

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date of Decision:	1 December 2010
Decision Title:	Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations
Decision Reference:	2278
Report From:	Chief Executive

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to consider 4 applications received for financial assistance from the Policy and Resources whose details are outlined below and in Appendix 2 to this report.

2. Budget position

2.1. The balance available for allocation at 1 December 2010 is £79,093 after grants approved at the last decision day, commitments made in previous years and sums earmarked for specific purposes.

3. Hampshire Association of Local Councils

3.1. Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) is seeking additional support to help towards the cost of a staffing matter which has arisen following an issue with the Pension Scheme. Total amount sought is £28,793 spread over three years (£9,598 p.a.). This matter has now been cleared with LGPS administrators.

3.2. It should be noted that if this payment was not awarded, HALC would have significant financial pressures. This could become a reputational issue for the County Council as if this organisation fails there would be no support for parish and town councils.

3.3. The County Council already awards HALC an annual sum of £85,504 (2010/11) as a main grant. A further one-off sum was awarded earlier this year to help offset its relocation costs to Chandlers Ford.

3.4. HALC do provide a valuable service linking to local councils and a sum of £28,793 is recommended, with payment being spread over three financial years from 2010/11 onwards.

- 3.5. In view of the amount of funding which HALC already receives from the County Council, it should be noted that no further one-off requests for financial assistance in addition to the main grant will be considered over the next three years.

4. Criteria of grant

- 4.1. A copy of the criteria used for allocating grants is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. The County Council has the power under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 ('the Well-being power') to take any steps which it considers are likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of the residents of Hampshire. This power includes power for the County Council to incur expenditure and to give financial assistance to any person.

Before exercising this power the County Council is obliged to have regard to its Sustainable Community Strategy. A primary function of HALC is to facilitate better communication and partnership working between Parish and Town Councils, District Councils and the County Council. The aims and objectives of the County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy cannot be delivered by a single agency but require all the County Council's partner agencies and other partnerships across Hampshire to co-ordinate their plans. It is therefore considered that the exercise of the Well-being power to provide financial assistance to HALC will promote the wider aims and objectives of the County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy and therefore promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the residents of Hampshire.

- 5.2. With regard to the applications shown in Appendix 2 of the report, the County Council has broad powers to award grants and these are detailed on individual requests.

6. Recommendations:

- 6.1. That a sum of £28,793 be awarded to the Hampshire Association of Local Councils to be spread over three financial years, starting from 2010/11.
- 6.2. That no further one-off requests for financial assistance will be considered from Hampshire Association of Local Councils in addition to the main grant over the next three years.
- 6.3. That grants totalling £15,000 be made to voluntary and community organisations as outlined in Appendix 2 to this report.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
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.)

DocumentLocation

Application form received from
organisations

Chief Executive's Department

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

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

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The County Council has an obligation under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all decisions it makes on the prevention of crime. The proposals in this report aim to improve the wellbeing of Hampshire residents and reduce the risk of crime occurring

FUNDING CRITERIA FOR THE POLICY AND RESOURCES GRANTS

The following criteria should be taken into consideration when preparing a submission for funding. They are intended as guidelines and not prescriptive rules

1. Assistance will be considered only in response to direct applications from properly constituted organisations seeking assistance. You must show in your application that your organisation is properly and legally organised and has its own bank account.
2. Where appropriate, applications will be referred to the relevant service department (e.g. Adult Services, Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs, Children's Services, etc) for consideration.
3. Preference will be given to applications for specific projects or activities rather than general running costs of organisations. These grants are not intended to replace shortfalls in service delivery budgets or replace funding for other support you may be able to obtain, or that you have obtained from us in the past.
4. Grants will not usually be made in respect of applications from the following:-
 - District or Parish Councils
 - Government Institutions
 - Schools
 - Overseas and out of County organisations which have no direct Hampshire involvement
 - Branches or organisations assisted centrally with a sum from the County Council
 - Bodies requesting funds for onward distribution to other charities e.g. mayoral appeals, carnivals, fetes, or for their own fundraising events.
5. Applications will not be accepted from political parties or groups affiliated with a political party or from lobbying/campaigning organisations.
6. Applications will only be considered from faith groups who can demonstrate their facilities are open and used by the local community other than for church related activities.
7. Requests may be considered from County wide groups (e.g. Guides, Scouts, Hampshire County Youth Orchestra) for specific trips, e.g. for an international jamboree or cultural tour. Individual requests will not usually be considered.
8. Where possible self-help within organisations should be encouraged and to this end, grants are normally a percentage of the sum required to complete the project.
9. As a general rule, grants in excess of £5,000 will not be awarded.
10. In general only award grants to projects which are taking place in the same year as application for funds.

