

Corporate Grants report 2015 - 2016

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Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the overall spend on voluntary sector grants in 2015/16.

Public Interest

Our successful grants programme supports voluntary and charitable organisations, not-for-profit groups, parish or town councils and other organisations with ideas to improve local quality of life. This can include anything from covering the cost of hiring a room/pitch or equipment to help to start new activities, to creating or improving local recreation facilities and refurbishment of community halls and meeting.

Recommendations

That the report be noted.

Background

Each year SSDC supports a wide range of voluntary and community sector organisations through both on-going partnership funding (via Service Level Agreements) as well as one-off grants. Area Community Grants are agreed by either the Area Development Manager and Ward Member(s) or the Area Committees, and District-Wide funding by District Executive.

Total grant funding for 2015/2016

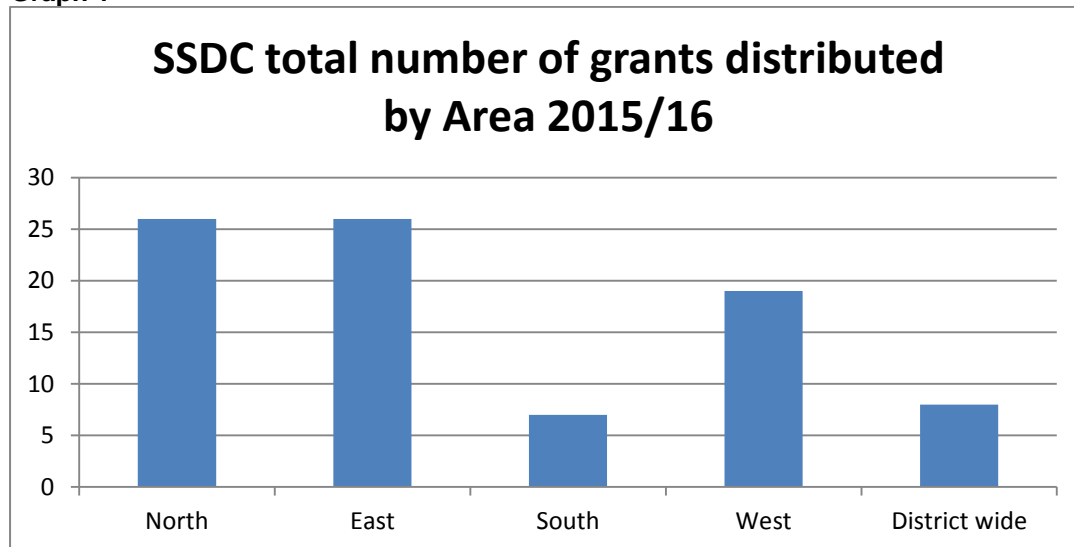
Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the total number and value of grants awarded by SSDC in 2015/16.

Table 1

	Total no of grants awarded	Total £ amount of grant awarded
Area Community grants	65	210,966
District Wide funding	3	203,990
Community Health & Leisure Youth Development funding	13	2,475
Funding for Arts organisations	4	18,000
Equalities & Diversity funding	1	8,000
TOTAL	86	443,431

