

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Communities and International Relations
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	18 December 2012
<b>Decision Title:</b>	Have Your Say
<b>Decision Reference:</b>	4520
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Policy and Governance- Corporate Services

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#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to consider two 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 18 December 2012 is £120,000.

#### 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 grants of £37,500 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.

## **TEST VALLEY PARTNERSHIP**

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

Test Valley Strategic Partnership is seeking support to further develop its approach to empowering its communities. The partnership is working to establish methods by which partner organisations are able to support communities to identify and prioritise their own needs so that they can achieve their ambitions for the places they live.

The Partnership wishes to assist communities in building their capacity to deal with local issues themselves. This funding alongside other funding streams already available, will provide a practical way in which local communities can get on and take forward their local grass roots projects providing a proven need has been identified, and that there is evidence of community support locally for the initiative being put forward.

The basis of this proposal for funding from the Have your Say scheme would be that those projects where a community need has been identified, can apply to the scheme for funding. Applications to use funds could be made by local voluntary/not for profit community organisations where they wish to develop a project within the community. If successful the funding will be able to complement other sources of funding and resources that exist within the Borough, such as TVBC's Ward Based Budget Scheme, thereby maximising the potential reach of all of these funds within our local communities.

Applications to the Have your Say scheme will then be put forward to a public vote. This will be done by hosting one event in the north and one in the south of the Borough complimented by an online vote to enable as many people to vote for projects as possible. If projects have been developed within local communities then there is an expectation to see that community come out in support of the project when a participatory vote is held, which makes the need for applicants to engage their community at an early stage even more important. The Test Valley Partnership as the host body for the scheme will oversee the delivery of the public vote. This will enable organisations that form the partnership to be able to promote the scheme amongst their customers/residents and also generate interest when it comes to the vote itself.

### **AMOUNT OF REQUEST**

£17,500

### **COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER**

All Test Valley County Councillors have been consulted: Councillors West, Gibson, Dowden, Perry, Cooper and Mutton are in support of this application form. At the time of waiting comments are awaited from Councillor Drew.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

£17,500 to be awarded to Test Valley Partnership

## **EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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

East Hampshire District Council working in partnership with Hampshire County Councillors, and local Town and Parishes to launch a grants programme aimed at small voluntary groups and organisations within East Hampshire. An application process including setting criteria, voting system, monitoring and evaluation is already in place for the Area Forum Project Fund, which can be adapted for this project. A robust marketing approach for this scheme will ensure opportunity is promoted in every area, followed by a support event to give guidance to small groups to make their applications. This will be followed by a participatory event in each of the four area forum areas to ensure voting by residents remains local. The funding will be divided equally across the seven County Council divisions. The detail of the scheme is still to be decided and will be in consultation with the County Councillors in East Hampshire.

The project aims to support those smaller organisations and groups in all areas of the Borough, by offering the chance to apply for small grants that would make a positive difference to their immediate community. Most importantly, it will allow local people to decide which of the suggested projects should take priority and will have the most impact.

The main outcomes will be: Promotion and raising the profile of the County Councillors and local voluntary organisations and groups within an area; Giving a voice to local people; targeting resources to those issues that need to be addressed.

The total budget is £22,300, income has been secured from East Hampshire District Council of £2,300. This will be used for marketing, room hire and administration.

### **AMOUNT OF REQUEST**

£20,000

### **COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER**

All East Hampshire County Councillors have been consulted and are support of the scheme in principle. The project detail needs to be finalised at East Hampshire District Council in consultation with the County Councillors.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

£20,000 to be awarded to East Hampshire District Council