

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
<b>Date:</b>	26 January 2016
<b>Title:</b>	Community Buildings Capital Fund 2015/16 (requests for £25,000 and over)
<b>Reference:</b>	7112
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The primary purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Executive Member for Policy and Resources for £28,000 from the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2015/16.

#### 2. Summary of grants:

- 2.1 Applications to the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2015/16 (requests for £25,000 and over)

Organisation	District	£
Nether Wallop Village Hall Trust	Test Valley	£28,000

#### 3. Contextual Information

- 3.1 The Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside is responsible for a capital grant scheme for community buildings which has been running for many years. There is usually £125,000 in the budget each year which is allocated to a variety of community groups, up to a maximum of £15,000 per organisation. The applications for these grants go to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside for approval at his Decision Days throughout the year.
- 3.2 In October 2014 the Leader of the Council announced the allocation of a further £1million to the Community Buildings Capital Grant scheme. This will

be allocated across 2015/16 and 2016/17 and grants of up to £150,000 will be awarded to projects which substantially increase the usage of a community building or enable joint use of a building by the merger of two or more groups. Details of the grant criteria are set out in Appendix 1. These grants will go to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources for decision, having first been via a small Sub Committee set up by the Policy and Resources Select Committee.

- 3.3 Nine expressions of interest (EIO) were submitted by the deadline of 8 October 2015. Three of these have been rejected at this point as they do not meet the criteria for the grant and five applications are now being fully assessed. The ninth EIO is from Nether Wallop Village Hall Trust. This is dissimilar to the other applications as the Trust has been very successful in fundraising and is only requesting a relatively small grant of £28,000 towards the costs of building a new village hall which total £249,000. It is therefore proposed to simplify the process for the Trust by fast tracking this application. Details of the application for the grant are set out in Appendix 2.

#### 4. Budget Position

4.1 <b>2015/16:</b>	<b>£</b>
Budget Approval for 2015/16	1,000,000
Grants approved 9 April 2015 (requests for £25,000 and over)	80,500
Grants recommended for approval 25 January 2016 (requests for £25,000 and over)	28,000
<b>Remaining balance available</b>	<b>891,500</b>

#### 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 Policy and Resources:
- i) Approves the grant of £28,000 to Nether Wallop Village Hall from the Community Building Capital Fund.

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

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	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

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 was undertaken as part of the recent review of grants. It identified that the proposed changes to the grants are intended to have a positive impact.

### **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.

## Hampshire County Council Grant Criteria for Community Buildings Capital Fund 2015/16

### 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).

For 2015/16 financial year only the County Council has set aside £1m from the Capital Programme for a programme of 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 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. 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 2015/16 (and 2016/17 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.

## 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 (requests for £25,000 and over) 2015/16  
Application assessment summary**

Each grant application has been assessed against the Community Buildings Capital Fund criteria (Appendix 1.1) using a standard template.

**Project funding request**

Organisation	Project Title  Total project costs	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount recommended capital fund 2015/16
<b>Nether Wallop Village Hall Trust</b>  <i>(Test Valley)</i>	New Village Hall  £249,115.69	<p>The organisation seeks funding towards a new building to replace the dilapidated existing hall which is no longer economic to sustain or suitable for modern usage. Its basic design fails to meet current standards for disabled access, kitchen and toilet facilities, heating and insulation, as identified in a structural survey. A Community Survey of Need was carried out in 2011 covering 317 households. There was a 30% response where 85% of those taking part were in favour of a new hall on the same site.</p> <p>Activities in the present hall are limited due to the lack of facilities and building condition. However, the following activities are examples of current usage: Art classes, bridge nights, ballroom dancing, Fish &amp; Chip Nights, Parish Council meetings. Occasional Activities – Quiz Nights (up to 80 people) private parties, Jumble sales and charity fund-raisers, Table tennis matches. Post Office facility operates 2 mornings a week. It is anticipated that activities will increase once the village has a hall that is fit for purpose.</p> <p>The Village Hall Trust has been successful in raising £220,000 from a range of funders including £109,000 from the local community.</p> <p>Note: Further funding raised include £6,000 Rank Foundation, £15,000 Garfield Weston Foundation, £60,000 Veolia Trust, £25,000 Test Valley Borough Council , £5,000 Bernard Sunley Foundation.</p> <p>Councillor Gibson has been consulted.</p> <p><b>It is recommended that Nether Wallop Village Hall is awarded £28,000 toward the build of the new village Hall. This funding must be used to fund items within the criteria of this grant scheme.</b></p>	£28,000	£28,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£28,000</b>	<b>£28,000</b>