

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Communities and International Relations
Date of Decision:	11 March 2013
Decision Title:	Have Your Say
Decision Reference:	4762
Report From:	Director of Policy and Governance- Corporate Services

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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, and to consider requests for additional funding for schemes which have already been approved

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 11 March is £67,500

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. Recommendations:

- I. That the Executive Member for Communities and International Relations approves grants of £60,000 to those organisations outlined in Appendix 2 to this report, to carry out Have Your say community initiatives.
- II. To approve the top up requests to grants previously been approved for Rushmoor Borough Council of £5,000 and Hart Voluntary Action of £2,500.

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.

COMMUNITY FIRST NEW FOREST

PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT

Community First New Forest is a Council of Voluntary Service that works towards removing barriers to social inclusion by working with communities and individuals who may be socially disadvantaged, vulnerable and isolated. The proposal aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the rural New Forest community and increase confidence of the community in the services provided by agencies involved in this work.

The application is specific to the New Forest District area and is committed to community engagement and community ownership of the tactical work. The funding will pay for the marketing and administration of the 'Have Your Say' small grants. This will include rural surgeries and the cost of the voting events. In order to ensure that the grant monies are accessible to those most in need, assistance by analytical support from the Safer New Forest Operational Joint Action Group will be used, to incorporate subjective data from communities, including minority communities. The grants will be promoted to local communities and voluntary sector organisations through the various partnership networks including Safer New Forest, Health and Well Being Board, the Community First membership, National Farmers Union etc. Community First will develop an application process that is simple and easy to use. This approach will set a baseline for the work to be undertaken, will assist in the setting of milestones, outputs, and outcomes and will enable Community First New Forest to set clear grant agreements with measurable activity and outcomes. All applications will be assessed by a Panel comprising representatives from the partnerships to ensure the grant criteria is met. Following this two local public voting events will be convened. The small grants round will be open for approximately 6 weeks, and every applicant eligible to apply will be invited to present their ideas at the event in their locality. Everyone will be given time for a short presentation on their project/idea, followed by two minutes for questions. A score card voting for each project giving a score of 1-5 will be issued and the funding will be allocated according to the votes received, allowing the community to 'Have their say'. To ensure the voting system did will be fair and equal, a condition will be that everyone will have to score for every project. As the accountable body, Community First New Forest will monitor and report on the successful delivery of any funded projects to meet the outcomes set and demonstrate the impact of the funding.

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£35,000

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

All New Forest County Councillors have been consulted: All New Forest County Councillors support this request for funding.

RECOMMENDATION

£27,500 to be awarded to Community New Forest, this is based on a average of £2,500 per division, which has been applied to other schemes so far. In addition New Forest does not rate high on the indices of deprivation.

HAVANT COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY SERVICE (HCCS COMMUNITY ACTION)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

In partnership with Havant Borough Council HCCS Community Action will hold an additional event building upon our previous success to target groups working with older people who were under represented in the first round.

From lessons learnt in round one it was apparent that organisations targeting older people were at a distinct disadvantage mainly due to not having the confidence to fill in the application and present their idea. Very few groups aiming at this target audience were successful in securing funding for their projects. If successful in this round our intention is to work with the Havant Older Persons Wellbeing Partnership to target small groups and empower them to confidently take part in the process with tailored training on offer to teach them different presentation techniques. Ultimately we aim to hold our participatory budgeting event targeting this group of organisations and inviting the wider community and the Havant Borough Citizen's Panel to vote following the presentations at the event. Older people and the voluntary organisations who deliver these services will benefit from this process in the longer term and aims to enable them to feel more confident and able to 'sell' their valued service when applying for funding in the future. An application process including setting criteria, voting system and monitoring and evaluation has been developed and was utilized successfully in Round 1 of this Grants Scheme. A robust marketing approach by the Havant Older Persons Wellbeing Partnership will ensure the opportunity is promoted widely. Match funding from Havant Borough Council will be used for marketing and venue hire for the event

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£17,500

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

All Havant County Councillors have been consulted and are in support of hosting an additional Have Your Say event

RECOMMENDATION

£10,000 to be awarded to HCCS Community Action, this is the minimum amount needed to run the Have Your Say event. HCCS Community Action can run a scheme with £10k and this would enable additional funding in other areas.

CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Chandler's Ford Parish Council will host a Have Your Say event to cover two County Council divisions within the parish area (Chandler's Ford Eastleigh West) . The Parish Council will encourage local community groups to bid for funding a community project with bids open to all sectors of the community. County Councillors may also promote other schemes in their divisions. The event will be publicised with flyers and posters on notice boards together with details on the Parish Council website and spread to known community group contacts. The initiative will be promoted within schools, community associations and community groups, special interest clubs and societies, voluntary groups and uniformed groups together with other group representing minority groups in the community. Groups will be invited to submit bids for funding and then make representations at the Have Your Say event to secure for their project. Funding will be awarded to those applications based on the amount requested until all the grant is awarded. The Parish Council will retain only immediate expenses incurred in room hire and refreshments and this is estimated at £100.00. Applications for grants will be pre-sifted by a panel that will represent local business leaders, Parish Councillors and residents and sifted to ensure applications are appropriate and will derive community benefit rather than support political aims or pressure groups. This is an opportunity for the Parish Council to increase its profile in the community and is an opportunity for community groups to access a new source of funding

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£5,000 (increased to £10,000 following initial application)

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

The two County Councillors (Cllr Davidovitz and Cllr Broadhurst) within the parish council are in support of this application.

RECOMMENDATION

£5,000 to be awarded to Chandler's Ford Parish Council. This is based on £2,500 per division within the parish area. In addition this area is not an area of high deprivation.

FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

This funding will be used to run an event to engage the local community in improving opportunities for local residents living in the area. The Borough Council is bidding for the total Fareham Borough allocation £20,000 in one, collective bid. Members have proposed that this resource be directed to support the activities of this project, by enabling it to be specifically used for initiatives to support the local community, and as chosen by residents living in the area of benefit. As a recognised area of deprivation and a super output area for both the Borough and County Council, it is proposed that these funds will be used directly in the Fareham park area. Obviously the community will be involved in deciding these but likely areas for improvement include youth activities, maximising take up of pre-school provision and developing skills and access to learning.

A whole range of outcomes are anticipated, this includes increased opportunities for families, children & young people and older isolated residents living in the Fareham park area. Progress of this initiative will be monitored by the Fareham Park Steering Group and Council's wider democratic process. The Fareham Park Steering Group plans to host an event, in a central Community location in the area. Project ideas will be displayed and residents will be asked to express their support by voting for their preferred project. It is proposed that this event will be held between May and July 2013 in a community venue within the area.

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£20,000

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

All Fareham County Councillors are in support of the application

RECOMMENDATION

£17,500 to be awarded to Fareham Borough Council, this is based on £2,500 per Hampshire County Council division

In addition two more requests for a top up grant of a previous application are recommended for approval

Rushmoor Borough Council have requested an additional £5,000 as a top up to a previous application approved of £12,500. They are in the process of organising the Have Your Say event via the citizens panel and the youth groups and have received applications over £25,000 and so the extra funding will make a real difference to the community groups and benefit local people.

Hart Voluntary Action have requested an additional £2,500 as a top up to a previous application approved of £12,500, They have received a total of 41 applications with a total grant value of £33,312 of which only one application was deemed as not matching the grant criteria. The additional funding would be used to top up grants of runners up in each of the voting events or to award additional grants to projects not granted any funding.

Similar requests have been received for top up grants from the following organisations which are not recommended as funds are depleted. The request for additional funding has been oversubscribed and the stated priority would be given to areas of deprivation.

East Hampshire District Council- have requested £1,000- £2,000 per division.

Chandler's Ford Parish Council- have further requested to increase their application to £10,000 (an additional £5,000)