AVON TYRRELL ACTIVITY CENTRE, BRANSGORE**HOG ORG NO:1535****PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre in Bransgore is a registered charity whose grant application is towards constructing an off-road cycle track and cycle club for local young people. This will enhance and add to the facilities already in existence at the Centre.

UK Youth (whose headquarters are based at Avon Tyrrell Centre) work for and with young people, particularly those that suffer disadvantage or are marginalised in society through non-formal education and volunteering opportunities. The Centre is primarily an activity and residential centre and receives around 20,000 young people visiting each year.

Total Cost:	£26,400
Total Income:	£21,400
Shortfall:	£5,000

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Leader of the Council

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£5,000

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED

2006 - £5,000 - purchase and equip a 6 berth log cabin

2009 - £1,500 - flat roof repairs

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Rippon-Swaine is fully supportive of this application.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre is a registered charity and is therefore eligible for a grant under S137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Children Services: I would recommend that this organisation is fully supported. Avon Tyrrell has made good efforts to secure additional funding and is contributing £21,400 from its own funds.

RECOMMENDATION

£5,000

PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT

The Be Your Best Rock Challenge is a drug and crime prevention vehicle in the form of a performing arts competition for schools and community groups. The focus is on young people leading healthy lifestyles and being their best without the need for tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. In 2010, 24,000 young people between the ages of 8 and 18 took part.

Eighty six schools and three community groups from the Hampshire area will be performing at the Southampton and Portsmouth Guildhall's in March/April 2011, with winners qualifying to return for the finals in May. A grant is requested for the events in 2011.

Income for this project has been received as follows;

Own funds committed:	£12,000		
County Council funding:	£17,500	Total Cost:	£171,500
Portsmouth and Southampton (City Councils):	£21,000	Total Income:	£165,500
		Shortfall:	£6,000

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Leader of the Council

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£5,000

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED

2010 - Children's Services Integrated Grant £7,500

2010 - Healthy Schools Funding £10,000

The Foundation has received £29,000 in funding from this budget since 2004.

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Chris Thomas is fully supportive of this application.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Be Your Best Foundation is a registered charity and is therefore eligible for a grant under S137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Children Services: These events have always been well supported by this department but it was felt that a reduced contribution was needed to ensure that the organisation does not become reliant on County Council funding.

Chief Executive: This project provides exciting opportunities for young people to develop their skills and abilities in high profile and well run events in a supportive environment. It also supports the County objectives of engaging young people to reduce drug misuse and is a vehicle for crime prevention.

RECOMMENDATION

£5,000

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT ARMY CADET FORCE**HOG ORG NO:1741****PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT**

Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIOW) Army Cadet Force is a community based youth organisation sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. They are seeking grant aid towards the cost of purchasing replacement karts capable of operating on grass or dirt surfaces.

The Force which is based in Newburgh Street, Winchester, has a total number of 1771 cadets, 1621 of which are from Hampshire and the remaining 150 are from the Isle of Wight. The group provides progressive training of a challenging nature and seeks to replace their worn out karts with "Bo-Karts". These machines cost £2,500 each and are used extensively at Cadet Company weekends (30 per year in total) and also at annual camp.

Total Cost:	£15,000
Total Income:	£0
Shortfall:	£15,000

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Leader of the Council

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£5,000

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED

2007 - £2,500 – towards a European trip.

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Dickens is fully supportive of this application.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Hampshire and IOW Army Cadet Force is a voluntary organisation and is therefore eligible for a grant under S137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Children Services: The application suggests that the karts will be used by cadets not just from the Hampshire area and for this reason I would recommend that the organisation source a proportion of funding to support the non-Hampshire young people.

RECOMMENDATION

£5,000