

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	6 March 2014
Title:	Community Buildings Capital Fund 2013/14 (requests for £25,000 and under)
Reference:	5632
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The primary purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside for £112,590 from the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2013/14.
- 1.2 This report provides details of the financial position of the Community Buildings Capital Fund in 2013/14 and details requests for partnership funding from this fund.

2. Summary of grants:

2.1 Community Buildings Capital Fund (requests for up to £25,000)

Organisation	District	£
Bridgemary, Rowner and Woodcot Community Association	Gosport	620
Brockenhurst Village Hall	New Forest	16,810
Empower Global	Havant	2,480
Eversley Village Hall	Hart	8,890
Hale Village Hall	New Forest	24,000
King's Somborne Village Hall	Test Valley	20,000
Lymington Community Centre	New Forest	25,000
Ringwood and District Community Association	New Forest	9,900

Organisation	District	£
The Denmead Community Association	Winchester	4,890
TOTAL		£ 112,590

3. Contextual Information

3.1 The County Council works in partnership with specific community organisations, particularly Community Associations and Village Hall Trusts which seek to enable local people to meet the recreational, educational, social, cultural and environmental needs of their local communities. These organisations give local people an opportunity to participate in local activities and encourage local initiatives by people of all ages.

3.2 Partnership funding from the Community Buildings Capital Fund enables the voluntary and community sector to maintain the quality of Hampshire's village halls and Community Association buildings. This finance enables improvements to be made to those buildings and can assist with the development of new facilities where appropriate. The provision of these buildings by the voluntary and community sector enable local communities to access the services and facilities they need.

3.3 By providing financial support to these organisations for the maintenance of their buildings, the County Council is able to work in partnership with the community sector to achieve the Corporate Priority – Enhancing our Quality of Place.

3.4 9 applications have been submitted requesting up to £25,000 to this grant stream. Recommendations have been made in this report and details of all the applications for are set out in Appendix 2.

4. Budget Position:	£
Budget Approval for 2013/14	1,125,000
Grants previously approved (A total of 32 grants of £25,000 and under)	292,396
Grants recommended for 6 March 2014 Decision Day 9 grants of £25,000 and under in this report)	112,590
Grants recommended for 6 March 2014 Decision Day (6 grants of over £25,000 see agenda item 4)	689,580
Returned grants (project underspend)	1,888
Remaining balance available (to be carried over)	32,322

5. Other Considerations

5.1 Legal Implications

The Council has wide powers under Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to provide recreational facilities and to contribute by way of grant or loan towards expenses incurred by voluntary bodies in providing such facilities.

5.2 Impact Assessment

Organisations applying to this scheme are by their nature defined as accessible to all members of the community. This is embodied within their charitable objects, therefore no groups or organisations should be excluded from any benefit arising from these decisions. Furthermore the application procedure includes equalities monitoring information.

6. Recommendations:

6.1 That the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:

- i) Approves grants for £112,590 from the Community Buildings Capital Fund for 2013/14.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	No
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.)

Document**Location**

Applications for financial assistance

Community Support Service
 Department for Culture, Communities
 and Business Services
 Castle Avenue, Winchester

Community Buildings Capital Fund Criteria

The aim of the programme is to focus primarily on projects which provide improvements that reduce running costs. By way of example at one end of the scale, the provision of a modern central heating boiler could have a significant effect on heating costs. At the other end of the scale would be the merging of two self-standing facilities into one. An example could be the building of an extension onto an existing centre to accommodate the needs of another local group which was previously housed in an old, inadequate building with very high maintenance and heating bills.

The programme is not designed to be over prescriptive and innovative ideas for projects are encouraged.

Hampshire County Council can fund up to a maximum grant of £25,000. Normally we would expect match funding of 50% of the total project costs. If you wish to apply for more than £25,000, it is also anticipated that two or three grants of up to £200,000 will be awarded for projects which substantially improve the building to increase usage or which enable the joint use of a building by the merger of two or more groups. There is a different application process for these larger proposals.

Organisations will not normally be awarded more than one grant per financial year (previously funded projects must be completed before a new application is made).

