

CABINET

19 May 2011

COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDS 2011/12 (EXCLUDING KEY CLIENTS)

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ACTIVE COMMUNITIES)

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RECENT REFERENCES:

[CAB2144](#) – Community Grants – Revenue and Capital Awards – 16 March 2011

[CAB1962](#) – Community Grants – Revenue Awards 2010/11 – 3 February 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

An amendment to the Budget at Council on 24 February 2011 increased funds available for community grants which enabled a wider range of organisations to apply for revenue funding for 2011/12. Applications have now been received and these have been evaluated. This report sets out officer recommendations. The report also makes a recommendation in respect of a grant application from Meon Hall which is suitable for funding from the £50,000 budget established to support rural businesses and small community groups. There is also a further recommendation regarding a restriction on the nature of rural businesses eligible for Community Grants in 2011/12.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1	That a grant award from the General Fund is approved as follows:	
	(i) Meonstoke, Exton and Corhampton Village Hall Committee	£1,800
2	That grant awards from the General Fund are approved as follows:	
	(i) Age Concern Winchester	£ 5,560
	(ii) Bishops Waltham Festival	£ 2,000
	(iii) Carroll Centre	£11,480
	(iv) deafPLUS	£ 1,000
	(v) Hampshire and IOW Youth Options (KAYAC)	£11,420
	(vi) Havant and District Citizens Advice Bureau	£ 600
	(vii) Homestart Meon Valley	£11,500
	(viii) Homestart Winchester and Districts	£ 4,500
	(ix) National Childbirth Trust (Free antenatal group at Sparklers Children's Centre, Winnall)	£ 1,000
	(x) Olive Branch	£ 1,000
	(xi) Relate Winchester and District	£ 3,500
	(xii) Stanmore Combined	£ 500
	(xiii) United Savings and Loans (Hampshire Credit Union)	£ 2,000
	(xiv) Vitalise	£ 500
	(xv) Winchester and District Young Carers Project	£ 2,000
	(xvi) Winchester and District Mencap (Blue Apple Theatre)	£ 1,500
	(xvii) Winchester Churches Housing Group (Keystone)	£ 5,000
	(xviii) Winchester Churches Night Shelter	£ 3,500
	(xix) Winchester Detached Youth Work Project (Street Reach)	£ 5,500
	(xx) Winchester Festival	£ 3,000

(xxi)	Winchester Live at Home Scheme	£ 5,440
(xxii)	Winchester Rent Deposit Scheme	£ 2,000
(xxiii)	Winchester Rural Youth Theatre and Dance	£ 6,500
(xxiv)	Winchester Youth Counselling	£ 2,500
(xxv)	Winnall Community Association (Holiday Play Scheme)	£ 3,500
(xxvi)	Winnall Junior Youth Club	£ 1,200
(xxvii)	Winnall Rock School	£ 4,500

TOTAL £103,120

3. That Members agree to restrict the nature of rural businesses eligible for Community Grants to village and community shops, subject to review at the end of the financial year.
4. Assuming recommendation 3 is approved, that applications for support by village/community shops to the Community Grants scheme are considered under the existing criteria for village/community shop grants.

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1.1 An overall sum of £739,123 for community revenue support was agreed as part of the Budget recommendations at Cabinet in February (including £61,813 for the Town Account). This sum reflected a desire to achieve savings. Fewer organisations were invited to apply for 2011/12 grants than in previous years in order to make these savings. Officers consulted leading Members in reducing the list, and the organisations invited to apply were those considered best able to contribute to the five priority areas of the new Sustainable Community Strategy.

