

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
<b>Date:</b>	8 July 2011
<b>Title:</b>	Community Buildings Fund 2011/12
<b>Reference:</b>	2999
<b>Report from</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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#### 1. Executive Summary:

- 1.1 The County Council provides partnership funding from the Community Buildings Fund for capital projects to Community Associations, Village Hall Trusts and similar bodies as outlined in the fund's criteria. This enables the voluntary and community sector to maintain the quality of Hampshire's cultural assets, namely community centres and village halls, some of which are listed.
- 1.2 This report provides details of the financial position of the Community Buildings Fund in 2011/12 and details requests for partnership funding from this fund.

#### 2. Applications considered in this report:

Hall/Centre	District	£
Chilworth Parish Hall	Test Valley	2,800
Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall	Test Valley	3,752
East Woodhay Village Hall	Basingstoke and Deane	1,386
Kings Sombourne Village Hall	Test Valley	7,305
Newtown Village Hall	Basingstoke and Deane	9,000
Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall	Basingstoke and Deane	3,120
Whitchurch Parish Hall	Basingstoke and Deane	4,502
Wickham Community Association	Winchester	4,898
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>36,763</b>

**3. Contextual Information:**

- 3.1 The County Council works in partnership with specific community organisations, particularly community associations and village hall trusts who seek to enable local people to meet the recreational, educational, social, cultural and environmental needs of their local communities. These organisations give local people an opportunity to participate in local activities and encourage local initiatives by people of all ages.
- 3.2 Partnership funding from the Community Buildings Fund enables the voluntary and community sector to maintain the quality of Hampshire's cultural assets, namely their village halls and community association buildings, some of which are listed. This finance enables improvements to be made to those buildings and can assist with the development of new facilities where appropriate. The provision of these buildings by the voluntary and community sector enable local communities to access the services and facilities they need.
- 3.3 By providing financial support to these organisations for the maintenance of their buildings the County Council is able to work in partnership with the community sector to achieve the Corporate Priority – Enhancing our Quality of Place.

**4. Budget Position:**

- 4.1 A sum of £120,000 has been set aside in the 2011/12 capital programme for Culture, Communities and Business Services to support the Community Buildings Fund. To date £23,452 has been allocated this year and if the recommendations in this report, which amount to £36,763 are approved then £59,785 will be available for the rest of the year.

**5. Criteria for Grant:**

- 5.1 The partnership funding distribution criteria is set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 Projects listed in Appendix 2 meet fully the criteria and have been allocated a proposed level of partnership funding in line with the criteria.

**6. Other Considerations**

6.1 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 grant or loan towards expenses incurred by voluntary bodies in providing such facilities.

## 6.2 Impact Assessment

Organisations applying to this scheme are by their nature defined as accessible to all members of the community. This is embodied within their charitable objects, therefore no groups or organisations should be excluded from any benefit arising from these decisions. Furthermore the application procedure includes equalities monitoring information as agreed as part of the corporate review of grants programmes and procedures.

## 7. Recommendations:

**That partnership funding totalling £36,763 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2011/12.**

Hall/Centre	District	£
Chilworth Parish Hall	Test Valley	2,800
Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall	Test Valley	3,752
East Woodhay Village Hall	Basingstoke and Deane	1,386
Kings Sombourne Village Hall	Test Valley	7,305
Newtown Village Hall	Basingstoke and Deane	9,000
Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall	Basingstoke and Deane	3,120
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<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>36,763</b>

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

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

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Applications for financial assistance	Community Support Service Department for Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Mottisfont Court, Winchester

## Appendix 1

### CRITERIA FOR THESE GRANTS:

The partnership funding distribution criteria for the Community Buildings Fund is as follows:

Partnership funding is granted for:

- Building repairs, extensions and refurbishments
- Health and safety issues
- Equipment to improve the buildings and increase usage
- Feasibility studies

Who can apply:

- Village halls (not parish run halls)
- Community associations
- Church organisations that have a separate community programme on their property

Funding criteria:

- For projects costing less than £15,000, the funding criteria is up to one third of the cost.
- For projects costing more than £15,000, the grant is calculated at 50% of the combined district and parish council contribution up to a maximum of 25% of the project costs or £12,500, whichever is the lesser.
- Feasibility studies – applications will be considered for 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £500.

Priority Criteria:

1. Health and safety issues that could result in the building being closed or activities seriously curtailed if the work is not carried out.
2. The work is absolutely essential in order to meet the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act. (It has been widely publicised that these types of buildings will not be closed provided reasonable steps have been taken to meet the terms of the Act).
3. The project is part of a phased development and this element is essential to its overall completion.
4. Non priority work.

