



DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITIES AND TRANSPORT

TOPIC - COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS 2014/15

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 Thursday 9 October 2014.

Contact Officers:

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

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

SUMMARY

- The [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 £28,500 was allocated for Project Grants in 2014/15 within the overall Council budget.

- It is proposed to vire an additional £7,900 from the Active Communities commissioning budget to this sum, in order to support one specific, large-scale community building project.
- The total being allocated for Project Grants for 2014/15 is therefore £36,400.
- A total of 13 applications for grants was received. None fell outside the overall purpose and criteria of the programme, although one application was incompletely submitted and did not comply with some criteria. This was in any case deemed more suitable for funding through the small grants programme. One applicant withdrew following discussions about potential allocations as they felt the project would not be viable without the full amount requested and this could not be accommodated. However, officers are continuing to work with the applicant to identify alternative funds, possibly from the Government's flood grants programme.
- In the interests of transparency, a scoring guidance sheet was published with the grants information this year. An information sheet about the new priorities of the refreshed Community Strategy was also produced and made available to applicants.
- Given the level of funds typically requested for project grants, it was agreed that the budget should be allocated in one round in 2014/15. However, a reserve fund of £11,351 exists which could provide emergency funding later in the year if required.
- 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.
- Appendix 1 sets out the proposed grant allocations for the Project Grants programme in 2014/15.

PROPOSED DECISION

1. That the recommended awards to local voluntary and community organisations from the Community Project Grants Programme for 2014/15 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 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:
 - PEOPLE Active Communities
 - PLACE High Quality Environment
 - PROSPERITY Prosperous Economy
- Because there were valid applications which came to more than the allocation of £28,500 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 Project Grant programme is not entitled to funding in 2014/15.

b) Community Strategy priority weightings

Once the maximum grant has been determined as above, the final amount is then determined using the following percentages:

- | | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| i. | clearly supports three of the above priorities | 90% |
| ii. | clearly supports at least two of the above priorities | 80% |
| iii. | clearly supports one of the above priorities or supports wider outcome of Active Communities | 70% |

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.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The budget for Active Community Project grants in 2014/15 is £28,500 (CAB [2546](#) January 2014 refers). The proposed grant awards at Appendix 1 represent full allocation (£28,500) of this budget for 2014/15.

In the extraordinary case of the Warren Hall, Micheldever, the Assistant Director (Economy and Community) is proposing to vire £7,900 from the Active Communities Commissioning budget to supplement the proposed Community Project grant award of £7,100 to make a full grant award of £15,000. This is in order to support a well thought-out, large-scale community building project in Micheldever. The Warren Hall project has already secured significant match funding, but requires further support to enable works to proceed within the deadline for expenditure of the match funding.

This will make the total amount available for allocation £36,400.

The final total allocated, as show in Appendix 1, is £36,390.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE PROPOSED DECISION

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Transport has reviewed the Community Project Grant applications and endorses the proposed grant awards. 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 Notice is itself a consultation document, seeking Member feedback on any aspect of the Project Grants.

Officers are increasingly seeking to make the grants process as time-efficient and streamlined as possible, to the benefit of both the voluntary organisations that are applying. 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 Mike Southgate – Portfolio Holder Communities and Transport

Appendices:

**Appendix 1 - Recommended Awards under the Communities Project Grants
Programme, 2014/2015**

Name of organisation		Location of activity or project	Project summary	Community Strategy Priorities	Total project cost	WCC	Grant recommended	Rationale for recommendation
1	Blue Apple	Winchester Town	Make a short film to raise awareness about the impact of disability hate crime and promote understanding of people with learning disabilities among school teenagers. This is a separate one off activity which complements the overall companies year round work.	Active Communities - Healthy & Safe Prosperity - Promote education & trg Cultural assets of the district	22600	2500	2000	Meets two priorities = 80%
2	Denmead Bowling Club	Denmead	Equipment to enable Denmead Bowling club to encourage the younger generation to play bowls and become a member of the club. Jnr section will offer free taster day/coaching sessions to under local under 18s, with a view to forming a Youth league within the club. Indoor short mat bowling and outdoor bowling on the green will be offered.	Active Communities - community cohesion, sport & recreation Prosperity - Promote education & trg	2148	1611	1290	Meets two priorities = 80%
3	Hambledon Village Hall	Hambledon	Improve meeting room environment and thermal efficiency by installing a suspended insulated ceiling along with LED low energy lighting and double glazed windows. The room is currently uninviting and cold even with the heating on. The aim is to provide a hub-style meeting room for local people, business, education and training.	Active Communities - community cohesion, sport & recreation High Quality environment - lower carbon district, quality of place Prosperity - Promote education & trg	5588	4191	3770	Meets three priorities = 90%
4	South Wonston Table Tennis Club	South Wonston	Funding to purchase the services of a professional table tennis coach, with specialist skills in training women/girls. The club runs 3 hours of coaching for 7-15 year olds. The club wish to encourage more girls into the sport as well as maintain the high level of coaching on offer to the boys.	Active Communities - sport & recreation, healthy & safe High Quality environment - lower carbon district, quality of place Prosperity - Promote education & trg	1235	925	740	Meets two priorities = 80%
5	The Conservation Volunteers	Shawford	The Biodiversity Action Team are requesting funding to enable a programme of 6 conservation volunteering sessions on Shawford Down to be run by a trained project leader. The site consists of chalk downland habitat which is valuable for many ground flora species. These species in turn support an abundance of insects, birds and spiders. The volunteers will remove the woody scrub thus expanding the chalk downland area. Volunteers will learn about managing such habitats and the importance of conservation work.	Active Communities - sport & recreation, healthy & safe High Quality environment - quality of place Prosperity - Promote education & trg	2100	1500	1350	Meets three priorities = 90%