1.2 As a result of an amendment to the Budget at Council on 24 February 2011, a decision was taken to make further funds available as set out in the table below:

Community Grants 2011/12

	General Fund			Town A/C	TOTAL
	Grants	Rent Subsidy			
		Total			
Cabinet (CAB2125)	604,310	73,000	677,310	61,813	739,123
Council Amendments (Increased Awards):					
Community Grants	75,090	0	75,090	0	75,090
Rural business & small community groups	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000
Total Council Amendments	125,090	0	125,090	0	125,090
Baseline Community Chest	9,000	0	9,000	0	9,000
Total Community Grants	738,400	73,000	811,400	61,813	873,213

- 1.3 Excluding the amount allocated to key clients, this meant that £103,600 was then available for other revenue awards. The amendment included a list of organisations to be invited to apply for funding, based on previous grant recipients, and this resulted in further applications being invited.
- 1.4 This report does not deal with decisions about key client grant awards as these were previously determined by Cabinet on 16 March 2011. Winchester Town Forum also agreed awards to a range of organisations at its meeting on 23 March 2011. These are reflected in the table at Appendix 1.
- 1.5 A further application was received from United Savings and Loans (Hampshire Credit Union) which did not feature in the budget amendment but which has previously received revenue funding from the Council. This application adequately meets criteria and has therefore been included in this report.
- 1.6 A further grant application from the Meonstoke, Exton and Corhampton Village Hall Committee has also been received. The Council meeting on 24 February made available a budget of £50,000 for the award of one off community grants during 2011/12. This application meets criteria and has been re-submitted since the autumn when the former 'capital grants' scheme was suspended. It has therefore been included in this report (see Paragraph 4).

2 COMMUNITY REVENUE GRANTS OVERVIEW

- 2.1 Appendix 2 gives details of the total revenue grants awarded to each organisation in 2010/11 as well as details of amounts requested by applicants for 2011/12. The recommended allocations from the General Fund 2011/12 and the awards from the Town Account are also shown. The final (right hand) column in Appendix 2 shows the total revenue grant award for 2011/12 that, subject to approval, each applicant will receive.

3 ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- 3.1 All applications have been assessed against revenue grants criteria and outcomes and priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the change plans. All grants, as in previous years, will be subject to service level agreements which will be monitored throughout the year.
- 3.2 The assessment process has been supplemented by the Council decision to determine levels of funding through an amendment to the budget. All the organisations which returned a completed application form have been recommended to receive the amount indicated in the budget amendment unless they requested a lower amount than the amendment suggested in which case they have been awarded only the amount they wanted. These changes are marginal. (There are 2 exceptions where it is recommended that the applicants receive a higher level of grant award than suggested in the budget amendment - see Paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6).

- 3.3 Moreover, not all those organisations invited to apply did so, namely:-
- a) Eating Disorders Family and Friends Support Group
 - b) Hampshire Deaf Association
 - c) KIDS
 - d) Meon Valley Carers
 - e) Signature Care and Support
 - f) Winchester Folk Festival
- 3.4 Because some applicants requested less than the budget amendment suggested and others did not apply, this has resulted in an under spend of £12,200. It is recommended that this sum is used to enhance the awards of 2 organisations key to delivering the Council's priorities in 2011/12.
- 3.5 Age Concern (Winchester) requested £4,860 for a programme of work which has been developed within the context of the Winchester District Older People's action plan and will deliver benefits to older people with new initiatives in our priority neighbourhoods of Stanmore and Winnall. It is recommended that their programme is fully funded. In addition Age Concern wish to expand their service as part of their affiliation to the new national Age UK organisation. This will include the provision of a confidential advice and information service for older people. To provide the service they need additional space and intend to take up accommodation within the Colebrook Street community hub adjoining City Offices. To enable them to meet the cost of this move and help towards the first year's rental an additional award of £1,500 is recommended. The total award for Age Concern is therefore £6,360 instead of the allocation of £1,500 proposed in the budget amendment.
- 3.6 The Carroll Centre is an important local facility and a driver for positive change in our priority neighbourhood of Stanmore. The Centre is ambitious to expand services and meet needs in the local area and they have applied for a grant of £14,912 to provide a programme which will help to improve quality of life in Stanmore. It is recommended that they receive a grant of £12,000 (including a contribution of £520 already approved by the Town Forum) instead of the figure of £5,500 set out in the budget amendment. This is equal to the award for the King Alfred Youth Activity Centre which plays a similar role in Winnall but which – largely for historical reasons – has received rather more than its Stanmore counterpart.
- 4 GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY BUILDINGS
- 4.1 A capital grant application has been received from Meonstoke, Exton and Corhampton Village Hall Committee. The application is in respect of a project to replace all the single glazed windows and doors with double glazed units to

