

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
Date:	14 March 2024
Title:	Awards from Community Grant Schemes
Report From:	Director of Hampshire 2050

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Purpose of this Report

1. The report considers two applications for grants from the Leader's Community Grant Fund, one application from the Parish Town Council Investment Fund (PTCIF) and one application from the Rural Community Fund (RCF) for 2023/24.

Recommendation

2. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves:
 - a) Two grants totalling £18,900 from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2023/24 to cultural and community organisations in Hampshire, as set out in Appendix 1.
 - b) One grant totalling £5,278 from the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund, as set out in Appendix 2.
 - c) One grant totalling £5,000 from the Rural Community Fund, as set out in Appendix 3.

Executive Summary

3. Two organisations have applied for a grant through the Leader's Community Grant Fund totalling £40,176, one organisation has applied for a grant from the Parish Town Council Investment Fund (PTCIF) totalling £5,278 and one organisation has applied for a grant from the Rural Community Fund (RCF) totalling £5,000, for 2023/24.
4. The report considers the applications and recommends the awards totalling £18,900 from the Leader's Community Grant Fund, £5,278 from the Parish Town Council Investment Fund (PTCIF) and £5,000 from the Rural Community Fund (RCF). The recommended awards can be met from within existing budget provision.

5. Appendix 4 summarises Officer Decisions made since the last Decision Day.

Contextual Information

6. The purpose of the Leader's Community Grant Fund 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.
7. The priority of the PTCIF is to support partnerships between Parish and Town Councils or local community groups and the County Council. It provides investments to schemes which respond to local needs and aims to reduce pressure on County Council Services.
8. The Rural Communities Fund offers small grants to support Parish Councils, groups and organisations in rural Hampshire and small market towns. The overall priorities of the scheme are to build community resilience and encourage self-help.
9. Full details of each of the grant streams can be found on the Council's website <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants>.
10. Grant applications received since the last Decision Day on 22 January 2024 for awards below £5,000 and/or any minor administrative changes to grants previously awarded, have been approved by the Corporate Director for Hampshire 2050, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services. These are summarised in Appendix 4 for information.

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>
The Leader's Community Grant Fund – Revised Criteria	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.

Applications to the Leader's Community Grant Fund – 2023/24

Organisation (District/Division)	Proposal			Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
The Historical Diving Society (Gosport / Lee)				£23,000	£15,500
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>This project is for improvements to the access of No. 2 Battery, Stokes Bay plus its repair and conservation by addressing water penetration and damp issues to stabilise the fabric of the building, as Phase 1 of redevelopment plans for the Museum.</p> <p>The Diving Museum is owned and managed by the Historical Diving Society, with the principal aim of preserving the history of diving. It is housed in No. 2 Battery, a Grade II* listed building built in the 1860s primarily to defend against a sea-borne attack. The building is on the 'Heritage at Risk' register and has significant damp issues, restricting use to one-third of the building. A major aim since the Museum opened has been to improve the internal environment for the storage and display of the collection and provide better access for the public. Grants from Arts Council England and Historic England have been awarded to open the remaining two-thirds of No.2 Battery, ensuring that the museum is accessible and usable. Works include installing an air source heat pump to help manage humidity and water ingress, installing a ventilation system to control air movement within the building and repairing holes. In addition, work will include restoring and conserving historic features throughout the building, such as the nuclear blast doors from the period the building was GBC's Cold War nuclear bunker and install an external ramp at the entrance to the building and an internal platform lift, internal ramps to accommodate changes in floor levels and create an accessible emergency exit at the rear. Once completed, it will enable the Museum to move forward to Phase 2, which will include submitting a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Approx 10,000 people annually from visitors, organised groups/education visits and website traffic				
<i>Funding</i>	Total Project Costs	Shortfall	Match funding from other organisations sought	Own funds committed	HCC already committed
	£854,816	£23,000	£820,563 (£15,500 from Gosport BC)	£11,253	Nil
	(Note previous funding awarded: 2020/21 - £1,000 from 2 x Councillor Grants for replacement boundary fencing.)				
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Yes				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Cllr Burgess supports the application.				
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	£15,500				

Organisation <i>(District/Division)</i>	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended		
Chawton House Library <i>(East Hampshire / Alton Rural)</i>		£17,176	£3,400		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>2025 marks Jane Austen's 250th Birthday at Chawton House. In the run up to this momentous year and building on the successful trials of outside events at Chawton House during Covid, they are planning to create and embed an annual calendar of community-focused events, activities, creative and garden workshops, so Chawton House is a place for local people to meet, volunteer and try something new. Their Business Plan indicates this build-up will result in them being self-sufficient and non-reliant on grant funds from 2025 onwards.</p> <p>They wish to create a place for the community to come together, either as individuals, or in groups. 'In reimagining Chawton House as a community-focused historic house and estate, championing historic and contemporary women's writing and encouraging creative practice, we will engage audiences of all ages and backgrounds in the cultural and natural history of this place, whilst overseeing heritage and nature restoration of the whole site.'</p> <p>The recommended grant award focusses on the additional external costs of hosting their planned calendar of events, and recognises the substantial contribution being made from their own funds, and their dedicated volunteers, providing the best opportunity for long-term sustainability, and further building on the increased visitor numbers seen in recent years.</p> <p>(£13,502 eligible costs of which £10,102 is already funded by East Hants District Council)</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 3,000 residents				
<i>Funding</i>	Total Project Costs	Shortfall	Match funding from other organisations sought	Own funds committed	HCC already committed
	£64,095	£17,176	£15,232 (including £10,102 from East Hants District Council)	£31,687	£0
	<i>(Note previous funding awarded: Nil)</i>				
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Yes (for the eligible amount)				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Cllr Kemp-Gee supports the application.				
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	£3,400				

