

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report :**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	12 March 2010
Title:	Community Buildings Fund 2009/10
Reference:	1357
Report from	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

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1. Executive Summary:

- 1.1 The County Council provides partnership funding from the Community Buildings Fund for capital projects to Community Associations, Village Hall Trusts and similar bodies as outlined in the fund's criteria. This enables the voluntary and community sector to maintain the quality of Hampshire's cultural assets, namely community centres and village halls, some of which are listed.
- 1.2 This report provides details of the financial position of the Community Buildings Fund in 2009/10 and details requests for partnership funding from this fund.

2. Applications considered in this report:

Hall/Centre	District	£
Cheriton Village Hall Management Committee	Winchester	1,450
East Stratton Village Hall Management Committee	Winchester	1,237
Long Sutton Village Hall Management Committee	Hart	4,152
TOTAL		6,839

3. Contextual Information:

- 3.1 The County Council works in partnership with specific community organisations particularly community associations and village hall trusts who 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 Fund enables the voluntary and community sector to maintain the quality of Hampshire's cultural assets, namely their village halls and community association buildings, some of which are listed. 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.
- 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 – Enhancing our Quality of Place.

4. Budget Position:

- 4.1 A sum of £80,000 was originally set aside in the 2009/10 capital programme for Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs to support the Community Buildings Fund. Since then an allocation of £25,000 has been made to the fund from the Rural Action Plan Fund to support applications from village halls bringing the total available for distribution to £105,000. To date £169,167 has been allocated this year and if the recommendations in this report, which amount to £6,839, are approved then this total will rise to £176,006. This over-commitment of £71,006 is within the sum identified as available following a review of the 2005/06 fund activity.

5. Criteria for Grant:

- 5.1 The partnership funding distribution criteria is set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 Projects listed in Appendix 2 meet fully the criteria and have been allocated a proposed level of partnership funding in line with the criteria.

6. Other Considerations

6.1 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 grant or loan towards expenses incurred by voluntary bodies in providing such facilities.

6.2 Impact Assessment

Organisations applying to this scheme are by their nature defined as accessible to all members of the community. This is embodied within their charitable objects, therefore no groups or organisations should be excluded from any benefit arising from these decisions. Furthermore the

application procedure includes equalities monitoring information as agreed as part of the corporate review of grants programmes and procedures.

7. Recommendations:

That partnership funding totalling £6,839 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2009/10.

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Cheriton Village Hall Management Committee	Winchester	1,450
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CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Business 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.)

Document

Location

Applications for financial assistance

Community Support Service
 Department for Culture, Communities
 and Rural Affairs
 Mottisfont Court, Winchester

Appendix 1

CRITERIA FOR THESE GRANTS:

The partnership funding distribution criteria for the Community Buildings Fund is as follows:

Partnership funding is granted for:

- Building repairs, extensions and refurbishments
- Health and safety issues
- Equipment to improve the buildings and increase usage
- Feasibility studies

Who can apply:

- Village halls (not parish run halls)
- Community associations
- Church organisations that have a separate community programme on their property

Funding criteria:

- For projects costing less than £15,000, the funding criteria is up to one third of the cost.
- For projects costing more than £15,000, the grant is calculated at 50% of the combined district and parish council contribution up to a maximum of 25% of the project costs or £12,500, whichever is the lesser.
- Feasibility studies – applications will be considered for 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £500.

Priority Criteria:

1. Health and safety issues that could result in the building being closed or activities seriously curtailed if the work is not carried out.
2. The work is absolutely essential in order to meet the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act. (It has been widely publicised that these types of buildings will not be closed provided reasonable steps have been taken to meet the terms of the Act).
3. The project is part of a phased development and this element is essential to it's overall completion.
4. Non priority work.

Appendix 2

Name	Cheriton Village Hall Management Committee
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Felicity Hindson, has been consulted and she supports the application.
Project	Boiler Replacement
Cost	£4,348
General Reserves	£8,000
Project Reserves	None
Statement	Unfortunately over the cold winter period, due to the age of the current boiler it ceased to function and is now beyond economic repair. Therefore a new boiler is urgently needed to ensure the continued use of the Village Hall.
Partnership Funding	Cheriton Parish Council (Awaiting decision.)
Recommendation	Up to £1,450 as one third of project costs

Name	East Stratton Village Hall
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Jackie Porter, has been consulted and she supports the application.
Project	Blind installation and Dishwasher
Cost	£3,712
General Reserves	None
Project Reserves	None
Statement	Following on from a successful new build project, East Stratton Village Hall are now looking to widen their appeal to their local community by providing flexible facilities. Due to this, they would like to install blackout blinds to enable visiting talks, film shows and other scenarios that use a screen to be viewed easily, they will also provide an element of privacy for exercise classes. They would also like to install a new dishwasher to be able to cater more effectively for large functions.
Partnership Funding	Winchester City Council (£1,100 – awaiting decision) Micheldever Parish Council (£1,100 – awaiting decision)
Recommendation	Up to £1,237 as one third of project costs

Name	Long Sutton Village Hall
Consultation	The local member is Councillor Jonathan Glen.
Project	Car Park Refurbishment
Cost	£12,455
General Reserves	£11,107
Project Reserves	£5,000
Statement	After years of continual wear and tear, the car park is now in need of resurfacing. This is largely due to moss and other weeds breaking through the surface which has left the surface uneven and full of holes causing a hazard.
Partnership Funding	Hart District Council (Awaiting Decision) Long Sutton Parish Council (£1,000 – Awaiting decision.)
Recommendation	Up to £4,152 as one third of project costs