

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date of Decision:	10 June 2010
Decision Title:	Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations
Decision Reference:	1435
Report From:	Chief Executive

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to consider 3 applications for financial assistance from the Policy and Resources whose details are outlined in Appendix 2 to this report.

2. Budget position

2.1. The balance available for allocation at today's meeting is £225,563, after grants approved at the last decision day, commitments made in previous years and sums earmarked for specific purposes.

3. Criteria of grant

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

4. Recommendation

4.1. That grants to those voluntary and community organisations and young people as outlined in Appendix 2 of this report be approved.

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 forms received from organisations and young people

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.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST FROM CITIZENS ADVICE, HAMPSHIRE

1. Background/Contextual Information:

- 1.1. Citizens Advice, Hampshire (CitAH) currently receives a grant from this budget (£112,655 in 2010/11), which is reviewed on an annual basis and is used to fund specialist support for advisers at each of its twenty-six bureaux. The grant enables them to provide advice at a complex and skilled level in Welfare Benefits and Employment and also training for staff and experienced advisers. These funds are also used to help fund development work that has attracted external funding of over £1.9 million in the last year for new services that will benefit clients throughout Hampshire.
- 1.2. In addition to the above amount, a further £40,000 was awarded to CitAH from this budget in 2009/10 to help manage the impact felt by the recession. This sum, together with additional funds of £90,561 was then divided between each of the branches (sum dependent on its priorities and the number of clients it assisted). Listed below is a brief summary of how each branch spent its share:

Andover	Assist mortgage rescue clients and provide adviser debt training
Basingstoke	Training volunteer advisors
Bishop's Waltham	Training and update debt management software
East Hampshire	Training and cost of additional debt casework
Eastleigh	Accommodation reorganisation
Fareham	Improvements to telephone advice service
Gosport	Engage a money advice caseworker
Hart	Money advice training to adviser team
Havant	Employing debt caseworker
New Forest	Recruitment and training of advisers and extension of debt advice services
Romsey	Training of advisers
Rushmoor	Recruit a debt support worker
Tadley	Two additional volunteer advisers to be recruited

Winchester

Debt casework additional costs

2. Request for additional support in 2010/11

- 2.1. Hampshire CABx key response to the recession has been to open longer hours and change processes; most are now open at least five hours a week extra and are seeing more clients as a result. Advice and guidance is one of the main areas of need when people lose their jobs and possibly face debt and a threat to their housing for the first time. A large increase has also been seen in domestic violence enquiries.
- 2.2. CitAH is again seeking a further sum of £40,000 this financial year to help them manage this increased workload and to cover additional training costs. The recession has impacted areas of the county differently; hence the needs of each CAB vary.

3. Other Local Authority contributions

CitAH has advised that during the last year, the CABx raised £90,561 in non-government funds to assist with this work and other aligned projects. This financial year the organisation has advised they intend to pursue other requests for funding as opportunities arise.

4. Comments of Chief Officers

- 4.1. Director of Economic Development: While the reduction in GDP has stabilised there is still significant unemployment, which is not expected to improve rapidly. Therefore, debt counselling, advice on benefits and employment advice can be expected to remain in high demand. It would seem prudent to continue the extra grant for one further year only.
- 4.2. Chief Executive: This is the second year in succession this organisation has sought additional funds from the County Council. There is some concern this could become an annual recurring request. Details in the table shown in paragraph 1.2 show a certain amount of recurring costs being spent on recruitment, whether at a volunteer or permanent level. It should be noted that grants from this budget are not usually awarded towards an organisation's running costs, or any recurring costs, which this may well turn into.

5. Recommendation:

That a final one-off sum of £40,000 be awarded to CitAH in 2010/11 to manage the impact of the recession during the coming year.

**FRIENDS OF TITCHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOG ORG NO:1979**

PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT

Friends of Titchfield Primary School are a group of volunteer parents who raise money to enrich and enhance the learning experience of children in Titchfield Primary School.

The Friends are seeking grant aid to: purchase a trailer to transport instruments (£2,100); performance training costs (£1,180); uniforms for its twelve members (£225) and various items of musical equipment for the Pans Ablaze Community Project (steel band).

Total cost: £7,720.

Funds raised: £2,850 (including own funds)

Shortfall: £4,870

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Leader of the Council

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£4,870

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED

Nil

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Hockley is fully supportive of this application. He has already given this group grants totalling £3,500 from his Member budget for various projects over the last three years.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Children Services: The project promotes emotional wellbeing, enjoyment and achievement. The amount requested seems a modest sum and a grant is therefore supported.

RECOMMENDATION

£4,870

PADNELL INFANT PARENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, WATERLOOVILLE

HOG ORG NO:

PURPOSES FOR WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT

Padnell Infant School is a promoter of children's learning outdoors and takes every opportunity to use outdoor spaces to encourage children to be actively engaged in their learning and the natural environment.

Grant aid is sought to purchase and erect a canopy within the school grounds to enable more outdoor learning. This shelter will also provide a suitable shade area for the children's activities and waiting parents.

Total cost: £11,450

Funds raised: £5,000 (including own funds)

Shortfall: £6,450

APPLICATION ADDRESSED TO:

Leader of the Council

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

£6,450

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION GIVEN BY OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED

Nil

COMMENTS OF LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Keast has been consulted on this application.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Director of Children's Services: This request does not meet our criteria sufficiently to attract grant funding and as such this application is not supported.

Chief Executive: A grant would help maximise the wellbeing of both the children and parents by making the outdoor space a more suitable area for learning. Therefore, a sum of £5,000 is recommended.

RECOMMENDATION

£5,000