

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage
Date:	14 January 2019
Title:	Changes to the Culture and Communities Grants
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Recommendations

1.1. It is recommended that:

- i) Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund grants will cease after 2019/20 to the following organisations:
 - Forest Forge Theatre Company, Ringwood
 - Gilbert White and the Oates Collection Museum and Field Studies Centre, Selborne
 - Making Space (Leigh Park Craft Initiative), Havant
 - QE2 Activity Centre, Bursledon
 - The Anvil, Basingstoke
 - The Point, Eastleigh
- ii) Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund grants will cease after 2020/21 to Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon; Proteus Theatre Company, Basingstoke and Whitchurch Silk Mill.
- iii) Discussions are held with Winchester's Theatre Royal and The Spring about future grant funding beyond 2020/21 and 2021/22 respectively.
- iv) From 2020/21 onwards, Community Associations will only be eligible for a grant if they are also in receipt of match funding from their District or Parish Council.
- v) A new Recreation and Heritage Community Fund is set up for 2019/20, as detailed in Section 8.
- vi) The Community Investment Fund, Community Buildings Capital Fund and the Activity Grants are all amalgamated into the new Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. This report recommends some significant changes to the culture and community grants for 2019/20 onwards. The changes include withdrawing funding from six cultural and recreational organisations at the end of 2019/20 and a further three organisations at the end of 2020/21. An individual Equalities Impact Assessment has been drawn up for the nine organisations and a series of mitigating actions have been put in place to lessen the impact. These include setting up a new Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.
- 2.2. The report also recommends that, from 2020/21 onwards, Community Associations are only awarded a grant if they also are in receipt of match funding from their local District or Parish Council.

3. Background Information

- 3.1. On 3 September 2018, the Culture and Communities Select Committee received a presentation about the current Culture and Communities Grants and the proposed future direction. This report sets out the proposed detail for the grants for 2019/20 onwards.

4. Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund Grants

- 4.1. For 2018/19, £558,000 was awarded to 14 organisations which deliver high quality cultural and recreational services/experiences of Hampshire-wide or regional significance. The 14 organisations, their 2018/19 grants and proposed grants for 2019/20 are listed in Appendix 1. In the case of Whitchurch Silk Mill and Winchester's Theatre Royal, separate agreements have been made to continue their grants for 2020/21. For The Spring, a separate agreement to the end of 2021/22 has also been agreed.
- 4.2. Since 2011 the number of organisations funded via this grants scheme has decreased by 20 organisations. At the same time, the level of grant funding to each organisation has also decreased year-on-year, including a 20% decrease for most organisations over 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- 4.3. The County Council needs to reduce its budget by a further £80 million over the next three years and the Medium Term Finance Strategy, approved by the County Council in September 2018, confirmed this will require a further 13% reduction in departmental cash limits. Rather than continuing to reduce the grants to the organisations funded via the Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund, it is recommended that, for the majority of the organisations, advance notice is given to cease their grant after 2019/20. This would mean that the following organisations would not receive a Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund grant after 2019/20:
 - i) Forest Forge Theatre Company, Ringwood
 - i) Gilbert White and the Oates Collection Museum and Field Studies Centre, Selborne
 - ii) Making Space (Leigh Park Craft Initiative), Havant
 - iii) QE2 Activity Centre, Bursledon

iv) The Anvil, Basingstoke

v) The Point, Eastleigh

- 4.4. In view of the previously agreed funding for 2020/21 to Whitchurch Silk Mill, it is also recommended that there are no further Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund grants to the Silk Mill from 2021/22 onwards. Following a series of visits in the autumn 2018 by the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage and the Assistant Director of Community and Regulatory Services to many of the organisations currently funded by the Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund, it is recommended that funding is extended a further year (2020/21) to the Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon (£11,000) and Proteus Theatre Company, Basingstoke (£30,000).
- 4.5. It is recognised that there will be consequences for the organisations by the withdrawal of funding and Equality Impact Assessments have been drawn up for each organisation. More information on this is set out in Section 9 of this report.
- 4.6. Winchester's Theatre Royal and The Spring receive the largest grants from the Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund and it is further recommended that separate discussions are held with these two organisations about future grant funding beyond the existing agreements.

5. Community Investment Fund

- 5.1. This grant fund provides annual revenue funding to seven Community Associations located in areas of multiple deprivation across Hampshire. All the organisations provide a varied programme of events and activities for their local communities and, for 2018/19, £66,000 was awarded.
- 5.2. Six of the Community Associations have applied for a Community Investment Fund grant for 2019/20 (Appendix 2). Of these, three also receive funding from their District Council and three do not, as set out in Appendix 2. Community Associations are obviously very locally based and it is not appropriate for the County Council to be the sole funder of them, without District or Parish Council support. In view of this, it is recommended that from 2020/21 onwards, Community Associations will only be eligible for funding if they are in receipt of match funding from their District or Parish Council.
- 5.3. Equality Impact Assessments have been drawn up for the organisations which are not due to receive District or Parish Council funding after 2019/20. More information on this is set out in Section 9 of this report.
- 5.4. It is also recommended that the Community Investment Fund is amalgamated into the proposed new Recreation and Heritage Community Fund as set out in Section 8 below.

