

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
<b>Date:</b>	9 March 2022
<b>Title:</b>	The Leader's Community Grants
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

**Contact name:** Emma Noyce  
Tara McFadyen

**Tel:** 0370 779 8373      **Email:** [emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk](mailto:emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk)

### Purpose of this Report

1. The report considers eight applications for grants from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2021/22.

### Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approves seven grants totalling £67,950 from the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2021/22 to cultural and community organisations in Hampshire as outlined in Appendix 2.

### Executive Summary

3. Eight organisations have applied for grants through the Leader's Community Grant Fund 2021/22 and the funds requested total £72,950. The report considers the applications and recommends awards totalling £67,950. The recommended awards can be met from within existing budget provision.

### Contextual Information

4. The purpose of this grant stream is to fund projects which provide community benefit and help local communities thrive and/or to help local organisations

become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding.

Full details, including what the County Council can and cannot fund, are set out in Appendix 1.

5. Eight applications have been submitted for consideration. Details are set out in Appendix 2.

## **Finance**

6. The recommended awards can be met from within existing budget provision.
7. The budget for the 2021/22 financial year was £400k. £135,500 has been committed to date leaving £264,500 uncommitted. Any money remaining in this budget in the current financial year will be carried forward to the 2022/23 financial year. This financial year was the first for this new Leader Community Grants fund and was not heavily promoted. For the 2022/23 financial year more extensive promotion is planned to encourage applications from a wide range of organisations and groups.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

8. A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.
9. The corporate terms and condition of grant require that any organisation in receipt of funding shall ensure that at all times it complies with the Equality Act 2010 if applicable and shall ensure that it does not discriminate against any person or persons on the basis of race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age or otherwise.

## **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

10. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience 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.
11. The carbon mitigation tool decision tree indicates it is not suitable for the assessment of a programme. The decisions in this report are financial decisions in relation to a programme of one-off grant opportunities. Therefore, the tool is not suitable for this Climate Change Impact Assessment and has not been used.

## **Other Key Issues**

12. Legal Implications: Section 1 (1) of the Localism Act gives the County Council the power to do anything that individuals may generally do. This includes the power to make grants.'

## REQUIRED CORPORATE AND 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:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

### Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<a href="#">Leader's Community Grants – Revised Criteria and Management</a>	8 July 2021

### 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:**

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

## **Leader's Community Grants – 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.



## Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations, 2021/22

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Blue Apple Theatre (Countywide)	<p>The organisation works with adults and young people with learning disabilities using drama and theatre activities to develop participants confidence, and to support mental health and wellbeing. The funding will support the facilitation of three pilot outreach groups in the areas of Gosport, Rushmoor and the New Forest along with engagement activity with local organisations to ensure take up from harder to reach groups including those from black and ethnic minorities who have been previously underrepresented in their participant profile. It is hoped that as the groups become established, they will become self-sustaining.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £1,350 of its own funding and has secured £1,080 from the National Lottery Fund.</p> <p>Note: The organisation was awarded a Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Award of £7,500 in 2019/20 towards Increasing LD opportunities for theatre arts.</p> <p><b>It is recommended Blue Apple Theatre is awarded £9,950.</b></p>	£9,950	£9,950
Romsey Chamber Music Festival (Baddesley/ Test Valley)	<p>The organisation seeks funding for their annual Romsey Chamber Music Festival. The festival aims to make classical music by world-class musicians and composers accessible to the wider Hampshire community through the provision of low-ticket prices and free educational opportunities for young people. The organisation states it does beneficial outreach work within the community however many of the costs appear to be in relation to the event itself and there is little evidence of how the organisation is working towards longer term sustainability.</p> <p>1,000 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £5,000 of their own funds and has applied for £2,000 from Test Valley Borough Council (expected outcome 01/03/2022), £300 from Romsey Extra Parish Council (expected outcome 01/03/2022), £300 from Romsey Town Council (expected outcome</p>	£5,000	£5,000