What is funded?

The Community Buildings Capital Fund supports capital based projects including refurbishment and improvement of Hampshire community centres, village halls and charitable and voluntary organisations (which offer a full and varied open access community programme).

What isn't funded?

The following organisations are not funded under this scheme:

- Parish Councils
- Other local authorities
- Groups and organisations whose main priority is of an individual focus or single use i.e. playgroup, lunch clubs or youth groups
- Uniformed organisations
- School properties
- Sports clubs
- Theatres

The following projects are not funded under this scheme:

- The purchase of land.
- Equipment not directly attributable to the building i.e. we will fund fitted kitchen equipment and sound systems, but would not fund a television or hi-fi system. We will also not fund equipment intended for the use of a separate trading arm or commercial organisation using the premises.
- Capital works that have already been carried out. We cannot retrospectively fund projects, grants are awarded for works to be carried out in the future.

Grant criteria and eligibility

The Community Buildings Capital Fund is open to the following community based organisations who benefit a local community/local communities in Hampshire, improving the quality of life for all, particularly those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged:

- Village halls (not parish-run halls)
- Community associations
- Charitable and voluntary organisations which offer a full and varied open access community programme.

These organisations must be properly constituted with clear and effective local governance and management structures.

Organisations will not normally be eligible for grants where they hold unallocated reserves in excess of one year's running costs. Where it is judged that unallocated reserves are unreasonably in excess of what is required or not allocated for legitimate purposes, those organisations may receive a reduced grant. All charitable organisations are expected to have an agreed reserves policy that addresses their financial risk.

Where appropriate, depending on the grant sum requested, the organisation will be expected to submit supporting documentation. All documentation will be used, alongside the application form, to assess against the grant criteria.

Grant criteria

Capital based projects must fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Building repairs, extensions and refurbishments
- Capital improvements that reduce running costs
- Health and Safety issues
- Equipment that will become a permanent fixture within the building which improves access and/or increases usage (the exception to this are tables, chairs and storage units which will also be funded)
- Capital based feasibility studies.

Organisations need to demonstrate:

- The provision of community programmes/activities from the community building for the benefit of the local community.
- The impact the capital based project will make to the local community, the organisation and wider society (if appropriate).
- The local community have been involved in identifying the need for the project and support it.

Applicants will be expected to have obtained permission from the landlord to undertake the capital work. If required applicants will also be expected to have obtained planning permission and/or listed buildings consent (if appropriate) to carry out the works.

**Community Buildings Capital Fund 2013/14
Application assessment summary**

Each grant application has been assessed against the Community Buildings Capital Fund criteria (Appendix 1) using a standard template.

Project funding requests – up to £25,000

Organisation	Project Title	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount recommended Community Buildings Capital Fund 2013/14
Bridgemary, Rowner and Woodcot Community Association (Gosport)	Refurbishment of parts of BRWCA	<p>The organisation seeks support for internal decoration of disabled toilets, men's toilets, ladies toilets, main hall and kitchen. The organisation wish to focus on the painting of all walls, doors and ceilings in identified areas.</p> <p>There are some activities facilitated in the hall including line dancing, friendship club and darts. The organisation has 190 members and accommodates 200 per week. The organisation has confirmed they have 50% match funding for this project. The application states there is no match funding from Gosport Borough Council. Councillor Cully fully supports this application.</p> <p>It is recommended Bridgemary, Rowner and Woodcot Community is awarded up to 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £620 on the condition a lease agreement is in place. It is also recommended the organisation develop an appropriate child, young person and vulnerable adult policy.</p>	£936	£620
The Brockenhurst Village Trust (Brockenhurst Village Hall, New Forest)	Car park repair and resurface	<p>The organisation seeks support to dig up the current car park surface, relay drainage and make good surface with proper tarmacked top and marked spaces and crossing places.</p> <p>There is a range of activities facilitated in the village hall including dance club, pre-school, Brockenhurst and Sway day Centre, Brockenhurst Cinema and pilates. The application states 2,500 are expected to benefit. No quotations were included with the application. The current state of the car park in relation to pot holes and ineffective drainage causes health and safety problems and access issues for current and potential users of this community facility.</p> <p>The application states the organisation has requested £3,000 from Brockenhurst Parish Council. A decision on this request will be made on 1 March 2014. There is no match funding from New Forest District Council. Since the application was</p>	£24,900	£16,810

