



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LOCAL ECONOMY

TOPIC - COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS 2015/16

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

Contact Officers:

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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 budget of £32,500 was allocated for Project Grants in 2015/16 within the overall Council budget.
- The total being allocated for Project Grants under this Decision Notice is £15,091.
- The Council has traditionally sought to provide support for as many of the eligible applications under this programme as possible.

- A total of 12 applications for grants were received. One fell outside the overall purpose and criteria of the programme; one application was incompletely submitted and did not comply with some criteria, and one was referred to the small grants scheme which was deemed more suitable.
- In the interests of transparency, a scoring guidance sheet was published with the grants information. An information sheet about the priorities of the 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 2015/16. However, following evaluation it is clear that not all the funds will need to be allocated to the current applications.
- Officers are considering the best use of the remaining allocation for the Project Grants programme, and will bring forward proposals at a later date.
- A reserve fund of £10,350 also exists, which can provide emergency funding for community organisations if required.
- Appendix 1 sets out the proposed grant allocations for the Project Grants programme in 2015/16.

DECISION

1. That the recommended awards to local voluntary and community organisations from the Community Project Grants Programme for 2015/16 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 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
- 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 2015/16.

b) Community Strategy priority weightings

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

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|------|--|------|
| i. | clearly supports three of the above priorities | 100% |
| ii. | clearly supports at least two of the above priorities | 90% |
| iii. | clearly supports one of the above priorities or 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.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The budget for Community Project grants in 2015/16 is £32,500 (CAB [2646](#) January 2015 refers).

The proposed grant awards at Appendix 1 total £15,091 of this budget allocation.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

The Portfolio Holder for Local Economy 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 Draft 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: 20.11.15

Councillor James Byrnes – Portfolio Holder Local Economy

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Recommended Awards under the Communities Project Grants Programme, 2015/2016

COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS 2015/16

Name of organisation	Location of activity or project	Project	Community Strategy Priorities	Total project cost	WCC request	Grant recommended	Rationale for recommendation
Bespoke Biking CIC	Winchester Town	To purchase a set of transistor communication units so that the lead cyclist can communicate with participants and give instructions, information, navigation and coaching tips. Feedback from participants says that tours or instruction would benefit from more audible communication from the leader. The rides, which are for the enjoyment of the Winchester District, would be enhanced greatly.	Active Communities & Prosperous Economy	£1,002.45	£751.80	£676.62	Meets two priorities = 90%
Colden Common Parish Council - Colden Common on behalf of the cricket club		To install net facilities at the cricket club to enable the community to practice cricket. There are currently no nets installed. The longer term aim is to attract volunteers and to encourage younger players and to develop a Colts team. The nets will be available at all times at no cost. This application is made by the Parish Council on behalf of the Cricket club as the asset will be held, maintained and insured by the Parish Council however, the nets will be used by the Cricket club and any organised use will be via the Cricket club. The Parish Council are financially supporting this application.	Active Communities	£11,400.00	£2,000.00	£1,600.00	Meets one priority = 80%
Colden Common Parish Council - Colden Common on behalf of the community tennis club		Enhancement and extension of the tennis courts from 2 courts to 3 courts. This funding will go towards the additional tennis court. This application is made by the Parish Council on behalf of the Tennis club. A constituted Tennis club committee is working with the LTA and Parish Council to manage the project. The Tennis club committee will manage the courts for the community under a lease agreement. The asset will be held by the Parish Council. The Parish Council are substantially financially supporting this application.	Active Communities	£78,000.00	£3,000.00	£2,400.00	Meets one priority = 80%
Creative Palaver	Winchester Town	A series of 10 week workshops in Circus and Outdoor arts to be run termly at the Winchester Discovery Centre with 11-16 year olds from the city. Each block of workshops will teach a number of skills which will enable students to perform a show at the end of the term. Performances will be open to the public and often performed on the street throughout the year. There is an absence in the city of workshops of this type and in the skills that they would offer.	Active Communities & Prosperous Economy	£4,344.29	£2,050.00	£1,845.00	Meets two priorities = 90%
Meon Valley Archaeology & Heritage Group (MVAHG)	Corhampton - Meon Valley	To enable the next stage of community archaeology and engagement in the heritage of the Meon Valley. This is a new group and the grant application is to fund the next stage of the archaeology programme initiated by the Friends of Corhampton church. This stage is to survey of the site of the original Saxon church in the grounds of West Meon church in order to provide further evidence with regards to the exact position and the footprint of the Saxon church.	Active Communities High quality environment Prosperous Economy	£3,000.00	£2,250.00	£2,250.00	Meets three priorities = 100%
Southwick & Widley Parish Village Hall	Southwick	This is a project to equip our community village hall with a fully integrated digital audio. This is a project to equip our community village hall with a fully integrated digital audio visual system (including induction loops for those with impaired hearing). The system will enable the hall and community to hold 'film nights', undertake local training and increase the appeal of the hall 'for hire' to those who require the improved facilities.	Active Communities High quality environment	£5,304.00	£3,804.00	£3,423.60	Meets two priorities = 90%

COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS 2015/16

Name of organisation	Location of activity or project	Project	Community Strategy Priorities	Total project cost	WCC request	Grant recommended	Rationale for recommendation
Wessex Cancer Trust	Winchester Town	To put in place a treatment room with a Treatment chair for those people who have physical restrictions and pain, unable to get relief because they aren't mobile enough to climb up not a couch. This would enable people to come to the Winchester Cancer Support Centre and have relief treatments to ease their pain. It has not been possible to carry out some treatments at Winchester that are conducted in the other Cancer Support Centres due to the lack of a treatment room with a hydraulic or electric chair. Winchester would like to be able to offer, for free, the services which are delivered in all other Centres.	Active Communities	£1,195.00	£896.25	£717.00	Meets one priority = 80%
Wet Picnic	Winchester Town	To run a project working with 3 year 6 Primary school groups on WW1. Two of the schools are Stanmore and Winnall Primary. The project is divided into 3 stages: Research, Interpretation, and Presentation. Interactive and innovative workshop activities that engage the young people with their local history, take them out of the classroom and into their local environments, enabling them to learn from and engage with their local community. These sessions are additional to curriculum activity.	Active Communities High quality environment	£8,000.00	£1,500.00	£1,350.00	Meets two priorities = 90%
Winchester Amateur Boxing Club	Winchester Town	To purchase a digital interval clock to give more visual support for students with learning difficulties. To purchase steppers for boxing fitness workout and additional skipping ropes for new beginners also to purchase 2 punch bags for this boxing season. Also to enhance the flooring as it is currently very slippery.	Active Communities High quality environment	£1,229.45	£921.00	£828.90	Meets two priorities = 90%
1105 (City of Winchester) Sq. Air Training Corps	Winchester Town	Purchase hand held radios to assist with radio training and running public events		£737.00	£552.75	0	Deferred to the small grants scheme - awarded £450
7th Winchester Scouts	Winchester Town	Purchase 5 six person tents for the newly established 7th Winchester Scouts.		£3,000.00	£2,100.00	0	Not eligible - previously funded item
Winchester & Districts Athletics Club	Winchester Town	To purchase an electronic timing system for the Athletics Stadium which would substantially upgrade the accuracy of timed events, provide a better quality Athletics Stadium resulting in better quality events being held there by the University of WADAC.		£3,000.00	£3,000.00	0	Not eligible - the organisation were unprepared to submit all the information required to make their application eligible
				£120,212.19	£22,825.80	£15,091.12	