

# 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
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Hampshire 2050

**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 4 applications 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 4 grants totalling £34,360 from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2023/24 to cultural and community organisations in Hampshire, as outlined in Appendix 2.

### Executive Summary

3. Four organisations have applied for a grant through the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2023/24 and the funds requested total £81,729. The report considers the applications and recommends the awards totalling £34,360. 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. Four applications have been submitted for consideration. Details are set out in Appendix 2.
6. A request to make a minor administrative change was received from SPUD following their grant award of £25,000 for The Living Room Project in July 2022. This was to change from one payment at project completion to three staged payments to assist the organisation with their cashflow for the works.

This was approved by the Director of Hampshire 2050 and Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services. This is summarised in Appendix 3 for information.

### **Finance**

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

### **Consultation and Equalities**

8. A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.
9. 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**

10. 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.
11. 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**

12. 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

<b>Organisation (District/Division)</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>		
<b>Over Wallop Cricket Club</b> (Test Valley /Test Valley Central)		£25,000	£5,000		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Over Wallop Cricket Club (OWCC) wish to complete Phase I of its Rejuvenation Plan, creating new practice nets and install a non-turf pitch. The existing net has been condemned as unsafe and is now unusable. The pitch in 2022 played exceptionally poorly and one match had to be abandoned due to safety fears. If the facilities are not replaced, it is very likely that the OWCC would fold and village cricket being lost to this part of Test Valley. This would be a significant loss to the community and would adversely affect the sole village pub which relies on regular income following practice and twice-weekly matches, and the general vibrancy of the village and surrounding communities as a whole. OWCC is the only cricket club within the parish of Over Wallop and the adjoining parishes, totalling some 9,000 residents.</p> <p>This application focuses on funding new 2-lane practice nets, built to ECB-standard and planning approval is in place. The new nets will be available to all existing and new cricketers, providing a springboard to launch a Junior Section, attracting both boys and girls to the sport. Local youngsters play cricket at school but have no club outlet, and the local junior football team have expressed strong interest in transitioning into cricket during the summer. The Parish Council have stated that they would fund coaching classes. The provision of a safe, welcoming and supportive environment will also encourage the formation of a female section, as there have been a number expressing an interest. The nets will be sited with close, level access from the carpark for wheelchair users. The recreation ground is at the heart of the village, walkable for all, and will provide a safe, welcoming, high-quality practice surface to encourage use by the whole community.</p> <p>The applicant has requested more than the projected shortfall as the outcome of several grant applications to other organisations are awaited.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Application states 9,000 residents as referenced above.				
<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>
	£69,339	£7,339	£62,000	£5,000	£1,000 Councillor grant
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Yes				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Cllr Drew				
<i>Recommendation/conditions</i>	£5,000, subject to confirmation of the successful outcome of the outstanding grant applications.				

<b>Organisation</b> <i>(District/Division)</i>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>		
<b>Silchester Sports Pavilion</b> <i>(Basingstoke &amp; Deane / Calleva)</i>		£25,000	£12,500		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>In 2022, the clubroom was seriously damaged by fire resulting in the closure of the building for public use. Since then, the pavilion committee, in conjunction with the parish council, users and village residents, have been working on plans to improve the facilities for current and long-term needs of the community. The Pavilion is the central hub for numerous activities within Silchester, including the cricket club, football club and community café. The pavilion is also used for ad-hoc bookings for family gatherings/parties and is the base for the annual fun run, village fete and the annual charity cricket match.</p> <p>Plans have been approved for the refurbishment and extension of the building, which will meet the needs of the sports teams and community events as well as encouraging more people into physical activity and reducing social isolation. The clubroom at the pavilion is inadequate to accommodate the needs of the clubs and other hirers. Better facilities (including showers) are required post-match for players. The improvements will help the club maintain and grow its current success. This will include the provision of disabled facilities (none previously), providing opportunities in the future for people with differing needs. The cricket club also provides match day catering facilities, which cannot be fully accommodated within the current environment. The community café has grown significantly and requires additional indoor seating. Capacity has been reduced currently to provide safer serving space. During the summer, the outside café space provides further capacity; however, in the winter, the existing internal space may not continue to be economically viable. Currently, new user groups cannot be accommodated due to lack of floor space for classes. A clubroom extension providing increased capacity, will meet the needs of existing users and allow for greater diversity of user groups using the facility for the benefit of the village such as children's yoga, children's and ladies cricket, dance classes as well as enabling its full use throughout all seasons.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 1000 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>
	£221,641	£34,000	£77,000	£110,500	£0
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Yes				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Cllr Vaughan				
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	£12,500 subject to match funding from the District &/or Parish Council.				
<b>Organisation</b> <i>(District/Division)</i>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>		