Organisation	Project Title	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount recommended Community Buildings Capital Fund 2013/14
<i>The Brockenhurst Village Trust</i>		<p>submitted, the organisation has received one quotation which is 27% lower than estimated within the application. The application states the organisation has £48,537 committed from their own funds to support this project. Councillor Thornber fully supports this application.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> The organisation was awarded £3,000 from Councillor Thornber in June 2013 towards the refurbishments of toilets, children's room and reception entrance.</p> <p>Pending 3 satisfactory quotations it is recommended Brockenhurst Village Hall Trust is awarded up to 26% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £16,810 on the condition the organisation gain planning consent for the work. It is also recommended the organisation develop an appropriate child, young person and vulnerable adult policy.</p>		
Empower Global (Botley Road, Havant)	Empower Centre Havant	<p>The organisation seeks support for the rebuilding/refurbishment of a Community Kitchen and the equipping of a Community Hall in the Empower Centre Havant. The organisation has recently purchased the Centre for use as a community building. The organisation wish to deliver a range of open access community activities including a parent and toddlers Group, lunch Club for the older people, parenting classes, food hamper programme, after-school clubs and school holiday children's activities. 200 people are expected to benefit. The provision of equipment will ensure the kitchen and community hall can be used effectively. The application states there is no match funding from Havant Borough Council. Councillor Bolton has been consulted.</p> <p>It is recommended Empower Global is awarded up to 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £2,480 on the condition the organisation produce a community activity plan on completion of the work.</p>	£4,000	£2,480
Eversley Village Hall (Hart)	Eversley Village Hall Car Park Improvement	<p>The organisation seeks support to resurface the car park in front of the village hall which is made up of hoggin over hardcore. It is badly pot holed, rutted, and unlit. A range of activities are facilitated at the hall including a 5 day a week pre school, dance fit, dog training and keep fit. The current condition of the car park causes health and safety problems and access issues for current and potential users of this community facility. 300 people are expected to benefit. The organisation has requested £9,045 from Awards for All. The application includes a request for fencing</p>	£9,045	£8,890

Organisation	Project Title	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount recommended Community Buildings Capital Fund 2013/14
<i>Eversley Village Hall</i>		<p>around the car park which does not contribute to improving access, therefore this has been deducted from the total cost of the project.</p> <p>The application states there is no match funding from Hart District Council. Councillor Simpson fully supports this application as it will be a good improvement that helps both hall users and the school, for parents picking up and dropping off children.</p> <p>It is recommended Eversley Village Hall is awarded up to 43% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £8,890 excluding the bollards/fencing of the car park.</p>		
Hale Village Hall (Hale, New Forest)	Hale Village Hall Renovation Project Phase 2	<p>The organisation seeks support for renovation work to bring it up to current standards of safety and energy efficiency. The project consists of multiple elements which include a new lighting system, reconfiguration of the entrance hall, replacement of doors, wall insulation and refurbishment of the kitchen.</p> <p>A range of activities are facilitated in the hall including a pre-school, Hale Transition group, dog training, music group and the Horticultural Society. The work will contribute to keeping the building up to date and ensure users continue to use the facility and new users are attracted. The application states that 100 people are expected to benefit. The business plan is limited.</p> <p>The application states the organisation has requested £10,000 from New Forest District Council. A decision on this request will be made on 1 February 2014. Councillor Heron has been consulted.</p> <p><i>Note: the organisation was awarded £2,700 from Councillor Heron in July 2013 to support a large amount towards renovation works including replacing gas boiler, plumbing and new windows.</i></p> <p>It is recommended Hale Village Hall is awarded up to 45% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £24,000 on the condition the organisation develop a comprehensive business plan for the organisation on completion of the work.</p>	£24,000	£24,000
King's Somborne Village Hall (Test Valley)	Refurbishment of Main Hall	<p>The organisation seeks support for the complete renovation of the main room in the village hall. This room has a stage and a seating capacity of 100-120 but has become dilapidated since construction in the 1970s.</p> <p>The renovation will include new lighting, wiring, renovation of the stage, improved</p>	£24,900	£20,000

