

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 13 July 2015

Portfolio:	Policy and Resources
Subject:	Matched Funding – Parish of Holy Trinity with St. Columba
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 first quarter of the 2015/16 financial year.

Executive summary:

During the first quarter of 2015/16, the Council has received one matched funding request:

The Parish of Holy Trinity with St. Columba has requested £40,000 towards repairs and restoration work to the Church's clock tower.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

That the Executive considers a matched funding award of up to £40,000 towards the repairs and restoration work of Holy Trinity Church's clock tower.

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 £40,000 (the community funding budget currently has funds of approximately £107,750.68).

Appendices: A: Matched Funding Application – Parish of Holy Trinity with St. Columba

Background papers:

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	13 July 2015
Subject:	Matched Funding - Parish of Holy Trinity with St. Columba
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. All successful applicants have to sign a Community Use Agreement with the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The current balance of the matched funding budget is approximately £107,750.68.

MATCHED FUNDING BIDS RECEIVED

10. A matched funding bid has been received from the Parish of Holy Trinity with St. Columba requesting £40,000 towards the cost of repairs to the Holy Trinity Church's clock tower.
11. Holy Trinity is a Grade II listed building which dates from 1835 and is one of the few historically important buildings in West Street. The church is used by the Council for certain civic functions, such as last year's 1st World War Centenary commemoration service. In addition, over thirty social, charitable and cultural organisations use the church on a regular basis.
12. The Parish is engaged in a project called 'High Time', which aims to make substantial repairs and improvements to both the clock tower and the interior of the Church. The interior improvements will allow a greater variety and number of organisations to use the Church's facilities.
13. The church's clock tower is in need of urgent structural repairs as well as a number of internal improvements. The clock itself ceased to work in 2011. The repairs to the tower and clock will restore this local landmark to working order.
14. The total cost of the High Time project is £407,808. The Parish has so far secured £348,312 in funding through fundraising and various other sources. If the £40,000 matched funding bid is successful, the remaining £19,496 needed will be collected through Parish fundraising.

Councillor Consultation

15. Both ward Councillors for Fareham East, Councillor Whittle and Councillor Trott have expressed their support for the matched funding bid. Both Councillors are registered electoral roll members of the parish and attend services at the church.

MATCHED FUNDING BIDS "IN THE PIPELINE"

16. A potential matched funding bid from the Locks Heath Free Church to help them construct a large extension to their church building.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

CONCLUSION

18. This report sets out details for the matched funding bids received by the Council for the first quarter of the 2015/16 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