

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
<b>Date:</b>	25 September 2023
<b>Title:</b>	The Leader's Community Grant Fund – Andover Community Engage
<b>Report From:</b>	Chief Executive

**Contact name:** Emma Noyce and Miranda Woolfenden

**Tel:** 0370 779 8373

**Email:** [emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk](mailto:emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk)

### Purpose of this Report

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

### Recommendations

2. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves a grant totalling £19,000 from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2023/24 to Andover Community Engage, as outlined in Appendix 2.

### Executive Summary

3. Andover Community Engage has applied for a grant through the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2023/24 for £25,000. The report considers the application and recommends the award totalling £19,000. 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. The application from Andover Community Engage is 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

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>
<a href="#">The Leader's Community Grant Fund – Revised Criteria</a>	13 July 2023

### 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

### 1. 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; and
- 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;
- provide or enhance digital engagement for the benefit of a whole community; and
- 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 directorates 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; and
- people in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities.

Applications can be made for over £1,000 up to a maximum of £25,000 and may be for activity costs, a specific project and/or capital costs. Applications must demonstrate the value for money that will be delivered with the requested funding, in relation to the proposed outcomes and the Council's strategic objectives. Supporting evidence should be provided, where possible.

Applications with secured match funding, or that show clear evidence of having sought match funding, are more likely to be more successful. Organisations are expected to have also applied to local District or Parish Councils where local funding opportunities exist.

Self-help by organisations is encouraged, and therefore grants are normally up to 50% of the sum required to complete a project. If other County Council funding is contributed to the same project, e.g. through a County Councillor grant, this will be taken into account and the total sum given will not exceed 50%.

**Supporting documentation will be required for all applications.**

## 2. 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 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 (Parish and Town Councils may be able to apply for grant funding from the [Parish and Town Council Investment Fund](#));
- 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 worship-related activities and then only for works in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act;

## 3. When to apply

- Applications are welcomed at any time and will be dealt with on a 'first come, first served' basis from within the allocated budget.
- Recommendations for awards will be taken to the next available Executive Member 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.

#### 4. What is not funded?

The following projects are **not** funded under this scheme:

- applications for £1,000 or less - where relevant, these should be directed to the [County Councillors Grants Scheme](#)
- the purchase of land;
- retrospective projects; grants are awarded for works to be carried out in the future;
- maintenance, repair or improvements of building, facilities or land for which functional responsibility is held by another local authority (including a local District, Borough or Parish Council)
- 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;
- activities that form the core provision of the organisation
- ongoing/predictable building maintenance or IT infrastructure costs – organisations are expected to have made provision for such costs
- 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 are better suited to other Hampshire County Council grant schemes - where relevant, applications may be transferred to more appropriate schemes;

All organisations in receipt of a grant will be expected to complete and submit an evaluation, demonstrating the value that the grant has added to the community through the funded activity/project/capital work.

Organisations will not be awarded more than one grant per financial year and previous levels of Council funding will be taken into account when assessing any new applications.

## Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations – 2023/24

Organisation (District/Division)	Proposal			Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
<b>Andover Community Engage</b> (Andover South/Test Valley)				£25,000	£19,000
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Andover Community Engage is a charitable organisation, dedicated to creating opportunities for community engagement among the residents of Andover and the surrounding villages. Currently they have been without a permanent location for the last 10 months due to damage to the previous building. They have adapted to a mobile setup, modifying their projects to meet the community's needs, however they are unable to provide crucial services such as youth programs, a community lounge, and vocational learning without a dedicated space. In addition, they are using funds on other expenses such as storage, transportation, and rented rooms which are detracting from their charitable activities. The charity has multiple revenue streams that will ensure financial sustainability but the main ones depend on having a building. Therefore, acquiring a permanent building is crucial for delivering their services and ensuring the longevity of the organisation. They aim to achieve funding for the first 18 months to allow for ease into financial independence.</p> <p>Provision will include a community lounge with planned social groups that are currently unmet in the area and running a community fridge that helps with food poverty, waste prevention and social isolation. Also, the youth provision will provide a regular after-school drop-in with a tutor available for homework support in addition to the holiday space previously offered. The clothing and baby bank will be able to accept donations full-time which will enable support to more families. The vocational learning environment creates a much-needed vocational learning environment with courses in employability, personal development and independent living skills. The organisation has been working with other charities and community groups in the area in order to support the full offering of services across the areas without duplication. These partnerships will continue to develop and support the charity to provide the most effective signposting advice and information. A full community board and advertising points will be created in the building.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 3,500 residents				
<i>Funding</i>	<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>Match funding from other organisations sought</b>	<b>Own funds committed</b>	<b>HCC already committed</b>
	£74,000 (Building costs £13,000, Lease £25,000 and staff costs £36,000)	£66,088	£7912	£0	£0
<p>(Note previous funding awarded: 2023/24 £2,000 County Councillor Grant towards a youth holiday drop-in club)  Their application for funding to Connect4communities was not successful and now seeking funding from Test Valley Borough Council Asset Grant Scheme and are in the process of applying for Lottery funding.</p>					



<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	In part as staff costs are not eligible in the Scheme criteria. Building and lease costs are eligible and total £38,000.
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Councillor P North
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	50% of eligible costs up to £19,000, subject to confirmation that all match funding is secured.