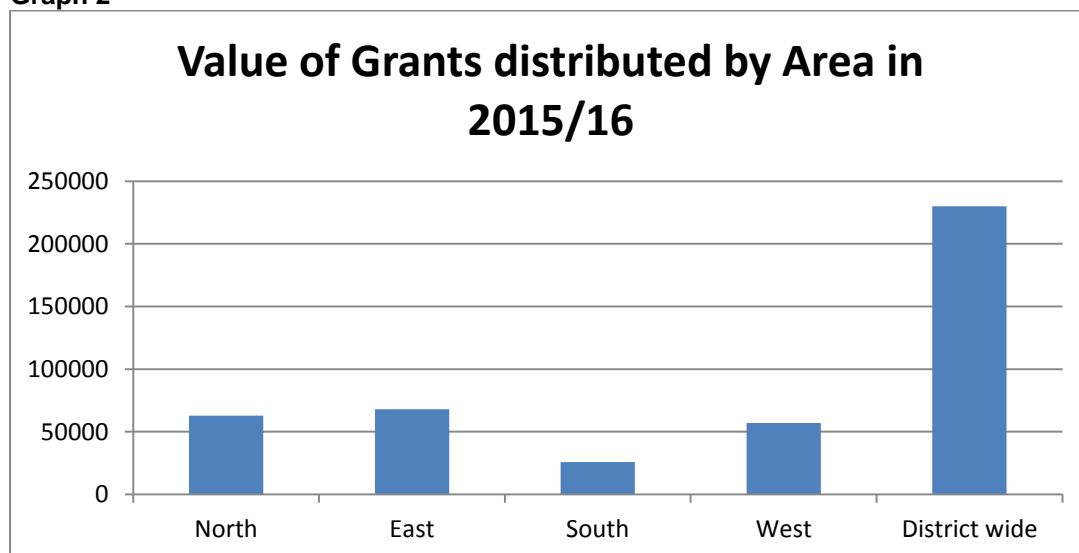
Graph 1 below shows the number of community area grants (by area) and districtwide grants awarded in 2015/16

Graph 1



Graph 2 below shows the total value of the grants distributed in 2015/16 by community area and districtwide.

Graph 2



Grant funding comparisons - 2015/2016 against 2014/2015

In Table 2 below you will see that the total value of the Area Community Grants in 2015/16 was twice that of the spend in 2014/15. This is due largely to one significant village hall project that received funding of £40,000 and 6 other grants where over £10,000 was given. The grant of £40,000 was for a new build Village Hall in Tintinhull and helped secure an additional £1.08million of external funding, and where SSDC's funding was 4% of the total project costs.

Table 2

	2014/2015		2015/2016	
	Total no of grants awarded	Total amount of grants awarded £	Total no of grants awarded	Total amount of grants awarded £
Area Community grants	68	103,711	65	210,966
District Wide funding	3	203,990	3	203,990
Community Health & Leisure Youth Development funding	9	900	13	2,475
Funding for Health & Well-being (Arts)	4	15,150	4	18,000
Equalities & Diversity funding	1	8,000	1	8,000
	85	331,751	86	443,431

Area Community grants

The total project costs supported from the Area community grants budget was **£1,924,077** indicating that for every **£1** invested, **£8** of external funding is secured for the voluntary sector and community projects in South Somerset. Community grants are either for one-off grants or funding agreed under a Service Level Agreement.

Table 3

By Area	Total no of grants awarded	Total £ awarded	Total £ project costs	% awarded against project costs	Total £ Parish & Town council contribution
North (35 parishes)	18	61,391	1,322,352	5	185,200
East (38 parishes)	23	67,426	374,368	18	19,773
West (33 parishes)	18	56,466	136,334	41	6,126
South (9 parishes)	6	25,683	91,023	28	11,350
	65	210,966	1,924,077		222,449

Chart 1 provides a breakdown of the total number of grants awarded across the areas in 15/16, by theme:

