

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	28 January 2011
Title:	Community Buildings Fund 2010/11
Reference:	2411
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 2010/11 and details requests for partnership funding from this fund.

2. Applications considered in this report:

Hall/Centre	District	£
Burridge Community Association	Fareham	460
Lyndhurst Community Association	New Forest	4,842
Medstead Village Hall Trust	East Hampshire	12,500
Titchfield Community Association	Fareham	732
Winnall Community Association	Winchester	1,974
TOTAL		20,508

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 £84,000 has been set aside in the 2010/11 capital programme for Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs to support the Community Buildings Fund. To date £54,262 has been allocated this year and if the recommendations in this report, which amount to £20,508 are approved then £9,230 will be available for the rest of the year.

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 £20,508 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2010/11.

Hall/Centre	District	£
Burridge Community Association	Fareham	460
Lyndhurst Community Association	New Forest	4,842
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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	Burridge Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Woodward, has been consulted and he supports the recommendation.
Project	To provide a small kitchenette for the hall
Cost	£1,380
General Reserves	£12,000
Project Reserves	£460
Statement	Bookings at the hall are restricted because people are unable to have refreshments. It is expected that there will be an increase in bookings once a new kitchenette is provided.
Partnership Funding	Local members grant £460
Recommendation	£460 as one third of project costs

Name	Lyndhurst & District Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Mans, has been consulted.
Project	Refurbishment of the ladies and gents toilets
Cost	£14,527
General Reserves	£41,319
Project Reserves	£9,527
Statement	The toilets are old and all the sanitary ware needs replacing. The refurbishment will include environmental considerations such as savings both of water and power costs.
Partnership Funding	None
Recommendation	£4,842 as one third of project costs

Name	Medstead Village Hall Trust
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Kemp-Gee, has been consulted and he supports the project.
Project	Additional refurbishment and improvements to fire damaged premises in excess of insurers settlement, particularly insulation and double glazing. (A separate schedule of works is being completed by the Insurers).
Cost	£57,440
General Reserves	£7,000
Project Reserves	£14,000
Statement	The village hall was in need of upgrading before the fire and it is a good opportunity to carry out these works now.
Partnership Funding	£25,000 Developers contributions(EHDC) £10,000 Medstead Parish Council
Recommendation	Up to a maximum of £12,500 as per funding criteria.
Name	Titchfield Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Hockley, has been consulted.
Project	Improvements to fire detection and alarm system
Cost	£2,195
General Reserves	£82,156
Project Reserves	£732
Statement	This improvement is a health and safety requirement following a risk assessment
Partnership Funding	£732 Fareham Borough Council
Recommendation	£732 as one third of project costs

Name	Winnall Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Collin, has been consulted and he supports the application.
Project	<p>Improve the safety of electrical wiring and sockets in the community building.</p> <p>Essential repairs to roof to prevent rainwater leakage.</p>
Cost	£5,923
General Reserves	Nil
Project Reserves	£650
Statement	A periodic inspection report highlighted the need for improvements to the circuitry of the building for health and safety reasons. Also rainwater has begun to leak through the roof which is also impacting on the electrical safety of the building. Both projects will help to ensure that the building is safe for users.
Partnership Funding	Nil
Recommendation	£1,974 as one third of project costs