

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 19 June 2023

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Voluntary Sector Support Fund - Burrridge Community Association
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priorities:	Strong, safe, inclusive and healthy communities

Purpose:

To consider an application to the Council's Voluntary Sector Support Fund from Burrridge Community Association.

Executive summary:

In April 2023, as part of the report on Voluntary and Community Support Services, the Executive approved the allocation of £7,500 from the Community Fund budget to which local charitable organisations can apply to secure their first year's membership to Action Hampshire and/or access their specialist advice around a governance issue of particular concern. These applications were to be considered by the Executive Member for Leisure and Community.

An application to this Fund has been received from Burrridge Community Association, a local charitable organisation.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive approves the following:

- (a) the award of £30 from the Voluntary Sector Support Fund to fund Burrridge Community Association's first year of membership to Action Hampshire; and
- (b) the award of £372 from the Voluntary Sector Support Fund to fund Burrridge Community Association's access to specialist governance support from Action Hampshire when required.

Reason:

This application meets the criteria of the Voluntary Sector Support Fund.

Cost of proposals:

The cost of this application is £402, which can be met from the Voluntary Sector Support Fund budget.

Appendices: **Appendix A – Burrridge Community Association's Accounts 2021-2022**

Appendix B – Burrridge Community Association's Constitution

Background papers: **None**

Reference papers: **Report to the Executive 3April 2023, Voluntary Community Support Services**

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	19 June 2023
Subject:	Voluntary Sector Support Fund - Burrridge Community Association
Briefing by:	Director of Leisure and Community
Portfolio:	Leisure and Community

INTRODUCTION

1. In April 2023, as part of the report on Voluntary and Community Support Services, the Executive approved the allocation of £7,500 from the Community Fund budget to which local charitable organisations can apply to secure their first year's membership to Action Hampshire and/or access their specialist advice around a governance issue of particular concern.
2. This Voluntary Sector Support Fund was established to enable the Borough's voluntary and community sector to access support to thrive to the best of its ability.
3. The criteria for an application to this Fund is that; the group provides a service to residents within the Borough of Fareham; the group is able to supply the constitution and annual accounts for their organisation; the group is able to demonstrate the need for specialist advice; the group is **not** a profit-making organisation; and the group has turnover of less than £250,000.
4. Applications to the Support Fund are delegated to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community by virtue of the report presented to the Executive at its meeting on 3 April 2023.

Background

5. An application to the Voluntary Sector Support Fund has been received by Burrridge Community Association. The object of the Association, as listed in the constitution, is to 'promote the benefits of the inhabitants of Burrridge and the neighbourhood together....in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation....'
6. To meet these objects, the Association manages Burrridge Village Hall, a community centre located within Burrridge.
7. At the Community Association's AGM on 28 April, following a period of concern within the existing committee, a new Trustee Board was formed. This reinvigorated team is committed to increasing usage of the Hall and stabilising the accounts.

8. To ensure the Association's constitution is fit for future purpose and the Trustees have access to support to help resolve outstanding issues with contractors and previous decisions made by former committee members, the Community Association has made an application to the Voluntary Sector Support Fund to join Action Hampshire.
9. The latest accounts available for the Association list an income for the year 2021-2022 of £27,138.32. Fees for membership to Action Hampshire are dependent on the income of the organisation. If an organisation turns-over less than £50,000 per year, the fee for one year is £30.
10. The application requests funding of £30 to fund Burrridge Community Association's first year's membership to Action Hampshire in addition to £372 to fund a day's focussed one-to-one support by Action Hampshire.

Approval of Award

11. The report presented to the Executive at its meeting on 3 April 2022 delegated authority to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community to consider and approve applications for the Voluntary Sector Support Fund.
12. At the current time, both the Executive Member for Leisure and Community and the Executive Leader have stepped in to help stabilise Burrridge Community Association and have become temporary Trustees to aid this process. As the Executive Member has declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and as such cannot participate in decision making in relation to this award. Under the Council's Constitution the decision is automatically 'referred up' to the Executive from where the delegation on decision making was made.

Conclusion

13. The Voluntary Sector Support Fund was established to enable the Borough's voluntary organisations to thrive to the best of their ability.
14. The application for a total of £402 by Burrridge Community Association meets the criteria for an application; the Association has supplied their constitution and annual accounts; they are able to demonstrate the need for specialist advice; the Association is **not** a profit-making organisation and has turnover of less than £250,000.
15. The £402 can be met from the available allocation for the Voluntary Sector Support Fund.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Emma Bowler, Leisure and Community Manager on 01329 824440 or Claire Benfield, Leisure and Community Officer on 01329 824495.