

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Communities and International Relations
Date of Decision:	24 September 2012
Decision Title:	Have Your Say
Decision Reference:	4236
Report From:	Chief Executive

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to consider four applications 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 24 September 2012 is £187,500.

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 grants of £67,500 to those organisations outlined in Appendix 2 to this report, to carry out Have Your say community initiatives.

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.

HART VOLUNTARY ACTION

PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT

Hart Voluntary Action is the Council for Voluntary Services for Hart District. The funding is sought to run and deliver a Have Your Say event in the five County Council Divisions of Hart district. Hart Voluntary Action will coordinate the events by first publicising the events and inviting grant proposals from constituted and informal community groups. They will then screen the proposals and invite applicants to present to the public at the five Have Your Say events, where the public will vote on the projects for their area.

£500 of the funding will be used for publicity and venue hire, the remaining amount will be used for the project grants (£12,000), which equates to £2,400 per Have Your Say community event.

Hart Voluntary Action are contributing staff time which equates to £450.

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£12,500

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

All Hart County Councillors have been consulted and are in full support of the application and project.

RECOMMENDATION

£12,500 to be awarded to Hart Voluntary Action

HAVANT COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY SERVICE (HCCS COMMUNITY ACTION)

PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT

Havant Council of Community Service (HCCS), is the Council of Voluntary Services for the Havant Borough. The funding is sought to run and deliver four Have Your Say events covering the seven County Divisions of Havant Borough.

HCCS will work in partnership with Havant Borough Council and the County Councillors to launch the initiative and will deliver the application process including setting criteria, voting system, monitoring and evaluation of the projects. A robust marketing approach will ensure the opportunity is promoted in each area, followed by a support event to give guidance to groups to make their applications.

The intention is to hold four events covering the seven Havant areas as set out below:

- Event 1 will cover – Councillor Buckley(Bedhampton & Leigh Park) & Councillor Fairhurst (Bedhampton & Leigh Park)
- Event 2 will cover – Councillor Bolton (Emsworth & St. Faiths)
- Event 3 will cover – Councillor Pearce (Hayling Island)
- Event 4 will cover – Councillor Mcintosh (Purbrook & Stakes South), Councillor Beagley (Waterloo & Stakes North) and Councillor Keast (Cowplain & Hart Plain)

The guidelines and application form clearly state that the funding is targeted at the geographical area covered by each Hampshire County Councillor, and all applicants are required on the application to state which 'pot' they are applying too. At the steering group/panel meeting the applications will be divided into their County division area, all those who meet the criteria will be invited to present their ideas at the Have Your Say vent. Voting will take place one area at a time, to ensure the equal distribution of the funds

The total budget is £29,250, income has been secured from Havant Borough Council of £11,750.

£2,250 of the funding will be used for publicity, venue hire and administration, £27,000 has been determined for the project grants, which equates to £6,750 per Have Your Say community event.

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£17,500

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

All Havant County Councillors have been consulted and are in full support of the application and project.

RECOMMENDATION

£17,500 to be awarded to HCCS Voluntary Action

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT

The funding will pay for small grass roots community projects in the Rushmoor area. The projects will need to fit the criteria of improving their local environment, strengthening their communities and supporting the group. Rushmoor Borough Council are working in partnership with Rushmoor Voluntary Services to promote the funding available to small grassroots community groups. The applications will be submitted to Rushmoor Borough Council who will support the admin process. The grants will be determined via the Rushmoor Citizens Panel, which is representative of residents across the Borough – approximately 1,200 in total to contact. Rushmoor Borough Council will send an email to the panel with a secure on-line link to a survey which would explain about the projects and allow for residents to respond and vote. Depending on how many eligible projects there are will depend on the scoring, for example, if there are 6 projects then people would score them 1 – 6 with 6 being their most favourite. The same survey form would be used for the youth group meetings at pre-arranged times so survey forms could be completed straightaway. This ensures involvement of young people in the process attending pre arranged meetings is beneficial in gaining a result.

The £12,500 will be used for the community projects only. Costs associated with carrying out these three consultations will be met by Rushmoor Borough Council.

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£12,500

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

All Rushmoor County Councillors have been consulted and are in full support of the application and project.

RECOMMENDATION

£12,500 to be awarded to Rushmoor Borough Council

BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and supporting partner Basingstoke Voluntary Services aim to deliver the project covering the whole of Basingstoke and Deane.

Grant applications and promotion will commence at the beginning of October 2012, with the deadline for return of applications mid November 2012. Initial assessment of the applications by officers from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Basingstoke Voluntary Services will be the end of November. Final assessment of the applications will be via the three Community Panels- one in each of the following areas: Tadley, Whitchurch and Basingstoke Town. The Community Panels will consist of the relevant County Councillors, Borough councillors and Officers from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Basingstoke Voluntary Services as advisors.

Those that have been selected to put their applications forward will be invited to display their project to the local community and then present their project in a formal presentation session. Those people from the community that attend will have the ability to vote for the projects they feel best warrants funding. This process would be from 2pm – 8pm enabling all residents from local communities to have the opportunity to attend. Voting will be through ballot boxes to ensure fairness and transparency of the process.

£23,000 of the funding will be used for the grant distribution between the three areas. £2,000 of the funding will be used on venue hire, refreshments, printing and management fees. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is contributing £1,500 in staff hours.

The Have Your Say event will empower local people to determine which projects receive funding in order to improve their local environment or support a local group.

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£25,000

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

All Basingstoke and Deane County Councillors have been consulted: Councillors Chapman, McNair-Scott, Still, Thacker, Tucker, Reid, Gurden and Frankum are in full support of the funding request. At the time of writing comments from Councillors Hussey and Burgess are awaited.

RECOMMENDATION

£25,000 to be awarded to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council