

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs
<b>Date:</b>	25 October 2018
<b>Title:</b>	Rural Communities Fund – Candover Valley Stores Grant
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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### 1. Recommendation

1.1. It is recommended that the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs approves the Rural Communities Fund grant application to provide a £10,000 contribution towards the building of the Candover Valley Community Store and Post Office in Preston Candover, grant reference CG00016046, as set out in section 3 of this report.

### 2. Executive Summary

2.1. The purpose of this paper is to outline an application for funding (£10,000) from the Rural Communities Fund 2018/19, under the Retailers and Community Enterprises theme.

### 3. Contextual information

- 3.1. 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. Applications are accepted to support one of four themes. Funding approval is sought for one application received under the retailers and community enterprises theme. The aim of this theme is to help them grow, increase their productivity and ultimately improve the services that are offered to communities in rural areas. The grant scheme criteria and eligibility are set out in Integral Appendix C.
- 3.2. The Candover Valley is a rural community in Hampshire made up of villages and hamlets between Basingstoke and Winchester, a distance of about 20 miles. The current, small village shop in Preston Candover is due to close leaving the 700 households within the valley without the provision of a shop or postal services nearby.
- 3.3. This project covers the complete build phase and shop fit out of the Candover Valley Community Store (CVCS), not including the Post Office.

3.4. The Post Office have agreed a grant under their Network Transformation scheme, allowing funds for Post Office equipment and the Post Office fit out of the new building.

3.5. The store will support local business and the local economy by providing an outlet for local products. It will also become a central ordering point for numerous local services, and local groups will be able to use the space, increasing social support to a wider community. Building work is planned to start in Nov 2018, and complete by end April 2019.

3.6. Total Project Costs:

<b>FEES, UTILITY SERVICES, PRE-BUILD PREPARATION</b>	£ 23,000
<b>BUILDING COSTS</b>	£ 150,000
<b>STORE FIT OUT</b>	£ 20,000
<b>CONTINGENCY</b>	£ 10,000
<b>TOTAL BUILD COSTS</b>	<b>£ 203,000</b>

3.7. Total Project Funds:

<b>FUNDS FROM CVCS (donations and a community share membership scheme)</b>	£ 168,000
<b>PRINCES COUNTRYSIDE TRUST GRANT</b>	£ 25,000
<b>TOTAL MATCH FUNDING</b>	<b>£ 193,000</b>
<b>PROPOSED RCF GRANT</b>	£ 10,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>£ 203,000</b>

3.8. In recognition of the sizeable match funding secured, the value of the shop and Post Office to the community, and its propensity to promote local produce, as well as provide a valuable local community venue, it is recommended that the full amount requested is awarded (£10,000).

#### 4. Finance

4.1. £30,000 is currently available from the Rural Retailers and Community Enterprises theme of the Rural Communities Grant, leaving £20,000 remaining if this grant is approved.

**CORPORATE OR 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>	yes
<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> Rural Delivery Strategy – rural delivery funding Hampshire County Council’s Rural Delivery Strategy	<u>Date</u> March 2018 March 2014
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

**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	

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

1.1. 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 under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

**Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:**

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) 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.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The proposals are expected to have a high positive impact on people living in rural areas. No negative impacts are anticipated.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1. More vibrant and active communities are likely to suffer less crime and anti-social behaviour.

### **3. Climate Change:**

3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? Supporting rural retailers encourages residents to shop locally thus reducing car use.

3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer-term impacts? The initiative proposed supports the culture of self-help and community resilience in rural areas.

## Rural Communities Fund - rural retailers and community enterprises scheme guidance

### Introduction

The 'rural retailers and community enterprises' theme of the Rural Communities Fund provides funding for retailers and community enterprises in rural Hampshire.

The priorities of the theme are to:

- Help retailers grow and increase their productivity by enhancing the services they offer and providing new ones.
- Help develop both new and existing community enterprises that have a retailing element and show potential to develop into a profitable business that will impact positively on the local area, community and economy.
- Support the introduction or expansion of local products and locally produced food and drink into rural retailing outlets, in particular through collaboration with Hampshire Fare and other local businesses and producers.

### Grant criteria and eligibility

- Applications must include a short three year business plan (template provided in the Supporting Information Form).
- Projects must demonstrate how they will grow their business and provide value for money.
- Projects must show how they will enhance the local community.
- Projects must prove that they are not in direct competition with another business in the same village.
- Projects must be in an area/village with a population of less than 5,000 residents.
- Successful applicants must complete the project and all purchases within 12 months and send all information required to claim the grant.

### Funding criteria

We can provide grants of between £1,000 and £10,000. Eligible businesses/enterprises must contribute a minimum of 50% of total eligible costs. Therefore the total minimum project cost would be £2,000 (achieving a grant of £1,000).

For commercial businesses, the match funding cannot be sourced from any other grant making authority. Successful applicants will receive 50% of the grant upfront and the final 50% when the project is complete.

For community enterprises, the match funding can be sourced from other grants. Successful applicants will receive 100% of the grant upfront, however any unspent funding must be returned when the project is complete.

### Who can apply

The scheme is open to any retailing business/enterprise selling any of the following:- food/drink; essential fresh produce; locally sourced food (applicants are encouraged to consider becoming members of Hampshire Fare). Craft industries may be considered if a positive impact on other local food retailing businesses can be demonstrated.

Eligible businesses/enterprises include:

- Retailing businesses or community buildings comprising post offices
- Village shops
- Village markets
- Butchers
- Bakeries
- Farm shops
- Cafes and tea rooms
- Newsagents
- Mobile facilities
- Pubs

- Community owned woodlands (if comprising a retail element such as a café)
- Pop up shops/cafes

### What we can fund

- Introducing/increasing the range of locally produced high quality foods
- Improvements to sales area e.g. food counters, shelving, lighting, heating etc.
- Internal modernisation e.g. flooring, internal fit-out, energy saving devices etc.
- External appearance e.g. signage, shop front improvements, window blinds etc.
- Development of parking facilities e.g. creating additional parking or improvements to layout of existing parking
- Development of local delivery services
- Security e.g. CCTV, alarms etc.
- Developing websites and advertising (to support the eligible retail activity)
- Upgrade of equipment to improve business efficiency e.g. improved energy efficiency, stock control (e.g. epos systems)
- Retail advice and guidance, marketing and promotion e.g. we encourage applicants seeking to improve the efficiency of their business to get independent advice and a grant can be used for reports/business plans to help do this in the first instance, as well as to implement the recommendations made (as a second application)
- Projects supporting creative locations for essential services, such as shops within pubs, village halls, churches or parish halls etc.
- Setting up a community enterprise that will develop rural retail services
- Collaborative projects with local producers and other local retailers

### What we can't fund

The scheme will not fund:

- Businesses within population areas of more than 5,000 residents. Priority will be given to smaller settlements with limited services.
- Like for like replacement equipment or any general maintenance. We will only fund items that will add new value to the business/enterprise.
- Running costs e.g. staff costs, purchase of stock or perishable items
- Standard computer equipment
- Non-independent commercial organisations (i.e. with more than one outlet)
- Loans