

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date of Decision:	26 September 2014
Decision Title:	Grants to Voluntary Organisations and Other Bodies, and Investing in Hampshire
Decision Reference:	6044
Report From:	Director of Policy and Governance - Corporate Services

Contact name: Louise Pickford/Rob Carr

Tel: 01962 847355/847508 Email: louise.pickford@hants.gov.uk
rob.carr@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is to be considered in two parts: Part One covers Grants to Voluntary Organisations and other bodies and Part Two covers 'Investing in Hampshire'.

PART ONE**1. Grants to Voluntary Organisations and Other Bodies**

- 1.1 One application has been received for financial assistance from the Policy and Resources budget. Details of this request are outlined in Appendix 2 to this section of the report.

2. Budget Position

- 2.1 The balance available for allocation from the 2014/15 grant budget at 26 September 2014 is £150,569, after grants approved at the last decision day, commitments made in previous years and sums earmarked for specific purposes.

3. Grants Criteria

- 3.1 A copy of the criteria used for considering grants from the Policy and Resources grants budgets are attached as Appendix 1 to this section of the report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 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.

5. Recommendation:

- 5.1 It is recommended that no grant be awarded to Cove Brook Greenway Group in Farnborough on this occasion

Appendix 1

FUNDING CRITERIA FOR THE POLICY AND RESOURCES GRANTS

The following criteria should be taken into consideration when preparing a submission for funding. They are intended as guidelines and not prescriptive rules

1. Assistance will be considered only in response to direct applications from properly constituted organisations seeking assistance. You must show in your application that your organisation is properly and legally organised and has its own bank account.
2. Where appropriate, applications will be referred to the relevant service department (e.g. Adult Services, Culture, Communities and Business Services, Children's Services, etc.) for consideration.
3. Preference will be given to applications for specific projects or activities rather than general running costs of organisations. These grants are not intended to replace shortfalls in service delivery budgets or replace funding for other support you may be able to obtain, or that you have obtained from us in the past.
4. Grants will not usually be made in respect of applications from the following:-
 - District or Parish Councils
 - Government Institutions
 - Schools
 - Overseas and out of County organisations which have no direct Hampshire involvement
 - Branches or organisations assisted centrally with a sum from the County Council
 - Bodies requesting funds for onward distribution to other charities e.g. mayoral appeals, carnivals, fetes, or for their own fundraising events.
5. Applications will not be accepted from political parties or groups affiliated with a political party or from lobbying/campaigning organisations.
6. Applications will only be considered from faith groups who can demonstrate their facilities are open and used by the local community other than for church related activities and then only for works in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act.
7. Requests may be considered from County wide groups (e.g. Guides, Scouts, Hampshire County Youth Orchestra) for specific trips, e.g. for an international jamboree or cultural tour. Individual requests will not usually be considered.
8. Where possible self-help within organisations should be encouraged and to this end, grants are normally a percentage of the sum required to complete the project.
9. As a general rule, grants in excess of £5,000 will not be awarded.

10. In general only award grants to projects which are taking place in the same year as application for funds

COVE BROOK GREENWAY GROUP, FARNBOROUGH (CG00006831)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Cove Brook Greenway Group is planning a free Fun Day in June 2015 at the Recreation Area, where local families are invited to join in environmental and wildlife-related activities. Many local wildlife and environmental groups will also be invited demonstrate their work and encourage people to take an interest in the stewardship of the environment. It will also be seen as a fundraiser for many of these groups attending.

This Biennial event is expected to attract 1,000 people (3/400 families).

Total Expenditure: £1,200 (Red Cross cover and Zoo area only)

Total Income: £350

Shortfall: £850

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

AMOUNT OF REQUEST:

£300

GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS**County Council budgets:**

A grant request has been submitted to the County Council's Have Your Say grants budget (administered by Rushmoor Borough Council). (Dec expect: late Sept).

Rushmoor Borough Council: RBC is providing licensing advice and the venue free of charge.

COMMENTS OF THE LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillors Staplehurst, Chadd and Wall are the local members in the area:

Staplehurst - supports

Chadd – yet to respond

Wall – “ would probably support from my own budget”

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Policy and Governance - Corporate Services: The Group has advised that the day is designed to foster community cohesion as well as stewardship of the environment.

However, since grants from this budget are not usually awarded for fundraising events, it might be more appropriate for the Group to contact their local members listed above for possible grant aid.

RECOMMENDATION

Nil on this occasion but assist the Group in approaching their local County Councillors for possible grant aid.