Organisation	Project Title	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount recommended Community Buildings Capital Fund 2013/14
<i>King's Somborne Village Hall</i>		<p>heating and acoustics. There are a range of activities facilitated including a pre-school, cricket club, Women's Institute, football club and Horticultural Society. The aim of the project is to update and enhance the facilities to ensure users continue to hire the facility and new users are attracted. The application states 1,500 people are expected to benefit. Professional and architect's fees have been included in the request which has been deducted from the total project costs.</p> <p>The application states there is no match funding from Test Valley Borough Council. Councillor Gibson has been consulted.</p> <p>It is recommended King's Somborne Village Hall is awarded up to 29% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £20,000 excluding professional and architect's fees.</p>		
Lymington Community Association (Lymington Community Centre, New Forest)	Installation of high-efficiency gas boilers	<p>The organisation seeks support for the replacement of an ageing gas boiler with a professionally specified, high efficiency, modular boiler system. New pumps, controls and valves are required in addition to the removal of asbestos pipe lagging in the boiler room.</p> <p>There is a wide range of community activities delivered and facilitated in the community centre including adult learning classes, cinema, art groups, dance groups and the Historical Society. Reduced energy costs are anticipated in addition to ensuring the facility can continue to operate and meet the community's needs. The business plan identifies annual deficit.</p> <p>The applications states the project is expected to benefit 1,500 people.</p> <p>The application states there is no match funding from New Forest District Council. Councillor England has been consulted.</p> <p>It is recommended Lymington Community Centre is awarded up to 38% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £25,000 on the condition the organisation develop a detailed action plan to address current and predicted annual financial deficit on completion of the work.</p>	£25,000	£25,000
Ringwood and District Community Association	Replacement boilers and radiators	<p>The organisation seeks support for the replacement of two boilers from the early 1970's and fifteen 40 year old radiators.</p> <p>There is a wide range of activities delivered and facilitated in the community centre including a pre-school, cinema, coffee lounge, book shop, garden club and antiques</p>	£11,795	£9,900

Organisation	Project Title	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount recommended Community Buildings Capital Fund 2013/14
(New Forest) Ringwood and District Community Association		<p>club. The new heating system will be more energy efficient, reducing costs and will ensure users continue to use the facility. The organisation updated the funding requested to £9,990 as a result of an updated quotation (£19,800). The application states the project is expected to benefit 2,520 people. The application states there is no match funding from New Forest District Council. Councillor Rippon-Swaine wholeheartedly supports this grant as the organisation represent the heart of the Community in Ringwood with over 100 affiliated clubs, societies and organisations and feels the organisation deserve support.</p> <p>It is recommended Ringwood and District Community Association is awarded up to 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £9,990.</p>		
The Denmead Community Association (Winchester)	Program of refurbishment and sustainability	<p>The organisation seeks support for the replacement of old (and rotten) wooden, single pane windows, with more durable and thermally efficient UPVC double glazed units, in the Annexe building.</p> <p>There are a range of activities facilitated and delivered in the community centre including pilates, art group, pre-school, quilting and dog training. The project will reduce energy costs and ensure the annexe continues to be used in addition to attracting new users.</p> <p>The application states the project is expected to benefit 7,000 people. The application states there is no match funding from Winchester City Council. Councillor Stallard gives full support to this application as the Community Centre does so much for residents of all ages and all socio-economic groups and this project will make a great deal of difference to many people.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The organisation was awarded £1,985 from the Community Investment Fund in 2014/15 by the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside on the 4 December 2013 to support core organisational costs. The organisation has also received £876 from Councillor Stallard in January 2014 for an Industrial Dishwasher.</p> <p>It is recommended The Denmead Community Association is awarded up to 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £4,890.</p>	£4,289.40	£4,890
Total			£128,865.40	£112,590