

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Community Grant Funding – Warsash U3A
Report of:	Director of Operations
Strategy/Policy:	Leisure Strategy
Corporate Objective:	Strong and Inclusive Communities

Purpose:

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

Executive Summary:

An application for community funding has been received from Warsash U3A for the sum of £500 to contribute to the purchase of audio visual equipment, to enable the effective operation of the organisation's meetings and presentations.

The University of the Third Age, or U3A, is a national movement through which retired and semi-retired people meet to share skills, knowledge and experience for the pleasure of learning and social support. The objectives of the U3A are to educate British society regarding its ageing population and to make retired people aware of their intellectual potential.

Although all U3As are supported by the national organisation, the Third Age Trust, and they must abide by the Trust's principles of communal learning and voluntary membership, each local group is operationally and financially independent.

Warsash U3A was launched in 2016 and already has 150 members. The group meets monthly in Warsash for presentations by a speaker, but also operates additional learning groups around different subject matters. As members are of a retired age, the presentations rely on good quality audio visual projection.

The organisation currently borrows its presentation equipment from a neighbouring U3A. However, due to increasing demand this has become less easy to secure. It aims to purchase a public address system, projector, speakers and a laptop to remedy this difficulty. The total cost of this equipment is £1,466.

Warsash U3A aims to identify the remaining sum through fundraising initiatives.

Following the organisation's first year of running, the balance of the accounts was £5,115.25.

Both Ward Councillors, Councillor Cartwright and Councillor Ford, are supportive of this application.

Recommendation:

That the application for £500 from Fareham Borough Council's Community Fund, submitted by Warsash U3A, to contribute towards the cost of audio visual equipment, be approved.

That the award is made under the condition that the equipment will be available to other U3As in the Borough when not being used by Warsash U3A.

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 £500, which can be met from within the existing budget for the Community Fund Programme.

Risk Assessment:

There are no identified risks associated with this report.