

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Executive Decision Record (Part B)

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Communities and International Relations
Date:	20 January 2012
Title:	Financial Support to Cultural and Community Organisations
Reference:	3096
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. The decision:

That grants be awarded from the Culture, Communities and Business Services budget to the following clients as set out in paragraph 8 of the report:

- Anvil Arts
- Hampshire Museums and Galleries Trust
- Hampshire Playing Fields Association

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

2.1 Hampshire County Council financially supports a broad range of cultural and community organisations and needs to make decisions about this funding for 2012/13.

2.2 The CSR settlement for local authorities and the on-going programme of budget reductions being implemented across all council services also means that the current approach and pattern of funding is unlikely to be sustainable in the future. For this reason decisions also need to be made about the future strategy for the use of financial contributions to support the delivery of cultural and community services

2.3 The decision responds to budget reductions which require reducing dependency on Hampshire County Council funding. It also acknowledges that a significant proportion of existing funding arrangements were closed and had been in place for many years and that there may be positive opportunities for change, particularly in light of the Coalition Government's legislative programme around localism.

2.4 The consultation explored these issues to help identify how Hampshire County Council could best support the future sustainability of key cultural and community infrastructure, achieve good value for money, meet priorities and support new ways of working and new organisations in the future. The majority of organisations consulted expressed a preference for a criteria-based approach to allocate grant to currently funded organisations on a prioritised basis and supported the draft criteria proposed in the consultation.

2.5 The decision responds to the consultation, to the recommendations of the Select Committee and to the priorities established in the Open for Business Plan. It also delivers the required savings for 2012/13, facilitates on-going and appropriate challenge of the status quo and provide a mechanism to enable change where appropriate.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 A further 8% across the board reduction was rejected. It was not favoured by the majority of consultees and was considered to be an unsustainable approach in the long-term which would not be the most effective means of delivering priorities. 31 organisations expressed a preference for a criteria-based approach to allocate grant to organisations on a prioritised basis.

3.2 Consultees were asked to provide any other comments and thoughts about different approaches and solutions to the delivery of cultural infrastructure and community support in the future. These have been incorporated into recommendations about future support to individual organisation where appropriate.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. The Executive Member for Culture and Recreation, Councillor Keith Chapman declared an interest in the three bodies mentioned in Paragraph 1c above and therefore took no part in the discussion.

4.2. In accordance with Paragraph 2.3 of Part 3 of the County Council's Constitution, the Leader deputed Councillor Keith Mans, the Executive Member for Communities and International Relations to act on his behalf.

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

20 January 2012

**Councillor Keith Mans
Executive Member for Communities and International Relations
(On behalf of the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation)**