

Community Capital Grant Request (Executive Decision)

Assistant Director: Helen Rutter, Communities
Service Manager: Tim Cook, Area Development Team Lead (East)
Lead Officers: Tim Cook/James Divall, Neighbourhood Development Officers
Contact Details: tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01963) 435088
james.divall@southsomerset.gov.uk (01935) 462261

Purpose of the Report

For members to consider requests for capital grants from Ilchester Parish Council, Milborne Port Parish Council and Trustees of Wincanton War Memorial Hall.

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a key way that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across Area East.

Background

Community Capital Grant applications are considered twice a year in June and December. The next opportunity to consider applications will be at the Area East Committee meeting in December 2017.

Requests from community organisations for non-capital works are restricted to small grants with the upper limit of £1,000. A minimum amount of £100 has also been agreed. Capital projects requiring grants of between £500 and £1,000 can be dealt with at any time and are subject to Ward Member agreement.

Appendices A and B show the standard grants conditions used by SSDC and the policies under which all applications are assessed.

Recommendations

- 1) Members agree to extend the allocation to Galhampton Village Hall and the Castle Cary & Ansford Fairfield project for a further 6 months.
- 2) Members agree to transfer £25,000 from the Capital Reserve to the Community Grants budget for allocation in 2017/18.
- 3) Members agree a contribution of up to £2221 (44% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital budget to Ilchester Parish Council towards the installation of new play equipment.
- 4) Members agree a contribution of up to £2845 (50% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to Milborne Port Parish Council towards the installation of a stair lift at the Market House, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A
- 5) Members consider a grant contribution of £2000 (5% of costs) from the Community Capital Budget and a loan of up to £5000 to Wincanton Memorial Hall Trustees towards the new heating and air conditioning system, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix; and on condition that Wincanton Town Council is approached to increase the local grant contribution to match that of SSDC.

Extension of grant period for previous awards

SSDC policy is to award grants on the basis that the money is spent within 6 months.

Members will recall that an award of £12,500 was made in June 2012 towards a new hall for Galhampton. This allocation was last reconfirmed for a further 6 months at the meeting in December 2017. The group has raised all of the funding required and are just waiting for builders to begin work on site.

Members agreed to an award of £7920 towards the Fairfield project in Castle Cary at the meeting in June 2016. Work has commenced on the first phase of work but the group is still waiting on the outcome of a bid to Veolia. This should be known by the AEC meeting.

2017/18 Community Capital Budget

There is currently £47,136 unallocated in the Area East Capital Reserve. This includes the annual top up of £25,000 which was agreed by District Executive in April. It is recommended that £25,000 is transferred from the Reserve to the Community Capital Grants budget for allocation in 2017/18.

We have received applications for contributions totalling £19,566 for the June grants round. The recommended level support totals £7066.

We have received an application from Milborne Port Parish Council for improvements to the car park at the Recreation Ground. The project requires further work and the NDO will continue to support the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee and will bring the grant application forward in the next few months.

Ilchester Parish Council – Purchase and Installation of new Play equipment

Ilchester Parish Council has applied for a grant towards two items of play and recreation equipment in Ilchester.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Ilchester
Parish population	2153
No. of Households	1103
Precept 17/18	£24000
Band D Charge 17/18	£34.51

The Project

Ilchester Parish Council would like to install two new items of play and recreation equipment within the parish. The first, a basket cradle swing at Mead Play Area and the second an outdoor table tennis facility at Ilchester sports ground.

Both items have come at the request of the local community and have been supported by Ilchester Parish Council. The basket swing is a standard accessible item of play usable by a variety of age groups and abilities. Although the product meets EN1176 requirements further investigations are needed to determine if it is 'kite marked' (a quality standard that SSDC require to meet our grant conditions). This may have a financial implication as the parish may need to purchase a more expensive product to meet this requirement.

The second item is a mixed outdoor table tennis facility like the many you would find in recreation grounds on the contingent. It is unique and will bring a different healthy lifestyles activity to the Ilchester Recreation Grounds. It has been highlighted from local residents as something they would like to see installed although there are concerns of how well used it will be especially with South Somerset weather and wind conditions. That said, the Parish Council have supported the application and would like to promote the new resource within the wider community.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	3
C Need for Project	5	2
D Capacity of Organisation	15	13
E Financial need	7	5
F Innovation	3	2
Total	37	25

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies. The application scores quite well in terms of need but the overall score is low due to the limited sources of funding and the fact that it is mainly focused on repair.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish Council	57%	£3000	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	43%	£2221	Application
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£5221	

Milborne Port Parish Council – Access Improvements to Market House

Milborne Port Parish Council has applied for a grant towards a new accessible stair lift for the town hall.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Milborne Port
Parish population	2802
No. of Households	1428
Precept 17/18	£69500
Band D Charge 17/18	£61.30

The Project

Milborne Port Parish Council holds a number of events, talks, activities, meeting, including their Parish Council meetings on the first floor of the Town Hall it what is known as the Council Chambers. Although the Parish Council has invested funds into the Council chambers such as a hearing loop, Wi-Fi, new seating & tables and music system as a result of a recent access statement (by Access for All) it still has limited provision for residents with mobility concerns in accessing the Council Chambers.

