

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	3 July 2014
Title:	Community Buildings Capital Fund 2014/15 (requests for £25,000 and under)
Reference:	5920
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 £12,500 from the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2014/15.
- 1.2 This report also provides details of the financial position of the Community Buildings Capital Fund in 2014/15 and details requests for partnership funding from this fund.

2. Summary of grants:

2.1 Community Buildings Capital Fund

Organisation	District	£
Winnall Community Association	Winchester	£12,500
TOTAL		£12,500

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 Winnall Community Association (WCA) was awarded £12,500 at the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation Decision Day on 20 January 2012 from the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2011/12. The grant was awarded to replace the entire community centre roof which had suffered leaks and undergone emergency repair works to ensure the centre could continue to operate. The proposal included a 'green' roof and insulation of the walls.
- 3.5 The County Council grant was the first grant awarded to the organisation for this project. WCA therefore could not undertake the work until further match funding was gained. The organisation applied to the Veolia Environmental Trust following a revision to the project proposal in relation to reducing the overall project costs. A condition of applying to the Trust for over £40,000 is that an organisation must have at least 20% funding already secured. The County Council grant was used as part of this percentage.
- 3.6 In January 2014, WCA learnt they had been successful in being awarded a grant of £63,005 from the Veolia Environmental Trust and now wish to undertake the project (details are set out in Appendix 2).
- 3.7 Due to changes to the Community Buildings Capital Fund processes since the original application was made, it is recommended this grant is now allocated to the 2014/15 Community Buildings Capital Fund budget.

4. Budget Position:	£
Budget Approval for 2014/15	125,000
Grants awarded in 2013/14 allocated from 2014/15 budget	29,746
Grants previously approved for 14/15 (A total of 5 grants of £25,000 and under)	27,305
Grants recommended for 3 July 2014 Decision Day (1 grant of £25,000 and under in this report)	12,500

Returned grants (project underspend) in 14/15	0
Remaining balance available	55,449

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.

6. 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.

7. Recommendations:

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

- i) Approve the £12,500 Community Buildings Capital Fund grant awarded to Winnall Community Association on 20 January 2012 by the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside to be allocated from the 2014/15 capital grant budget.

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.

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 2014/15
Application assessment summary**

Project funding requests

Organisation	Project Title	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount recommended Community Buildings Capital Fund 2014/15
	Total project costs			
Winnall Community Association Winchester	Re-roofing and wall insulation £81,005 (revised total project costs)	<p>The organisation seeks support for re-roofing and insulation of the building. There have been numerous leaks due to deteriorating roof and emergency, temporary repairs have had to be undertaken to ensure the community centre can stay open to the local community. Many older people groups currently use this facility although, due to poor levels of comfort, this is becoming impractical. Re-roofing of the building will guarantee its life for another 20 years.</p> <p>The organisation revised the scope of the original proposal which no longer includes a 'green' roof or heating system. The revised project will re-use and recycle products wherever possible, including the gutters and pipes. The aim of the project is to substantially improve the sustainability of the community centre, improving its energy efficiency, lowering its energy bills and carbon footprint, and making it a warmer, more comfortable space for all users. The organisation was awarded £4,500 from Winchester City Council in June 2012 and has been awarded £63,005 from the Veolia Environmental Trust in January 2014.</p> <p>A grant of £12,500 was awarded by the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside on 20 January 2012 from the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2011/12. The County Council grant was the first grant awarded to support this project. The organisation has been actively applying for match funding since the County Council award was made and is now in a position to undertake the project. The Community Buildings Capital Fund processes have been developed since the previous Decision Day. It is therefore recommended that the organisation is allocated £12,500 from the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2014/15 budget. Councillor Mather has been consulted.</p> <p>It is recommended Winnall Community Association is granted up to 15.4% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £12,500 allocated from the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2014/15.</p>	£12,500	£12,500
Total			£12,500	£12,500