



09/17

Purpose: For Decision

Delegated decision report

DELEGATED CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Date	DECISION CANNOT BE TAKEN BEFORE 23 NOVEMBER 2017
Title	SOLENT COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME – MATCH FUNDING
Report to	CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The council has received a request from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation to provide a match funding contribution of £150,000 over three years, along with other local authorities in the region, to the Solent Community Grants programme.
2. The Solent Community Grants Programme was created by Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and is supported by European Social Fund (ESF), Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) fundholders, Hampshire County Council (HCC), Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council. The 3 year programme will fund projects that provide grants to support organisations able to reach and work with individuals with complex barriers to employment, enabling them to move closer or into employment.
3. The project has been operating for 2 years in the Solent area and some organisations based on the Isle of Wight have been successful in accessing funding to deliver training for people who would otherwise find it difficult to access work. 7 projects have received support to date totalling £162,355 without any council match funding having been provided, but the potential for a wider scope of project activity on the Isle of Wight enabled by a defined council match funding position and leveraging in further ESF funding has been evidenced by the successful delivery of the projects delivered thus far and the evidenced need across our regeneration areas.
4. The council has embarked on wide ranging regeneration programme and is seeking to ensure that the benefits of growing the local economy reach those who might benefit most. In particular, people who may have been out of work for some time or have barriers preventing them to entering into or progressing within the local labour market.
5. The report recommendation is that the council commit to providing £50k per annum for three years beginning in 18/19 from its Regeneration budget for spending on Isle of Wight based projects under the Solent Community Grants programme.

BACKGROUND

6. The Solent Community Grants Programme was created by Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and is supported by European Social Fund (ESF), Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) fundholders, Hampshire County Council (HCC), Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council. The 3 year programme will fund projects that provide grants to support organisations able to reach and work with individuals with complex barriers to employment, enabling them to move closer or into employment.
7. The partnership approach adopted enables access to up to £880,000 of additional European Social Fund monies for the region with at least over £200,000 of this coming to the Isle of Wight.

Local authority	Match amount	funding	Projected total spend in area
Hampshire county council	£345,000		£ 690,000
Portsmouth City council	£150,000		£ 300,000
Southampton City council	£75,000		£ 150,000
Isle of Wight council	£150,000		£ 300,000
HIWCF	£160,000		£ 320,000 (25% to IOW)

It is proposed that the council is represented on the decision making panel overseeing applications and it has also been agreed that projects will need to demonstrate their contribution to local issues identified in the area regeneration programmes currently under development.

The types of activities supported by the project and the numbers of beneficiaries to date in its first two years are outlined below for illustration purposes.

Organisation	Area	Total Grant Allocation Rd 1 & Rd2	Total Forecast Outputs (Participants) Rd 1 & Rd2	Brief Description of Project
Bodster Equine Assisted Learning CIC	Isle of Wight	£12,122	20	Developing confidence for Inactive Learners using the equine element as a classroom to develop softer end of the skills spectrum.
Central Eltham Youth Project (CEYP)	Isle of Wight	£30,000	40	Programme of classes to take care leavers and young people out of their normal surroundings.
Deaf PLUS	Isle of Wight	£7,498	25	Project working with Deaf, deafblind and visually impaired participants to address barriers to employment
Learning Links	Isle of Wight	£28,504	78	Personalised training model offering dedicated keyworker support to participants experiencing mental health issues.

Storeroom 2010	Isle of Wight	£29,961	72	Retraining and work readiness through practical courses including horticulture and plumbing.
Vectis Housing Association	Isle of Wight	£24,274	50	Primarily supporting women who have been victims of domestic abuse, those returning to work and lone parents to improve employment opportunities.
Wheatsheaf Trust	Isle of Wight	£29,996	50	Working with economically inactive participants of all ages to deliver a two-stage programme of wellbeing activities and employment support.
Total IOW area	Round 1 & 2	£162,355	335	Average cost per participant - £485

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

8. The council's Corporate Plan 2017 -2020 – Our Island, Our Vision sets out a vision for “the Isle of Wight to be an inspiring place in which to grow up, work, live and visit”.

This vision is underpinned by the administration's commitments to the Isle of Wight, on which the corporate plan has been prepared. These are:

- Creating opportunities for all
- Delivering economic growth and prosperity
- Preserving our environment
- Planning for our future needs
- Protecting our community
- Providing sound financial management

The activities supported by the Solent Community Grants programme will directly support four of these six commitments

CONSULTATION

9. There is no requirement to consult on the proposal to provide match funding. The decision is a regeneration funding matter which rests with the Cabinet member for Regeneration.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

10. The £50k per annum for three years will be allocated as part of the Area regeneration budget as part of the wider regeneration programme
11. The allocation will lever at least x 2 additional funds to spent on projects on the Isle of Wight resulting in a total spend of at least £300,000 over the next three years.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The council will be asked to provide a match funding confirmation certificate as required for ESF programme

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

13. The council, as a public body, is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and foster good relations between people from different backgrounds. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
14. The support for the Solent Community Grants programme will contribute towards improving the overall economic well-being of the Island. It is likely that the identified groups will be disproportionately benefit from the project due to the barriers they face in accessing employment.

RISK MANAGEMENT

15. The council will be represented at member and senior officer level on the grant making panel mitigating any risk of grants being made to unsuitable organisations

EVALUATION

16. The council will receive quarterly reports on project progress and the contribution of projects to identified area regeneration needs across the island will be assessed as part of a project wide and island focused evaluation at 18 months and on completion at 3 years.

RECOMMENDATION

17. To commit council match funding of £150,000, over a three year period , beginning in 18/19, towards the delivery of Isle of Wight based activities under the Solent Community Grants programme

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CHRIS ASHMAN
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COUNCILLOR WAYNE WHITTLE
*Cabinet member for Regeneration, Business
Development and Tourism*

Decision

Signed

Date
