



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND SPORT

TOPIC – EMERGENCY PROJECT GRANT – MEON HALL, MEONSTOKE

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director (Governance), the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Melissa Fletcher, Funding & Support Officer,
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Committee Administrator: Nancy Graham, ngraham@winchester.gov.uk, tel 01962 848 235

SUMMARY

- A formal request has been received for an Emergency Project Grant of £1,200 from Winchester City Council to carry out essential repairs to the blocked foul drain pipes at the Meon Hall, Meonstoke.
- Basic annual maintenance is carried out to the foul drain system. However, the latest checks, including a professional survey, revealed a serious blockage arising from an 85% infestation of tree roots in one pipe, around 5 metres in length.
- Without urgent works to the pipe, the hall is threatened with closure on health and safety grounds.
- The Hall Committee has been given two options, a cheaper one for a short term, local solution and a more expensive one for full remedial works.

- The Portfolio Holder believes that it would be better to support full remedial work, the full cost of which is £4,800.
- The Hall Committee has already secured funding from two parish councils to support this grant request. This is in keeping with the principles of the Activity Community Project Grant Programme.
- It is proposed that the Council award an Emergency Project Grant of £1,200. The Resources section below sets out the full list of contributions, making up the total cost of the works.
- The Portfolio Holder is aware that the Meon Hall Management Committee has a consistent record of securing Council grants, including a Project Grant in 2011/12 for £1,800. Taking this into account, she proposes a condition that they receive no further project funding in 2013/14.
- This award is in keeping with the Active Communities Outcome, which sets the framework for all Community Grants Programmes.

DECISION

1. That an Emergency Project Grant of £1,200 be awarded from the Grants Reserve to the Meon Hall Management Committee for urgent repairs to blocked foul drain pipes.
2. That this grant be awarded on the understanding that the Management Committee will not be awarded a further Active Communities Project Grant in 2013/14.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

As indicated above, the Portfolio Holder considered the option of a smaller contribution for a temporary repair, but decided that a full repair would represent a better use of Council funds, with a longer-term impact.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Winchester City Council maintains an earmarked Grants Reserve to ensure that emergency grant requests of this nature can be supported. The balance on the earmarked grant reserve currently stands at £12,550.

It is proposed to allocate £1,200 from this Reserve to this project. The other contributions to make up the total of £4,800 are set out in the table below.

Source of Funding	Contribution	Confirmed
Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council	£500	In principle – to be confirmed at meeting on 02.01.13
Exton Parish Council	£300	Confirmed
Donation (with Gift Aid) to enhance Exton contribution	£200	Confirmed
Meon Hall Management Committee	£2,600	Confirmed
WCC Emergency Project Grant	£1,200	Proposed in this Decision Notice
	£4,800	TOTAL

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

None

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

Following comments from one Member, further consideration was given to cheaper solutions however; further to discussions with the applicant the Portfolio Holder felt that this was a reasonable and cost effective solution.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

n/a

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

n/a

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 16.01.13

Councillor Patricia Stallard – Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture and Sport