Name of organisation		Location of activity or project	Project summary	Community Strategy Priorities	Total project cost	WCC	Grant recommended	Rationale for recommendation
6	The Fox and Hounds (Denmead) Community Co-operative Ltd	Denmead	Community owned public house. Requesting money for solar panels to be fitted to the south facing roof in order to improve energy efficiency and ultimately running costs of the building.	Active Communities - community cohesion, sport & recreation High Quality environment - lower carbon district, quality of place Prosperity - local economy, Promote education & trg, promote tourism	465,295	4000	3600	Meets three priorities = 90% In addition Rate relief support is also currently being considered.
7	The Meon Hall	Meonstoke	To improve the comfort and enhance the user experience of the Main Hall for hirers, by installing new suspended ceiling tiles with a thick sealed blanket of insulation on top to make energy efficiency improvements, and running cost reductions of at least 25% in room heating.	Active Communities - community cohesion, sport & recreation High Quality environment - lower carbon district Prosperity - local economy	13892	4000	3600	Meets three priorities = 90%
8	Warren Hall	Micheldever	To provide a new community building hub in order to support the growth of the needs of the local residents. The building will be built to purpose in order to serve the local groups and activities which currently take place. Some of the new features will be to accommodate health related outreach clinics and wrap around childcare. In order to increase sustainability the venue will be offered for private social events.	Active Communities - community cohesion, sport & recreation, healthy & safe High Quality environment - lower carbon district, quality of place Prosperity - local economy, education & training	490,639	60,000	15000	Meets three priorities = 90% Project Grant allocation £7,100. Assistant Director (Economy & Community) to vire £7900 from the Commissioning budget to support this distinctive project the combined total grant award amount = £15,000
9	WinACC	Winchester Town	Funding for the information and web infrastructure required to assist launch Home Energy Advice Resource Service (HEAR). Service will help householders save energy, money and stay warm.	Active Communities - community cohesion, healthy & safe High Quality environment - lower carbon district Prosperity - local economy	3925	2925	2630	Meets three priorities = 90%

Name of organisation		Location of activity or project	Project summary	Community Strategy Priorities	Total project cost	WCC	Grant recommended	Rationale for recommendation
10	Winchester Live At Home	Winchester Town	One off cost of office relocation to increase support to services from two offices to one large office. The scheme is growing rapidly and with this comes the need for more space, relocation would enable WLAH to better to serve their members more coherently and to utilise their resources to their full potential.	Active Communities - community cohesion, sport & recreation, healthy & safe	2656	1900	1330	Meets one priority = 70%
11	Youth Options	Winnall	Intergenerational event (autumn half term or christmas break) at KAYAK to bring the older and younger generation together in Winnall. The event will be a day of old fashioned games and digital games to engage each of the audiences and to encourage them to participate and to show each other how the traditional games/digital age games work. Through this project 5 YP will gain ASDAN accreditation in volunteering.	Active Communities - community cohesion, sport & recreation, healthy & safe	2055	1541	1080	Meets one priority = 70%
12	Victoria Hall	Sutton Scotney	To ameliorate the effects to their car park which was caused by the flooding and rising ground water. Also increase the gradient of the car park in order to aid water run off and to build resilience to prevent future flooding.	Active Communities - community cohesion, sport & recreation, Prosperity - local economy, promote education & training	6000	5000	0	Applicant withdrew. Referred to Business Support Grant stream
13	Winchester Amateur Boxing Club	Winchester Town	To purchase new flooring/boxing mats for the ring side to cover an area which is currently unusable. In order to increase participation in safe boxing sessions.	Active Communities - sport & recreation	649	649	0	Referred to Small Grant stream
				TOTALS		90742	36390	Original budget allocation £28,500
								Virement from Active Communities Commissioning Budget £7,900