

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
Date:	9 March 2023
Title:	The Leader's Community Grant Fund and Investing in Hampshire Fund
Report From:	Director of Hampshire 2050

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Purpose of this Report

1. The report considers four applications for a grant from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2022/23 and a request to carry forward funds awarded from the Investing in Hampshire Fund to 2023/24.

Recommendations

2. That in respect of the grant application from Odiham Parish Council, and for the reason set out in this report, the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services amends the Leader's Community Grants scheme conditions by waiving the restriction preventing an award being made to a Parish Council with regards to the application in this report only.
3. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves four grants totalling £20,500 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 part of the grant award from the Investing in Hampshire Fund to The Bursledon Brickworks Museum to 2023/24.

Executive Summary

5. Four organisations have applied for a grant through the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2022/23 and the funds requested total £25,425. The report considers the applications and recommends the awards totalling £20,500. The recommended award can be met from within existing budget provision.
6. Bursledon Brickworks Museum received an award of £100,000 from the Investing in Hampshire Fund in 2021. The works have been delayed and only a proportion of the funds will have been claimed within the year of the award. Therefore, a request has been made to carry forward the remaining funds to 2023/24 when the works will be completed.

Contextual Information

7. 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.

8. Four applications have been submitted for consideration. Details are set out in Appendix 2.
9. It is noted that applications from Parish Councils are not normally funded under this Scheme, as set out in the grant criteria. However, it is considered appropriate to apply an exception to the application from Odiham Parish Council due to the high costs associated with improvements to the building following its transfer of the freehold from Hampshire County Council on 1 March 2022 to become an independent community library.
10. On 8 July 2021, the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approved an award of £100,000 from the Investing in Hampshire Fund towards Phase 1 works at the Bursledon Brickworks Museum. The award was on condition that the remaining funding being in place. This was confirmed last year as coming from Historic England. Scheduling the works has proved challenging since the pandemic but works are now progressing. Arrangements have been made for staged payments aligned to the various milestones of the project, however this will mean that some of the grant award will not be claimed until after a year since the award was accepted. As it is a condition of the grant to be claimed within a year, approval is sought to carry forward the outstanding amount to 2023/24.

Finance

11. The recommended awards can be met from within existing budget provision.

Consultation and Equalities

12. A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.
13. 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

14. 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.
15. 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

16. 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
Odiham Parish Council		<i>(Hart/Odiham & Hook)</i>	
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>The Parish Council took on the freehold of the former Odiham Library building from the County Council in March 2022 and seeks funding towards capital works to transform it into a community hub. This will include office premises for the Parish Council together with other facilities such as a Book Exchange and community hire for activities, support groups and training sessions. In addition, the local MP and Police will rent office space in the building for their use.</p> <p>Works include addressing a longstanding damp problem with the north facing wall. This application also includes small landscaping works to dig a trench, clear shrubs and remove leaves on the north-west wall to discourage water ingress on this boundary wall.</p> <p>In 2020 it was agreed that all libraries transferring from the County Council to Independent Community Libraries would be eligible for a grant of up to £10,000 to support transfer costs and £10,000 to support capital works associated with the transfer. Due to the age, condition and Grade 2 listed status of the building it is considered appropriate to allow a further £10,000 to support these works to be applied for.</p> <p>Note: £10,000 Recreation and Heritage Community Fund grant awarded 12/01/21 & £10,000 Recreation and Heritage Community Fund grant awarded 21/06/21 towards the transition to an independent community library.</p>	£9,925	£10,000
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 2000 Hampshire residents.		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £10,625. Own funds committed: £700.		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Councillor Glen supports the applicaiton.		

Appendix 2

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Recommendation/ conditions	<p>It is recommended the organisation is awarded £10,000.</p> <p>It is noted that Parish Councils are not normally eligible to apply to this grant scheme but it is recommended that this application is agreed by exception due to the high costs involved with the transfer of the building. This will be the last award to this project through this grant scheme.</p>		

