

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date of Decision:	12 December 2014
Decision Title:	Investing in Hampshire
Decision Reference:	6316
Report From:	Director of Corporate Resources - Corporate Services

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1. **Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to consider two applications received for financial contributions from the Investing in Hampshire fund. Details of these requests are outlined in Appendix 2 to this report.

2. **Background**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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 or provide an important role within the communities they support. This formalised a long held policy to support the major tourist attractions across the County and give capacity to support the wider economic, cultural and social wellbeing benefits that these and other facilities play in the local economy.
- 2.4 As part of the Capital Programme Review reported to Cabinet in July this year, £1.5 million 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.
- 2.5 This leaves £7.5 million available to support the programme. £50,000 of this was approved earlier this year for a funding contribution to Alver Valley Country Park and there is recommendation in a separate report presented elsewhere on this agenda for total funding (part loan, part contribution) of £750,000 towards a Technology and Skills Centre at Andover College.

2.6 Further awards totalling £550,000 are recommended in this report, which would leave a total of £6.15 million for other awards.

3. **Grants Criteria**

- 3.1 A copy of the criteria for considering Investing in Hampshire awards were approved by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources in September and are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.2 In considering requests for funding, applicants are asked to provide the information as set out in Appendix 2 in order for the request to be properly considered against the criteria in a formal report to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources.
- 3.3 However, it is likely that there may be potential scenarios in the future where decisions are required quickly in order to progress a project (for example where a bid for other funding is being submitted and the organisation needs to demonstrate that other funding is already in place).
- 3.4 This report therefore recommends that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director of Corporate Resources to agree funding requests at short notice where required, subject to these being retrospectively reported at an Executive Member for Policy and Resources decision day.

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. **Recommendations:**

- 5.1 That the request for £400,000 of funding to support the Youth Drop in Centre in Ringwood is approved, subject to other external funding streams being agreed.
- 5.2 That the request for £150,000 of funding for Winchester Cathedral is approved subject to the Winchester Cathedral Trust raising the other £150,000 funding and consideration of concessions being granted by them for future use and events by the County Council and Hampshire schools.
- 5.3 That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director of Corporate Resources to agree Investing in Hampshire funding requests at short notice where appropriate, subject to these being retrospectively reported at an Executive Member for Policy and Resources decision day.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

5.4 Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
5.5 Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
5.6 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 information received from organisations

Director of Corporate Resources - 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 proposals in this report will have a positive impact on equalities given the nature of the projects that they support and the fact that they will target certain groups who might otherwise experience exclusion.

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 through the provision of facilities that will support the local community.

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. The building related aspects of the projects will have due regard to reducing the impact on climate change.

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 agreement of the Director of Corporate Resources.

INVESTING IN HAMPSHIRE – Request from Ringwood Town Council

Applicant	Ringwood Town Council		
Name / Location of Facility	Youth Drop In Centre - Carvers playing field, Ringwood		
Summary of Project / Bid	<p>The aim of the project is to provide a purpose built youth drop in centre that will go alongside a new skate park facility, replacing the existing not fit for purpose building and responding to the growing youth population in the area.</p> <p>The facilities will be provided to house a youth club with regular activities but also to provide advice support on a wide range of issues such as learning and development and sexual health.</p>		
Funding Requested	£400,000	Financial Year	2014/15 and 2015/16
Funding Arrangements (including matched funding)	The total scheme is costed at £710,000. The Town Council will fund £75,000 (including the land value), New Forest District Council have been asked for a contribution of £135,000 and a further £100,000 has been requested from the Police and Crime Commissioner.		
What are the benefits for Hampshire Residents?	<p>The facilities will provide significant facilities for young people in Ringwood Town and the surrounding Hinterland. Services and facilities being offered to young people and the wider community include :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A youth club with regular activities, such as: games, activities, youth café, trips, sports, events, gigs and shows. 2. It will provide a 'hot spot' access point for internet searches and following social media. 3. It will form a permanent base for all youth based activities and youth workers. 4. It will be a hireable facility for young people in the community for parties and events. 5. Session spaces will be offered to other youth organisations including: It's Your Choice (registered charity), Ground Works (registered charity), Parentlink (registered charity), Community First (registered charity) to provide their services to young people. 6. It will support Sporting activities at the site for main stream and skateboarding 7. It will provide a meeting place for the Council's Youth Advisers where they can hold smaller meetings prior to council meetings. 		

<p>What are the complementary benefits for HCC?</p>	<p>There are a significant number of complementary benefits that fit with the wider service aims of objectives of the County Council in the areas of youth provision, social care, public health and learning and development. These include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sexual health advice, including Chlamydia and pregnancy testing. 2. Providing training opportunities for young people including the possibility of Apprenticeships and on line learning courses. 3. Offering free counselling to those young people who have been referred or identified by youth services. 4. Offering Drug and Alcohol advice and support for smoking cessation. 5. The facility will be easily accessible and offer activities for young people with additional needs. 6. Providing a space for supervised visits for young people in care to meet their parents and relatives. 7. Supporting Y.O.T. in providing points of contact with their client group. 8. Reducing anti social behaviour and crime.
<p>Any other relevant factors?</p>	

INVESTING IN HAMPSHIRE – Request from Winchester Cathedral Trust

Applicant	Winchester Cathedral Trust		
Name / Location of Facility	New Learning Centre – Winchester Cathedral		
Summary of Project / Bid	<p>The New Learning Centre at the Cathedral is nearing completion and will provide an exciting new facility that will complement the Cathedral as one of the key heritage assets within Hampshire.</p> <p>Funding is required to complete the final elements of the scheme including access for disabled people and landscaping from the old Education Centre to the new facility.</p>		
Funding Requested	£150,000	Financial Year	2014/15 and 2015/16
Funding Arrangements (including matched funding)	<p>The total cost of the New Learning Centre is estimated to be £3.2 million and the majority of the funding has been raised by the Winchester Cathedral Trust, together with an original contribution from the County Council of £500,000.</p> <p>It is estimated that a total of £300,000 is now required to properly finish the project in line with the original aspirations of the scheme. £150,000 of this will be raised by the Trust with a further £150,000 being requested from the County Council.</p>		
What are the benefits for Hampshire Residents?	<p>The existing Education Centre at the Cathedral was in great need of improvement and extension in order to ensure that the educational facilities were more in keeping with the 21st Century.</p> <p>The original project identified specific areas for improvement to the existing Education Centre, including internal remodelling and refurbishment of the existing accommodation and a proposal for a new build addition with the existing walled garden which will provide larger, better serviced and more accessible and secure teaching spaces.</p> <p>The new facilities and proposed refurbishment works will enable the Cathedral to offer increased capacity, quality and flexibility for schools' visits and the potential to broaden the educational offer to include adult and life long learning.</p> <p>This final stage of the project will ensure proper accessibility for all potential visitors and will complete the works to external areas that will complement and link the various facilities together, maintaining the Cathedral's position as a key heritage asset and tourist attraction within the County and also securing the wellbeing and economic benefits that this brings.</p>		

What are the complementary benefits for HCC?	<p>Winchester Cathedral receives thousands of young people from a wide range of schools, for many of whom this will be their first visit to the Cathedral or to any church building. The proposed improvements to the Education Centre will significantly improve the education experience of Winchester Cathedral for the benefit of Hampshire school children.</p> <p>As part of the agreement of the funding, the Trust will be asked to consider what concessionary terms could be offered to Hampshire Schools together with free or discounted use to the County Council for future events. These will be agreed through future discussions with the Trust.</p>
Any other relevant factors?	