

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	23 October 2014
<b>Decision Title:</b>	Grants to Voluntary Organisations and Other Bodies
<b>Decision Reference:</b>	6152
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Policy and Governance - Corporate Services

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#### 1. Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to consider two applications received for financial assistance from the Policy and Resources budget. Details of these requests are outlined in Appendix 2 to this report. A third request from United Savings and Loan Credit Union is included below.

##### United Savings and Loan Credit Union

1.2 A grant request has been received from the United Savings and Loan (US&L) credit union, which is based in Portsmouth but has a client base of around 7,000 people who are resident across the whole of Hampshire. The credit union is seeking grant support from the County Council and other authorities as part of its reconfiguration of its activities in order to make the credit union more self-sustaining in the future.

1.3 The credit union provides financial help, support and tailored products to people on low incomes or those that have difficulties in managing their debts. This is an important service to the community, not only because it provides access to savings products and loan finance for these individuals, but also because the union provides practical help and support to those in financial difficulties, rather than them turn to unscrupulous organisations who charge extortionate interest rates for the short-term loans that they provide.

1.4 The Government has provided national funding for the expansion and improvement of the credit union network recognising that their operating model needs to change to make them more self-sustaining. The Executive Member for Policy and Resources is therefore exceptionally asked to provide a grant of £30,000 to United Savings and Loan credit union, subject to the receipt of support from other authorities, on the basis that they support significant numbers of Hampshire residents and given that their activities support County Council objectives around economic development, tackling deprivation and social well-being. This would be in line with the policy of grant funding organisations that support Council objectives. The financial position of the credit union has been researched and is known. The balance of advantage involving some risk is to

support this activity on a one off basis and delegated authority is sought for the Director of Corporate Resources to finalise the conditions around the grant with US&L.

- 1.5 It should be noted that this award would be contingent upon the Union being able to substantiate that it has the relevant financial support from other authorities in place. It is therefore recommended that subject to the Executive Members decision the Director of Corporate Resources make the grant available if the financial support from other Councils is forthcoming.

## 2. **Budget Position**

- 2.1 The balance available for allocation from the 2014/15 grant budget at 23 October 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 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 That grants totalling £10,000 be approved from the Policy and Resources grants budget 2014/15 as outlined in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 5.2 That a grant of £30,000 is provided to United Savings and Loan credit union, subject to the receipt of support from other local authorities.
- 5.3 That delegated authority be given to the Director of Corporate Resources to finalise the conditions and payment of the grant to United Savings and Loan.

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

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	Yes
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	Yes
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	Yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
None		
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
None		

**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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Application forms received from organisations	Director of Policy and Governance - Corporate Services

## IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

### 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.

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.

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

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

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

1.4. 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.

### 1.5. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <http://intranet.hants.gov.uk/equality/equality-assessments.htm>

*Inset in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state*

- (a) *why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- (b) *will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions*

## 2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

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.

## 3. Climate Change:

3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

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

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

## 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 grants will only be awarded to projects which are taking place in the same year as application for funds.

## **BE YOUR BEST FOUNDATION (CG00006905)**

### **PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

The Be Your Best Foundation is seeking £5,000 towards the cost of organising the Global Rock Challenge events during March/April 2015 at the Southampton and Portsmouth Guildhalls.

It is expected that around 3,000 young people from Hampshire (aged between 7 and 18 years) will participate in these events, with a further 6,000 people who are relatives/friends of the performers. The participants will experience benefits in many areas, including, increased self-esteem, improved teamwork skills, better relationships with peers and teachers, improved attendance in school, reduced use of tobacco, alcohol and illegal substances and reduced anti-social behaviour

**Total Expenditure:** £131,250 (venue hire, technical fees, staffing, etc.)

**Total Income:** £126,250 (Ticket sales: £73,000; Ticket sales: £5,000;

PCC Funds: £25,000; DAAT Funds: £7,500 – outcome awaited)

**Shortfall:** £5,000

### **APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:**

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

### **AMOUNT OF REQUEST:**

£5,000

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

**This budget:** The Foundation has received £5,000 towards this event over a number of years.

### **COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER**

This is a county-wide application and therefore there is no local member.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

**Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services:** 38 Schools within the County participated in this event earlier this year, with 45 expected for the 2015 event.

**Director of Children’s Services:** This organisation has a proven track record in delivering improved outcomes for children and young people year on year. This is a modest sum being sought and demonstrates good value for money for the County Council.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

£5,000

## **JUBILEE SAILING TRUST (CG 00007138)**

### **PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

The aim of the Jubilee Sailing Trust is to promote the integration of men and women of all physical abilities through the challenge and adventure of Tall Ship sailing. On board its two fully accessible tall ships everybody gets the chance to participate in all aspects of running the ship. The Trust is seeking grant funding to provide subsidies for Hampshire residents undertaking voyages.

**Total Expenditure:** £200,000 (400 residents X £500 subsidy)

**Total Income:** £18,000 (£3,000 own funds, the remainder from other local authorities and trusts)

**Shortfall:** £182,000

### **APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:**

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

### **AMOUNT OF REQUEST:**

£10,000

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

This Trust has received £5,000 per annum for the last 3 years towards these subsidies. It has also applied to and received a total of £1,000 from two members' budgets and a further £1,000 from CCBS budget for a festival weekend.

### **COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER**

This is a Southampton based organisation and therefore there is no local member.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

**Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services:** Should a grant be awarded it is recommended that this be subject to satisfactory evidence that the monies should be spent on vulnerable adults within Hampshire.

**Director of Children's Services:** Although this department is fully supportive of this organisation who work with Enham Trust, Probation Service, Treloars College, Hampshire Deaf Association and Headway.

**Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services:** This organisation provides quality sailing experiences for physically disabled and able bodied Hampshire residents. Their work does link to the County Council's core priorities as it provides opportunities for individuals to contribute and develop themselves in a positive environment. A grant is recommended.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

£5,000