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Whitehill Village Hall			
<i>(East Hampshire/Whitehill, Bordon and Lindford)</i>			
Application summary	<p>The application seeks funding towards the replacement of the roof of the main hall.</p> <p>The hall supports a range of community social and recreational activities for all ages including fitness and healthy living activities, children's activities, soup kitchen, U3A, breastfeeding support and friendship groups.</p> <p>The organisation is well-established and has delivered capital improvement projects previously. It has committed £15,000 of its own funds towards the project. It was unsuccessful in application/s to EHDC District Councillors Discretionary grants due to no funds remaining. It has previously accessed funding from EHDC including Section 106 funding, to support other recent capital improvements.</p>	£10,000	£5,000
Reach	Will benefit approx. 1200 Hampshire residents.		
Funding (inc match)	<p>The total project costs are £27,900.</p> <p>Own funds committed: £15,000; Councillor Grant - £367</p> <p>Note: £9,910 - Community Buildings Capital Fund 16/7/2015; £3,016 - Councillor Grant 23/10/2015 £3,000 - Culture & Community Activity Grants 21/01/2016;</p>		

Appendix 2

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
	£9,910 - Community Buildings Capital Fund 21/03/2017; £1,700 - Councillor Grant 17/02/2017; £10,000 - Community Buildings Capital Fund 25/02/2019; £1,300 – Councillor Grant 19/07/2019; £745 – Councillor Grant 16/02/2022; Request for £3,000 – Councillor Grant – Decision Pending.		
Local Member Comments	Councillor Tree supports the application.		
Recommendation/ conditions	It is recommended the organisation is awarded a partial award of £5,000 and the organisation advised to seek funds from other sources in the future so not to be reliant on Hampshire County Council grant funding. This will be the last award to this organisation through this grant scheme.		

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Portsmouth Harbour Marine		<i>(Gosport/Multiple Divisions)</i>	
Application summary	<p>The application seeks funding towards Gosport Marine Festival 2023 which will take place on 20 May. This is a free community event, showcasing the wealth of on-water opportunities available on the Gosport peninsula and allowing people of all ages and abilities to try a variety of these activities. The festival also focuses on the young people of Gosport, highlighting the learning and career opportunities within the marine industry on the peninsula. The biennial festival has been running since being launched in 2015.</p> <p>On the water activities will include: dinghy sailing, rowing, kayaking, sail training vessels, Wetwheels Solent disabled boat trips, visits to historical vessels in the Marina, under 6 model yacht race, Portsmouth model boat display team. On shore activities will include: Programme of entertainment throughout the day, under 6 little shipmates' activities, Maritime careers exhibition, sea cadet display area.</p>	£3,000	£3,000

Appendix 2

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
	The requested funding will go towards marketing costs, other associated costs for putting the event on and also towards the Marine Futures program, which gives young people who attend the festival the opportunity to expand their sailing abilities with a week sail training to ensure a lasting legacy of the event for those who participate.		
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 2500 Hampshire residents.		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £13,050. National Lottery - £2250 (outcome awaited); Boost Charitable Trust - £750 (outcome awaited); Councillor Grants - £1,500 (see note below). Note: The organisation has secured a £500 Councillor Grant and the application indicates they expect to receive a further 2x £500 awards bringing the total CC grants to £1,500. The amount requested in this application would still bring HCC's contribution to less than 50% of project costs. County Councillors supported the 2021 event (4x awards totalling £2,500) and these grants are a strong proxy indicator of local value and support.		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Local Councillors support this application.		
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	It is recommended the organisation is awarded £3,000.		

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
The Hampshire Duke of Edinburgh's Forum			(Countywide)

Appendix 2

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
<i>Application summary</i>	The Hampshire DoE Forum, a local voluntary group established to support and promote the DofE scheme in Hampshire, hosts an annual awards event for recipients of the DoE Gold Award. The event recognises and celebrates young people's achievement and serves to promote the benefits of participating in the DoE scheme. For a number of years, the event has taken place in the Great Hall, hosted by HCC. To ensure transparency, the Forum have been asked to submit a grant application to cover the costs of hiring the Great Hall at the HCC 'partner rates'. The event covers all young people in Hampshire who are undertaking their DoE Award with a local school or other licenced DoE authority and is non-subscription.	£2,500	£2,500
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 200 Hampshire residents.		
<i>Funding (inc match)</i>	The total project costs are £2,500. Note: £2,000 Leader's Community Grant Fund – 9/3/22		
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Multiple Divisions.		
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	It is recommended that funding of £2,500 is awarded to cover the hire of the Great Hall for the 2023 annual awards ceremony. The organisation is advised to find an alternative venue for future events. (Note: The Forum is not formally associated with the DoE national charity or funded by HCC.)		
TOTALS		£25,425	£20,500