

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	13 December 2018
<b>Decision Title:</b>	Investing in Hampshire Bids
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Rob Carr – Head of Finance

**Contact name:** Felicity Roe, Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

**Tel:** 01962 847508  
01962 847876

**Email:** [rob.carr@hants.gov.uk](mailto:rob.carr@hants.gov.uk)  
[felicity.roe@hants.gov.uk](mailto:felicity.roe@hants.gov.uk)

### 1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve an award of £30,000 to the Asian Welfare and Cultural Association towards its proposed new community hub
- 1.2 To approve an award of £50,000 to the Test Valley Arts Foundation towards 'Test Valley 2020 – A Borough of Culture'.
- 1.3 To approve funding of £150,000 to support the Commission of Inquiry (Hampshire 2050).
- 1.4 To re-approve the previous £375,000 contribution awarded to the Live Theatre Winchester Trust (Theatre Royal) in light of changed funding arrangements and the scope of the project.

### 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report considers two new requests for funding under the Investing in Hampshire Fund and seeks funding to support the costs associated with the Commission of Inquiry. It also reconsiders a recent award made to the Live Theatre Winchester Trust (Theatre Royal) following changes to the funding arrangements and the overall scope of the project.
- 2.2 The County Council has always sought to provide support and develop strong links with the organisations that have responsibility for running and maintaining

the most significant facilities across the County particularly where these have a strong link the services that the County Council itself provides.

2.3 The criteria for Investing in Hampshire bids is included at Appendix 1.

### 3. **Asian Welfare and Cultural Association (Appendix 2)**

3.1 The Asian Welfare and Cultural Association (AWCA) wishes to develop a community centre in Eastleigh Town Centre as a base for its many activities and services since their current premises are unsuitable, temporary and have limited availability. The AWCA cannot increase its services and activities given the limitations of its existing premises.

3.2 The proposed new community hub would be located in premises in the centre of Eastleigh (former Irish Social Club) which are owned by Eastleigh Borough Council. The Borough Council would fund much of the refurbishment and lease the building to the AWCA on a peppercorn rent for a period of 10 years.

3.3 AWCA does much to improve and promote healthy lifestyles amongst the Asian community and has an active role in promoting community cohesion and understanding.

3.4 The centre would develop partnerships and opportunities for joint working with many other local organisations including Citizen's Advice; One Community, Eastleigh; Hampshire Constabulary; the Point Theatre; Eastleigh College. Disabled Peoples Voice Eastleigh and the Eastleigh Gurkha Nepalese Association.

3.5 It is recommended that £30,000 is awarded towards the proposed new community hub.

### 4. **Test Valley Arts Foundation (Appendix 3)**

4.1 Test Valley Arts Foundation(TVAF) is an independent charity which supports arts and culture in local communities within the Test Valley area. It has invested over £1m in the arts since 1991 through its key activities of:

- Supporting artists in the community - connect with local people.
- Providing creative learning opportunities for all ages.
- Organising and commissioning arts projects and events in a variety of venues including schools and care homes.
- Championing the economic benefits of the Arts in the Test Valley.

4.2 The Foundation is seeking funding to enable them to host the event 'Test Valley 2020 – A Borough of Culture' which will be a celebration and showcase of arts and cultural activity, providing many opportunities for artists and communities to meet and work together. A sum of £50,000 is being sought

from the Fund and it is anticipated that Test Valley Borough Council are likely to grant a further £25,000.

## 5. **Commission of Inquiry (Hampshire to 2050)**

5.1 In February this year Cabinet approved the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry (Col). The purpose of the Commission is

*'to consider submitted evidence, to deliberate upon key issues and to make recommendations on a Vision for Hampshire 2050 which will guide and contribute to the future prosperity, quality of life, and protection and enhancement of the character and environment of Hampshire.'*

5.2 At the time of the approval the exact scope, terms of reference and submission of evidence was not defined in detail, since the intention was that the initial meeting would establish the modus operandi for the Commission, including consideration of its Terms of Reference, its broad work programme, and the processes involved including the scheduling of a series of up to six evidence gathering hearings.

5.3 Delegated authority was given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to finalise and put in place the necessary arrangements for the Commission to be set up and to conduct its work. An initial estimate of costs of around £100,000 was forecast at the time but this was in advance of knowing the full scope and timing of the Inquiry.