PART TWO

6. Investing In Hampshire

- 6.1 As part of the budget setting process for 2014/15 a number of new additions were made to the Capital Programme. In particular an amount of £3 million pounds a year for the next three years was provided for an Investing in Hampshire initiative.
- 6.2 Hampshire has a rich and diverse heritage and the County Council has always sought to provide support and develop strong links with the organisations that have responsibility for running and maintaining the most significant facilities and heritage assets.
- 6.3 The purpose of this funding was to ensure that the County Council has the capacity to invest in Hampshire as a place and in organisations and facilities that are unique to the County. This formalised a long held policy to support the major attractions across the County and give capacity to support the wider economic, cultural and social wellbeing benefits that these facilities, their visitors and tourism play in the local economy.
- 6.4 As part of the Capital Programme Review reported to Cabinet in July this year, £1.5M of the total funding was transferred to support flood mitigation measures around the County, given the importance of this investment following the severe weather and flooding during the year.
- 6.5 This leaves £7.5 million available to support the programme, although as yet none of this has been committed to any projects. A recent request has however been received from Gosport Borough Council for a £50,000 funding contribution to Alver Valley Country Park.
- 6.6 At the time the Investing in Hampshire funding was approved, it was accepted that criteria against which to assess applications would need to be put in place. This request from Gosport Borough Council can therefore be used to put in place those arrangements as part of this report.
- 6.7 In making an application the applicant will need to address specific points that will be considered as part of the criteria for funding and these are further explained in Appendix 1 of this section of the report, together with other proposed criteria for the Investing in Hampshire grants.
- 6.8 The Executive Member for Policy and Resources is therefore requested to agree the proposed criteria against which funding will be assessed as set out in Appendix 1 and to consider the specific request for funding submitted by Gosport Borough Council contained in Appendix 2.
- 6.9 Exceptionally it is suggested that the criteria for awards is regularly reviewed in line with submissions, potential funding streams and the benefits that the projects would bring.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That the Investing in Hampshire funding criteria as set out in Appendix 1 be approved
- 7.2 That the request for £50,000 of funding to support the Alver Valley Country Park improvements, set out in Appendix 2, be agreed.

FUNDING CRITERIA FOR INVESTING IN HAMPSHIRE

The following criteria should be taken into account when considering a request for funding.

1. Assistance will be considered only in response to direct applications from properly constituted organisations seeking assistance. The application must show that the organisation is properly and legally organised and has its own bank account. Funding would only be awarded if the proposal was to support activity within agreed County Council priorities.
2. Applications will only be considered for specific capital projects for the improvement or maintenance of significant assets or facilities within Hampshire, within agreed priorities and where other substantial funding exists.
3. The wider economic benefits to the residents of Hampshire should be considered together with any complementary benefits for Hampshire County Council. Awards would normally only be given to projects within the remit of Policy and Resources.
4. Awards will not usually be made in respect of applications from the following:-
 - Government Institutions
 - Schools
 - Overseas and out of County organisations which have no direct Hampshire involvement
 - Bodies requesting funds for onward distribution to other charities e.g. mayoral appeals, carnivals, fetes, or for their own fundraising events.
5. Applications will only be considered from faith groups where the application is in respect of a historically significant asset.
6. Apart from exceptional circumstances, the requesting body would be expected to provide their own funding towards the project.
7. As a general rule, grants in excess of £100,000 will not be awarded unless significant benefits and funding are available. In exceptional cases, where the benefits are significant and directly relate to services and functions close to the County Council's key objectives, then an award greater than the level above would be considered.
8. Given the longer term nature of capital projects, requests can be considered well in advance, but funding will only be released once evidence of capital expenditure has been provided to the County Council or other arrangements made consistent with the agreements of the Director of Corporate Resources..

INVESTING IN HAMPSHIRE – request from Gosport Borough Council

Applicant	Gosport Borough Council		
Name/Location of Facility	Alver Valley Country Park. Western Gateway, Cherque Way, Lee-on-the-Solent		
Summary of Project/Bid	<p>Working in partnership with the Hampshire County Council countryside team, Gosport Borough Council has revised the masterplan for the Alver Valley Country Park. The aim is to raise the profile of the Park in the sub-region, improve the facilities within the park and to create three gateway entrances.</p> <p>The first gateway is the Western Gateway which is situated off Cherque Way and will provide 45 car parking spaces, interpretation of the Country Park and its facilities and attractions, together with landscaping and biodiversity improvement.</p>		
Funding Requested	£50,000	Financial Year	2014/15
Funding Arrangements (including matched funding)	The total scheme is costed at £173,000. The Borough Council will fund £123,000 of the project and the balance is requested from Hampshire County Council.		
What are the benefits for Hampshire Residents?	<p>The car park will provide an opportunity for recreational access to the Country Park for the public of Gosport and the sub-region and will encourage many more residents of South Hampshire to visit this new public open space.</p> <p>In urban areas such as Gosport, green open space can make a huge difference to residents of all ages and backgrounds and will encourage healthy pursuits consistent with the public health agenda.</p>		
What are the complementary benefits for HCC?	<p>As mentioned above this contributes to the public health agenda, and it is the Borough Council's intent to widely publicise the improvements at the Country Park together with details of other Country Parks in the region run by Hampshire County Council.</p> <p>Full credit will of course be given for the financial contribution and master planning input provided by Hampshire County Council.</p>		
Any other relevant factors			

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

7.3 Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	No
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
7.4 Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
7.5 Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Business 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 received from organisations

Director of Policy and Governance - Corporate Services

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:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) 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:

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 general wellbeing of Hampshire residents and reduce the risk of crime occurring.

3. Climate Change

3.1. The initiatives proposed support the culture of self help and self reliance which may have been impacted by climate change.