**Appendix 2**

<b>Name</b>	Chilworth Parish Hall Trust	
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor Perry, has been informed.	
<b>Project</b>	Replacement of divider doors	
<b>Cost</b>	£8,400	
<b>General Reserves</b>	£10,000	
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£3,000	
<b>Statement</b>	The current doors are very heavy and impractical to use continually. The proposed improvement includes widening the current opening, as well as replacing the doors, making the whole area more useful for larger functions.	
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	Test Valley Borough Council	£1,806
	Chilworth Parish Council	£1,050
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £2,800 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000	
<b>Name</b>	Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall Trust	
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor Gibson, has been informed.	
<b>Project</b>	Refurbish and insulate bar area of Hall.	
<b>Cost</b>	£11,254.80	
<b>General Reserves</b>	£15,000	
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£5,000	
<b>Statement</b>	The bar area is an extension to the original building. It has never been properly insulated and is therefore very cold. This area needs upgrading in order to promote events such as wedding receptions.	
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	Test Valley Borough Council	£2,420
	Wherwell Parish Council	£1,500
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £3,752 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000	

**Name** East Woodhay Village Hall Trust

**Consultation** The local member, Councillor Thacker, has been informed.

**Project** Replacement of boiler

**Cost** £4,160

**General Reserves** £21,000

**Project Reserves** up to £4,000

**Statement** The present boiler will not survive another winter.

**Partnership Funding** East Woodhay Parish Council £TBC

**Recommendation** Up to £1,386 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

**Name** Kings Sombourne Village Hall Trust

**Consultation** The local member, Councillor Gibson, has been informed.

**Project** Renovation of the Village Hall including building an extension.

**Cost** £29,221.19

**General Reserves** £35,000

**Project Reserves** £9,500

**Statement** The Hall was last modernised in 1973 and due to changes in legislation and increased usage and expectation, currently falls short of its potential. The improvements will enable increased usage by the user groups to improve long term sustainability of this critical community asset. Through the medium of the King's Sombourne Parish Plan, the community called for a complete renovation of the village hall and a five phase plan was developed to achieve this. This is phase 4 of the project to renovate the Hall and make it compliant with modern statutory and other regulation requirements.

**Partnership Funding** Test Valley Borough Council (tbc) £10,958  
Kings Sombourne Parish Council £3,652

**Recommendation** Up to £7,305 as 50% of the district and parish contribution up to a maximum of £12,500  
**(Awaiting outcome of Test Valley Funding)**

<b>Name</b>	Newtown Village Hall Trust
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor Thacker, has been informed.
<b>Project</b>	Rebuilding of toilet block.
<b>Cost</b>	£39,400
<b>General Reserves</b>	£18,900
<b>Project Reserves</b>	up to £18,900
<b>Statement</b>	The existing toilet block is in poor condition. It has an asbestos roof which is leaking. The project will also include a disabled toilet.
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	Basingstoke & Deane BC                      £18,000
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £9,000 as 50% of the district and parish contribution up to a maximum of £12,500

<b>Name</b>	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall Trust
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor Chapman, has been informed.
<b>Project</b>	Re-roofing of flat roof on main Hall
<b>Cost</b>	£9,360
<b>General Reserves</b>	£6,000
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£4,800
<b>Statement</b>	The roof has been leaking for some time now. Temporary repairs have been made but re-roofing is desperately needed to ensure that the building can remain open and safely continue to provide facilities for all the groups and activities.
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	Village Fete Committee (tbc)                      £9,300 Four Lanes Trust (tbc)                              £9,300
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £3,120 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

<b>Name</b>	Whitchurch Parish Hall Trust
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor Thacker, has been informed.
<b>Project</b>	Replacement of the floor
<b>Cost</b>	£13,506.02
<b>General Reserves</b>	£24,698
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£8,000
<b>Statement</b>	The hall was built in 1907 and needs modernising.
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £4,502 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000
<b>Name</b>	Wickham Community Association
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor Allgood, has been informed and supports the recommendation.
<b>Project</b>	Repairs to the main roof
<b>Cost</b>	£14,695
<b>General Reserves</b>	£13,500
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£10,200
<b>Statement</b>	There are major leaks right across the building. Attempts to patch it over have been made over the last two years but the problem has got worse. Major leaks in the main hall is making the sue of the hall very dangerous as it becomes slippery when wet. The office ceiling is also leaking so electrical equipment is being covered with polythene.
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £4,898 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000