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
	<p>01/03/2022) and £250 from Test Valley Arts Foundation (expected outcome 01/03/2022). They expect to generate £4,000 from ticket sales along with £1,000 from donations from the Friends of RCMF and have received £1,500 of in kind donations from the reduction of piano hire fees.</p> <p><b>Councillor Dowden was invited to comment.</b></p> <p>Note: The organisation has received a total of £5,500 from multiple County Councillor grants for the event since 2018.</p> <p>The organisation has benefitted from several years of HCC funding and in addition to a total of £5,500 from multiple County Councillor grants for the event since 2018. The majority of the grant funds appear to be to cover generic costs relating to the event and therefore fall within ongoing revenue funding which is outside the funding criteria of the Community Grants fund. It is therefore recommended that the current application for funding of £5000 is supported but that it is made clear that this is the final year of such support. The organisation may wish to consider applying for project based funding in future to support the outreach elements of its work.</p>		
Portsmouth Film Society CIC (Countywide)	<p>The organisation seeks funding for first year start-up costs to establish a small multipurpose community cinema in Southsea with cultural and educational aims. The organisation states that despite being based in Portsmouth they will provide a community benefit to residents within the areas of Fareham, Havant, and Gosport, however there is little evidence of how this will be achieved, apart from through reduced ticket prices. No evidence of consultation with members of those communities to determine if there is any need or desire for such a project has been provided. There is also existing provision within Gosport who have an established community cinema based in St Vincent's College.</p> <p>It is not clear how many Hampshire residents would be expected to benefit. The total project costs are £9,900. The organisation has committed £2,000 of their own funds and have secured £5,000 from the Neighbourhood CIL fund. They have applied for £5,000 from the Portsmouth City Council Community Fund (expected outcome 02/03/2022), £5,000 from the IOW</p>	£5,000	£0

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
	<p>Hampshire Community Fund (expected outcome 02/03/2022), £5,000 from BFI FAN (expected outcome 02/03/2022), £2,000 from the University of Portsmouth (expected outcome 02/05/2022), £10,000 from Awards for All (expected outcome 02/03/2022) and expect to generate £750 from ticket sales.</p> <p><b>As the organisation is not clear in how the funding will specifically benefit Hampshire Residents outside of Portsmouth and the organisation has applied to many other funders, far exceeding the total project amount it has not fully demonstrated a need for funding from Hampshire County Council. It is therefore recommended that the application is not supported.</b></p>		
<p>Gosport Borough Council (Leesland and Town/ Gosport)</p>	<p>The organisation seeks funding for the Falklands 40th Anniversary Freedom Parade which will consist of a service of commemoration and a parade attended by service veterans, VIP guests and senior representatives from the Naval forces. A roll call of names of those who lost their lives during the campaign will be played and families of those who were bereaved will be invited to lay flowers at the memorial stone. Gosport Borough Council play a vital role in recognising those who lost their lives in the campaign and have a dedicated site known as the Falklands Garden where much of the event will take place. The event will be high profile with many media organisation in attendance. The funding will support the event and ensure that it runs safely. It is noted that Borough and District Councils are not normally eligible to apply to the Leader's Community Fund. However, this proposal is for an activity which is clearly outside the scope of Gosport Borough Council's normal role and therefore the application has been accepted for consideration.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £15,000 of its own funds towards the event.</p> <p><b>Councillor Huggins was invited to comment. Councillor Meenaghan fully supports the application.</b></p> <p>Note: The organisation was awarded a Policy and Resources one off grant of £40,000 in 2019/20 for the D-Day 75 Embarkation Event.</p>	£5,000	£5,000

