

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
Date:	19 January 2023
Title:	The Leader's Community Grants
Report From:	Director of Hampshire 2050

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Purpose of this Report

1. The report considers six applications for a grant from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2022/23.

Recommendations

2. That in respect of the two grant applications from Play to the Crowd only, the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services amends the Leader's Community Grants scheme conditions by removing the requirement that organisations will not be awarded more than one grant per financial year.
3. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves six grants totalling £67,800 from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2022/23 to cultural and community organisations in Hampshire as outlined in Appendix 2.
4. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves the carry forward of the grant to The Winchester Pavilion Project to 2023/24.

Executive Summary

5. Five organisations have applied for a grant through the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2022/23 and the funds requested total £67,537. The report considers the applications and recommends the awards totalling £67,800. The recommended award can be met from within existing budget provision.

Contextual Information

6. 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.

7. Six applications have been submitted for consideration. Details are set out in Appendix 2.
8. It is noted that organisations are normally expected to make only one application to the Leader's Community Fund in any given year. This report considers two applications from Play to the Crowd. One of the applications relates to the use of the Great Hall for a theatre production, which is being delivered collaboratively between Rabble Theatre, Play to the Crowd and Hampshire County Council. The other application relates to the Winchester Hat Fair. For reasons beyond their control, Play to the Crowd were unsuccessful in an application for continued Arts Council NPO funding. Due to the exceptional circumstances, and to provide transitional support to a major Hampshire event, both applications from Play to the Crowd have been accepted for consideration. In the circumstances, it is recommended that the grant scheme condition that "organisations will not be awarded more than one grant per financial year" is waived for the purposes of these two applications only.
9. This report also notes a request from The Winchester Pavilion Project for an extension of time for the grant to be paid. The project was awarded up to 5% of capital project costs, to a maximum of £30,000, in July 2019. Since then, there have been several delays as increasing construction costs led to commissioning a new architect to simplify the design and bring costs within budget. The building work is now expected to commence in June 2023 with practical completion in March 2024.

Finance

10. The recommended award can be met from within existing budget provision.

Consultation and Equalities

11. A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.
12. 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

13. 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.

14. 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

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

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Leader's Community Grants – Revised Criteria and Management	8 July 2021

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

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
The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company			
	(East Hants District) (East Hants/Petersfield Hangers & Liphook, Headley and Grayshott & Alton Rural)		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>The organisation seeks funding to support Miss Popplewell's Garden - a touring production to outdoor venues in small rural communities across the South of England, including seven villages in Hampshire. This would enable people in rural areas to enjoy cultural activity which otherwise they would have limited access to. The organisation has a good track record of involving local communities in the tour. The amount requested from the Council is a small proportion of the costs, but along with other local authority contributions helps secure Arts Council England funding as evidence of local support.</p> <p>Note: £500 awarded for touring production of 'Ikarus' – 07/05/2019.</p>	£1,000	£1,000
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 850 Hampshire residents.		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £126,959. £1,000 from Ashley Foundation, £500 from Wealden DC (expected outcome 31/01/23), £15,000 from Arts Council England (expected outcome 01/12/22). They expect to generate £2,000 from donations, £104,379 from ticket sales, £3080 from programme sales.		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Local Councillors were invited to comment and Cllr Oppenheimer and Cllr Kemp-Gee were supportive.		
<i>Recommendation /conditions</i>	It is recommended the organisation is awarded £1,000.		