5.4 The Commission of Inquiry has been progressing well during the year and the calls for evidence and the hearings have provided rich and varied insight into the key theme areas as set out in the original Cabinet report. In line with the original decision in February this report seeks to formally approve funding for the Inquiry taking into account the current known costs and the planned spending for the remainder of the Inquiry.

5.5 The table below sets out the key expenditure items :

<b>Item</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Project Delivery Management	64.9
Filming of hearings	32.8
Expert speakers for hearings	28.0
Schools engagement programme	10.0
Other costs (workshops, expenses, publicity, materials and contingency)	14.3
	<hr/>
	150.0

5.6 The total estimated cost is above the initial estimate that was included in the original Cabinet report mainly as a result of three issues that were not envisaged at the time the approval was made namely :

- The scheduling of two additional ‘final’ hearings, the first of which will consider the cross cutting themes of deprivation, inclusion, the impact of digital technologies and young people and a final hearing to consolidate the evidence collected and make recommendations for progressing the priority areas for action.
  - The filming of all the hearings so that they can be made available on the web and the production of podcasts that will be developed and published on line
  - The inclusion of a specific schools engagement programme to gather thoughts and evidence from young people through a series of focus groups across the County.
- 5.7 The final estimate also includes a small contingency to allow for any unplanned expenditure throughout the remainder of the Inquiry. Given the unique nature of the Inquiry and its wider aim of developing a Vision for Hampshire 2050, it is recommended that the total funding of £150,000 is approved from the Investing In Hampshire Fund.

## **6. Live Theatre Winchester Trust (Theatre Royal) – Reconsideration**

- 6.1 An award of £375,000 from the Investing in Hampshire fund in respect of refurbishment of the Theatre Royal, Winchester was approved by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources at his decision day on 26 September 2018.
- 6.2 The award was conditional on the successful outcome of a bid to Arts Council England (ACE) which was under consideration at the time. Subsequently ACE have advised that they will not be supporting the project at this stage although they are still in dialogue with the Theatre and it is hoped that a further bid will be given consideration in the near future.
- 6.3 In the meantime, the Theatre have proposed that they move forward with a reduced project to concentrate on front of house facilities to support their future revenue generating opportunities. The revised project includes a contribution from Winchester City Council of £150,000 which has been agreed in principle, but would still rely on the full £375,000 award from the County Council.
- 6.4 The approach would enable the Theatre to continue its work to enhance revenues whilst reducing its future reliance on ongoing revenue support from the County Council. The project design is advanced and much of this work would be at risk if the project was significantly delayed.
- 6.5 Given the circumstances outlined above it is recommended that the earlier condition is removed and that the award of £375,000 is confirmed.

## **7. Financial Arrangements**

- 7.1 Any awards approved under the Investing in Hampshire Fund are only paid out after evidence has been provided to the Director of Corporate Resources of appropriate expenditure on the relevant project.

## **8. Legal Implications**

- 8.1 Subject to certain restrictions, the County Council has the power under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do including the power to give grants.

**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>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
None		
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
None		

**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>
Correspondence received from organisations	Director of Corporate Resources - Corporate Services

## **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:**

There is not expected to be any adverse equalities impact as a result of this report, but the funding recommended to the Asian Welfare and Cultural Association is expected to help improve community relations in the Eastleigh Borough area and beyond.

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

The proposals in this report aim to improve the wellbeing of Hampshire residents and reduce the risk of crime occurring.

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

There is no significant link to Climate Change as a result of this decision.

## **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. 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 only be considered for specific capital projects for the improvement or maintenance of significant assets or facilities within Hampshire, within agreed priorities and where other substantial funding exists.
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 benefits to the residents of Hampshire should be considered together with any complementary benefits for Hampshire County Council. Awards would normally only be given to projects within the remit of Policy and Resources.
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 Resources.