Chart 1

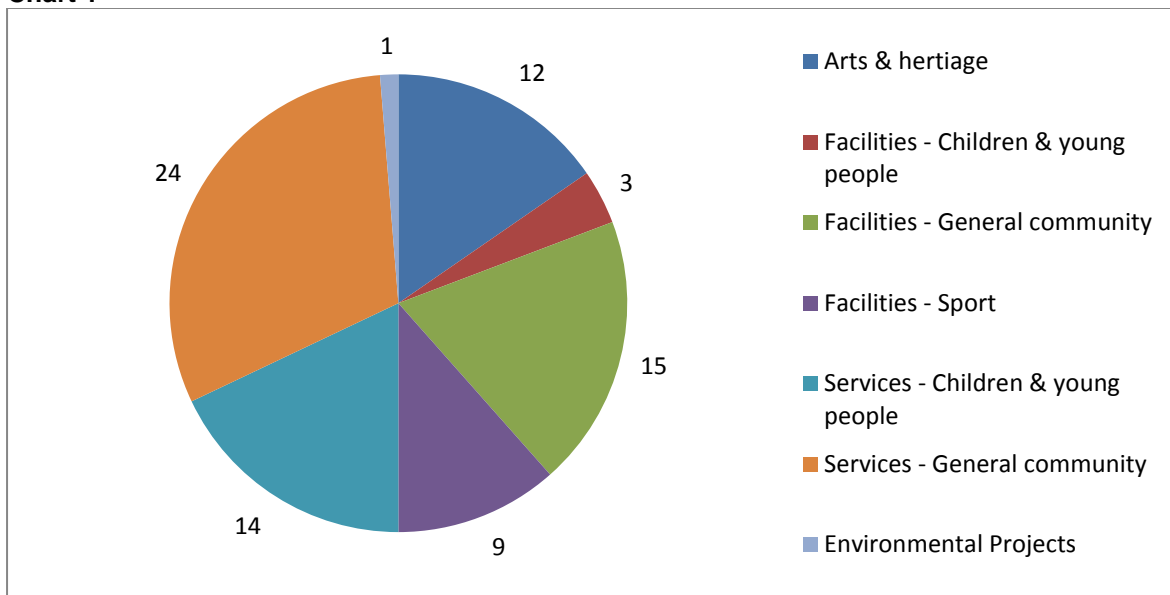
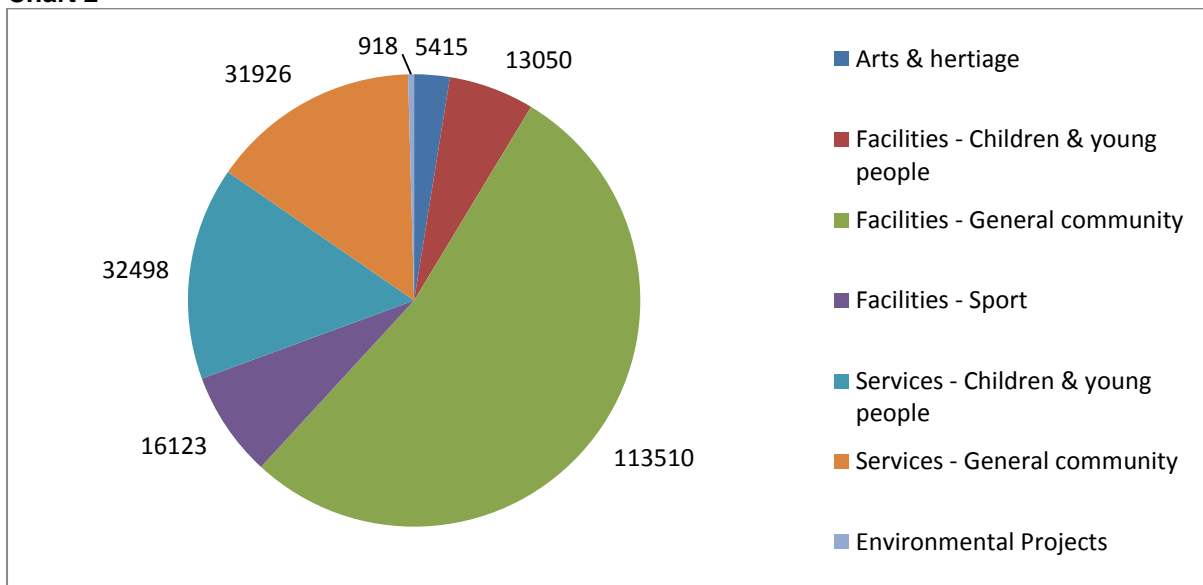


Chart 2 provides a breakdown of the total £ funding awarded across the areas in 15/16, by theme:

Chart 2



Appendix 1 gives examples of projects supported in the local community by our community grants scheme.

