

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 18 May 2015

Portfolio:	Policy and Resources
Subject:	Matched Funding – 3rd Portchester Scout Group
Report of:	Director of Finance and Resources
Strategy/Policy:	Grants Policy
Corporate Objective:	All corporate objectives apply

Purpose:

To provide details of matched funding requests received by the Council during the fourth quarter of the 2014/15 financial year.

Executive summary:

During the last quarter of 2014/15, the Council has received one matched funding request:

The 3rd Portchester Scout Group has requested £20,000 towards upgrading the Cobham Hall toilets, kitchen, storage space, flooring as well as improving disability access.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

That the Executive considers a matched funding award of up to £20,000 for the 3rd Portchester Scout Group.

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:

Up to £20,000 (the community funding budget currently has funds of approximately £143,841.08).

Appendices: A: Matched Funding Application – 3rd Portchester Scout Group
Background papers:

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	18 May 2015
Subject:	Matched Funding – 3 rd Portchester Scout Group
Briefing by:	Director of Finance and Resources
Portfolio:	Policy and Resources

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to provide details of any matched funding requests received by the Council during the fourth quarter of the 2014/15 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, by predefined dates, in order that applications could be prioritised.
5. It was also suggested that as matched funding requests are received, those "in the pipeline" are identified, as well as those submitted for formal consideration.

CRITERIA

6. The criteria for matched funding awards have been deliberately kept simple. The Council will consider any project which benefits the local community and/or improves the local environment.
7. Awards will only be made for capital projects and will not include on-going revenue funding.
8. The important fact about a matched funding application is that the sum being requested from the Council needs to be matched by the applicant and/or other agencies. This helps to ensure that there is a definite commitment and sense of ownership from the local community in both delivering the project and maintaining the facilities thereafter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The current balance of the matched funding budget is approximately £143,841.08.

MATCHED FUNDING BIDS RECEIVED

10. A matched funding bid has been received from the 3rd Portchester Scout Group requesting £20,000 towards upgrading Cobham Hall's toilets, kitchen, storage space, flooring as well as improving disability access.
11. Cobham Hall is in need of significant refurbishments. These improvements will allow the continued use of the Scout Hut for scouting purposes.
12. The scout group have allocated £20,000 from their reserves and are seeking £20,000 from the Community Fund to allow the project to proceed. The Scout Group have allocated a further £5,000 from their reserves as a contingency should this be required. The details are set out in Appendix A.
13. The bid was originally considered at the 20 April 2015 meeting of the Executive, when a decision was deferred until issues regarding conditions of the use of the hall were resolved. These issues have now been resolved and the details are included in Appendix A.

Councillor Consultation

14. Ward Councillors Fazackarley, Price and Norris are fully in support of the application as are Councillor Walker and Councillor Bell. The Executive Member for Leisure and Community has given "in principle" support subject to consideration by the Executive.

MATCHED FUNDING BIDS "IN THE PIPELINE"

15. There are no matched funding bids in the pipeline.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

CONCLUSION

17. This report sets out details for the matched funding bids received by the Council for the last quarter of the 2014/15 financial year.

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