

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 06 June 2016

Portfolio:	Policy and Resources
Subject:	Matched Funding
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 2016/17 financial year.

Executive summary:
During the first quarter of 2016/17, the Council has received one matched funding request:

Victory Hall has requested £40,000 towards repairs and improvements to the building.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:
That the Executive considers whether matched funding of up to £40,000 be awarded to Victory Hall to pay towards repairs and improvements to the building.

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 £95,300)

Appendices: A: Matched Funding Application – Victory Hall

Background papers: File of Correspondence

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:	06 June 2016
Subject:	Matched Funding Report
Briefing by:	Director of Finance and Resources
Portfolio:	Finance and Resources

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to provide details of any matched funding requests received by the Council during the first quarter of the 2015/16 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. Awards will generally only be made for capital projects.
7. 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

8. The current balance of the community funding budget is approximately £95,300. Last year, the grants budget was underspent by £66,000 and the Executive will be asked to consider carrying this forward to the current year, when they consider the financial outturn at their July meeting.

MATCHED FUNDING BIDS RECEIVED

9. A matched funding bid has been received from Victory Hall requesting £40,000 towards the cost of repairs and improvements to the building.
10. Victory Hall was constructed in 1975 and is the main community hub for the Warsash area. The hall hosts a range of local clubs, societies and community events. The Management Committee has consulted with residents and users and identified the need to provide more social activities for older people, fitness classes and pre-school places.
11. Victory Hall wants to replace the roof covering, heating system, much of the double glazing, some of the doors and generally improve the fabric and facilities at the hall. The repairs and renewals will help reduce running costs and help ensure the long term future of the venue.
12. The total cost of the project is £197, 725. The Victory Hall Trustees have secured funding of £148,000 from Hampshire County Council's Community Buildings Capital Grant Fund. They will also be contributing £10,000 from their own reserves. This results in a total contribution from the Trustees of £158,000 towards the project value of £197,725.

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

13. Both ward Councillors for Warsash, Councillor Ford and Councillor Cartwright have expressed their support for the matched funding bid. Councillor Ford declared his interest as a member of the Victory Hall Management Committee.

MATCHED FUNDING BIDS "IN THE PIPELINE"

14. Potential matched funding bids from the Locks Heath Free Church, to help them construct a large extension to their church building and the Warsash Wasps to help them improve an access road have been received.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

CONCLUSION

16. This report sets out details for the matched funding bids received by the Council for the first quarter of the 2016/17 financial year.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Roy Brown (Ext 4409)