District wide funding

- Service Level Agreements awarded - £74,260 to South Somerset Voluntary Community Action (SSVCA), £121,730 to Citizen Advice South Somerset (CASS) and £8,000 to Somerset Rural Youth Project (SRYP).
- SSDC supports SSVCA and CASS to ensure that both voluntary organisations and people across South Somerset are able to access free, impartial and expert advice; to deliver services to some of the people most in need and to meet a range of objectives in our Corporate Plan.
- SSDC works in partnership with SRYP to provide additional services for young people aged 11-25 in rural Somerset. SRYP provides stimulating things to do and places to go, target those who are disadvantaged and encourage positive contributions and supporting choices for young people living in rural areas of South Somerset.
- The 2015/16 annual performance data for Somerset Rural Youth Project was presented to members at the March 2016 District Executive meeting in support of the request for funding in 2016/17.
- 2015/16 nine month monitoring data for SSVCA and CASS was also presented to members at the March meeting.

Community Health & Leisure Youth Development funding

- £2,475 was awarded for 13 different play activities and youth groups across the district.

Funding for Health & Well-being (Arts organisations)

- Four Arts organisations (Actiontrack, Take Art, Somerset Art Works and Somerset Film) were awarded Service Level Agreements amounting to £18,000.
- The 2015/16 annual performance data for Actiontrack, Take Art, Somerset Art Works and Somerset Film was presented to members at the March 2016 District Executive meeting in support of the request for funding in 2016/17.

Equalities & Diversity funding

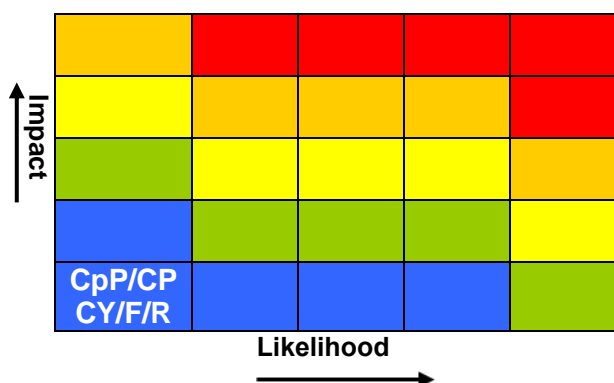
- Service Level Agreement awarded - £8,000 to Access for All to provide specific services and expertise and ensures compliance with our Public Sector Equality Duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- The 2015/16 annual performance data for Access for All was presented to members at the March 2016 District Executive meeting in support of the request for funding in 2016/17

Financial Implications

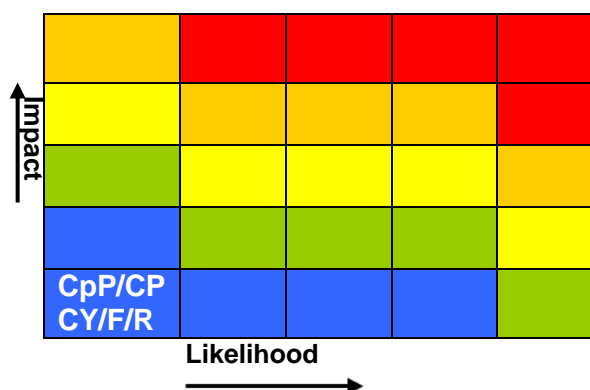
None for this report.

Risk Matrix

Risk Profile before officer recommendations



Risk Profile after officer recommendations



Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan Priorities	Orange = Major impact and major probability
CP = Community Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY = Capacity	Green = Minor impact and minor probability
F = Financial	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability

Council Plan Implications

Focus Four: Health and Communities

We will continue to provide country parks, the Octagon Theatre, support local play areas and community buildings.

We will continue to help communities to identify their own needs and priorities in order to take more control over shaping the places where they live and work. Our dedicated area teams and area committees ensure that we are well placed to work creatively with partners (at a parish, district or county level) to support practical ways for people to influence or take control of important local facilities and services.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

If community facilities are not provided close to where people live or shop, traffic movements and traffic congestion will increase with subsequent increases in carbon emissions.

