

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	21 January 2016
Title:	Community Buildings Capital Fund 2015/16 (requests for £15,000 and under)
Reference:	7237
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside for £15,000 from the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2015/16.

2. Summary of grants:

- 2.1 Community Buildings Capital Fund 2015/16 applications

Organisation	District	£
Hampshire Arts and Crafts CIC	Romsey, Test Valley	15,000
Total		15,000

3. Contextual Information

- 3.1 The County Council works in partnership with specific community organisations, particularly Community Associations and Village Hall Trusts which seek to enable local people to meet the recreational, educational, social, cultural and environmental needs of their local communities. These

organisations give local people an opportunity to participate in local activities and encourage local initiatives by people of all ages.

- 3.2 Partnership funding from the Community Buildings Capital Fund enables the voluntary and community sector to maintain the quality of Hampshire's village halls and Community Association buildings. This finance enables improvements to be made to those buildings and can assist with the development of new facilities where appropriate. The provision of these buildings by the voluntary and community sector enable local communities to access the services and facilities they need. Details of the grant criteria are set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 By providing financial support to these organisations for the maintenance of their buildings, the County Council is able to work in partnership with the community sector to achieve the Corporate Priority.
- 3.4 One organisation has applied for 2015/16 funding and details are set out in Appendix 2.

4. Budget Position

4.1 2015/16

Budget approval for 2015/16	125,000
Carry forward from 2014/15	5,984
Grants awarded to date (5 March 2015, 16 July 2015)	68,195
Grants recommended for approval 14 September 2015 (grants of £15,000 and under in this report)	48,471
Plus £35,000 transfer from revenue grants (see Agenda Item 4) +	35,000
Remaining balance available	49,318

5. Other Considerations

- 5.1 Legal Implications: The Council has wide powers under Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to provide recreational facilities and to contribute by way of a grant or loan towards the expenses incurred by voluntary bodies in providing such facilities and activities.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:
 - i) Approves grants for £15,000 from the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2015/16.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
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):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>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.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

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:

A high level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1 Not applicable.

3. Climate Change:

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

Appendix 1

Community Buildings Capital Fund

What is funded?

The Community Buildings Capital Fund supports capital based projects including refurbishment and improvement of Hampshire community centres, village halls and charitable and voluntary organisations (which offer a full and varied open access community programme).

Hampshire County Council can fund up to a maximum of 50% of the total project costs not exceeding a maximum grant of £15,000.

As a one-off opportunity, the County Council has set aside £1m from the Capital Programme for a programme of significant improvements to community centres and village halls. If you wish to apply for a larger grant of over £25,000, it is also anticipated that a small number of grants of up to £150,000 will be awarded for projects valued at £50,000 and over which substantially improve the building to increase usage or which enable the joint use of a building by the merger of two or more community organisations. Projects should be well developed, ideally with planning permission in place, and organisations should also apply for funding from their local borough or district council, where available. This budget has been added to the existing Community Buildings Capital Fund and will be granted to projects meeting the criteria below taking place in the financial year of 2016/17 (and 2017/18 if appropriate). **There is a different application process for these larger proposals.**

The aim of this funding programme is to focus primarily on projects which provide improvements that reduce running costs. By way of example at one end of the scale, the installation of insulation, new windows and a modern central heating system could have a significant effect on heating costs as well as carbon footprint. At the other end of the scale would be the merging of two self-standing facilities into one. An example could be the building of an extension onto an existing centre to accommodate the needs of other local community groups which were previously housed in an old, inadequate building with very high maintenance and heating bills.

The programme is not designed to be over prescriptive and developed innovative ideas for projects are encouraged.

What isn't funded?

The following organisations are not funded under this scheme:

- Parish Councils
- Other local authorities
- Groups and organisations whose main priority is of an individual focus or single use i.e. playgroup, lunch clubs or youth groups
- Uniformed organisations
- School properties
- Sports clubs
- Theatres

The following projects are not funded under this scheme:

- The purchase of land.
- Equipment not directly attributable to the building i.e. we will fund fitted kitchen equipment and sound systems, but would not fund a television or hi-fi system. We will also not fund equipment intended for the use of a separate trading arm or commercial organisation using the premises.
- Capital works that have already been carried out. We cannot retrospectively fund projects, grants are awarded for works to be carried out in the future.

Organisations will not normally be awarded more than one grant per financial year (previously funded projects must be completed before a new application is made). If an organisation requires an emergency request outside of the above dates please contact CCBSgrants@hants.gov.uk.

Grant criteria and eligibility

The Community Buildings Capital Fund is open to the following community based organisations who benefit a local community/local communities in Hampshire, support the priorities and outcomes of Hampshire County Council's [Strategic Plan 2013-17 'Shaping Hampshire: modern, public services for the future'](#) and improve the health and wellbeing for all, improving the quality of life for all, particularly those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged:

- Village halls (not parish-run halls)
- Community associations
- Charitable and voluntary organisations which offer a full and varied open access community programme.

These organisations must be properly constituted with clear and effective local governance and management structures.

Organisations will not normally be eligible for grants where they hold unallocated reserves in excess of one year's running costs. Where it is judged that unallocated reserves are unreasonably in excess of what is required or not allocated for legitimate purposes, those organisations may receive a reduced grant. All charitable organisations are expected to have an agreed reserves policy that addresses their financial risk.

Grant criteria

Capital based projects must fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Building repairs, extensions and refurbishments
- Capital improvements that reduce running costs
- Health and Safety issues
- Equipment that will become a permanent fixture within the building which improves access and/or increases usage (the exception to this are tables, chairs and storage units which will also be funded)
- Capital based feasibility studies.

Organisations need to demonstrate:

- The provision of open access community programmes/activities from the community building for the benefit of the local community.
- The impact the capital based project will make to the local community, the organisation and wider society (if appropriate).
- The local community have been involved in identifying the need for the project and support it.

Applicants will be expected to have obtained permission from the landlord to undertake the capital work. If required applicants will also be expected to have obtained (or engaged in the process of) planning permission and/or listed buildings consent (if appropriate) to carry out the works.

Where appropriate, depending on the grant sum requested, the organisation will be expected to submit supporting documentation. All documentation will be used, alongside the application form, to assess against the grant criteria.

**Community Buildings Capital Fund 2015/16
Application assessment summary**

Each grant application has been assessed against the Community Buildings Capital Fund criteria (Appendix 1) using a standard template.

Project funding requests

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Total project costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount recommended capital fund 2015/16
Hampshire Arts and Crafts CIC (Test Valley / Romsey)	£150,000	<p>The organisation, a not for profit social enterprise; an art & craft gallery, café, education and community facilities in a 3-floored listed building, has applied for funding to install a lift to ensure all 3 floors of the building are accessible plus a heat recovery system to reduce running costs.</p> <p>The activities offered are predominately arts and craft based, but they do host some other community activities plus there is use of the café by the community. They also work with a range of organisations providing workshops for disadvantaged groups, college and school students plus school holiday workshops for local children. The organisation anticipates community use will substantially increase with the improvement to accessibility. They have recently negotiated a new lease on the building that lasts up to 2032.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The organisation has been awarded £25,000 from TVBC and are intending to apply for £50,000 from both the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council next year. They received £12,500 from the Capital Grant Fund in 2013/14. Councillor Perry has been consulted.</p> <p>It is recommended Hampshire Arts and Crafts CIC is awarded 50% of actual project costs to a maximum of £15,000 on the condition that they have confirmed the balance of the funding for the entire project.</p>	£25,000	£15,000
TOTAL	£150,000		£25,000	£15,000