



DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE DEPUTY LEADER WITH PORTFOLIO FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOPIC - ACTIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS 2013/14

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 Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer 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.

If you wish to make representation on this proposed Decision please contact the relevant Portfolio Holder and the following Democratic Services Officer by 5.00pm on Monday 5 August 2013.

Contact Officers:

Case Officers: Melissa Fletcher, Funding & Support Officer, Tel: 01962 848 492 or email mfletcher@winchester.gov.uk

Senior Democratic Services Officer: Nancy Graham, ngraham@winchester.gov.uk, Tel: 01962 848 235, email: ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

- The [Active Community Project Grants](#) programme provides funding of £500 and above for charitable, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations in the District;
- The programme is intended to support the costs of one-off projects, specialised equipment, start ups and improvements, renovations or construction of facilities;

- A total of £30,000 was allocated for Project Grants in 2013/14 within the overall Council budget;
- A total of 22 applications were received. None fell outside the overall purpose and criteria of the programme, although a number were incompletely or incorrectly submitted. Officers opted to work with applicants to ensure these applications could be considered rather than to reject them, given the wish to make the grants programmes accessible for all organisations.
- Because this programme has a relatively modest budget in relation to the scale of some of the projects it seeks to support, officers feel it is appropriate only to invite one round of applications in 2013/14. However, a reserve fund of £11,351 exists which could provide emergency funding (eg for urgent works to a community centre roof, as has happened before) later in the year if Members felt this was essential.
- The Council has traditionally sought to provide support for as many of the eligible applications under this programme as possible. Because the total requested exceeds the amount available, it is not possible to award the full amount of grant requested to all applicants.

PROPOSED DECISION

1. That the recommended awards to be made to local voluntary organisations from the Active Community Project Grants Programme for 2013/14 be approved, as set out in Appendix 1;
2. That the Assistant Director (Economy and Community) be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, *not* to make the recommended award, should officers determine that there are reasonable grounds not to do so, and to reallocate any such monies to the grants reserve against future emergency payments.

REASON FOR THE PROPOSED DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- The recommendations set out at Appendix 1 are made in accordance with the criteria for the Active Community Project Grants Programme.
- Organisations are asked to demonstrate where possible that their project or activity is linked to the delivery of one or more of the Winchester District Community Strategy priorities. These are:
 - Promoting the wellbeing of older people
 - Improving access to services

- reducing the District's carbon footprint
- improving the quality of life in the neighbourhoods of Stanmore and Winnall/Highcliffe
- Because there were valid applications which came to more than the allocation of £30,000 available, officers applied the following principles in determining the recommended awards set out in Appendix 1:

a) Previous applications

In order to spread the benefits of the grants scheme as widely as possible, any organisation which received payments previously through the Active Community Project Grant programme will not be entitled to funding in 2013/14.

b) Thresholds

Funding requested	Maximum grant payable, assuming criteria met and match funding secured
£5,000 and above - building project	£3,500
£5,000 and above - other project	£2,000
£1,001 up to £4,999	£1,800 or requested amount, whichever is smaller
Up to £1,000	Full amount, assuming other criteria are met

b) Community Strategy priority weightings

Once the maximum grant has been determined as above, the final amount is then determined

- a) clearly supports two or more of the above priorities 100%
- b) clearly supports at least one of the above priorities 90%
- c) does not support a priority, but supports wider outcome of Active Communities 80%

Although working within the parameters above, other qualitative aspects of the bids will have been considered. These include:

- value for money (eg consideration of the estimated number of beneficiaries);

- the level of credibility of the bid in terms of the way it is structured, evidenced and costed;
- the distinctiveness and creativity of the project proposed.

If the applicant confirms that the awarding of a smaller grant than has been requested puts the project into question, officers will withdraw the funding allocation and direct it to the aforementioned grants reserve, for possible emergency payments. However, the confirmation of a relatively modest amount of funding by the Council can often help to secure other grants and contributions, so it is not always the case that a smaller grant than requested puts the project in jeopardy. Where it is needed, officers will work with the applicant to identify other sources of funding which may help to make the project viable in a future year, and will then invite a further application when it seems to be a more viable proposition.

Two applications have been refused, because the applicants have recently received funding through the Active Communities grant programme and priority was therefore given to those who had not. Two applications have been deferred to other sources within the Council.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The budget for Active Community Project grants in 2013/14 is £30,000 ([CAB 2432](#) 13 February 2013 refers) The proposed grant awards on Appendix 1 represent full allocation (£29,895) of this budget for 2013/14. This represents just over 50% of the total eligible for grants requested from the Council.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE PROPOSED DECISION

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development has reviewed the Active Community Project Grant applications. Further input has since been invited from relevant officers from within the Council and from the Corporate Management Team through the drafting of this Decision Notice.

The grant awards are for a maximum of £5,000, and officers are increasingly seeking to make the process as time-efficient and streamlined as possible to the benefit of both the voluntary organisations applying and the Council. Consultation is deliberately restricted, with the objective of making rapid decisions based on published criteria and adopted priorities.

