

## Corporate Grants report 2016 - 2017

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*Strategic Director:* Ian Clarke, Director, Support Services  
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### Purpose of the Report

1. To inform members of the overall spend on voluntary sector grants in 2016/2017

### Public Interest

2. 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

3. That members note the report.

### Background

4. 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 Team Lead and Ward Member(s) or the Area Committees, and District-Wide funding by District Executive.

### Total grant funding for 2016/2017

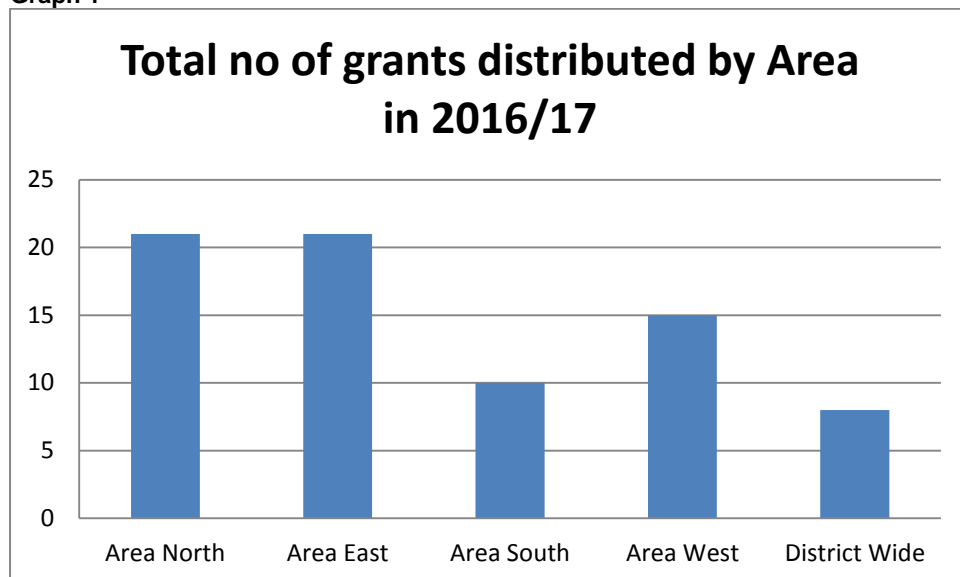
5. Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the total number and value of grants awarded by SSDC in 2016/2017.

Table 1

	<b>Total no of grants awarded</b>	<b>Total £ amount of grant awarded</b>
Area Community grants (Area Development & Community Leisure)	67	157,716
District Wide Voluntary Sector funding (SPARK & SSCAB)	2	195,990
District Wide Funding for Health & Well-being – Arts (Action Track, Take Art, Somerset Art Works & Somerset Film)	4	18,000
District Wide Equalities & Diversity funding (Access for All)	1	9,000
District wide Community Health & Leisure Youth Development funding (Somerset Rural Youth Project)	1	8,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>388,706</b>

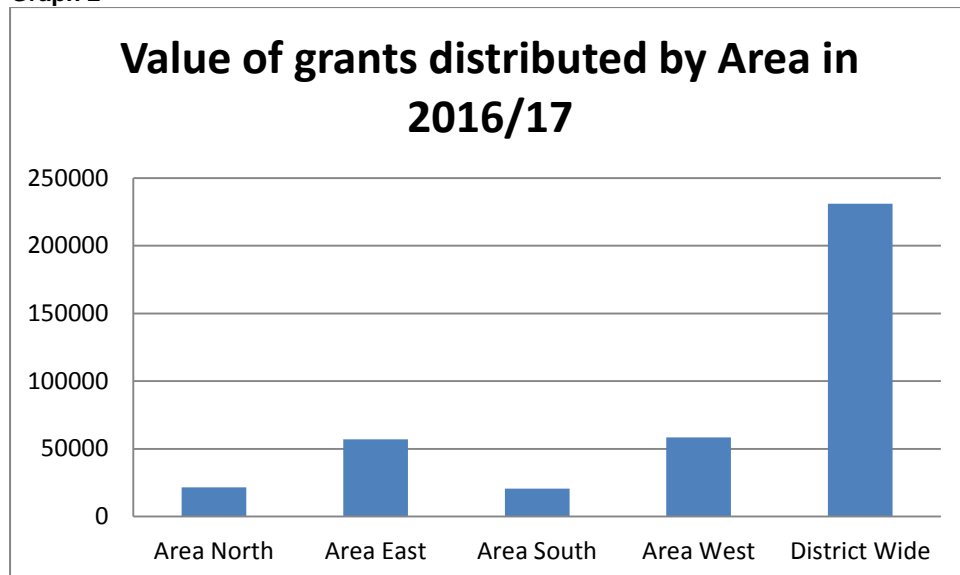
6. Graph 1 below shows the number of community grants (by area) and districtwide grants awarded in 2016/2017.