6. Activity Grants

- 6.1. Currently approximately £86,000 is awarded each year to around 35 local groups and organisations for one-off community-based projects and activities. The grants are highly valued by the local groups as they pump-

prime activities to happen at a local level. It is recommended that the Activity Grants are amalgamated into the proposed new Recreation and Heritage Community Fund as set out in Section 8 below.

7. Community Building - Capital Fund

- 7.1. This grant scheme awards grants of up to £25,000 to improvement and refurbishment projects which enable community centres and village halls to be more sustainable. Every year £125,000 of capital is added to the Fund from the County Council's Capital Programme, along with underspend from the previous year's revenue grants.
- 7.2. This is a popular grant stream which has resulted in much needed improvements to community centres and village halls across Hampshire.
- 7.3. It is recommended that this grant stream is amalgamated with the new Recreation and Heritage Community Fund – see Section 8 below.

8. New Grant Fund – Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

- 8.1. It is proposed to simplify the grants from 2019/20 onwards and set up one grant fund, called the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund. This will be made up of savings from the Recreation and Heritage and Community Investment Funds and by amalgamating the Activity Grants and Community Building Capital Fund into it too.
- 8.2. The priority of the new grant fund is to fund projects which provide community benefit and/or help organisations become self-supporting, reducing reliance on public sector funding.
- 8.3. The maximum award would be £100,000 (or more in exceptional circumstances) with a two-stage process for applications over £25,000.
- 8.4. Additional, small one-off grants from £1,000 to £3,000 will also be awarded to help pump-prime community events and activities.
- 8.5. Further details are set out in Appendix 3 (attached).

9. Equalities

- 9.1. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) have been done for all of the organisations listed in 4.3, 4.4 and 5.2 (Appendix 2). The EIAs are based on information supplied by each organisation as part of its application for a grant for 2019/20, and a series of visits and meetings by the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage and the Assistant Director for Community and Regulatory Services to some of the organisations between October – December 2018.
- 9.2. The EIAs have identified that there will be adverse impact on age and disability if the grants to the organisations ceased to exist in one or two years' time. Some of the organisations are more reliant on the County Council's grant than others and may need to develop a new operating model or, in the worst case, close down.

- 9.3. In most cases the impact on age and disability has been identified as 'low' but, in the case of the QE2 Activity Centre, the impact on disability has been assessed as 'medium'.
- 9.4. The EIAs also identified a 'low' impact on rurality and poverty in some of the organisations, apart from Making Space where a 'medium' impact on poverty was identified.
- 9.5. The impact of the proposed changes to the grants need to be balanced by the on-going pressure on the County Council's budget and the need to make savings year on year. It would be unsustainable to keep cutting the grants to the organisations and the proposed new Recreation and Heritage Community Fund has been set up to help organisations transform and reduce their reliance on public sector funding and provide community benefit.
- 9.6. EIAs have also been developed for the four Community Associations that are not due to receive funding from their local District or Parish Council from 2020/21 onwards and will therefore also lose their County Council funding. The EIAs show a 'low' impact on age and disability and a 'medium' impact on poverty. There is time for the Associations to persuade their local District or Parish Council to provide funding for their operation for 2020/21 onwards or to find alternative funding sources. The Community Associations can also apply for funding from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1. Over the last eight years the grants budget has decreased in line with the budget reductions for the County Council which has resulted in annual grant reductions to the organisations funded via the Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund and the Community Investment Fund. Rather than continue decreasing the grants after 2019/20, the report recommends ceasing most of the grants after 2019/20 or 2020/21 and setting up a Recreation and Heritage Community Fund to fund one-off projects which enable organisations to become financially sustainable or which provide community benefit.
- 10.2. On balance, giving due regard to the impacts identified in EIAs, the recommendations in this report represent a sustainable way forward.

