



DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

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

TOPIC - ACTIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS 2012/13

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.

If you wish to make representation on this proposed Decision please contact the relevant Portfolio Holder and the following Committee Administrator by 5.00pm on Thursday 14 June 2012.

Contact Officers:

Case Officers: Melissa Fletcher, Winchester Area Community Action, Tel: 01962 848 303 (via Flis Pitman) / Eloise Appleby, Assistant Director (Economic Prosperity), tel 1962 848 181 or email eappleby@winchester.gov.uk

Committee Administrator: Nancy Graham, ngraham@winchester.gov.uk, Tel: 01962 848 235

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 £25,000 was allocated for Project Grants in 2012/13 within the overall Council budget;

- A total of 16 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 2012/13. However, a reserve fund of £12,551 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 2012/13 be approved, as set out in Appendix 1;
2. That the Assistant Director (Economic Prosperity) 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 £25,000 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 under the 2011/12 Active Community Project Grant programme will not be entitled to funding in 2012/13.

b) Thresholds

Funding requested	Maximum grant payable, assuming criteria met and match funding secured
£5,000 and above - building project	£4,500
£5,000 and above - other project	£2,350
£1,001 up to £4,999	£2,000 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.

Five applications have been refused, either because the same applicant received funding in 2011/12 from the programme or because a confirmed lack of match funding renders the project unviable for this financial year.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The budget for Active Community Project grants in 2012/13 is £25,000 ([WTF164 January 2012](#) refers) The proposed grant awards on Appendix 1 represent full allocation (£25,100) of this budget for 2012/13. This represents just over 24% of the total grants requested from the Council.

Officers propose that the £100 'overspend' reflected above in the total awards proposed for 2012/13 be taken from the wider Active Communities budget. This enables a fair and consistent approach to be taken to funding decisions, according to the principles above.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE PROPOSED DECISION

The previous Portfolio Holder for Communities, Safety and Public Health reviewed the Active Community Project Grant applications (for which the closing date was November 2011). Further input has since been invited from relevant officers from within the Council, from Winchester Area Community Action's Development Officer 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 Patricia Stallard – Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture & Sport

Appendices:

**Appendix 1 - Recommended Awards under the Active Communities Project
Grants Programme, 2012/13**

Appendix 1: Recommended Awards under the Active Community Project Grants Programme, 2012/13

Name of organisation	Location of activity or project	Brief description of activity/project	Community Strategy Priority/ies	Total project cost	Grant requested	Grant recommended	Rationale for recommendation
Winchester Live At Home	Town, including Stanmore and Winnall	Mapping and improving access to safe, flexible and affordable transport, including the recruitment of a transport co-ordinator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving access to services Promoting the wellbeing of older people Improving the quality of life in the Winnall and Stanmore area 	£5,222	£4,122	£2,350	<p>Three priorities met</p> <p>Maximum grant within threshold</p>
Winnall Street Dance Academy	Winnall & Highcliffe Stanmore Harestock & Weeke	Starting up 3 dance academies with 2 hour weekly sessions during term time, based on previous pilot in Winnall	Improving the quality of life in the Winnall and Stanmore area	£20,409	£15,409	£2,350	<p>Two priorities met</p> <p>Maximum grant within threshold</p> <p>Support of Chair of Town Forum</p>

Winchester YMCA	City Centre	Re-fresh youth café / drop in centre, with youth worker support, to help young people who are NEET or are at risk of becoming NEET – a significant percentage of café users are from Stanmore and Winnall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Improving the quality of life in the Winnall and Stanmore area ccess to services • Improving the quality of life in the Winnall and Stanmore neighbourhoods 	£15,400	£4,000	£2,350	Meets three priorities Maximum within threshold
Meon Valley Carers	Meon Valley	Contact tracking database to monitor wellbeing of members (people with dementia); creating an outreach pack, training for volunteer outreach team, complete and launch website, promotional materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to services • Promoting the wellbeing of older people 	£4,650	£4,000	£2,350	Meets two priorities Maximum within threshold
Whiteley Pre-School	Whiteley (In Fareham District, but serves Winchester	The purchase of portable wash basin/sinks to maintain level of hygiene required in compliance with hand washing regulations.	N/a	£1,105	£1,105 (no match funding identified)	£660	Active Communities outcome – 80% of total requested after deduction of 25% for required

residents)

match funding.

Propose 50% split of award between WCC and Fareham BC but full payment allowed for within award in case this does not happen.

Friends of Flowerdown Care Home	Harestock	Improving the recreational space at the Care Home by building a raised bed with a pond, water-feature, lighting and fragrant flowers.	Promoting the wellbeing of older people	£1,602	£1,602	£675	Meets one priority – 90% of maximum after deduction for required match funding and ineligible element of application.
					(of which £600 is ineligible)		
					(no match funding identified)		

Hursley Parish Hall	Hursley	Improving light around and access to Hursley Parish Hall, including the installation of a Jubilee lamp standard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to services • Promoting the wellbeing of older people 	£2,392	£1,200	£1,200	Meets two priorities – maximum within threshold
St Paul's Church	St Paul's	Refurbishment of the hall roof ('religious' activities not funded under scheme, but wider community benefit has been demonstrated in this application so it is eligible)	N/a	£41,490	£10,000	£3,600	Active communities outcome – 80% of maximum within threshold
Winnall Community Association	Winnall	Re-roofing, insulation, extend gas heating, air heat pumps in order to increase energy efficiency and to expand services to elderly - lunch clubs etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to services • Promoting the wellbeing of older people • Improving the quality of life in the Winnall neighbourhood • Reducing our carbon 	£145,975	£25,000	£4,500	Meets four priorities – Maximum award within threshold

			footprint				
King Alfred Youth and Community Centre	Winnall	Provision of a free standing vertical wheelchair lift from ground to first floor to increase user groups and to make the building more sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving access to services Improving the quality of life in the Winnall neighbourhood 	£18,110	£9,000	£4,500	Meets two priorities – Maximum award within threshold
Vitalise	Various	Subsidy for planned breaks for disabled people enabling respite for carers and opportunities for positive volunteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving access to services Improving the quality of life in the Winnall and Stanmore neighbourhoods 	N/a	£705	£565	Supports wider outcome of Active Communities , so 80% of maximum in threshold
The Meon Hall	Meonstoke	Improving kitchen and store room facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the wellbeing of older people 	£24,200	£1,500	NIL	Beneficiary of multiple grants from WCC (2006, 2008, 2009, 2011) - priority given to other organisations who have not received

							funding in the last year.
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	Stanmore	Set up three green gyms, in consultation with Active Lifestyles Officer. project	Improving the quality of life in the Stanmore neighbourhood	£16,118	£8,059	NIL	No other match funding secured - project not viable even with WCC support
Twyford Parish Hall	Twyford	Replacement of current kitchen, including floors, walls, units and appliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the wellbeing of older people 	£25,734	£12,867	NIL -	Received funding in 2011/12 – Priority given to applicants who did not receive funding last year.

Oliver's Battery Pre-School	Oliver's Battery	Funding towards a new purpose built building for Olivers Battery Pre-School	N/a	£233,000	£5,000	NIL	No match funding secured – project not realistic within this financial year
TOTAL				£556,107	£103,569	£25,100	