

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Report**

<b>Committee:</b>	Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Select Committee
<b>Date:</b>	10 September 2013
<b>Title:</b>	Capital Grants Scheme for Community Buildings – new Sub-Committee
<b>Reference:</b>	5160
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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**1. Executive Summary**

1.1 Following a substantial increase in funding allocated to the capital grants scheme for community buildings, this report sets out the need for a small Sub-Committee to be set up to consider the officer recommendations for two or three grants of £200,000.

**2. Contextual Information**

2.1 The Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside is responsible for a capital grant scheme for community buildings which has been running for many years. There is usually £125,000 in the budget a year which is allocated to a variety of community groups, up to a maximum of £12,500 per organisation or one third of the building costs. The applications for these grants go to the Executive Members for approval at his Decision Days throughout the year.

2.2 On 21 February 2013 the previous Leader of the Council allocated a further £1 million to the community centre capital grant scheme in his budget speech which is very positive news. This will be allocated across 2013/14 and 2014/15, £500,000 in each year, and represents a great opportunity to extend the reach of the scheme. It has been decided to:-

- Increase the maximum grant to £25,000 or 50% of the building costs.
- Award two or three grants of up to £200,000 each to projects which substantially increases the usage of a building or enables joint use of a building by the merger of two or more groups.

2.3 Grant applications for grants of up to £25,000 or 50% of building costs will continue to go to the Executive Member for approval at his Decision Days. However, for organisations wishing to apply for a £200,000 grant a different process has been set up which is as follows:-

- The organisation fills in an Expression of Interest form which is simpler than the application form.
- Expressions of Interest need to be submitted by 1 November. Officers will then draw up a short list and ask the organisations on the short list to complete an application form.
- Officers will assess the applications and put forward their recommendations to a Sub-Committee of the Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Select Committee.
- Applicants will be asked to present their proposals to a Sub-Committee in February 2014.

### **3. Sub-Committee**

3.1 It is suggested that a small (suggest 7 maximum) Sub-Committee of the Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Committee is established to consider and comment on the large grant applications. The Sub-Committee would need to be proportionally constituted and would meet in public with a published agenda, minutes etc. The proposed Terms of Reference for the Sub Committee are out in Appendix 1.

3.2 The Department would then prepare a report for the Sub Committee once it has shortlisted the grant applications. The report would contain a summary of the shortlisted grant applications and make recommendations as to which grants should be awarded. The Committee would consider those recommendations at a meeting where the shortlisted applicants would have the opportunity to make a presentation. The Committee would then be able to debate the recommendations and comment on them, supporting or not supporting them as appropriate.

3.3 The comments and recommendations of the Sub Committee would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and would then be reflected in the final report from officers that goes to Executive Member's Decision Day. The Chairman of the Sub Committee could attend the Decision Day to support the recommendations if that was felt to be helpful.

### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 That the Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Select Committee set up a Sub-Committee with the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 1 to consider, comment and make recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside on the large grant applications (£200,000) made under the Community Buildings Capital Grant Scheme.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	no
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):	

**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.)**

Document

Location

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1. A high level Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken when the grants were reviewed two years ago. It found that equality impacts were considered as part of the review and that, on balance, the grants scheme improved equality outcomes by opening up the grants to a wider range of organisations.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

- 2.1. Not applicable.

### **3. Climate Change:**

- 3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?  
Not applicable.
- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?  
Not applicable.

# **Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Grants Sub-Committee**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **1. Introduction**

The Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee has established a Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Grants Sub-Committee to consider and to make recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside on major grant applications received under the Community Buildings Capital Grants Scheme in the 2013-2014 financial year.

### **2. Membership**

The Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Grants Sub-Committee shall comprise 7 Members of the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee appointed on a proportional basis (4 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 United Kingdom Independence Party)

### **3. Chairman**

The Chairman of the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee shall be the chairman of the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Grants Sub-Committee.

### **4. Role and Function**

- a.** To review shortlisted major grant applications (over £200,000) made under the Community Buildings Capital Grant Scheme.
- b.** To receive and consider presentations made by applicants in support of shortlisted grant applications
- c.** To consider Officer recommendations on which applications should be supported.
- d.** To comment on and to make recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside as to which applications should be supported.