Graph 1



7. Graph 2 below shows the total value of the community grants (by area) and districtwide awards in 2016/2017.

Graph 2



#### Grant funding comparisons - 2016/2017 against 2015/2016

8. In 2015/16 one significant village hall project received funding of £40,000 and 6 other grants for £10,000 or over was given. In 2016/17 grants of over £10,000 were awarded for 7 community facility projects.

**Table 2**

	2015/2016		2016/2017	
	Total no of grants awarded	Total £ amount of grant awarded	Total no of grants awarded	Total £ amount of grant awarded
Area Community grants (Area Development & Community Leisure)	78	213,441	67	157,716
District Wide Voluntary Sector funding (SPARK & SSCAB)	2	195,990	2	195,990
District Wide Funding for Health & Well-being – Arts (Action Track, Take Art, Somerset Art Works & Somerset Film)	4	18,000	4	18,000
District Wide Equalities & Diversity funding (Access for All)	1	8,000	1	9,000
District wide Community Health & Leisure Youth Development funding (Somerset Rural Youth Project)	1	8,000	1	8,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>451,434</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>388,706</b>

### Area Community grants

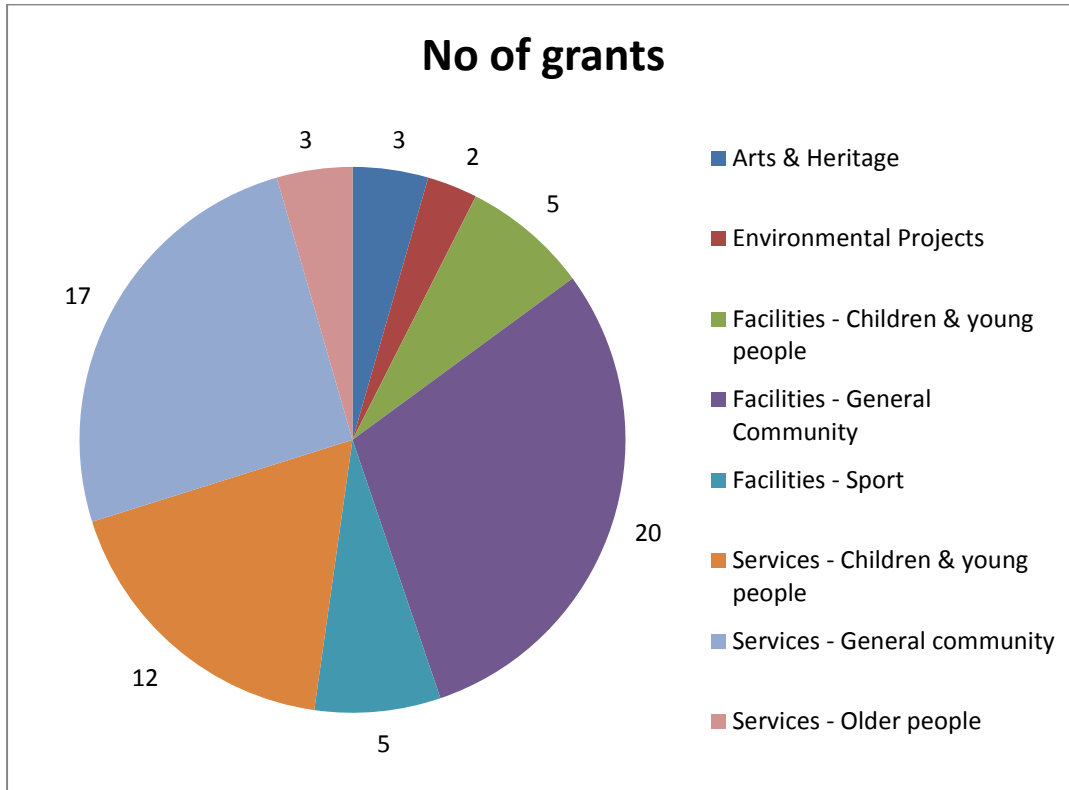
9. The total project costs supported from the Area community grants budget was **£1,146,204** indicating that for every **£1** invested, **£6** of external funding is secured for the voluntary sector and community projects in South Somerset. Community grants are either for one-off grants or funding agreed 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)	21	21549	157,557	14	88,351
East (38 parishes)	21	57120	325,835	18	18,752
South (9 parishes)	10	20520	423,706	5	15,381
West (33 parishes)	15	58527	239,106	24	23,234
		<b>157,716</b>	<b>1,146,204</b>		<b>145,718</b>

