

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
<b>Date:</b>	14 March 2013
<b>Title:</b>	Solent Sea-Rescue Organisation Grant Application 2013/14
<b>Reference:</b>	4714
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

**Contact name:** Ian Houlton

**Tel:** 01962 846840

**Email:** ian.houlton@hants.gov.uk

### 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 a one-off sum of £41,500 in 2013/14 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.

### 3. Financial Position of Solent Sea-Rescue Organisation

3.1. The table below (figure 1) sets out the financial outturn of SSRO in 2010/11 and 2011/12 and 2012/13, alongside projections for 2013/14:

	<b>2013/14 budget</b>	<b>2012/13 projection</b>	<b>2011/12 actuals</b>	<b>2010/11 actuals</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Incoming resources</u></b>				
<b>Local authority contributions:</b>				
Hampshire County Council	41,500	24,546	26,680	29,000

New Forest District Council	4,469	4,469	4,469	4,469
Southampton City Council	10,576	10,576	10,576	11,495
Eastleigh Borough Council	3,083	3,083	3,083	3,083
Fareham Borough Council	2,810	2,810	2,810	2,810
Gosport Borough Council	2,060	2,060	2,010	2,038
Portsmouth City Council	0	0	9,830	9,830
Isle of Wight County Council	7,145	7,145	7,145	7,145
	<hr/> 60,843	<hr/> 54,689	<hr/> 66,603	<hr/> 69,870

**Other incoming resources:**

Environment Services, HCC contribution	0	5,700	5,700	5,500
P&R service, HCC contribution	0	0	10,000	0
Other contributions	20	1,330	1,430	110
Interest	200	200	190	0
	<hr/> 220	<hr/> 7,230	<hr/> 17,320	<hr/> 5,610

<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>61,063</b>	<b>61,919</b>	<b>83,923</b>	<b>75,480</b>
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**Expenditure**

**Running costs:**

Insurance	50,000	50,000	48,785	48,904
Administration expenses	250	250	250	250
Combined radio licence	500	500	500	658
Publicity and boat show	50	50	0	0
Miscellaneous	150	150	291	150
	<hr/> 50,950	<hr/> 50,950	<hr/> 49,826	<hr/> 49,962

<b>Grants to rescue units</b>	10,113	10,969	19,091	4,202
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<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>61,063</b>	<b>61,919</b>	<b>68,917</b>	<b>54,164</b>
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<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,006</b>	<b>21,316</b>
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3.2. The organisation held cash reserves of approximately £60,000 as at 31 January 2013. 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 Hault.

#### **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1. That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approves a grant of £41,500 to the Solent Sea-Rescue Organisation for 2013/14 towards its operational costs from the Policy and Resources budget.
- 6.2. To secure the medium and long term future of the Solent Sea Rescue Organisation, the County Council seeks to establish a form of partnership arrangement with the Unitary Authorities and coastal district councils with the aim of improving the sustainability of funding arrangements for the Organisation.

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

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

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>

**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