

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
<b>Date:</b>	26 September 2011
<b>Title:</b>	Community Buildings Fund 2011/12
<b>Reference:</b>	3200
<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	£
Abbey United Reformed Church	Test Valley	2,548.00
Chilworth Hall	Test Valley	932.00
Hamble Education Trust	Eastleigh	1,483.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,963.00</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 £60,215 has been allocated this year and if the recommendations in this report, which amount to £4,963 are approved then £54,822 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 £4,963 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2011/12.**

<b>Hall/Centre</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>£</b>
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**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 it's overall completion.
4. Non priority work.

**Appendix 2**

<b>Name</b>	Abbey United Reformed Church
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor Cooper, has been informed.
<b>Project</b>	New Stage
<b>Cost</b>	£7642.80
<b>General Reserves</b>	£16,000
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£2,000
<b>Statement</b>	The Church wishes to purchase some moveable staging in order to accommodate concerts and other community productions.
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £2548 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

<b>Name</b>	Chilworth Parish Hall Trust
<b>Consultation</b>	The local Member, Councillor Perry, supports this application and comments that Chilworth Village Hall is a well used facility in a village that has very few other public amenities.
<b>Project</b>	Replacement Boiler
<b>Cost</b>	£2795
<b>General Reserves</b>	£10,000
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£3,000
<b>Statement</b>	The current boiler is 16 years old and needs upgrading to a more energy efficient system.
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	Chilworth Parish Council £931
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £932 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

<b>Name</b>	Hamble Education Trust
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor House, supports this application.
<b>Project</b>	Replacement heating system
<b>Cost</b>	£4449
<b>General Reserves</b>	£5849
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£1800
<b>Statement</b>	The current heating system is inadequate for the size of the premises so this will be extended and upgraded to ensure customers remain warm during the winter period.
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	None
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £1483 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000