application to the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund (PTCIF).

### Recommendation

2. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves the proposed grant application to the PTCIF as detailed under Section 9 below.

### Executive Summary

3. Details of the grant application, for which this paper seeks approval, are given in Section 9. The detailed assessment is provided in Appendix A. The total amount requested is £20,000.

### Contextual Information

4. The Rural Programme supports the County Council's support of rural Hampshire and assisting Parish and Town Councils to respond to local priorities, including management of the [PTCIF grant scheme](#).

5. The priority of the PTCIF is to support partnerships between Parish and Town Councils or local community groups and the County Council. It provides investments to schemes which respond to local needs and aims to reduce pressure on County Council Services.
6. Hampshire County Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019. In November 2021 it was agreed that the PTCIF scheme guidance would be extended to include Energy Efficiency applications from Parish and Town Councils or Community Groups for improvements to the energy efficiency of community buildings, where it can be demonstrated that the improvements contribute to [HCC's climate change targets](#).
7. Each applicant to the PTCIF is required to submit a full business plan, to include rationale, costings, quotes, and measurements. For Energy Efficiency applications, this business plan needs to provide adequate information to the Climate Programme Team for them to evaluate the financial and carbon footprint benefits of the project. If these evaluations are favourable, and demonstrate a contribution to HCC's Climate Emergency targets, then the project is supported by that team, and will be recommended for funding here.

## **Finance**

8. This grant application can be met from the existing PTCIF budget.

## **Performance**

9. These grants have been reviewed by the Climate Programme Team and the Rural Programme Team respectively, against the grant scheme criteria detailed via the link in Section 5, and approval is only sought following their recommendation to support.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	yes
<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>
EMPR Report - Update on the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund and Associated Rural Issues	25.04.2019
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
HCC Climate Change Initiatives	13 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:** No negative impacts are anticipated.

## Appendix A – Waltham Chase Village Hall Committee

### Parish and Town Council Investment Fund 2022/23

#### Funding assessment form

Organisation name:	Waltham Chase Village Hall Committee
Project title:	Waltham Chase Village Hall – Solar
Project location:	Waltham Chase
Application reference:	CG000
Total project cost:	£20,995
Amount requested:	£20,000
<i>Match funding – cash:</i>	£995
<i>Match funding - volunteer hours:</i>	
<i>Match funding - in-kind:</i>	
Match funding – total value	£995
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£20,000

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>Waltham Chase Village Hall have conducted an energy efficiency audit and addressed all their building fabric measures, funded by this scheme. This solar installation is the final stage of works to be carried out to address their energy efficiency and deliver against HCC's 2050 Carbon Neutral target.</p>
HCC – Officer feedback/comments (relevant Services)
<p><b>Lisa Wood - Rural Programme Team:</b></p> <p>Waltham Chase Village Hall have provided the results of the Energy Efficiency Audit carried out by Focus Green. This application seeks funding from the Parish And Town Council Investment Fund in line with HCC's energy efficiency grant funding. Their 'fabric first' approach has ensured that all elements of energy saving within the building have already been addressed.</p> <p>Their energy audit demonstrates kW/hr generation of over 10,000 annually (£4000), against a project cost of £21,000 (£20,000 requested), a repayment period of approximately 5 years.</p>

Subject to review by Chris Dear I would support this application.

**Chris Dear - Climate Emergency Dept:**

Waltham Chase Village Hall are building on the steps they've already taken to enhance the energy-efficiency of their building – notably through LED lighting funded through this scheme – by now seeking to facilitate self-generation through solar PV, as recommended by the independent energy auditors. The intervention is forecast to provide an annual financial saving of in excess of £4,000 whilst achieving an annual carbon saving of 2.42tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

On that basis, the application is supported.

Cllr Lumby has written an email of support for the project.

**Officer comments and recommendation**

**Lisa Wood – Rural Affairs Programme Support Officer**

I would recommend award of £20,000.