Applications to the Parish Town Council Investment Fund (PTCIF) – 2023/24

Organisation <i>(District/Division)</i>	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended		
Compton and Shawford Parish Council <i>(Winchester / Downlands)</i>		£6,278	£5,278		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Compton & Shawford Parish Council own the parish hall in Shawford. The venue is incredibly popular and serves a wide variety of clubs and groups within the community.</p> <p>Following recent increases in energy bills, electricity costs have increased from 27p/kW to 58p/kW, resulting in an annual electricity cost of £10,945. They are seeking to reduce these costs, whilst at the same time contributing to a more energy efficient facility. They are applying for funding to install energy efficient LED lighting throughout the building and improve the roof insulation. The improvements are projected to support a reduction in energy consumption from 18,870 kW/hr to 9,980 kW/hr annually, equalling a £4,944 reduction in energy bills. Their annual energy bills are still £1,800 more than they were prior to energy price rises. Compton & Shawford Parish Council can make £1000 available to support this project, if required. With support from the Climate Change Programme Team, this application is recommended for £5,278 funding.</p> <p>Climate Change Programme Team comments: Hampshire County Council is striving to tackle climate change through two targets, to be carbon neutral by 2050 and resilient to a two-degree warming. The forecast annual tonnes of CO2 savings of 1.81 tCO2e will contribute to this target.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 2000 residents				
<i>Funding</i>	Total Project Costs	Shortfall	Match funding from other organisations sought	Own funds committed	HCC already committed
	£6278	£5278	£0	£1000	0
	(Note previous funding awarded: £15,369 awarded in December 2022 via Compton and Shawford Parish Council for their energy efficiency project in Compton, a distance away from the Shawford Parish Hall. A max. of £30,000 is available to each applicant)				
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Yes				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Cllr Warwick is supportive of the grant award				
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	£5,278				

Applications to the Rural Community Fund (RCF) – 2023/24

Organisation (District/Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended		
New Forest Show (New Forest / Brockenhurst)		£9,520	£5,000		
<i>Application summary</i>	<p>Grant availability of £15,000 has been made available via the Rural Communities Fund 2023/24 to specifically support rural country shows in Hampshire.</p> <p>The New Forest and Hampshire County Show is a three-day agricultural Show with a remit to educate Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry and Equestrianism. The three-day Show is held in July and brings together both the local community and visitors to the area. Funding for this application is intended to allow the Show to continue to hold an area dedicated to promoting the New Forest with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting local community groups • Educating visitors on the importance of the New Forest • Encouraging members to support the community • Holding traditional New Forest competitions <p>The Show is based at New Park, Brockenhurst and is a real community event with the staff supported by over 490 volunteers. It is packed with interactive, educational activities and attracts over 85,000 people each year. Visitors can enjoy a day packed with fun, education, shopping and animals. Aligning with similar awards given to other country shows this year, and as with previous years, and it is recommended that £5000 is awarded.</p>				
<i>Reach</i>	Will benefit approx. 85,000 residents				
<i>Funding</i>	Total Project Costs	Shortfall	Match funding from other organisations sought	Own funds committed	HCC already committed
	£19,520	£9,520		£10,000	£0
	(Note previous funding awarded: £5,000 awarded for a series of smaller shows in 2021 and prior years)				
<i>Match scheme criteria</i>	Yes				
<i>Local Member Comments</i>	Cllr Mans is aware of the award				
<i>Recommendation/ conditions</i>	£5,000				

Summary of Officer Decisions Made since last decision day on 22 January 2024

Grant Stream	Organisation	Project	Grant Approved	Date Approved
Parish & Town Council Investment Fund	West End Parish Council	Energy Efficiency Audit	£1495	20/12/2023
Parish & Town Council Investment Fund	Shalden Village Hall	Energy Efficiency Audit	£1794	29/12/2023
Rural Community Fund	Martin Community Shop CIC	Shop relocation	£575	17/01/2024

Organisation	Project	Grant Approved	Date Approved	Administrative Change	Date Change Approved
Broadlands Group Riding for the Disabled, Medstead	Supporting countryside access for adults with disabilities and dementia	Up to 41.15% of total project costs, to a maximum of £14,000	22 June 2022	Extension of time period to claim the grant	5/3/2024