

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
<b>Date:</b>	30 November 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Investing in Hampshire Fund
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Hampshire 2050

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to consider an application to the Investing in Hampshire Fund.

### Recommendation

2. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves the application for an Investing in Hampshire award towards a Jane Austen Memorial at Winchester Cathedral for £10,000, conditional on Winchester City Council matching the contribution.

### Contextual information

3. On the 19 April 2018 the Executive Member for Policy and Resources agreed an Investing in Hampshire grant of £25,000 towards a statue of Jane Austen at Winchester Cathedral.
4. Following public feedback on the proposal, a decision was taken not to proceed at that stage. The then Executive Member confirmed that should the project gain support in the future, a re-application would be welcomed.
5. Winchester Cathedral has now approached the County Council with a revised proposal, having taken into consideration feedback on the previous design. It is noted that in the five years since the original funding was approved, the financial position of the County Council has changed significantly. The revised proposal therefore seeks a reduced grant of £10,000 from the County Council towards a £100,000 project.

6. Whilst a commitment was previously made to welcome a re-application, it is appropriate to consider whether the proposal still represents public value and meets the criteria of the scheme. The relevant criteria in this case are included as Appendix 1 to this report.
7. The applicant has provided the following statement in support of the application:  
*“The people of Winchester and Hampshire will benefit by there being a memorial sculpture honouring one of Hampshire’s most famous daughters, available outside to view free of charge. It will attract visits from a global fanbase which will boost the economy post-pandemic. It will be a local landmark in the city, in a beautiful setting, which will add to other sculptures of note such as Licoricia and King Alfred. It will form part of a network of places to visit in Hampshire on the Jane Austen trail, including Chawton, Steventon and Basingstoke.*
8. Officers consider that whilst it is not the County Council’s direct responsibility to fund public art of this nature, it is likely that this will be a significant visitor attraction of one of Hampshire’s cultural icons, and this project will strengthen the Jane Austen trail across the County, building on the impact of the bicentenary of Jane Austen’s death.

## **Finance**

9. The project costs are £100,000 comprised of £60,000 for the design and maquette, and a further £40,000 for casting and installation. £73,000 has been raised from private donations, and a contribution of £10,000 has been sought from Winchester City Council. The remainder of the shortfall will be made up from further fundraising activity.
10. It is recommended that the County Council contributes £10,000 to the project on condition that this is matched by a contribution from Winchester City Council.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

11. The Cathedral has already begun an active process of consultation with key stakeholders including the Jane Austen Society and City of Winchester Trust. At the start of next year there will be a public consultation. All opinions received will be expressed back to the sculptor.
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. An Equalities

Impact Assessment has been carried out and has identified a neutral impact on groups with 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.

**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>	No
<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>
<a href="#">Executive Member Policy and Resources: Investing in Hampshire Bids</a>	19/4/18
<a href="#">Executive Member Policy and Resources: Investing in Hampshire Fund</a>	8/3/19

**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 characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic 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 which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

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. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and has identified a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics.

## **APPENDIX 1: FUNDING CRITERIA FOR INVESTING IN HAMPSHIRE**

The following criteria should be taken into account when considering a request for funding.

1. Assistance will be considered only in response to direct applications from properly constituted organisations seeking assistance for one-off funding only. The application must show that the organisation is properly and legally organised and has its own bank account. Funding would only be awarded if the proposal was to support activity within agreed County Council priorities.
2. Applications will be considered for the items listed below, where these are within agreed priorities and generally only where other substantial funding exists:
  - Specific capital projects for the improvement or maintenance of significant assets or facilities within Hampshire
  - Projects that will support economic development and business growth within Hampshire.
3. Other applications will be considered at the absolute discretion of the Leader where he considers that the award will make a contribution for the wider benefit of Hampshire and its residents.
4. The wider economic and other benefits to the residents of Hampshire should be considered together with any complementary benefits for Hampshire County Council.
5. Awards will not usually be made in respect of applications from the following:
  - Government Institutions
  - Schools
  - Overseas and out of County organisations which have no direct Hampshire involvement
  - Bodies requesting funds for onward distribution to other charities e.g. mayoral appeals, carnivals, fetes, or for their own fundraising events.
6. Apart from exceptional circumstances, the requesting body would be expected to provide their own funding towards the project.
7. As a general rule, grants in excess of £250,000 will not be awarded unless significant benefits and funding are available. In exceptional cases, where the benefits are significant and directly relate to services and functions close to the County Council's key objectives, then an award greater than the level above would be considered.
8. Given the longer-term nature of capital projects, requests can be considered well in advance, but funding will only be released once evidence of capital

expenditure has been provided to the County Council or other arrangements made, consistent with the agreement of the Director of Corporate Operations.