Equality and Diversity Implications

An accessible community building will be of positive benefit to all groups. Local community facilities can play a vital role in reducing health inequalities, social isolation and may contribute towards community cohesion.

Privacy Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

Background Papers

Corporate Grants 2014/15 DX Report 2nd July 2015; District-wide grants 2016/17 DX report 3rd March 2016; Area Committee grant reports.

Projects supported by the Area Community Grant Scheme 2015/16

Area North – Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust – Enhanced park and play at Chilthorne Rec

Project costs - £148,886

SSDC award - £10,000

Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust is a registered charity and occupies land leased by the Parish Council. The freehold is owned by South Somerset District Council.

Over the last 6 years the committee has taken a phased approach to bring about a wide range of improvements to the pavilion building and recreational facilities. The trust has also successfully broadened its sports provision by becoming a venue for youth and walking football teams.

A key issue that remained outstanding was the lack of facilities for disabled users. This latest phase of the works will deliver widened corridors, fully accessible toilet and new store room within the pavilion building as well as new all-inclusive outdoor play equipment and a car park extension to include 2 dedicated blue badge parking bays.

Support was provided by the Neighbourhood Development Officer to complete a successful grant application to Viridor Credits which resulted in an award of £110,110. In addition to the grant of £10,000 from the Area North Capital programme, a specification was also provided by SSDC for the car park enhancements which were of great assistance to the trustees.

Area South – Inspired To Achieve (i2a) – funding towards the cost of running the Incredible Tuesdays Group

Project costs - £9,000

SSDC award - £3,500

Incredible Tuesdays supports young people to fulfil their educational and skills potential to maximise their life chances and opportunities in a fun and safe environment appropriate to their needs. The group strives to improve the quality of their lives through making opportunities more accessible. Sessions include: life skills (independent living, employability and skills, job hunting); sports and recreation and outreach visits to country parks, the sea-side and tourist attractions; delivery of housing and benefit advice; keeping young people and vulnerable adults safe in their physical and on-line communities. The group also provides support for parents and carers through respite care. I2a work with local educators to identify and engage young people who would benefit from the group. They encourage peer referrals and link with external providers such as The National Autism Society.

Area South – Sutton Bingham & District Canoe Club – funding towards the purchase of two KataKanus

Project costs - £6,605.60

SSDC award - £1,200

The project includes the purchase of two KataKanu boats and 100 hours of coaching. Each KataKanu seats 6 people and is very stable. The stability of the boats will help to increase the range of people accessing paddle sport. The boats can be used by those who are less

confident and also people with a disability who may struggle to access the activity using normal craft. The boats are also suitable for family paddling so parents can participate in activities with their children. There is high demand for these activities as the club's school link sessions and training courses are all oversubscribed.

Area East – Kingsdon Community Shop – Internal Shop improvements

Project Cost - £16,069

SSDC award - £7,000

Kingsdon Centre Ltd is responsible for operating the Kingsdon Village Shop. The shop is run solely by volunteers from all sectors of the community, for the benefit of the local residents, many of whom are retired. The concept and establishment of this volunteer led and managed community shop came about following the closure of the only shop within the village in 2013. Located within the boundaries of the old disused Kingsdon Primary School, the Kingsdon Centre Ltd and their volunteers have developed stronger relationships with suppliers and local authorities as well as more personal local relationships by promoting volunteering opportunities in the shop and supporting vulnerable isolated residents within their community.

By doing so, the village shop have enhanced their business model, incorporating a village tea rooms, shop, small information point and meeting space as a community hub. These developments have meant that the small trading area has now reached its limits.

In order to generate greater income to help fund future refurbishment (their intended sinking fund) of the premises and to increase the product selection options currently available, greater floor space is now required. This 'open plan' layout will have additional benefits such as better facilities to cater for small groups/clubs who wish meet. The enhancements will also provide a more accessible layout enabling local residents to use the space easily. The key aims and objectives identified by Kingsdon Centre Ltd are:

- Increased trading area to increase turnover and revenue, to ensure the ongoing viability of the village shop thus providing a much needed local service
- Greater range of products/ services provided to local residents
- Better community group / meeting facilities for residents and outlying villages
- Preservation and maintenance of local grade 2 listed building
- More environmentally friendly use of utilities (efficient water / heating, etc)
- Improvement to current layout & facilities of the building making them more accessible for all.
- Development of retail training opportunities and personal skills
- Increased usage of the tea room as an information point and social area for people to meet and feel more included within their community.

