

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Decision Report :**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
<b>Date:</b>	22 April 2010
<b>Title:</b>	Community Buildings Fund 2010/11
<b>Reference:</b>	1490
<b>Report from</b>	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 a request for partnership funding from this fund.

**2. Applications considered in this report:**

<b>Hall/Centre</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>£</b>
Hilldene Community Association	Eastleigh	3,294
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,294</b>

**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 During 2009/10 £176,006 was spent supporting the capital works to Village Halls and Community Associations. In the financial year 2010/11 a sum of £84,000 has been set aside to support this scheme. Only one application has been received to date and that is from Hilldene Community Association.

#### **5. Criteria for Grant:**

- 5.1 The partnership funding distribution criteria is set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 The project listed in Appendix 2 meets fully the criteria and has 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 £3,294 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2010/11.**

<b>Hall/Centre</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>£</b>
Hildene Community Association	Eastleigh	3,294
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,294</b>

**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 its overall completion.
4. Non priority work.

**Appendix 2**

<b>Name</b>	Hilldene Community Association
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member is Councillor Bruce Tennent.
<b>Project</b>	Kitchen Replacement
<b>Cost</b>	£9,882
<b>General Reserves</b>	£4,000
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£2,000
<b>Statement</b>	The committee are looking to update and renovate the Community Centre in order to provide a better facility for their users and attract new custom into the building. One of their first priority areas is to install a new kitchen in order to cater for larger functions and open up the possibility of new customers through wedding and business use.
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	None
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £3,294 as one third of project costs