Appendix 2

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Wickham Community Association <i>(Winchester/Winchester Southern Parishes)</i>			
<i>Application summary</i>	The organisation seeks funding to refurbish and develop their polytunnel area to provide a covered space for local residents and workshop groups, and to grow a wider variety of crops in a sheltered area. In partnership with Wickham Surgery to provide social prescription services as well as garden therapy provision, increased sustainability and environmental opportunities for the local school, youth club and scout group. The plans include creating accessible paths to the polytunnel, a level floor within the polytunnel so that the space can be used by everyone. Also, the installation of a high fence made of weldmesh, to retain site openness, but make the area secure from trespassers, installation of seating and start the planting in the area.	£5,777	£5,800
<i>Reach</i>	30 Hampshire residents per day are expected to benefit.		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £12,116.42. Marwell Photographic Society - £134; Wickham Community Association - £700; Arnold Grant Foundation - £1000; Royal Garden Scheme - £400; Magic Little Grants - £500. Volunteers will be providing labour 'in kind' to an approx. value of £3,600. Total value £6334. Note: £4,980 Waste Prevention Community grant 21/01/21 towards a community fridge and pantry.		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Councillor Patricia Stallard has been invited to comment.		
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	It is recommended the organisation is awarded £5,800.		

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Fleet & District Carnival Association <i>(Hart / Fleet Town)</i>			
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>The organisation seeks funding towards the annual Fleet & District Carnival on 1 July 2023. This event has been in the community since 1956, with a small group of volunteers (10-12) helping to raise funds and sponsorship to cover the running costs of the carnival each year. This year saw a large increase in running costs, so currently looking for additional support. Costs increased from £17,500 to nearly £20,000.</p> <p>The whole of the community are invited to enjoy the day for free. This grant would go towards the organisational costs.</p> <p>Note: £100 Councillor Grant awarded 17/12/18.</p>	£1,000	£1,000
<i>Reach</i>	7,000 Hampshire Residents are expected to benefit.		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	<p>The total project costs are approximately £20,000.</p> <p>Raised to date: County Councillor Grants £1,850; Hart District Council - £2,000; Fleet Town Council - £1,000; Tesco Community Grant - £1,500; Sponsorship - £1,250</p> <p>Total £5,100.</p>		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Councillor Steve Forster has been invited to comment but had to declare an interest as he is a member of the Carnival Committee. Councillor Stephen Parker has been invited to comment.		
<i>Recommendation /conditions</i>	It is recommended the organisation is awarded £1,000, subject to the provision of the Reserves and Safeguarding Policies.		

		<i>(Test Valley /Test Valley Central)</i>	
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>The organisation seeks funding a series of pilot arts engagement events to promote community cohesion in the Test Valley area.</p> <p>TVAF commissioned the 'Finding Friends' Report in 2021 to support the understanding of key needs, customs, challenges, and opportunities with relation to the integration and representation of local ethnic minority groups in Test Valley. The Report made several recommendations to encourage the borough's 'new' and 'invisible' communities to come forward through a series of engagement strategies. The project is planned to create a series of interactions, projects and events using arts and culture as the means to provide the opportunity for greater visibility within the community including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A scoping exercise to make contact, create and develop relationships with local identified communities • Formation of a 'Finding Friends' network • Pilot - An internationally themed locally based food festival • Pilot - Pop up performing arts and music workshops • Pilot - A visual arts programme of interactive workshops resulting in an exhibition Test Valley Tales II • Andover Mela • Animating Museums and Libraries - Artists In Residence <p>Note: £1,250 Councillor grants awarded 18/9/18 & 8/10/18 towards a production; £500 Councillor grant awarded 17/11/21 towards an online cultural hub; £500 Councillor grant awarded 3/10/22 towards a publication re-print.</p> <p>TVAF were awarded £50,000 of Leader's Investment Fund funding in 2018.</p>	£25,000	£25,000
<i>Reach</i>	15,000 Hampshire Residents are expected to benefit		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £50,915. £25,500 funding raised including £10,000 own funds, £5,000 donation and £10,500 application to the Arts Council.		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Multiple divisions.		
<i>Recommendation/conditions</i>	It is recommended the organisation is awarded £25,000 subject to: i. Confirmation that the application to the Arts Council has been successful.		