### Invest in Hampshire – Asian Welfare and Cultural Association

Applicant	Asian Welfare and Cultural Association (AWCA)		
Name / Location of Project	Community Resource and Activity Centre, Eastleigh – to be known as a Centre for Communities.		
Summary of Project / Bid	<p>The AWCA was established in 2002 and is a registered charity.</p> <p>The AWCA wish to develop a community centre in Eastleigh Town Centre as a base for its many activities and services since their current premises are unsuitable, temporary and with limited availability. The AWCA cannot increase its services and activities given the limitations of its existing premises.</p> <p>The proposed new community hub would be located in premises in the centre of Eastleigh (former Irish Social Club). The premises are owned by Eastleigh Borough Council who would fund much of the refurbishment and lease the building to the AWCA on a peppercorn for a period of 10 years.</p> <p>Additional costs associated with setting up the hub would include equipment, signage and alterations.</p>		
Funding Requested	£30,000	Financial Year 2019/20	
Funding Arrangements (including matched funding)	<p>Eastleigh Borough Council - £60,000 capital grant for building to be made weathertight</p> <p>AWCA - £20,000 – contribution towards refurbishment</p>		
What are the benefits for Hampshire Residents?	<p>The objectives of the AWCA are to promote the health and wellbeing of the Asian Community in Eastleigh and to improve understanding and links between communities. The new hub would be open to all sections of the community – the AWCA already plays an important role in promoting good race and community relations within the Borough and beyond.</p> <p>The AWCA organises and runs the annual Mela, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, attended by people of all ages and backgrounds and attracts up to 10,000 people per annum.</p> <p>The AWCA also offers free community meals for all. They do this twice a year, and in October this year, they fed over 300 people.</p> <p>Other activities already provided include:</p> <p>Health and Welfare advice  Exercise classes  Beginners English language  IT  Performances</p>		

	<p>Participation in local school projects.</p> <p>The new hub would enable the AWCA to establish a 'health' room; more extensive fitness activities; an information centre; advice centre; learning and cultural events and spaces available to hire for a range of community activities and recreation</p>
<p>What are the complementary benefits for HCC?</p>	<p>The AWCA does much to improve and promote healthy lifestyles amongst the Asian community and has an active role in promoting community cohesion and understanding.</p>
<p>Any other relevant factors?</p>	<p>The centre would develop partnerships and opportunities for joint working with many other local organisations including Citizen's Advice; One Community, Eastleigh; Hampshire Constabulary; the Point Theatre; Eastleigh College. Disabled Peoples Voice Eastleigh, Eastleigh Gurkha Nepalese Association.</p>

### Investing in Hampshire – Test Valley Arts Foundation

Applicant	Test Valley Arts Foundation (TVAF)		
Name / Location of Project	Test Valley 2020 – A Borough of Culture		
Summary of Project / Bid	<p>TVAF is an independent charity which supports arts and culture in local communities within the Test Valley area.</p> <p>It has invested over £1m in the arts since 1991 through its key activities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting artists in the community - connect with local people.</li> <li>• Providing creative learning opportunities for all ages.</li> <li>• Organising and commissioning arts projects and events in a variety of venues including schools and care homes.</li> <li>• Championing the economic benefits of the Arts in the Test Valley.</li> </ul> <p>Financial support has been requested to enable the TVAF to continue to support arts and culture in the area and to host the event 'Test Valley 2020 – A Borough of Culture' which will showcase arts and cultural activity.</p>		
Funding Requested	£50,000	Financial Year	TBC
Funding Arrangements (including matched funding)	<p>TVAF has been supported through an endowment from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) of £100,000 over 25 years ago. This endowment has levered over £500,000 of investment in the Test Valley including the creation of Chapel Arts Studios now an Arts Council funded national portfolio organisation. The original endowment has reduced to £30,000 and TVAF are seeking new funding in order to secure the future of the organisation and to support the Test Valley 2020 event. TVBC are likely to grant £25,000.</p>		
What are the benefits for Hampshire Residents?	<p>TVAF has an extensive reach through its key activities mentioned above. However, Chapel Arts does work across the whole of the County of Hampshire and is now regionally mentoring artists across the whole of the South West.</p> <p>The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary events reached over 15,000 people. The TVAF also operates an Arts Bus which operates in the Test Valley and beyond and regularly attends the Eastleigh Mela and Hat Fair in Winchester.</p> <p>Individual artists are supported including young artists at the outset of their careers.</p>		

What are the complementary benefits for HCC?	TVAF provides creative learning opportunities by placing post graduate artist placements at local schools and colleges. In the past Schools benefitting have included Icknield Special School.
Any other relevant factors?	<p>The plan relating to Test Valley 2020 – A Borough of culture will be a celebration and showcase of arts and cultural activity providing many opportunities for artists and communities to meet and work together.</p> <p>The events would include a huge number of ‘pop-up’ workshops, dances, musical performances, a circus and much more.</p>