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
	<b>It is recommended Gosport Borough Council is awarded £5,000.</b>		
Titchfield Village Trust (Fareham Titchfield/ Fareham)	<p>The organisation seeks funding towards essential roof maintenance of the village hall and to repair the paving outside enabling better disabled access, along with funding for a fixed term project manager. The funding will support phase one of a larger project to ensure the hall is moving towards carbon neutrality. The roof repairs are essential to the hall and involve retiling the roof and upgrading the existing insulation. Once the essential repairs are complete the organisation will embark on phase two of the project to install solar panels on the roof. Fareham Borough Council will provide £10,000 of funding towards phase two. It is expected that both phases of the project will contribute towards future sustainability for the hall with a reduction in energy costs allowing for better savings. The hall is well used and currently supports a range of activities for all age ranges. Prior to COVID-19 the hall was running at 90% capacity, this has reduced to 75% however it is anticipated that as the recovery continues, they will continue to see this number rise. The total project costs for phase one are approximately £95,000.</p> <p>It is not clear how many Hampshire residents are expected to benefit however there are approximately 7,000 residents within the ward of Titchfield and the organisation states that the centre is used by residents from further afield including those from Fareham, Gosport, Eastleigh and Winchester.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £10,000 of their own funds along with a further £10,000 from their parent organisation. They have secured £10,000 from the Earl of Southampton Trust, £10,000 from the National Lottery Fund, £20,000 from Veolia Environmental Trust and have fundraised £15,000.</p> <p><b>Councillor Pankhurst supports the application.</b></p>	£20,000	£20,000

## Appendix 2

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
	<p>Note: The organisation was awarded £2,000 from County Councillor grants in 2020/21 and 2021/22 towards Solar Panels and a further £2,500 in 2019/20 towards improvements to the village.</p> <p><b>It is recommended that Titchfield Village Trust is awarded up to 22% of project costs to a maximum of £20,000</b></p>		
The Hampshire Duke of Edinburgh's Forum (Countywide)	<p>The Hampshire DoE Forum, a local voluntary group established to support and promote the DoE scheme in Hampshire, hosts an annual awards event for recipients of the DoE Gold Award. The event recognises and celebrates young people's achievement and serves to promote the benefits of participating in the DoE scheme. For a number of years, the event has taken place in the Great Hall, hosted by HCC. To ensure transparency, the Forum have been asked to submit a grant application to cover the costs of hiring the Great Hall at the HCC 'partner rates'. The event covers all young people in Hampshire who are undertaking their DoE Award with a local school or other licenced DoE authority and is non-subscription.</p> <p><b>is recommended that funding of £2,000 is awarded to cover the hire of the Great Hall for the annual awards ceremony. The Forum is not formally associated with the DoE national charity or funded by HCC.</b></p>	£2,000	£2,000
Hampshire Garden's Trust (Countywide)	<p>The Hampshire Gardens Trust maintains the Hampshire List of Historic Parks and Gardens on behalf of HCC. HCC has grant funded the Trust for a number of years and discussions have been on-going about the cessation of regular grant revenue funding, in line with the HCC policy to move away entirely from on-going revenue support from grants.</p> <p><b>As the discussions still need to conclude it is recommended that funding of £17k to the HGT is awarded from the 21/22 Community Grants fund. This will be the final year of such funding and in future arrangements with HGT will directly reflect the work they do for HCC through a service level agreement or similar arrangement.</b></p>	£17,000	£17,000
Action Hampshire	The organisation seeks funding for a 12 month Accelerating Women's Enterprise programme consisting of 35 hours of support for 20 women. The	£9,000	£9,000

## Appendix 2

Organisation (District / Division)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
(Countywide)	<p>programme consists of 6 modules delivered through workshop, and 4 hours of individual mentoring. The format will be accessible with the option of weekend, online and face to face delivery to fit around the participants schedules. The aim is to support women in start-up or existing social enterprises. The organisation will work with hard to reach areas of deprivation within Hampshire and provide coaching to women from disadvantaged backgrounds. The funding will pay for the facilitation of the programme along with a fixed term programme manager/administrative function. The total project costs are £59,348.</p> <p>The organisation will be granted £40,000 of match funding via the EU Interegg fund (however this is dependent on them securing local match funding of £20,000). They have secured a further £1,500 through Cllr grants and £5,000 from the Portsmouth Film Society (expected outcome 15/02/2022)</p> <p><b>It is recommended Action Hampshire is awarded £9,000.</b></p>		
<b>Total</b>		<b>£72,950</b>	<b>£67,950</b>