

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member Policy and Resources
<b>Date:</b>	20 July 2016
<b>Title:</b>	Hampshire Community Fund
<b>Reference:</b>	7525
<b>Report From:</b>	Chief Executive

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**(prepared in conjunction with Mary Cox, Legal Services and Andrew Boutflower Corporate Resources)**

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#### **1. Executive Summary**

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to propose the transfer of endowment funds under the trusteeship or management of Hampshire County Council to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) and the establishment of a "Hampshire Community Fund" into which such funds will be placed and HIWCF will manage this fund.

#### **2. Contextual information**

2.1. The County Council is a trustee for, or manages, a range of trust funds which have been established to support opportunities for residents of Hampshire through music and arts, sport, education and training. This includes a number of small and dormant funds as well as some active funds.

2.2. The County Council has been working with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) to consider how small and dormant trusts with a low capital value might be consolidated, used to generate income and to invest in good causes for Hampshire residents. There is also scope to accommodate and add value to a number of more active funds under this arrangement.

2.3. It is proposed that the Hampshire Community Fund (HCF) would be held and managed by HIWCF. The cost of HIWCF setting up the HCF and future operating costs will be met from the funds that are transferred to HIWCF. Initial funds have been identified for transfer where the County Council is the sole trustee and with a combined current capital value of less than £19,000. Charity Commission approval would be sought to these funds being

transferred to HIWCF, consolidated within the new Hampshire Community Fund and the existing trusts then closed.

- 2.4. A number of other potential trust funds for possible inclusion have been identified with a combined current, capital value of around £580,000. In most cases for these funds there are joint or lay trustees and interested parties who will need to be specifically consulted before these can be considered for transfer.
- 2.5. HIWCF has already established a separate Hampshire Older People's Fund under a similar agreement with the County Council. This generates private contributions towards initiatives which promote the wellbeing and independence of vulnerable older people. Where appropriate, identified dormant endowment funds held by the County Council could be transferred to this existing fund..
- 2.6. HIWCF is a registered charity which specialises in fund management and grant giving, working with the Charities Commission to enable moribund funds to be used productively for social purposes. It has worked with other authorities in the region to establish similar arrangements and is involved in national efforts to bring into use millions of pounds of dormant funds to support charitable objectives.
- 2.7. The benefits of the proposal would be:
  - More cost effective management of a range of small funds
  - An opportunity and realistic ambition for the fund to grow through the role of HIWCF in managing other legacy donations.
  - An opportunity for HIWCF to consider grant applications in relation to a range of other funds they hold to ensure maximum added value.
- 2.8. In all cases these are trust funds for which the County Council is acting on behalf of donors and should not be confused with grants from County Council fund.
- 2.9. The proposal would be established under an agreement with HIWCF with the initial identified low capital value funds which would provide a framework for transferring additional funds in which the County Council has a role, subject to appropriate consultation on a case by case basis..
- 2.10. The purpose and priorities of the HCF should reflect the range of general objects of the current funds in scope. The beneficiaries of the HCF would be residents of Hampshire who require additional support to access education, training, employment, arts, music and other support to improve their wellbeing and life chances. Support from the HCF would be open to organisations or individuals proposed by organisations.
- 2.11. The Agreement will need to provide for the potential inclusion of the additional more active funds recognising that they may be subject to specific conditions including the ability to ring-fence funds and to ensure specific objects remain reflected.
- 2.12. The County Council will be able to appoint persons to the panel established by HIWCF to determine grant applications and decisions would be validated

and ratified by the HIWCF as the fund manager. The Panel would also be consulted on the level of annual award levels and funding priorities within the framework of the Fund objects.

- 2.13. An annual report would be presented by HIWCF to the County Council covering fund management and investment, awards and impact monitoring.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1. The Executive Member for Policy and Resources is asked to:

- I. agrees to Hampshire County Council entering into an agreement with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) for the transfer of endowment funds to HIWCF in order to establish a "Hampshire Community Fund" into which such funds shall be placed and managed by HIWCF subject to obtaining the necessary consents from the Charity Commission.
- II. agrees that the agreement with HIWCF be finalised by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Executive Member for Policy and Resources.
- III. authorises the Chief Executive to agree with HIWCF the application to the Charity Commission for consent to the transfer of the initial low capital value dormant endowment funds to HIWCF for inclusion within the Hampshire Community Fund and, subject to such consent, authorise the subsequent transfer of these funds to HIWCF and the closure of these existing trusts.
- IV. authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Member for Policy and Resources, on a case by case basis, to consult interested parties on proposals for transferring additional endowment funds in which the County Council has a current management role into the Hampshire Community Fund to be managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation.

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

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	yes
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	yes

**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

Specific documents and correspondence relating to individual trusts

Chief Executive (Legal 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:**

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.

### **1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

The proposal will not have a material impact on groups with protected characteristics since the new fund will reflect the purposes and intended beneficiaries of the original trusts to be consolidated. The proposal represents a change in trusteeship and management of the funds rather than a change in their purpose.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

Not applicable

### **3. Climate Change:**

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable