

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 04 September 2017

Portfolio:	Policy and Resources
Subject:	Locks Heath Free Church
Report of:	Director of Operations
Strategy/Policy:	Grants Policy
Corporate Objective:	All corporate objectives apply

Purpose:

To provide details of matched funding requests received by the Council during the second quarter of the 2017/18 financial year.

Executive summary:

During the second quarter of 2017/18, the Council has received one matched funding request:

A matched funding bid has been received from Locks Heath Free Church towards the cost of extending and refurbishing its community facilities. It is anticipated that these works will, in addition to improving the existing areas, increase the variety of rooms available for hire by the local community.

The total cost of the project is £4.66 million, of which Locks Heath Free Church has identified £4,412,600 in donations, pledges, grants and a mortgage. They anticipate raising a further £248,000 in future donations.

Locks Heath Free Church has requested £40,000 towards their project to extend and refurbish their community facilities.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive:

- a)** considers offering a matched funding grant of £40,000 to Locks Heath Free Church, in order to extend and refurbish the community facilities at their premises on Hunts Pond Road; and
- b)** agrees the award of funding, subject to agreeing satisfactory terms for community use to ensure that the facilities are made available for use by the community.

Reason:

To act as an enabler, assisting the local community in making improvements to local community facilities, and introducing new facilities for the benefit of all age groups within the community.

Cost of proposals:

The grant request is £40,000 and the Community Funding Budget currently has funds of £125,870.

Appendices:

A: Matched Funding Application – Locks Heath Free Church

B: Proposed Community Funding Agreement – Locks Heath Free Church

C: Proposed Community Funding Award Letter – Locks Heath Free Church

Background papers:**Reference papers:**

Report to the Executive on 8 March 2010 – Review of Discretionary Grants

Report to the Executive on 17 May 2010 – Grants Review Update

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	04 September 2017
Subject:	Locks Heath Free Church Matched Funding report
Briefing by:	Director of Operations
Portfolio:	Leisure and Community

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to provide details of any matched funding requests received by the Council during the second quarter of the 2017/18 financial year.
2. On 8 March 2010, the Executive considered a report on the various discretionary grants provided by the Council. The report included details regarding each category of grant and the level of funding available. Members agreed to combine a number of grants into a single pot for the 2010/11 financial year onwards.
3. The report also highlighted the need for the Council to take a more coordinated approach in assessing matched funding requests in the future.
4. It was agreed that the procedure for applying for matched funding be changed so that bids would be considered by the Executive on a quarterly basis. These Matched Funding reports would also identify matched funding requests "in the pipeline", to enable a more strategic approach to prioritising these requests.

CRITERIA

5. The criteria for matched funding awards are deliberately inexplicit. The Council will consider any project which benefits the local community and / or improves the local environment. Awards will usually only be made for capital projects.
6. Any matched funding application must demonstrate that the applicant will contribute an equal sum to the project as is being requested from the Council. This fosters a sense of commitment and ownership to the project from the local community, and as a result increases the likelihood that the benefits will continue to be valued and maintained in the future.
7. All successful applicants are required to sign a Community Use Agreement with the Council, to ensure that the project provides benefit to the local community. This enables an extension of this benefit to reach much further than the organisation making the application.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The current balance of the community funding budget is approximately £125,870.

MATCHED FUNDING BIDS RECEIVED

9. Locks Heath Free Church is a popular church with a very supportive congregation. In addition to its function for acts of worship, the premises are well used by a local pre-school and a very well-attended church youth club.
10. A matched funding bid has been received from Locks Heath Free Church towards the cost of extending and refurbishing its community facilities. It is anticipated that these works will, in addition to improving the existing areas, increase the variety of rooms available for hire by the local community. The project is scheduled to commence in February 2018, with an anticipated timing of completion of autumn, 2019.
11. The total cost of the project is £4.66 million, of which Locks Heath Free Church has identified £4,412,600 in donations, pledges, grants and a mortgage. They anticipate raising a further £248,000 in future donations. Locks Heath Free Church is requesting £40,000 in matched funding towards the project.

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

12. Ward Councillor Pankhurst has confirmed her support for this application. Councillor Englefield, the remaining Ward Councillor, has yet to respond to the consultation.

MATCHED FUNDING BIDS “IN THE PIPELINE”

13. A potential matched funding bid from 1st Sarisbury Scout Group, to provide a purpose-built scout hut at Burr ridge Recreation Ground, has been identified.

RISK ASSESSMENT

14. The risks and opportunities associated with each funding bid are considered on an individual basis and details are included in each assessment document.

CONCLUSION

15. This report sets out details for the matched funding bid received from Locks Heath Free Church. The bid is for £40,000 towards the cost of extending and refurbishing its community facilities.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Claire Benfield (Ext 4495)