

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member Policy and Resources
Date:	9 September 2010
Title:	Grant to Winchester Cathedral Trust
Reference:	1843
Report From:	County Treasurer

Contact name: Nick Gibbins, Assistant County Treasurer

Tel: 01962 847544

Email: nick.gibbins@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The Executive Member for Policy and Resources agreed in January 2009 to award a grant of £280,000 to the Winchester Cathedral Trust as a contribution to the cost of improving the Cathedral's educational facilities. Design and professional services were also provided by the Director of Property, Business and Regulatory Services to assist the Trust in undertaking a feasibility study for the Education Centre project. Following further development of the project, a further grant of £220,000 to the Cathedral Trust is proposed to support the educational objectives of the project.

2. Background and context

- 2.1. Winchester Cathedral is in the process for raising up to £11m for extensions to the Cathedral, which would include improved accommodation for choristers and improvements to the Education Centre, currently based at No. 10a The Close. The existing Education Centre is in great need of improvement and extension and Property Services staff have been working with the Cathedral to design educational facilities more in keeping with the 21st Century.
- 2.2. The Cathedral has identified specific areas for improvement to the existing Education Centre, including internal remodelling and refurbishment of the existing accommodation and a proposal for a new build addition with the existing walled garden which will provide larger, better serviced and more accessible and secure teaching spaces .
- 2.3. The new facilities and proposed refurbishment works will enable the Cathedral to offer increased capacity, quality and flexibility for schools' visits and the potential to broaden the educational offer to include adult and life long learning.

- 2.4. Winchester Cathedral receives thousands of young people from a wide range of schools, for many of whom this will be their first visit to the Cathedral or to any church building. The proposed improvements to the Education Centre will significantly improve the education experience of Winchester Cathedral for the benefit of Hampshire school children. The project accords with the County Council's well-being objective.
- 2.5. For these reasons it is proposed that the County Council increases its existing grant offer from £280,000 to £500,000 towards the project. The cost can be met from the Corporate Policy Reserve.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1. That an additional grant of £220,000 be awarded to the Winchester Cathedral Trust towards improvements to the Education Centre, funded from the Corporate Policy Reserve.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

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.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. No adverse impact has been identified in the development of this report.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The proposals in this report have no impact on the prevention of crime.

3. Climate Change:

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

None.

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

County Council officers in advising the Cathedral Trust will promote best practice in minimising the impact of the project on the carbon footprint/energy consumption, and in considering resilience to longer term impacts of climate change.