

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships |
| Date: | 30 October 2013 |
| Title: | Have Your Say – Funding Requests |
| Reference: | 5273 |
| 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 three funding requests from the Have Your Say budget.

2. Budget position

2.1. The balance available for allocation from the 2013/14 Have Your Say grant budget at 30 October 2013 is £182,500.

3. Contextual Information

3.1. Have Your Say is a 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.

4. Grant criteria

4.1. A copy of the criteria used for considering grants from the Have Your Say budget is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4.2. To ensure the Have Your Say scheme's grant criteria remain fit for purpose, it is recommended that a review be undertaken and reported back to the next appropriate meeting with the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. Subject to certain restrictions, 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.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. That grants totalling £55,000 be awarded to those organisations in the amounts shown in appendix 2 to this report.
- 6.2. That a review of the funding criteria be undertaken and reported back to the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships at the next appropriate meeting

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

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| Hampshire safer and more secure for all: | yes |
| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): | |
| Maximising well-being: | yes |
| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): | |
| Enhancing our quality of place: | 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.)

DocumentLocation

Application forms from requesting organisations

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.

BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL (CG00004075)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and supporting partner Basingstoke Voluntary Services aim to deliver a Have Your Say initiative covering the whole of Basingstoke and Deane. The purpose of the grant scheme is designed to enable voluntary and community organisations to put forward local projects to help improve their local environment, support local groups or strengthen their community. Residents will have the opportunity to determine which projects should receive funding through 3 decision days within the borough, one in each of Tadley, Whitchurch and Basingstoke town, where local residents can vote for projects they feel would most benefit their community. Those that have been selected will be invited to display their project in a street market fashion and present it informally to a panel. Residents attending the events will be able to vote, using ballot boxes, for the projects they wish to receive funding.

Total Expenditure: £26,500 (£23,000 - grant allocation, £225 - printing, £225 - venue hire, £300 – refreshments, £1,500 staffing and £1,250 management fees).

Total Income: £1,500 (Borough Council/Basingstoke Voluntary Services).

Shortfall: £25,000

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£25,000

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

A similar initiative was held last year and the events proved very popular and successful.

GENERAL COMMENTS

All Basingstoke and Deane County Councillors have been consulted. Councillors Chapman, Connor, Frankum, Gurden, Lovegrove, McNair Scott, Reid, Still and Thacker) are in support of this request for funding.

Director of Policy and Governance: One member does not support the principle of the scheme. However, in order that all residents in the Basingstoke and Deane area benefit from the Have Your Say initiative, it is recommended that the full support of £25,000 (based on £2,500 per division) is awarded.

RECOMMENDATION

That £25,000 be awarded to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to deliver 'Have Your Say' schemes.

**HCCS COMMUNITY ACTION (TRADING AS COMMUNITY FIRST HEH)
(CG00004081)**

PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT

HCCS Community Action (trading as Community First HEH) is seeking funding towards the cost of holding 4 participatory budgeting events (Waterlooville, Leigh Park, Hayling Island and Emsworth) across the 7 designated County Council areas in the Borough. Enabling small grass roots voluntary groups to apply for funding that will make a difference in the community and offering local residents the opportunity to choose where the money is spent.

Following evaluation of last year's events, HCCS aims to change the format by bringing small voluntary groups together to network. A market place event will build on this by giving groups the opportunity to market themselves to a wider public audience and network for longer. The events will be longer in time so members of the public can drop-in, find out what is going on in their area and vote.

Total Expenditure: £21,000 (£20,125 – grant allocation; £500 – management fee and £375 – venue hire and refreshments).

Total Income: £3,500 (Havant Borough Council)

Shortfall: £17,500

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£17,500

**GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND
CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS**

Two Have Your Say grants were awarded during 2012/13 and 5 successful schemes were delivered. This year's proposals build on the lessons learned from last year.

GENERAL COMMENTS

All Havant County Councillors (Bolton, Briggs, Fairhurst, Finch, Keast, McIntosh and Pearce) are in support of this request for funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That £17,500 be awarded to HCCS Community Action to deliver 'Have Your Say' schemes across the borough of Havant.

HART VOLUNTARY ACTION (CG00004423)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Hart Voluntary Action (HVA) will work with its County Councillors, Hart District Council, parish and town councils and its voluntary sector membership to deliver the "Have Your Say" grant scheme in the five divisions in Hart.

HVA will co-ordinate the following: Publicising the scheme and inviting small grant proposals from constituted and informal community groups; providing advice and guidance on drawing up a grant proposal where required; screening the proposals and inviting all long-listed groups to present their proposals at a Have Your Say marketing event; holding at least three "Have Your Say" marketing events, for groups to promote their project to the general public; organising alternative ways of public voting, to allow for wider support and engagement, with Hart residents, such as an online poll.

Total Expenditure: £13,200 (project grants - £11,870; events (venue hire/refreshments) - £500; publicity/web survey - £130 and staffing £700)

Total Income: £700 (own funds)

Shortfall: £12,500

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£12,500

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS

Hart Voluntary Action ran a successful 'Have Your Say' initiative during the previous financial year.

GENERAL COMMENTS

All Hart County Councillors (Councillors Bennison, Collett, Glen, Simpson and Wheale) have been consulted and are in support of this request for funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That £12,500 be awarded to Hart Voluntary Action to deliver 'Have Your Say' initiatives in Hart.