

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships
Date:	20 January 2015
Title:	Have Your Say – Funding Requests
Reference:	6385
Report From:	Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

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1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this paper is to consider two funding requests received from the Have Your Say budget.

2. Budget position

The balance available for allocation from the 2014/15 Have Your Say grant budget at 20 January 2015 is £140,000.

If grants were approved at the amounts being recommended a total of £35,000 would be committed from this budget, leaving £105,000 remaining.

3. Contextual Information

Have Your Say is a grant stream inviting applications to organise and run small scale community participatory budget events. These organisations, or delivery partners, must have the ability to operate such a scheme locally, and potentially link this with other resources for the community to make decisions regarding the funding of local projects. This will mean that the organisation holds an event for the community to decide which projects they want in their area by voting on them. The purpose is to allow local people to have a say and determine which local projects receive funding from the County Council in order to help improve their local environment, to support local groups or strengthen their community.

4. Grant criteria

A copy of the criteria used for considering grants from the Have Your Say budget is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

5. Legal Implications

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.

6. Recommendation

That grants totalling £35,000 be awarded to those organisations in the amounts shown in Appendix 2 to this report.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
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

Application forms from requesting organisations

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IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

Equality Duty

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:

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.

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

- why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- 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:

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

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 HAVE YOUR SAY GRANT

The scheme will open 1 June 2014 and close 31 March 2015 (or earlier if funds have been used).

Grant criteria and eligibility

The schemes will *normally* need to meet the following criteria:

- **Majority** support of your local County Councillor(s) prior to submitting a “Have Your Say” scheme application.
- The successful scheme should actively encourage the submission of **all** proposed small scale grass roots community projects in the local area.
- A transparent screening process will need to be established in order to assess the legality and viability of the proposals, and to ensure those projects which are not viable or deliverable do not proceed to the public decision/event/vote. Examples of unsuitable projects include, (this is not an exhaustive list): those which are political, campaign driven or form part of a pressure group; and those that do not embrace diversity and community cohesion. Applications from religious groups may be considered, but the application must show that the project will bring wider community benefit.
- There should be a mechanism for the **wider** public to determine how funds are allocated to projects (e.g. event or voting system).
- Any awards made must recognise the County Council’s funding under the heading of “Have your Say”.
- Local County Councillors must be involved in the eventual grant award* (**but excludes the grant award process**) and the County Council is likely to promote publicly, grants awards.
- The applicant will be accountable to the County Council for the successful delivery of any funded projects and will be required to monitor the outcomes from the successful projects and provide a report to Hampshire County Council upon the conclusion of the scheme.
- Any funds not allocated by applicants or awards not applied to the successful projects within the agreed period must be returned to the County Council.
- There is flexibility on the way a “Have Your Say” event is run as long as each scheme meets the above criteria.

Who can apply?

Applications can be made by constituted organisations for running an event(s) within the administrative County of Hampshire.

Application Process

- Applications will be considered by the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships. Views of your local County Councillor will be sought and taken into account.
- Organisations/groups applying to run a scheme must complete the appropriate application form, preferably using the electronic application process.

Financial issues

- Organisations are able to apply for a share of £200,000 in order to run a local “Have Your Say” event.
- It is envisaged that schemes are likely to be for between £2,000 - £2,500 for an area which a single County Councillor covers, and in multiples thereafter.
- Grant payments will be one-off, and there should be no expectation of future funding.
- The grants are expected to support projects and not to contribute to an organisation’s revenue costs. 5% of the County Council funding can be used as a contribution to the costs of administering the scheme, including the holding of events. Match funding from other organisations, to increase the size of a “Have Your Say” event is encouraged, but match funding is not a requirement.

TEST VALLEY PARTNERSHIP (CG00008078)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Grant towards the “Have Your Say Community Grants Scheme”

Test Valley Partnership is working to further develop methods by which partner organisations (including both the County and Borough Councils) are able to support more of its communities to identify and prioritise their own needs so that ambitions can be achieved for the places they live in. Its work seeks to develop decision making, community engagement and the strengthening of representative and participative democracy at a grass roots level. This funding will provide practical resources which communities can use to take forward their projects on the basis that a need has been identified.

To ensure fair distribution, it is proposed that £17,500 will be divided into two pots, north Test Valley (including Test Valley Central division) and southern Test Valley.

In addition to stalls being held in Stockbridge, Andover and Romsey, voting will be available through an online form and telephone poll.

Total Expenditure: £17,500 (total amount distributed to applicants)

Total Income: £0

Shortfall: £17,500

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£17,500

CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL MEMBERS

The local members have been consulted and this request has received majority support.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services: Should a grant be awarded, the applicant must agree to stating that this funding has come from the County Council in all generated publicity.

RECOMMENDATION

£17,500

WINCHESTER AREA COMMUNITY ACTION (CG00007889)**PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Winchester Area Community Action (WACA) wishes to enhance its relationships with the voluntary network across the district and are inviting community groups to apply for small grants of up to £1,000 to fund capital expenditure for new projects and match-funding.

WACA will use its own website, local and social media platforms to promote applicants to as wide a possible range of Winchester residents, who will be invited to vote for two projects they wish to see funded. Applicants will also be encouraged to use their own networks to build support for their bids. One project per Division will be guaranteed funding to ensure that rural localities are not disadvantaged by a lower population density.

Telephone polls as well as online voting will be used to ensure fair access and combat digital disadvantage.

Total Expenditure: £16,625 (Grants) and £875 (5% Admin)

Total Income: £0

Shortfall: £17,500

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£17,500

CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL MEMBERS

The local members have been consulted and this request has received majority support.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services: WACA wish to build on the success of last year's event and a grant is therefore recommended to further develop engagement with the community.

RECOMMENDATION

£17,500