

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships |
| Date: | 31 March 2014 |
| Title: | Have Your Say – Funding Requests |
| Reference: | 5745 |
| 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 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 31 March 2014 is £110,000.

2.2. If grants were approved at the amounts being recommended, a total of £78,000 would be committed from this budget, leaving £32,000 remaining.

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. Following the last meeting and now that a full year of applications has been processed, the Have Your Say grant criteria have been reviewed to ensure they remain fit for purpose. It is now proposed that a number of minor

changes are made to reflect the openness of this grant fund and that these are used when considering future grant requests.

- 4.2. A copy of the criteria used for considering grants from the Have Your Say budget (including the proposed changes highlighted in bold italic text) is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for approval.

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 £78,000 be awarded to those organisations in the amounts shown in Appendix 2 to this report.
- 6.2. That the amendments to the grant criteria used in awarding grants from the Have Your Say Fund be approved.

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 *normally* need to meet the following criteria:

- **Majority** 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 **all** 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, (this 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 **wider** 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 * (**but excludes the grant award process**) 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.
- 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. 5% of the County Council funding can be used as a contribution to the costs of administering the scheme, including the holding of events. Match funding from other organisations, to increase the size of a “Have Your Say” event is encouraged, but match funding is not a requirement.

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL (CG00004969)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Rushmoor Borough Council aims to deliver a Have Your Say initiative which will award grants for small grass root community projects. Projects will need to fit the criteria of improving their local environment, strengthening communities and supporting the groups the Council are working with, in partnership with Rushmoor Voluntary Services.

Applications will be submitted to the Borough Council who will support the admin process, with the grants being determined via the Rushmoor Citizens Panel (email being sent to 1,200 members of the local community) and the Gaming Zone (a social enterprise that run term time and holiday projects, which work with nearly 600 children and young people).

Total Expenditure: £12,500

Total Income: £0

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

£12,500 was awarded in September 2012, with top-up funding of £5,000 in March 2013.

GENERAL COMMENTS

All Rushmoor County Councillors have been consulted. Councillors Chadd, Staplehurst and Wall are supportive, leaving Councillors Rust and Choudhary yet to comment.

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services: A similar initiative was held last year and the events proved very popular and successful. For this year, applications are to be received by end of July, with awards being made in September.

RECOMMENDATION

£12,500

FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL (CG00006099)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Fareham Borough Council is seeking an allocation of £20,000 to support the development of activities for young people aged between 8 and 16 years. This funding will be used to host a range of activities to engage younger residents by improving local opportunities for young people to take part in.

Applications will be encouraged to support the development of activities and initiatives, which will then be invited to make a short video about their plans. These will be hosted on the Council's social media sites and votes will be invited from all residents living in the Borough.

All of the funding, except £1,700 (advertising and promotional costs) will be used to create a funding pot, with a cap on each award set to £1,500-£2,000.

Total Expenditure: £20,000

Total Income: £0

Shortfall: £20,000

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£20,000

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

£17,500 awarded from this budget in March 2013.

GENERAL COMMENTS

All Fareham County Councillors (Councillors Price, Hockley, Woodward, Latham, Ringrow, Evans and Wood) have been consulted and are supportive of an award being made.

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services: A similar initiative was held last year welcomed by the local community. Awarding a sum of £20,000 would allow more projects to benefit from the scheme.

RECOMMENDATION

£20,000

TEST VALLEY PARTNERSHIP (CG00006010)

PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT

Test Valley Partnership is seeking funding alongside other funding streams already available in the district, to provide practical resources which local communities can use to take forward local grass roots projects on the basis that a need has been identified and there is evidence of local community support.

It proposes running two pots – one for north Test Valley (including the Central division) and one for southern Test Valley to ensure fair distribution of funding. It hopes to run a public vote which will run for 3 weeks, use ballot boxes in its receptions, leisure centres and libraries and have a market pitch in both Andover and Romsey town centres.

Total Expenditure: £17,500, incl £500 for running the scheme

Total Income: £0

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

2012/13 - £17,500

GENERAL COMMENTS

All Test Valley County Councillors have been consulted and Councillors Rolt, Pat West, Dowden, Perry and Cooper are supportive, leaving Councillors Gibson and Hooke yet to comment.

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services: A similar initiative was held last year and the events proved very popular and successful.

RECOMMENDATION

£17,500

WINCHESTER AREA COMMUNITY ACTION (WACA) (CG00006093)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Winchester Area Community Action (WACA) is seeking funding to run a grassroots community grant scheme for voluntary organisations in the Winchester district.

WACA will use its networks to invite community groups to apply for small grants to fund capital projects and other new initiatives. WACA and local County Councillors will pre-approve suitable projects to go into the voting process and will use its own website to promote applicants to a wide range of residents who will vote for the projects they wish to see supported. Hard copy posters and postcards for voting will be available for people unable to access the internet.

One project per Division will be guaranteed funding, so that rural areas are not disadvantaged by lower population density. Projects that receive the most votes will be funded up to a maximum of £1,000.

Total Expenditure: £17,500 (£875 to be spent on admin costs)

Total Income: £0

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

2012/13 - £17,500

GENERAL COMMENTS

All Winchester County Councillors have been consulted and Councillors Mather, Stallard and Huxstep are supportive, leaving Councillors Humby, Porter, Bailey and Tod yet to comment.

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services: This event proved to be a popular event in the community and a grant is therefore supported.

RECOMMENDATION

£17,500

GOSPORT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CG00006096)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

YOUdecide enables local people to bid for money to help improve their communities. The process involves: 6-8 week period for individuals/groups to apply to the YOUdecide fund and finalists are invited to a master class to share tips from previous bidders and present at a Decision Day event, to which all residents of Gosport are invited to attend and vote. Voters are issued ballot tickets which are colour coded and numbered for each project. Consideration will be given to provide opportunities for those who cannot attend the Decision Day.

Total Expenditure: £14,500

Total Income: £4,000 (in-kind staff time)

Shortfall: £10,500

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£10,500

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

2012/13 - £12,500

2013/14 - £12,500

GENERAL COMMENTS

All Gosport County Councillors (Councillors Cully, Chegwyn, Graham Burgess, Carter and Edgar) have been consulted and are supportive of a grant being awarded to this event.

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services: A sum of £12,500 has already been awarded to this event in 2013/14. A similar initiative was held last year and the events proved very popular and successful. A further sum would allow more projects to benefit.

RECOMMENDATION

£10,500