

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 06 October 2014

Portfolio: Policy and Resources
Subject: **Matched Funding - Quarterly Report**
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 second quarter of the 2014/15 financial year.

Executive summary:

During this quarter, the Council has received two matched funding requests as follows:

Catisfield Memorial Hall has requested £7,560 towards extending and upgrading its kitchen, security and notice boards. Full details are set out in Appendix A.

The Fareham School of Gymnastics has requested an in principle agreement of £30,000 towards a project to construct a dedicated school of gymnastics at the site of the Fareham Academy.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

That the Executive agrees:

- (a) that matched funding of up to £7,560 be awarded for Catisfield Memorial Hall; and
- (b) that matched funding of £30,000 be awarded (in principle) for the Fareham School of Gymnastics subject to the club securing the remaining £970,000 required for the project within 3 years from the date of this decision.

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 £37,993 (the matched funding budget currently has funds of approximately £98,143).

Appendices: **A:** Matched Funding Application – Catisfield Memorial Hall

Background papers:

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 06 October 2014

Subject: Matched Funding - Quarterly Report

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 second quarter of the 2014/15 financial year.

BACKGROUND

2. On 8 March 2010, the Executive considered a report on the various discretionary grants provided by the Council. The report included details on 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 £98,143

MATCHED FUNDING BIDS RECEIVED

Catisfield Memorial Hall

10. A matched funding bid has been received from Catisfield Memorial Hall for a sum up to £7,560 towards extending and upgrading its kitchen which has reached the end of its useful life and requires complete replacement.
11. The improvements would enable the church to continue to provide catering facilities to those members of the community who hire their rooms on a private basis and to encourage additional community use of the facilities. The details are set out in Appendix A.

Councillor Consultation

12. Ward Councillors Mrs Hockley and Miss Harper are fully supportive of the application.

Fareham School of Gymnastics

13. The Fareham School of Gymnastics (FSOG) is a not for profit club with its main venue located at Fareham Academy. The club, opened in 2004, has over 400 members with waiting lists for many of its classes.
14. The club has a vision for the future construction of a purpose built centre so they can extend the opportunities available to existing members and provide opportunities for additional young people.
15. The Fareham Academy has offered the land required at a peppercorn rent, but the overall building cost is estimated to be £1,000,000. The club has raised £28,500 to date but is finding that organisations such as Sport England and British Gymnastics will not consider funding bids until further funding has been secured.
16. The FSOG has therefore requested that the Council give in principle agreement to the provision of matched funding of £30,000 subject to all remaining funding being secured within a three year period and a formal matched funding request being submitted at the appropriate time. The club believe that such an award would significantly improve their chances of securing additional external funding.
17. This proposal has the support of the Executive member for Leisure and Community.

MATCHED FUNDING BIDS "IN THE PIPELINE"

18. Currently an application from the Lee On Solent Golf Club is under discussion with the club and the Executive Member for Leisure and Community.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

CONCLUSION

20. This report sets out details for the matched funding bids received by the Council for the first 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