	<p>ii. The submission of an action plan with measurable outcomes, including the submission of a completion report containing lessons learnt, which can be shared with other Arts Organisations across the County.</p> <p>iii. The award being made in three staged payments, linked to specific activities, and an evaluation being submitted prior to the release of the second and third staged payment and after the final activity is completed.</p> <p>In addition, and in accordance with the scheme's criteria it is noted that this is a one-off award; repeat applications to cover previously funded activities/annual applications for the same activities are not supported.</p>		
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Play to the Crowd			
<i>(Winchester / Winchester Eastgate/Winchester Westgate)</i>			
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Play to the Crowd is an arts and educational charity, based in Winchester, comprising of the Theatre Royal Winchester, Hat Fair Outdoor Arts Festival and Playmakers, a range of participatory and community engagement activities.</p> <p>Play to the Crowd are presenting Rabble Theatre's Henry 1st in The Great Hall, Winchester in July 2023; the venue chosen because it resonates with the historical period and storyline the production depicts.</p> <p>Rabble Theatre, Play to the Crowd and Hampshire County Council want to collaborate in partnership to present this production. This grant application is to cover the costs for using the Great Hall and ancillary rooms for setting up, backstage facilities and the performances. This will also include an allowance for lost revenue when the Hall is closed to the public.</p> <p>Note: £73,000 Culture & Recreation Fund grant awarded 16/01/20 for pump-priming. £5,500 Councillor grants awarded Sept/Oct 2020 towards developing digital arts and participation.</p>	£10,835	£11,000
<i>Reach</i>	250 Hampshire Residents are expected to benefit at each of 6 performances (1500 people).		

<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £37,796. Own funds committed - £1,000; Expected ticket sales - £14,000; Arts Council England funding to Rabble Theatre (part of) - £7,000; Rabble Theatre fundraising - £1961.		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Multiple divisions.		
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	It is recommended the organisation is awarded £11,000		

Play to the Crowd			
<i>(Winchester / Winchester Eastgate/Winchester Westgate)</i>			
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Hat Fair Outdoor Arts Festival 2023 - a distinctive part of Hampshire and Winchester's identity. As well as presenting a unique mix of international street performers, it is a commissioning festival, working with a select number of partner festivals across the UK to support the making of new Outdoor Arts performance. It also has a growing reputation for supporting local and emerging talent, blending professional and community work in a single Festival. It was, until Covid, the longest continually running Outdoor Arts Festival in the country and will reach its 50th anniversary in 2024.</p> <p>Specifically, this request will enable the local community Carnival Parade to take place with hundreds of Hampshire school children and other community groups participating. This work has already started training teachers in carnival costume making skills and lead workshops in local schools and community settings across the county alongside partners New Carnival Company, from The Isle Of Wight. It will also enable the presentation of a professional interactive project which gathers participants through workshops before Hat Fair begins as well as on the weekend, before presenting a community celebration/party event as part of the climax to the 2023 Festival.</p> <p>Play to the Crowd applied to continue as an NPO of Arts Council England from 2023-2026 but the application was unsuccessful due to 'geographic rebalancing'.</p> <p>Note: £1,950 Councillor grants awarded May/June 2022 towards the Hat Fair Carnival 2022.</p>	£24,925	£25,000
<i>Reach</i>	50,000 Hampshire Residents are expected to benefit		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	£243,346		

Appendix 2

	Play to the Crowd - £5,000; Winchester City Council - £19,200; Without Walls Membership subsidy - £22,019; Winchester BID - £3,500, Other small grants - £5,000; Expected Ticket Sales - £5,000; Market stalls & Misc. income - £6,000; Core costs covered 'in kind' by Play to the Crowd - £40,000; Arts Council England Transition Fund - £79,702; Arts Council England Project Grant - £29,000. Total raised £218,421		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Multiple divisions.		
<i>Recommendation/conditions</i>	It is recommended the organisation is awarded £25,000 subject to confirmation that the application to the Arts Council England has been successful. It is further noted that this second application from Play to the Crowd has been admitted in view of the significant impact of removal of Arts Council NPO funding on a regionally important event. In accordance with the Leader's Community Grant Fund criteria, this is a one-off award; repeat applications to cover previously funded activities/annual applications for the same activities are not supported.		
TOTALS		£67,537	£67,800