

**Decision taken by:** Ward Member for Hythe –  
Councillor Jim Martin

**Subject:** Hythe Books for Change

**Executive/non-executive decision:** Non-executive

**Date decision taken:** 12 November 2020

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**Name and address of applicant(s):**

Laura Taylor  
13 North Road,  
Hythe Kent

**Name and description of project:**

Hythe Books for Change - Selection of books for local primary schools that are inclusive and present positive images of diversity.

To offer 6 local primary schools a range of children's books which are inclusive, challenge stereotypes, include positive role models and reflect the reality of our world community in all its diversity. School libraries need a diverse range of fiction and non-fiction, which would educate children about Black History, include stories that celebrate families in all their diversity, and include books with diverse characters of colour, strong, female protagonists and boys that are not afraid to be different. These books would then be donated to Hythe primary schools to offer teachers, children and parents access to a broader range of books. This will hopefully support work being done to address inequalities, raise self esteem and encourage empathy, tolerance, understanding and awareness in our children. The Hythe Books for Change team have used time and professional advice to identify appropriate recommended books.

**DECISION:**

**To provide funding of £500 to the above project.**

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**Reason for decision:**

All schools contacted and Headteachers gave a positive response.

Research showed that in 2017 only 4% of children's books featured a BAME character. Schools have difficulty finding advice and funding to sources appropriate resources. Books not available in local public library.

Details posted on local residents group and on dedicated Facebook group. Received positive comments from many including parents who are keen to find resources that reflect their families lives and those of the wider community.

Our crowdfunding website has had a positive community response with over £800 donated within a few days by local residents

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hythebooksforchange](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hythebooksforchange)

**Declarations or disclosable pecuniary interest/any other significant interest:**

None

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**The decision set out above was made by me.**

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Martin', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

**Councillor Jim Martin**  
**Ward – Hythe**

**12 November 2020**