CORPORATE OR 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:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

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

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:

See individual Impact Assessments, as follows:

- a) Forest Forge Theatre Company, Ringwood (Appendix 4a)
- b) Gilbert White and the Oates Collection Museum and Field Studies Centre, Selborne (Appendix 4b)
- c) Making Space (Leigh Park Craft Initiative), Havant (Appendix 4c)
- d) QE2 Activity Centre, Bursledon (Appendix 4d)
- e) The Anvil, Basingstoke (Appendix 4e)
- f) The Point, Eastleigh (Appendix 4f)
- g) Whitchurch Silk Mill (Appendix 4g)
- h) Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon (Appendix 4h)
- i) Proteus Theatre Company, Basingstoke (Appendix 4i)
- j) Horndean Community Association (Appendix 4j)
- k) Springwood Community Partnership, Waterlooville (Appendix 4k)
- l) Wecock Community Association, Winchester (Appendix 4l)

m) Winnall Community Association, Winchester (Appendix 4m)

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. None

3. Climate Change:

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Not applicable

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer-term impacts?

Not applicable.

Appendix 1

Organisations currently funded through the Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund

Organisation	2018/19 Awarded	2019/20 Recommended	Notes
Fluid Motion Theatre Company, based in Basingstoke	£6,000	£0	
Forest Forge Theatre Company, based in Ringwood	£40,850	£30,000	
Gilbert White and The Oates Collections (Museum), Selborne	£17,000	£15,000	
Gilbert White and The Oates Collections (Field Studies Centre), Selborne	£11,600	£10,000	
Live Theatre Winchester (aka Theatre Royal)	£88,105	£82,000	Agreement already in place for a further 10% reduction for 2020/21 (£72,664) (decision day 18/01/2018)
Proteus Theatre Company Ltd, based in Basingstoke	£38,315	£30,000	
QE2 Activity Centre, Bursledon	£9,400	£8,000	
St Barbe Museum, Lymington	£15,000	£0	No longer funded from 2019/20, as previously agreed in association with significant capital investment (decision day 11/07/2016)
The Anvil Trust Ltd, Basingstoke	£68,400	£55,000	
The Hampshire Playing Fields Association, countywide	£41,900	£0	
The MOMC Leigh Park Crafts Initiative Trust Ltd (aka Making Space)	£32,650	£25,000	
The Phoenix Theatre and Arts	£12,240	£11,000	

Organisation	2018/19 Awarded	2019/20 Recommended	Notes
Centre, Bordon			
The Point, Eastleigh	£50,000	£40,000	
The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, Havant	£107,476	£95,000	Agreement already in place for a 30% reduction will be phased over three years 2020/21 –£85,980 2021/22 –£75,233 (Decision Day 07/12/2017)
Whitchurch Silk Mill	£19,265	£15,000	Agreement already in place that a 20% reduction will be phased over two years from 2019/20 to 2020/21 (Decision Day 07/12/2017)

Appendix 2

	<i>2019/20 Awarded</i>	<i>District Council Funding</i>
Alamein Community Association, Andover	£5,000	Yes
Horndean Community Association	£6,000	Yes But not after 2019/20
Pilands Wood Community Association, Bursledon	Deferred	Yes
Springwood Community Partnership, Waterlooville	£8,000	No
Wecock Community Association, Winchester	£12,000	No
Winnall Community Association, Winchester	£6,000	No

Criteria for the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

What is Funded?

The priority of the scheme is to fund projects which:

- Provide community benefit and help local communities thrive
- Help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding

In addition, small one-off grants from £1,000 to £3,000 will also be awarded to help pump-prime community events and activities.

The programme is not designed to be overly prescriptive.

What is not Funded?

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
- Commercial/Profit-Making organisations
- Schools, including pre-schools and colleges

The following projects are not funded under this scheme:

- The purchase of land.
- Capital works that have already been carried out. We cannot retrospectively fund projects; grants are awarded for works to be carried out in the future.
- Ongoing staff costs. We may fund a fixed-term member of staff or consultant to carry out a time-limited piece of work.

Organisations will not be awarded more than one grant per financial year and previously funded projects must be completed before a new application is made.

Grant Criteria and Eligibility

Organisations must be properly constituted with clear and effective local governance and management structures.

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 charitable organisations are expected to have an agreed reserves policy that addresses their financial risk.

Projects should be well developed with match-funding secured. Organisations should have also applied to local District or Parish Councils where local funding opportunities exist.

Hampshire County Council will normally fund up to a maximum grant of £100,000. Please contact CCBS Grants to discuss any proposals in excess of this. Match funding or clear evidence of seeking match funding is highly desirable although not essential. For

applications over £25,000 there will be a two-stage application process and organisations should submit an Expression of Interest in the first instance.

We would expect any applications for new buildings or large extensions to show consideration has been given to the development of a [Changing Place](#) even if it is not included in the final project.

All applicants will be expected to have obtained permission from the landlord to undertake the capital work. 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.

Where appropriate, depending on the grant sum requested, the organisation will be expected to submit supporting documentation.

Grant applications will be dealt with on a 'first come, first served' basis.