improve energy efficiency throughout the Meon Hall. £1,800 is requested under what was previously known as the 'capital' grants scheme.

- 4.2 The application was first submitted in July 2010 but the capital grants programme was suspended before it could be processed. The Council meeting on 24 February made available a budget of £50,000 for the award of one off community grants during 2011/12. The Meon Hall application has now been resubmitted, meets our criteria and is therefore recommended for payment in line with the terms of the original 'capital' grants programme.
- 4.3 The budget amendment referred to support for rural businesses as part of this programme. Members will be aware that the Council distributes LEADER funding to rural businesses and the LEADER programme has a strong track record. Given the modest size of the budget proposed for 'Capital' grants and the availability of LEADER monies, officers suggest that the reinstated grants scheme focus on village/community shops which often play an important role in community life as buildings such as community and youth centres.
- 4.4 The Council has, over the past two years, been running a grant scheme for village/community shops from LABGI (Local Authority Business Growth Incentive) reserves allocated for the purpose at the start of the recession. The criteria for this scheme were set out in [Portfolio Holder Decision Notice 233](#) in June 2009. Although the funds are now coming to an end, the scheme has worked well. It is therefore proposed that applications to the reinstated Community Grants programme be invited from village and community shops and be subject to the criteria of the existing scheme.
- 4.5 All other applications would be assessed under the rules of the previous 'capital grants' programme, the eligibility criteria for which require applicants to be registered charities.
- 4.6 It may be desirable to broaden over time the range of rural businesses which are eligible for support, but Members are asked to approve the proposal to confine eligibility to village/community shops in 2011/12.

5 EMERGENCY GRANT TO WINNALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

- 5.1 Members are asked to note that, with the consent of the Portfolio Holder, an emergency grant of £2,000 has been made to Winnall Community Association towards urgent repairs to the roof and electrical wiring at Winnall Community Centre. The grant was made from the emergency grants reserve.

6 PROCESSING OF COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS IN 2011/12

- 6.1 The 'Community Chest' fund offers small grants of up to £500. In previous years the budget has been £9,000. In the past there have been 3 opportunities per year for organisations to apply for a small grant with decisions being taken via portfolio holder decision notice. Officers have been looking for ways to streamline the processing of these small grants and to better publicise their availability.

- 6.2 Winchester Area Community Action (WACA) are well placed to deliver this service cost effectively as they are in touch with community groups throughout the year and often involved at the outset with new projects and initiatives. Members are asked to note that, with the agreement of the Portfolio Holder, WACA has been invited to undertake this service for 2011/12 as part of their service level agreement plus a fee of £500. There will be 2 'rounds' during the year. Decisions on which organisations receive funding through the Community Chest programme will still be made by Members as before via a portfolio holder decision notice. This arrangement will be reviewed at the end of the financial year.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

7 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CHANGE PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

- 7.1 Applications for grant funding are assessed against the Winchester District Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes (active communities, a prosperous economy, and a high quality environment) and the 5 priorities (older people's wellbeing, access to services, reducing the district's carbon footprint, Stanmore and Winnall).
- 7.2 Many of the groups listed in Appendix 2 are supported in accordance with S2 Local Government Act 2000. This outlines a local authority's power to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area and is relevant to partnership working with community organisations.
- 7.3 The Council must have full regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy when making grants and the statutory guidance on 'well-being' powers in the Local Government Act 2000 does not preclude any of the 2011/12 grants that are proposed. Additionally some awards can be made under powers outlined in S19 Local Government Act 1976 – "non-profit making recreation projects" and S145 Local Government Act 1972 – "promotion of the arts".

