

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision

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| <b>Portfolio:</b>           | Leisure and Community                                 |
| <b>Subject:</b>             | <b>Community Grant Funding – Lets Hear In Fareham</b> |
| <b>Report of:</b>           | Director of Operations                                |
| <b>Strategy/Policy:</b>     | Leisure Strategy                                      |
| <b>Corporate Objective:</b> | Strong and Inclusive Communities                      |

#### **Purpose:**

This report presents an application for funding under the Council's Community Fund Programme.

#### **Executive Summary:**

An application for community funding has been received from Let's Hear in Fareham for the sum of £245.60. The grant is to purchase 200 hearing loop window stickers and 500 A6 promotional leaflets.

Let's Hear is a national Hearing Link campaign which aims to empower local people to improve hearing experiences in their own communities. Health statistics show that nationally 70 percent of 70 year olds and 40 percent of 50 year olds have hearing difficulties.

Let's Hear in Fareham is a Rotary Community Corporation project, that is a link between the Rotary Club of Fareham Meon and the local community. It was launched in February 2016 following involvement from audiology at Queen Alexandra Hospital and Fareham Borough Council's Communications Team.

The project has identified a bank of volunteers who are able to check the effectiveness of hearing loop systems in public facilities within the Borough, ensure signage is adequate and staff are appropriately trained. Following a visit, the volunteer provides appropriate feedback to the organisation to encourage any improvements to the hearing loop system to be adopted.

The project has a separate terms of reference from the Rotary Club of Fareham Meon. Its stated aim is 'to raise awareness of the importance of good hearing, to improve community hearing accessibility and inclusion across the Borough of Fareham'. The scheme currently has 7 teams of Hearing Loop checkers.

As the project is newly formed, the scheme has so far only received £106.40 in funding from other sources.

**Recommendation:**

That the application for £245.60 from Fareham Borough Council's Community Fund, submitted by Let's Hear in Fareham, for the purchase of 200 Hearing Loop stickers and 500 leaflets be approved.

**Reason:**

This application meets the agreed Community Fund criteria for financial support for community capital projects.

**Cost of Proposals:**

The total allocation towards this project will be £245.60, which can be met from within the existing budget for the Community Fund budget.

**Risk Assessment:**

There are no identified risks associated with this report.