<b>St John's Winchester Developments Ltd</b> (Winchester / Eastgate)				£6,729	£3,600
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>St John's Winchester is a long-established charity, providing supportive communities for older people live well in the wider community and also provide care and support for older people and their families to live well with dementia.</p> <p>The charity is proposing to invite individuals, residents, families, community groups, charities, schools, churches and community leaders from the Muslim, Nepalese, Filipino and other migrant communities within Winchester to participate in a community-wide creative arts project – 'The Fabric of Winchester'. This will involve seeking 'donations' of a memory, either by gifting a piece of fabric or clothing which holds special meaning for them or stitching a square depicting a poignant time, all brought together into quilts. This will be facilitated through several Community Sewing Days, led by local textile artists and the Wessex Quiltmakers, who will provide advice, guidance and practical support for attendees. Local businesses will also be invited to purchase a 'block' to include their business logo or company name which will be stitched by an artist on their behalf, reflecting their place within Winchester. The artists, Wessex Quiltmakers and fashion students will then complete the quilts to go on public display to locals and visitors. Attendees will be able to vote for their favourite quilt as the 'People's Choice'. Following this, the quilts will be donated to Winchester Hospice as a gift from the community and St John's in support of the impactful work of the charity. Participation for individuals, families and community groups will be free.</p> <p>The amount requested would enable the engagement of a local renowned textile artist as Creative Lead (fee of £3,600) and support all marketing, advertising and publicity costs (£3,129).</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx.800 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>
	£25,979	£6,729	£18,320 (including £5,000 from Winchester City Council)	£930	£0
	(Note previous funding awarded: 2019/20 - £30,000 Transitional Grant Stream – Community Connectors)				
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Yes				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Cllr Hiscock is fully supportive of the application.				
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	£3,600 for the engagement of a creative lead to facilitate the project.				

<b>Organisation</b> <i>(District/Division)</i>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>		
<b>Step by Step Partnership</b> <i>(Aldershot North/Rushmoor)</i>		£25,000	£13,260		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Step by Step supports young people, aged 11 to 25, who are facing homelessness and other challenges. Step by Step aims to break the cycle of homelessness by offering a unique blend of accommodation, mental health support and life skills training. This application is to provide training in mental health first aid and trauma-informed training for all staff. The young people supported have multiple, complex needs and vulnerabilities, including drug/alcohol abuse, offending, learning difficulties, mental health issues, family breakdown, poor education attainment and more. Coming from a range of backgrounds and circumstances, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, the majority of the young people supported have experienced trauma that they are unable to process and that can lead to difficult behaviours. Every young person supported by Step by Step has a dedicated support worker who works closely with them. The ultimate goal is financially secure, independent young people with increased confidence, the ability to manage a budget, access to meaningful employment, and sustaining independent living. To achieve this, it is vital that staff members are trained to the highest standard on relevant and pertinent issues that are affecting the young people. There has been an alarming increase in young people presenting with extreme mental health conditions including suicide ideation, eating disorders and self-harm. These mental health conditions can stem from a variety of causes, so our frontline staff need to know not only how to properly support a young person in crisis, but also how to understand and address the underlying traumas that cause such conditions.</p> <p>Step by Step have subsequently submitted a priority list of training which amounts to £14,863.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 350 residents				
<i>Funding (inc. match)</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>
	£26,520	£25,000	£0	£1520	£0
	<i>(Note previous funding awarded: 2023/24 £1000 County Councillor Grants towards The Opportunities Fund)</i>				
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Yes				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Councillor Crawford is supportive of the application.				
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	50% of the total project costs up to £13,260, to be paid once the training has been completed.				

<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
		£81,729	£34,360

**APPENDIX 3****MINOR ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO GRANTS AWARDED**

Approved by the Director of Hampshire 2050 and Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant Approved</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Administrative Change</b>	<b>Date Change Approved</b>
SPUD, Sway, New Forest	The Living Room Project - A dedicated space to deliver creative opportunities for vulnerable members of the community struggling with mental health problems.	£25,000	28 July 2022	From one payment at project completion to three staged payments - at project commencement, mid-way and completion. This is to assist the organisation with their cashflow for the works.	25 August 2023