

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs
<b>Date:</b>	19 March 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

**Contact name:** Emma Noyce  
Rosellen Lambert

**Tel:** 0370 779 8373  
0370 779 6594

**Email:** [emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk](mailto:emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk)  
[rosellen.lambert@hants.gov.uk](mailto:rosellen.lambert@hants.gov.uk)

### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend approval of grant funding to culture and community organisations totalling £18,000 in 2020/21.

### Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs approves grant funding to culture and community organisations totalling £18,000 in 2020/21.

### Executive Summary

3. The report considers applications from three community organisations to support transitions to Independent Community Libraries and recommends awards totalling £18,000 in 2020/21.

### Contextual information

4. On 28 July 2020, as part of decisions on the Library Service Transformation – Strategy to 2025, the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage agreed that, as part of an offer for community organisations to take on closing branches and deliver services through them as Independent Community

Libraries, one-off pump-priming awards of up to £10,000 could be made. These awards are intended to support start up and transition costs.

5. To support the transfer of buildings, it was subsequently agreed by the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, that awards of up to £10,000 could also be applied for to support urgent works, recommended to be carried out within one to two years, identified in building condition surveys carried out by the department. These are available to organisations taking ownership of former Library Service buildings, from which an Independent Community Library will be delivered.
6. Applications have been received from three organisations to date for such funding, totalling £27,584.69. Further details and recommendations against each application are set out in the table titled Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations 2020/21 in Appendix 1. Further applications are anticipated and will be brought to future decision days.

### **Finance**

7. The recommended awards can be met from within existing budget provision.

### **Consultation and Equalities**

8. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) were carried out and published alongside the Changes to Culture and Communities Grants report which went to the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage on 14 January 2019.

### **Other Key Issues**

9. Legal Implications: The Council has wide powers under Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to provide recreational facilities and to contribute by way of a grant or loan towards the expenses incurred by voluntary bodies in providing such facilities and activities.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	no
<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
<b>OR</b>	
<b>This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</b>	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Changes to Culture and Communities Grants	14 January 2019
Library Service Transformation – Strategy to 2025	28 July 2020

**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 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:**

A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.

## Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations, 2020/21

Organisation	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
North Baddesley Community Library (aka Friends of North Baddesley Library)	<p>The organisation has operated for eight years as a Community Managed Library within the Library Service network. It intends to operate an Independent Community Library from its existing premises, which it leases. The group is taking the opportunity to refresh the facilities and its offer to better meet local need and volunteer management capacity, setting them up to be more sustainable. It seeks funding towards the purchase public access computers and to set up a job club; wifi installation; shelving and furniture to support a new layout; a Library Management System and office equipment and re-branding and advertising.</p> <p><b>It is recommended that North Baddesley Community Library is awarded £5,000. The organisation may make an additional application later in 2021 for up to £5,000 to other items to support transition to an Independent Community Library.</b></p>	£4,987.50	£5,000
Fair Oak Community Library	<p>This community organisation is newly established, with an objective to operate an Independent Community Library in Fair Oak. It is supported by Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council which has awarded a grant of £1,000 and which intends to take over the freehold of the Library Building from the Council under an asset transfer arrangement. The group seeks funding towards transition to an Independent Community Library through the reconfiguration and refurbishment of internal space, purchase of IT equipment and creation of training videos for volunteers. The identified costs are £12,500 leaving a small shortfall to be made up by local donations. Approx. £8,600 of these costs are for the internal reconfiguration and refurbishment which include alterations to a partition wall and bricking up three windows. These elements are not eligible under the capital funding opportunity.</p> <p><b>It is recommended that Fair Oak Community Library is awarded £10,000. As the majority of costs are to support building works, it is recommended payment of this portion of the award is on condition that exchange of contracts for the transfer of the freehold from the Council to Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council is complete.</b></p>	£10,000	£10,000
Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council	<p>The organisation intends to take on the ownership of the building and subsequently make it available to Fair Oak Community Library for the delivery of an Independent Community Library. It seeks funding towards rainwater goods and external handrails, both identified in the condition survey as urgent works with an estimated combined cost of £2,350. It has also applied for funding towards non-urgent works including kitchen refurbishment, toilet refurbishment and the installation of skylights. As these are not urgent works, they fall outside the purpose of this funding opportunity. It is recognised that due to lockdown restrictions the organisation has not been able to obtain full quotes from contractors and also that the cost of materials may have increased since the condition survey estimates. It is therefore recommended an award of up to £3,000 be made towards the urgent works identified and that any funds remaining from this sum may be used towards elements of the medium to long term works identified.</p>	£12,597.19	£3,000

	As not all elements of the project are eligible within the grant opportunity, it is recommended the application is partially supported and Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council is awarded up to £3,000 on condition that exchange of contracts for the transfer of the freehold from the Council to Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council is complete.		
<b>Total</b>		<b>£27,584.69</b>	<b>£18,000</b>