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The amount recommended for other revenue grant awards (excluding key clients) from the General Fund in 2011/12 in this paper is £103,120, to be funded from existing budgets.
- 8.2 The amount recommended for grant awards from the General Fund revenue budget of £50,000 established for the support of rural businesses and small community groups in this paper is £1,800.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 9.1 All successful applicants are expected to sign up to a Service Level Agreement with the City Council before any payments are made.

- 9.2 Organisations are not permitted to change the use of the approved grant unless otherwise agreed in writing by the City Council.
- 9.3 All grant funded organisations are expected to promote equality of opportunity for all sections of the community through the services they provide.
- 10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:
- 10.1 Application forms and supporting documents submitted requesting community revenue grant support for 2011/12 are held by the Commissioning Team.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Summary of grant awards recommended in this report (excluding community buildings grants).

Community Revenue Grants Summary 2011/2012 (Excluding Key Clients)

Organisation	2010/11 Award			2011/12 Award		
	Client Status	Grant Award 2010/11	Grant Requested 2011/12	Town Forum	Gen Fund	Total
Age Concern Winchester	Existing	1,585	4,860	340	5,680	6,020
Bishops Waltham Festival	New		1,900		2000	2,000
Carroll Centre (The)	Existing	5,820	14,912	520	11,480	12,000
deafPLUS	Existing	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000
Hampshire & IOW Youth Options – KAYAC	Existing	12,000	12,000	580	11,420	12,000
Havant and District CAB	Existing	600	700		600	600
Homestart Meon Valley	Existing	11,155	12,000		11,500	11,500
Homestart Winchester and Districts	Existing	4,850	6,600	560	4,500	5,060
National Childbirth Trust (Formerly Bumps to Bundles)	Existing	1,300	2,280		1,300	1,300

Organisation	2010/11 Award			2011/12 Award		
	Client Status	Grant Award 2010/11	Grant Requested 2011/12	Town Forum	Gen Fund	Total
Olive Branch	Existing	1,000	1,100		1000	1,000
Relate Winchester	Existing	4,010	5,000		3,500	3,500
Stanmore Combined	Existing	970	600	60	500	560
United Savings and Loans (Hampshire Credit Union)	Existing	6,915	2,000		2,000	2,000
Vitalise	Existing	500	No specific amount requested		500	500
Winchester and District Mencap	Existing	1,455	1,500		1,500	1,500
Winchester & District Young Carers	Existing	2,035	7,500	150	2000	2,150
Winchester Churches – Night Shelter	Existing	3,880	4,000	290	3,500	3,790
Winchester Churches Housing Group (Keystone)	Existing	4,980	8,000		5,000	5,000
Winchester Detached Youth	Existing	8,375	24,772	220	5,500	5,720

Organisation	2010/11 Award			2011/12 Award		
	Client Status	Grant Award 2010/11	Grant Requested 2011/12	Town Forum	Gen Fund	Total
Work Project – (Streetreach)						
Winchester Festival	Existing	2,910	3,000		3,000	3,000
Winchester Live at Home Scheme	Existing	5,995	6,000	560	5,440	6,000
Winchester Rent Deposit Scheme	Existing	2,000	No specific amount requested		2,000	2,000
Winchester Rural Youth Theatre	Existing	6,500	9,000		6,500	6,500
Winchester Youth Counselling	Existing	2,520	5,000		2,500	2,500
Winnall Community Association	Existing	4,035	3,686	270	3,500	3,770
Winnall Junior Youth Club	Existing	1,700	1,900	130	1,200	1,330
Winnall Rock School	Existing	4,975	5,000	500	4,500	5,000
TOTAL			144,310	4,180	103,120	107,300