The Parish Council would like to establish a new chair lift as part of the on-going works to meet the evolving needs and demands of the local community. This project would help the building and parish meetings to be more accessible to a great number of people as well as meeting DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	7
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	12
E Financial need	7	4
F Innovation	3	3
Total	37	30

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies. The application scores quite well in terms of need but the overall score is low due to the limited sources of funding and the fact that it is mainly focused on repair.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish Council	50%	£2845	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	50%	£2845	Application
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£5690	

Wincanton Memorial Hall – New Heating and ventilation system

The Trustees of Wincanton War Memorial Hall has applied for a grant towards the installation of a new heating and air conditioning system.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Wincanton
Parish population	5272
No. of Households	2946
Precept 17/18	£263,400
Band D Charge 17/18	£125.88

The Project

The project is to replace the existing air conditioning unit and ageing heating system. The air conditioning unit which is integrated with the heating system has been condemned. The age of the system means that it is no longer possible to source parts for repair and the whole system needs to be replaced. The chiller used as part of the cooling system operates using R22 refrigerant gas which is no longer produced and is illegal to use.

The Memorial Hall is extremely well used with over 25 regular user groups and many more on-off events. Regular uses include Amateur dramatic groups, Archery (Adults and Juniors), Tea dances, Yoga, Tennis academy. Short Mat Bowls, Young Farmers, Bingo, Coffee Mornings and a range of talks.

The hall is also a popular venue for parties and one-off events.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	
B Equalities Impact	7	3
C Need for Project	5	3
D Capacity of Organisation	15	13
E Financial need	7	3
F Innovation	3	1
Total	37	23

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

The scoring of this particular project has been affected by the very small contribution made by Wincanton Town Council. The organisation applied for support from the local precept and received £200 which is less than 1% of the total cost. The high level of support from users helps to offset this in the assessment but it **only just meets the criteria.**

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Wincanton Town Council	1%	£200	Secured
Own funds	15%	£6247	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	5%	£2000	Applied for
SSDC (Area East) Loan	13%	£5000	Applied for
Viridor	49%	£20000	Secured
Other	17%	£7000	Applied for
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£40447	

The group has successfully applied to Viridor and has been awarded £20,000. This is dependent on a 3rd party payment of £2000 and this forms part of the application to SSDC. This grant will be lost if the project does not start by the end of June.

The group has requested a contribution of £12,000. The Memorial Hall Trust has benefitted from a significant legacy and as a result, has not needed support previously. There is no longer a large reserve although a further sum is anticipated in the near future. Officers feel that it would be appropriate to offer a loan as part of the Area contribution.

SSDC loans policy states the following:-

f. For small loans of £5,000 or less the approval procedure may be delegated to the area portfolio holders, in consultation with the Area Development Managers. The interest rate will be the relevant PWLB rate and the loans should be guaranteed by the Town or Parish Council, or similar trustees.

Loans for more than £5000 (up to £150,000) are agreed by District Executive but due to the need to confirm match funding to secure the Viridor grant, a loan of £5000 is recommended. The terms of the loan are to be agreed but it is likely to be a short term arrangement to enable the project to go ahead before receipt of legacy money. The PWLB interest rate was 1.07% at the time of writing the report.

Financial Implications

If members agree recommendations 1 & 2 above, there is currently £25000 remaining in the Community Capital Budget. If members agree the recommendations 3, 4 and 5 as set out at the beginning of the report, there will be £17934 in the Community Capital budget for allocation in December.

Corporate Priority Implications

All projects help to support communities so that they identify their needs and develop local solutions and, help people to live well by enabling quality cultural leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities and activities. (Focus Four: Health and Communities)

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications

Providing local access to a range of activities and services reducing the need to travel which therefore reduces carbon emissions.

Equality and Diversity Implications

All projects help enhance accessibility for all. In each of the projects the Neighbourhood development officers have advised the community groups to obtain an access audit for the venue, providing them with expert advice on how to make their community facility more accessible and user friendly.
