

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Communities and International Relations
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	21 January 2013
<b>Decision Title:</b>	Have Your Say
<b>Decision Reference:</b>	4642
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Policy and Governance- Corporate Services

Contact name: Jo White

Tel: 01962 847854 Email: joanne.white@hants.gov.uk

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to consider one application received for financial assistance from the Have Your Say Budget, whose details are outlined in Appendix 2 of this report.

#### 2. Contextual Information

- 2.1 Have Your Say is a new grant stream inviting applications to organise and run small scale community participatory budget events. These organisations, or delivery partners, must have the ability to operate such a scheme locally, and potentially link this with other resources for the community to make decisions regarding the funding of local projects. This will mean that the organisation holds an event for the community to decide which projects they want in their area by voting on them. The purpose is to allow local people to have a say and determine which local projects receive funding from the County Council in order to help improve their local environment, to support local groups or strengthen their community.

#### 3. Budget position

- 3.1 The balance available for allocation from the Have Your Say grant stream at 21 January is £85,000

#### 4. Criteria of grant

- 4.1 A copy of the criteria used for allocating grants is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

#### 5. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The County Council has the power under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do including the power to give grants.

**7. Recommendation:**

That the Executive Member for Communities and International Relations approves a grant of £17,500 to Winchester Area Community Action to carry out a Have Your say community initiative.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

## Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
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.)

DocumentLocation

Application form received from organisations

Chief Executive's Department

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

1.1 The application procedure includes equalities monitoring information as agreed as part of the corporate review of grants programmes and procedures. Further information can be found on individual requests.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1. The County Council has an obligation under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all decisions it makes on the prevention of crime. The proposals in this report aim to improve the wellbeing of Hampshire residents and reduce the risk of crime occurring.

## **FUNDING CRITERIA FOR THE HAVE YOUR SAY GRANT**

The scheme will open 1 June 2012 and close 31 March 2013 (or earlier if funds have been used ).

### **Grant criteria and eligibility**

The schemes will need to meet the following criteria:

Support of your local County Councillor(s) prior to submitting a “Have Your Say” scheme application.

The successful scheme should actively encourage the submission of proposed small scale grass roots community projects in the local area.

A transparent screening process will need to be established in order to assess the legality and viability of the proposals, and to ensure those projects which are not viable or deliverable do not proceed to the public decision/event/vote. Examples of unsuitable projects include, (but is not an exhaustive list): those which are political, campaign driven or form part of a pressure group; and those that do not embrace diversity and community cohesion. Applications from religious groups may be considered, but the application must show that the project will bring wider community benefit.

There should be a mechanism for the public to determine how funds are allocated to projects (e.g. event or voting system).

Any awards made must recognise the County Council’s funding under the heading of “Have your Say”.

Local County Councillors must be involved in the eventual grant award and the County Council is likely to promote publicly, grants awards.

The applicant will be accountable to the County Council for the successful delivery of any funded projects and will be required to monitor the outcomes from the successful projects and provide a report to Hampshire County Council upon the conclusion of the scheme.

Any funds not allocated by applicants or awards not applied to the successful projects within the agreed period must be returned to the County Council

There is flexibility on the way a “Have Your Say” event is run as long as each scheme meets the above criteria.

### **Who can apply?**

Applications can be made by constituted organisations for running an event(s) within the administrative County of Hampshire.

### **Application Process**

Applications will be considered by the Executive Member for Communities and International Relations. Views of your local County Councillor will be sought and taken into account.

Organisations/groups applying to run a scheme must complete the appropriate application form, preferably using the electronic application process.

### **Financial issues**

Organisations are able to apply for a share of £200,000 in order to run a local “Have Your Say” event.

It is envisaged that schemes are likely to be for between £2,000 - £2,500 for an area which a single County Councillor covers, and in multiples thereafter.

Five percent of the County Council funding can be used as a contribution to the costs of administering the scheme, including the holding of events.

Grant payments will be one-off, and there should be no expectation of future funding. The grants are expected to support projects and not to contribute to an organisation's revenue costs.

Match funding from other organisations, to increase the size of a “Have Your Say” event is encouraged, but match funding is not a requirement.

## **WINCHESTER AREA COMMUNITY ACTION**

### **PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Winchester Area Community Action (WACA) will receive applications from small community groups who want to bid for a community project. The scheme will be open to all sectors of the community to apply. County Councillors will be asked to promote the scheme in their own Divisions and help distribute the fliers. This could also include promoting the initiative within schools, with older people groups, Parishes, Community Associations etc. As a pilot project in a predominantly rural District, voting will take place primarily electronically via a website. Voting can be set up so it limits one vote per valid e-mail address. Postcards will be made available and distributed by Councillors and left in community locations so that voting can take place by post too, therefore not disadvantaging those unable to access the website. Most of the funding will be awarded in grants, with just 5% used for administration. (Applications will be pre-sifted to ensure that they are eligible and appropriate - i.e. not political or a contribution to existing projects / on-going running costs). Projects which receive the most votes get funded until no more money remains.

Local Members will have an opportunity to engage with and have dialogue about the needs of individual communities - providing positive feedback for future resource-distribution decisions

The Have Your Say initiative will be launched through flyers/ promotional material to be distributed by Members, community associations, development workers etc, backed up with a micro-site, linked to WACA, WCC / HCC and other appropriate websites. The initiative will be promoted to a wide range of media - local newspapers / radio etc. Summary details will then go onto the website and a second flier produced. Communities will be encouraged to support the projects that they feel will most benefit their locality. Measures will be introduced to ensure that people without access to the internet are not disadvantaged and to ensure that the voting system is not abused. As Winchester is a large, rural District, it is not feasible to hold a meeting in a central location, other than the City itself, so this will be a pilot project to test the viability of an on-line version of the HYS scheme.

### **AMOUNT OF REQUEST**

£17,500

### **COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER**

All Winchester County Councillors have been consulted: All Councillors are in support of this application form for funding.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

£17,500 to be awarded to Winchester Area Community Action