

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	24 July 2013
<b>Decision Title:</b>	Have Your Say
<b>Decision Reference:</b>	5051
<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 24 July is £200,000

#### 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. Recommendations:**

- I. That the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships approves grants of £17,500 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 2013 and close 31 March 2014 (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 Partnerships. 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.

**GOSPORT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERHIP****PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

YOUdecide enables local people to bid for money to help improve their communities, making it feel safer and involving them in the decision making process. Applications are invited within a given time frame (6-8 weeks). Following the application deadline, all applications are reviewed for feasibility and to ensure they meet the criteria. This is done by a panel consisting of residents, elected Members and partner agencies. Finalists are then invited to attend a master class to share tips and good practice. Finalists then present their projects at a decision day event to the Gosport community. All residents of Gosport are invited and anyone over 10 years old can vote. Voters are issued with a ballot tickets, colour coded and numbered for each project. Members of the public listen to the projects at the decision day and award each project a score between 1-10 and winners are announced on the day.

The core concept of YOUdecide means residents are directly involved in decision making on how public funds are spent to improve the community.

**AMOUNT OF REQUEST**

£15,500

**COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER**

All Gosport County Councillors ( Councillors Carter, Burgess, Cully, Chegwyn, Edgar) have been consulted: and are in support of this request for funding.

**RECOMMENDATION**

£12,500 to be awarded to Gosport Community Safety Partnership, this is based on £2,500 per division which was applied in 2012/13.

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

Chandler's Ford Parish Council (CFPC) will host a second Have Your Say event to cover two County Council divisions within the parish area (Chandler's Ford and Eastleigh West)

Learning from the first event they have revised the voting mechanism to ensure all applications are scored 1-10 and ballot papers will be used. The score will be based on the overall application and not just on the presentation at the Have Your Say event. All applications are reviewed for feasibility and to ensure they meet the criteria.

The Parish Council will focus on hard to reach community groups in the parish as well as seeking applications from groups that already have links to the parish council. The event will be publicised locally and all local community contacts encouraged to apply. Local contacts include community associations, special interest groups, clubs, societies, schools, voluntary groups and uniformed groups.

The Parish Council is not looking to take expenses incurred for laying on the event as it is keen to pass on all the grant to these needy organisations. It is evident that there are a number of local groups that are in financial difficulties and their on going viability is in some doubt and the loss of such groups will have an impact on the social exclusion of a number of individuals in the parish. CFPC is building a sense of community and by working with these groups and making the wider population aware of these groups and their activities it is drawing the community closer together and encouraging volunteering and groups working together..

Good local contacts have been cemented with the local press to promote the event and an excellent local venue has been identified to hold the event with capacity for over 100 people. The event is supported by County Councillors who will be in attendance and all parish councillors attend the event to give support to those bidding, helping with the voting process to make the event seamless and enjoyable for those attending.

**AMOUNT OF REQUEST**

£10,000

**COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

£5,000 to be awarded to Chandlers Ford Parish Council, this is based on £2,500 per division within the parish area.