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

n/a

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

Councillor Robert Humby – Portfolio Holder for Economic Development

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Recommended Awards under the Active Communities Project Grants Programme, 2013/14

Name of organisation	Location of activity or project	Brief description of activity/project	Community Strategy Priorities	Total project cost	Grant requested	Grant recommended	Rationale for recommendation
Act Too	Sutton Scotney	Professional lighting and sound equipment for performances and entertainment to continue community engagement activities	n/a	3481.16	2610	1440	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
Age Concern Hampshire	Bishops Waltham	Build a Health & Wellbeing Centre in Bishops Waltham primarily for dementia including an open community space for use as a café	* Improving access to services * Promoting the wellbeing of older people	515000	10000	3500	Meets two priorities - maximum within threshold
Club Hampshire	Badger Farm, Weeke	Winchester Active Taster sessions. Encourage members to get involved with activities which increase their levels of wellbeing (sport/exercise, creative sessions-music, workshops, crafts, information and advice, entertainment.	* Promoting the wellbeing of older people	620	465	465	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold or requested amount, whichever is smaller. Amount requested awarded.
Denmead Tennis Club	Denmead	Increase the usage of the courts by installing floodlights on the third tennis court	n/a	14000	2000	1440	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
Encore Youth Theatre	Winchester & District	EYT works with 40 young people aged 11+ each year recruited from local colleges and schools. Funding for an EYT Away Day including a workshop to a show involving exercises in acting and singing with groups focusing on characters, themes and songs from the show.	n/a	2794	1800	1440	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
Friends of Corhampton Church	Corhampton	Produce a digital narrative which brings to life the story of the Saxons in the Meon Valley. The HLF funded programme will run from May 2013- Summer 2016. Creating a sustainable legacy which will contribute to commemorations in 2016 of the 950th anniversary of the Norman conquest	n/a	4800	3000	1440	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
Hambledon Parish Council	Hambledon	Pump priming for coaching costs for the first year. Sessions are arranged for children/elderly and from all backgrounds and ages however, emphasis on those in social housing.	n/a	3300	2475	1440	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
Hursley PCC	Hursley	The Church wish to establish themselves further as a community building and need to improve the paths in order to provide safe access. The church currently hosts community events, IBM cultural events, hosting Beaver ceremonies and are the catering centre for the village hall ball. The building is also kept open for its Keble/Cromwell connection. There are plans for an easily accessible potted history guide for visitors.	n/a	5970	4000	1440	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
Northbrook Village Hall	Micheldever	Upgrade the windows in order to benefit from thermal efficiency and security. This is part of an integral package of improvements to the hall identified by hall users.	n/a	8451	6000	2800	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
Platform 4	Town and surrounding areas of Weeke, Harestock, Colden Common, Shawford, Teg Down	Working with 10 older couples and a few younger people with dementia-promoting well being through singing/musical activities	* Promoting the wellbeing of older people	3440	2580	1620	Meets one priority - 90% of maximum
Sparsholt Playground Assoc	Sparsholt	Enhance play facilities locally by updating and replacing equipment in the playground, which is an important community asset.	n/a	6967	3000	1440	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold

Name of organisation	Location of activity or project	Brief description of activity/project	Community Strategy Priorities	Total project cost	Grant requested	Grant recommended	Rationale for recommendation
Twyford Community Project	Twyford	Improve access to youth and community services by sponsoring Twyford Youth Club on a trial basis for up to 6 months. Funding is required for 3 months of this 6 month trial. Sessions being run by youth Options.	n/a	2542	1905	1440	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
Twyford Waterworks Trust	Twyford	Provide a wood hide/story telling hut for schools/children/others nr Twyford Waterworks site. For observation of the pond and for story telling away from the main buildings	n/a	2900	1250	1250	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold or amount requested, whichever is smaller. Amount requested awarded.
Waltham Chase Preschool	Waltham Chase	Improve access to the garden so that it is safer and easily accessible for all children especially younger and limited mobility who attend the pre school	n/a	3723	2300	1440	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
Waltham Chase Village Hall	Waltham Chase	Improve drainage and make the back entrance to the Village Hall useable as disabled fire access.	n/a	9949	4974	1440	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
Wet Picnic	Stanmore	Work with Stanmore Primary schools to develop an emerge outreach project. Connecting local schools to the professional work they do which is a national and international touring based Theatre company.	* Improving the quality of life in Stanmore	169,950	3000	1620	Meets one priority - 90% of maximum
Wickham Community Association	Wickham	Improve the current toilet facilities as they are proving inadequate due to the groups the Centre are now serving ie. Children's Centre. There is a need to increase the capacity incorporating water saving devices.	n/a	25000	6000	2800	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
Worthys Festival	Worthys	An event to celebrate life in the Worthys held every 2 years over 9 nine days in Eversley Park. Funding for Marketing, safety barriers, safety fencing, hiring concert piano, PA system, Children's entertainer, safety company & stewards	n/a	8285	1500	1440	Active Communities outcome - 80% of maximum within threshold
A2 Dominion	Stanmore, Winnall, Winchester & District	Be Inspired Youth Event with follow up workshops on mentoring and enterprise skills, engage 50 NEET, at risk of NEET or young people with no destination aged 14-24		14575	11660	0	Deferred to Assistant Director for possible commissioning
WinAcc	Weeke, Stanmore	Warm up Winchester to assist older people, disabled, families with children and low income to access funding to cover all or part of the cost to replace energy-wasting heating systems		8000	6000	0	Priority given to other applicants who have not received Active Communities funding
Winchester Local Quakers	Town	Working with WCN & Trinity to provide low cost social housing, to provide a living space for upto 12 months, the rooms have been refurbished and now require A+ rating equipment to support our greening and for use by the residents		1995	1497	0	Deferred to Housing for direct funding
Winchester Street Dance Academy	Stanmore, Winnall, Town	Dances classes for toddlers (Carroll Centre), Primary (Stanmore/Winnall) and older people in conjunction with WLAH		7563.58	5672.69	0	Priority given to other applicants who have not received Active Communities funding
TOTAL				823305.7	83688.69	29895	