

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision:</b>	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
<b>Date:</b>	8 July 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Leader's Community Grants – Revised Criteria and Management
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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#### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to set out revised criteria and management for the grants stream currently known as the Leader' One-Off Grants, following the realignment of the County Council's community focussed grant schemes. It is proposed that the grants stream is re-named to the Leaders Community Grants

#### Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member agrees the revised name and criteria for the Leader's Community Grants, as set out in this report at Appendix 1.

#### Contextual information

3. A decision was taken by Cabinet on 9 February 2021 to close the CCBS Community Grants Fund and move part of that funding to increase both the Leader One-Off Grants fund and the funds available through the individual Member grants funds.
4. A review of the criteria for the Leader's One-Off Grants has been undertaken and revised criteria and name are proposed at Appendix 1.
5. The processes for the administration and management of the Leader grants stream have also been reviewed and will include enhanced on-line information and application processes and strengthened internal administration and scrutiny. Recommendations for the award of grants will

continue to be brought to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources for decision.

## **Finance**

6. The budget for the Leader's Community Grants scheme is £400,000 for 2021/22.

## **Performance**

7. These changes streamline the Council's grant opportunities for community organisations, improving clarity for applicants, reducing overlap and maximising effectiveness and benefit to communities. There will also be a more robust and effective process for the application to and administration of the Leader Community Grants.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

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

## **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

8. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts 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.
9. The carbon mitigation tool and climate change adaptation tool were not applicable to this report, because the proposal relates to a programme of one-off grant opportunities, rather than any specific interventions. The proposed criteria (Appendix 1) note that applications will be particularly welcomed where they respond to the Climate Emergency, as declared by the Council in June 2019. The scheme is intended to have a positive impact and support community organisations in moving towards being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of climate change.
10. Projects supported through this grant scheme are important for meeting Hampshire County Councils' strategic priorities, in particular:

- People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities: grants will support sustainable community-led infrastructure, services and activities, responding to local need.

### **Other Key Issues**

11. 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>	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>Date</u>
Revenue Budget and Precept 2021/22	9 February 2021
<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.)

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:**

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

A more detailed Equalities Impact Assessment across Community Grants is underway and will be published in the autumn as part of a report on CCBS efficiencies contributing to the Council's savings plan.

## Leader's Community Grants – Proposed Criteria

### What is funded?

The purpose of the scheme is to fund one-off, time limited projects which:

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

Proposals will be particularly welcomed where they can demonstrate how they:

- respond to the [Climate Emergency](#), as declared by the Council in June 2019
- reduce demand for Council services

Proposals must support the priorities and outcomes of Hampshire County Council's [Serving Hampshire - Strategic Plan for 2017 to 2021](#). It forms the cornerstone of all strategies and plans across departments and service areas. It features four key aims:

- Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity
- people in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives
- people in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment
- people in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities

Applications can be made for over £1,000 to a maximum of £25,000 and may be for activity costs and/or capital costs. Applications in excess of £25k will occasionally be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Secured match funding or clear evidence of seeking match funding is highly desirable. Organisations should have also applied to local District or Parish Councils where local funding opportunities exist.

Supporting documentation will be required for all applications.

### Who can apply?

Organisations wishing to apply must be properly constituted with clear and effective governance and management structures. They must be delivering activities or services that benefit Hampshire residents. 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 organisations are expected to have an agreed reserves policy that addresses their financial risk.

The following organisations are not normally 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
- large, national organisations or 'household name charities', including local branches
- political parties or groups affiliated with a political party or from lobbying/campaigning organisations.
- Applications will only be considered from faith groups who can demonstrate their facilities are open and used by the local community other than for church related activities and then only for works in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act
- Requests may be considered from County wide groups (e.g. Guides, Scouts, Hampshire County Youth Orchestra) for specific trips e.g. for an international jamboree or cultural tour. Individual requests will not usually be considered.
- Self-help by organisations is encouraged, and therefore grants are normally only a percentage of the sum required to complete a project.

### **When to apply**

Applications are welcomed at any time and will be dealt with on a 'first come, first served' basis. Recommendations for awards will be taken to the next available Executive Members decision day. This may be up to three months after the application is received, in line with meeting schedules.

Projects should be well developed, with match-funding secured, and any supported projects will normally be expected to commence within six-months of the decision date. All applicants for building works will be expected to evidence freehold or to have obtained permission from the landlord. 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 before applying.

### **What is not funded?**

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
- general running costs of organisations - these grants are not intended to replace shortfalls in service delivery budgets or replace funding for other support you may be able to obtain, or that you have obtained from us in the past
- ongoing staff costs - we may fund a fixed-term member of staff or consultant to carry out a time-limited piece of work
- repeat applications to cover previously funded activities/annual applications for the same activities
- profit-making or fund-raising activities, or onward distribution of funds
- projects which meet the aims of other Hampshire County Council grant schemes - where relevant, applications may be transferred to more appropriate schemes

- applications for £1,000 or less - where relevant, these should be directed to the Members' Devolved Grants Scheme.

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. Previous levels of Council funding will be taken into account when assessing applications.