

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	16 September 2014
Title:	Proposed Changes to the Culture, Community and Recreation Grants 2015/16
Reference:	6070
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. This report sets out some changes to the revenue grants that fall within the remit of the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside in order to make the necessary budget reduction by 2015/16.

2. Background

2.1. For many years the County Council has operated a grants scheme for cultural, community and recreational organisations across Hampshire. During 2011/12 there was a major review of grants to cultural, recreational and community organisations and the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation approved the final details on 14 May 2012. The new scheme set up five grant streams which are:

1) Culture and Recreation Investment Fund

This provides investment in the major strategic cultural and recreational organisations in Hampshire. Decisions are only made once a year for applications to this grant stream.

2) Community Investment Fund

This provides support for not-for-profit community based organisations. Decisions are also only made once a year for applications to this grant stream.

3) Culture and Community Activity Fund

This provides general support to groups and organisations which encourage and provide opportunities for individuals and communities to participate in community focused cultural and recreational activities.

Decisions are made at three Decision Days a year for applications to this grant stream.

4) Organisational Change Fund

This fund supports specific, time limited projects for organisations to achieve efficiencies and reduce on going dependency on grant funding. Decisions can be made at every Decision Day for applications to this grant stream.

5) Community Buildings Capital Fund

This grant stream supports the small scale refurbishment and improvement of local community buildings that are managed and operated by the voluntary sector. Decisions can be made at every Decision Day for applications to this grant stream.

2.2. This report considers the four revenue grants only.

3. Revenue Grants 2014/15

3.1. There is £1,267,000 in the budget for this year's revenue grants, of which £1,212,781 has been allocated as follows:

	£	Number of organisations
Culture and Recreation Investment Fund	803,880	21
Community Investment Fund	98,750	14
Activity Grants	101,581	*52
Organisational Change Fund	57,570	7
Strategic Grants		
• Music	70,000	3
• Dance	32,000	2
• Countryside	49,000	1

*These figures include the grants being recommended for approval at the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside's Decision Day on 16 September 2014.

4. Revenue Grants 2015/16

4.1. The budget for next year's revenue grants will be £1,140,000, a reduction of 10%, on top of the 2% reduction made in 2014/15. In order to accommodate this reduction, it is recommended that:

- the maximum grant awarded from the Organisational Change Fund is reduced from £10,000 to £5,000

- the maximum grant awarded from the Activity Grant is reduced from £5,000 to £3,000
- the grants from the two Investment Funds are reduced by 3% to every organisation

4.2. Along with other reductions to the Culture and Recreation Investment Fund, as previously agreed by the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside, this would mean that the County Council would still have enough money to grant aid 50 or so small organisations in 2015/16, as it has done in 2014/15.

5. Revenue Grants after 2015/16

- 5.1. It is now known that the County Council needs to reduce its budget by a further £98m by April 2017. This is likely to mean a further reduction in the grants budget of £159,600, 14%, by April 2017, with the likelihood of a further budget reduction by 2020.
- 5.2. It is felt that the best way to plan for these reductions is to undertake an in-depth review of the grants again, starting in 2015. A further report will come to the Select Committee in 2015, setting out the details of the review and asking for Members to sit on a small Task and Finish Group to work with Officers on the review.

6. Culture and Communities Select Committee

- 6.1. The Culture and Communities Select Committee considered the proposals in this report at its meeting on 2 September and, after discussion, endorsed the recommendations set out below.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1. That the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:
- i. reduces the maximum grant awarded from the Organisational Change Fund 2015/16 from £10,000 to £5,000
 - ii. reduces the maximum grant awarded from the Activity Grant 2015/16 from £5,000 to £3,000
 - iii. reduces the Investment Fund 2015/16 grants by 3% to every organisation
 - iv. notes the Select Committee's intention to establish a Task and Finish Working Group to review the Culture, Community and Recreation grants as early as practicable in 2015.

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.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

- 1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;

Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2 Equalities Impact Assessment:

A high level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. It identified that the proposed changes to the grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality by creating a more open and transparent funding programme.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. None identified.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Not applicable.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

Not applicable.