

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date of Decision:	02 June 2015
Decision Title:	Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations and Other Bodies
Decision Reference:	6693
Report From:	Director of Policy and Governance - Corporate Services

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1. **Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report is to consider giving financial assistance to the New Forest and Hampshire County Show. It also gives details of a recent donation awarded to the Gurkha Welfare Society towards its Earthquake Appeal.

a. New Forest and Hampshire County Show

The New Forest and Hampshire County Show is an annual show held for three days at the end of July at New Park in Brockenhurst. The event attracts around 95,000 visitors over the duration and this year, the Household Cavalry Musical Ride are performing in the main ring twice each day over the three days. This will be the first time the Household Cavalry have performed at the venue in over 20 years.

A request from the Show's organisers has been received for sponsorship of £5,000 for the Countryside area.

Comments of the Director of Policy and Governance: This Show is rated among the top ten agricultural shows in the Country and a grant of £5,000 is recommended.

b. Gurkha Welfare Society

Following the recent earthquake in Nepal, the Gurkha Welfare Society set up an appeal to raise funds to help families and communities affected by the disaster. Funds raised will be used towards the following:

- Medical aid, food, shelter, etc
- Rebuilding homes
- Repairing water supply systems

- Repairing schools
- Repairing infrastructure

Hampshire has a longstanding relationship with Nepal, through the Gurkha regiment and their Nepalese families based in the north of the County. In view of the fast moving schedule of disaster relief in Nepal, an urgent grant of £20,000 was agreed by the Director of Policy and Governance on 22 May 2015, in consultation with the Executive Member for Policy and Resources, towards this appeal. It is now being reported here for the Executive Member to note.

2. **Budget Position**

- 2.1 The budget available for the meeting on 2 June 2015 is £164,500. This figure already takes into account the donation of £20,000 towards the above-mentioned Earthquake Appeal.

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. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 5.1 That financial assistance of £5,000 be awarded for the Countryside area at the New Forest and Hampshire County Show taking place at the end of July.
- 5.2 That the Director of Policy and Governance's decision, in consultation with the Executive Member for Policy and Resources, to make an urgent grant of £20,000 towards the Gurkha Welfare Society's Earthquake Appeal be noted.

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

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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
None		
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<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>
correspondence received from organisations	Director of Policy and Governance

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:

The proposals in this report aim to improve the wellbeing of Hampshire residents and reduce the risk of crime occurring.

3. Climate Change:

There is no significant link to Climate Change as a result of this decision.

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.