

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	5 October 2012
Title:	Solent Sea-Rescue Organisation Grant Application 2012/13
Reference:	4206
Report From:	Director of Policy and Governance

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to consider a grant application received from the Solent Sea-Rescue Organisation for financial assistance from the Policy and Resources budget. The application is for an annual sum of £24,546 towards the running costs of the organisation.

2. Contextual information

2.1. The Solent Sea-Rescue Organisation (SSRO) was established by Hampshire County Council in 1977, in partnership with maritime local authorities around The Solent. The charity brings together eight independent lifeboat and rescue organisations that cover The Solent and its approaches, each of which is a declared facility with the Maritime and Coastguard agency. SSRO provides the units with insurance, advice and financial and administrative support.

2.2. In previous years SSRO have applied for financial assistance from the Culture and Recreation budget. At the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation Decision Day, 20 January 2012, the recommendation that SSRO “apply to a grant stream with a broader remit, such as grants allocated by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources” was approved. A 2012/13 budget transfer was also approved to support this (agreed at the 2011/12 grant less 8%).

3. Financial Position of Solent Sea-Rescue Organisation

3.1. The table below (figure 1) sets out the financial outturn of SSRO in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12, alongside projections for 2012/13:

	2012/13 projection £	2011/12 actuals £	2010/11 actuals £	2009/10 actuals £
<u>Incoming resources</u>				
Local Authority contributions:				
Hampshire County Council	24,546	26,680	29,000	29,000
New Forest District Council	4,469	4,469	4,469	4,343
Southampton City Council	10,576	10,576	11,495	11,495
Eastleigh Borough Council	3,083	3,083	3,083	2,986
Fareham Borough Council	2,810	2,810	2,810	2,722
Gosport Borough Council	2,060	2,010	2,038	1,970
Portsmouth City Council	0	9,830	9,830	9,830
Isle of Wight County Council	7,145	7,145	7,145	6,886
	<u>54,689</u>	<u>66,603</u>	<u>69,870</u>	<u>69,232</u>
Other incoming resources:				
Environment service, HCC contribution	5,700	5,700	5,500	5,500
P&R service, HCC contribution	0	10,000	0	0
Other contributions	0	1,430	110	40
Interest	200	190	0	0
	<u>5,900</u>	<u>17,320</u>	<u>5,610</u>	<u>5,540</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>60,589</u>	<u>83,923</u>	<u>75,480</u>	<u>74,772</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Running costs:				
Insurance	50,000	48,785	48,904	48,278
Administration expenses	250	250	250	250
Combined radio licence	500	500	658	810
Publicity and boat show	50	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	150	291	150	150
	<u>50,950</u>	<u>49,826</u>	<u>49,962</u>	<u>49,488</u>
Grants to rescue units	14,000	19,091	4,202	14,000
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>64,950</u>	<u>68,917</u>	<u>54,164</u>	<u>63,488</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(4,361)	15,006	21,316	11,284

Figure 1

3.2. The organisation held cash reserves of £59,843 as at 31 March 2012. This follows Charity Commission guidance that charities should hold sufficient reserves to cover their costs for a year.

4. Criteria of Grant

4.1. A copy of the criteria used for allocating grants from the Policy and Resources budget can be found in Appendix 1 to the report.

5. Comments of Head of Emergency Planning and Resilience

- 5.1. Financial support from the County Council is very important to the SSRO and the eight individual rescue units it supports. The rescue units provide a vital service to all users of The Solent and its approaches: in 2011/12 they attended 490 call outs, of which 391 were assisting HM Coastguard or the RNLI. In addition to this they provide beach safety (including first aid and helping those who get into difficulty in the water), attend inland incidents and regularly give sea and water safety talks to a range of local community groups. The units have received compliments and letters of thanks from the public, HM coastguard and the RNLI.
- 5.2. The SSRO, in turn, serves those eight units through: procuring insurance policies, at competitive premiums, that provide units with substantial cover (for members and volunteers, unit facilities, craft, outboards and other equipment); procuring required radio licenses; and distributing grants that aid the units in buying new or replacement craft and equipment.
- 5.3. Under the constitution of the SSRO the County Council also provides the Organisation's Chairman, currently Councillor Peter Edgar, and its Honorary Treasurer, Carolyn Williamson. Additional officer support is given through the Head of Emergency Planning and Resilience, Ian Hout.
- 5.4. The funds applied for in this report, £24,546, represent an 8% reduction in the grant received in 2011/12.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approves a grant of £25,000 to the Solent Sea-Rescue Organisation for 2012/13 towards its operational costs.
- 6.2. That the Solent Sea-Rescue Organisation be invited to apply for financial assistance from this budget each year. The request to be submitted to the Decision Day in January.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Financial Support to Cultural and Community Organisations	3096	20 January 2012

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>
Application form received from Solent Sea-Rescue Organisation.	Policy and Governance 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.

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 POLICY AND RESOURCES GRANTS

The following criteria should be taken into consideration when preparing a submission for funding. They are intended as guidelines and not prescriptive rules

1. Assistance will be considered only in response to direct applications from properly constituted organisations seeking assistance. You must show in your application that your organisation is properly and legally organised and has its own bank account.
2. Where appropriate, applications will be referred to the relevant service department (e.g. Adult Services, Culture, Communities and Business Services, Children's Services, etc) for consideration.
3. Preference will be given to applications for specific projects or activities rather than general running costs of organisations. These grants are not intended to replace shortfalls in service delivery budgets or replace funding for other support you may be able to obtain, or that you have obtained from us in the past.
4. Grants will not usually be made in respect of applications from the following:-
 - District or Parish Councils
 - Government Institutions
 - Schools
 - Overseas and out of County organisations which have no direct Hampshire involvement
 - Branches or organisations assisted centrally with a sum from the County Council
 - Bodies requesting funds for onward distribution to other charities e.g. mayoral appeals, carnivals, fetes, or for their own fundraising events.
5. Applications will not be accepted from political parties or groups affiliated with a political party or from lobbying/campaigning organisations.
6. Applications will only be considered from faith groups who can demonstrate their facilities are open and used by the local community other than for church related activities and then only for works in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act.
7. Requests may be considered from County wide groups (e.g. Guides, Scouts, Hampshire County Youth Orchestra) for specific trips, e.g. for an international jamboree or cultural tour. Individual requests will not usually be considered.
8. Where possible self-help within organisations should be encouraged and to this end, grants are normally a percentage of the sum required to complete the project.

9. As a general rule, grants in excess of £5,000 will not be awarded.
10. In general only award grants to projects which are taking place in the same year as application for funds