Area East - Wincanton Town Council – Cale Park improvements

Project Cost - £184,345

SSDC award - £10,000

Rickhayes Recreation Ground (now renamed Cale Park) is the largest open space area within the town. Over the years the surrounding area became vandalised and started to take on the feeling of being somewhat threatening and uninviting.

At the start of 2013, a group of local volunteers began work on the River Cale with the aim of clearing litter and debris and bringing back native wildlife to the river. At the same time, the Town Council started working with South Somerset District Council on how to regenerate

Rickhayes and the Play Park in particular. In early 2013 they commissioned a Landscape Architect to look at options for the whole recreation ground area. He created an initial master plan which has undergone extensive public consultation through dedicated workshops, local press articles and as a sitting project within the Town Council's offices.

Alongside this, SSDC Officers have worked with local schools and the youth club to finalise plans for the Play Area culminating in an agreed master plan for the whole area and a fantastic plan for a play area which will meet the needs of young people of all ages, including provision for disabled children.

Area East - Bayford Mission Hall Society – Purchase and Refurbishment of Bayford Chapel

Project Cost - £76,000

SSDC award - £11,000

The hall is described in the Parish Plan for Stoke Trister with Bayford as a huge asset for the parish. The future of the hall was uncertain at the time of publication and the Parish Council had begun to consider the response to the potential loss of the asset.

In early 2015, the Administrative Trustees of Stoke Trister with Bayford Parochial Church Council convened a public meeting to announce that they could no longer maintain two premises within the Parish and that Bayford Mission Hall was to go for commercial disposal. Following the meeting a Working Group formed and conducted a Feasibility Study. Part of the Study was a community survey in which 79% of the households responded and of which 89% either considered it 'very important' or 'important' that Bayford continues to have a hall/meeting place. And again, of those that responded, over 82% were in favour of owning Bayford Mission Hall as a community facility.

The Community has responded to the potential loss of what is considered an important community facility and is working towards securing the building and making it a flexible meeting space for a range of local groups and services.

The purchase price has been agreed and once Bayford Mission Hall has been procured, it will be, within capabilities, immediately available to the parish for use. It will be a fully functional small community hall complete with toilets and refreshment facilities. The Hall will then offer the parish, and the wider community, a meeting space capable of fulfilling a range of activities including exercise classes, children's parties, sales room/market, polling station and bridge classes.

Area West – Ilminster Literary Festival

Project Cost - £1,951

SSDC award - £400

Ilminster's inaugural literary festival will run from the 1st to the 9th June 2016. The Ilminster Literary Festival was set up to offer local people of all ages in the town and surrounding area an exciting and enjoyable opportunity to meet a variety of authors, editors, and script writers through discussion, talks and meetings.

The festival is being organised by representatives from a number of local organisations - the Arts Centre, the Warehouse Theatre, Ilminster Rotary, the two local bookshops and the Town Council. To help make the festival possible the group approached SSDC for a grant towards the cost of insurance and promotion.

The organisers have arranged for a wide variety of authors to speak at the festival including Ann Widcombe, poet James Crowden, travel writer Luke Waterson, crime writer Paul Toolan, romantic novelist Sue Layborne, Virginia Bergin an author of young adult books, children's author Carina Lagnado and comedy writer James Cary.

There are over 25 events taking place in a variety of venues in and around the town. As well as talks by authors the festival includes a literary quiz night and a children's poetry reading competition. Many of the events are free; especially those aimed at children, tickets are available at an affordable price to buy for other events. The organisers anticipate that this first literary festival will be a success and become an annual event.