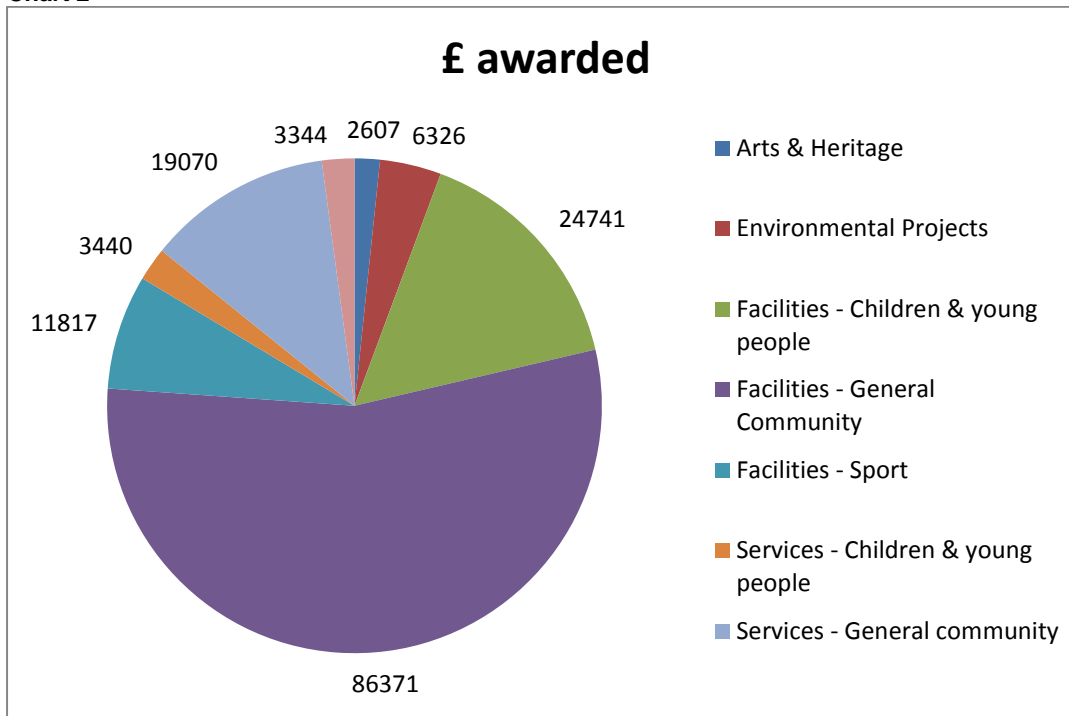
10. Chart 1 provides a breakdown of the total number of grants awarded across the areas in 16/17, by theme:

Chart 1



11. Chart 2 provides a breakdown of the total £ funding awarded across the areas in 16/17, by theme:

Chart 2



12. 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 SPARK, £121,730 to Citizen Advice South Somerset (CASS) and £8,000 to Somerset Rural Youth Project (SRYP).
- SSDC supports SPARK 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 2016/17 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 2017/18.
- The 2016/17 monitoring data for SPARK and CASS was also presented to members at the March meeting.

### **Funding for Health & Well-being (Arts organisations)**

- Four Arts organisations (Actiontrack, Take Art, Somerset Art Works & Somerset Film) were awarded Service Level Agreements amounting to £18,000.
- The 2016/17 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 2017/18.

### **Equalities & Diversity funding**

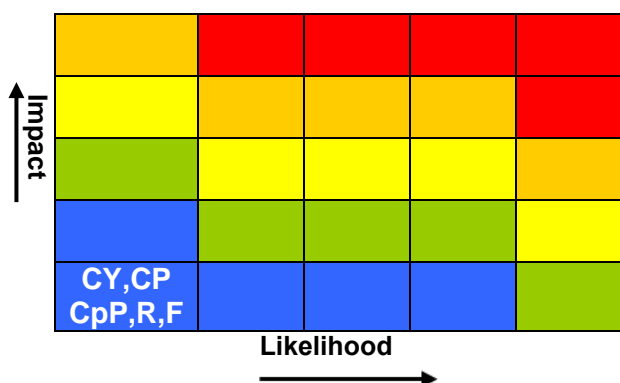
- Service Level Agreement awarded - £9,000 to Access for All to provide specific services and expertise and ensures compliance with our Public Sector Equality Duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- The 2016/17 annual performance data for Access for All was presented to members at the March 2016 District Executive meeting in support of the request for funding in 2017/18

### **Financial Implications**

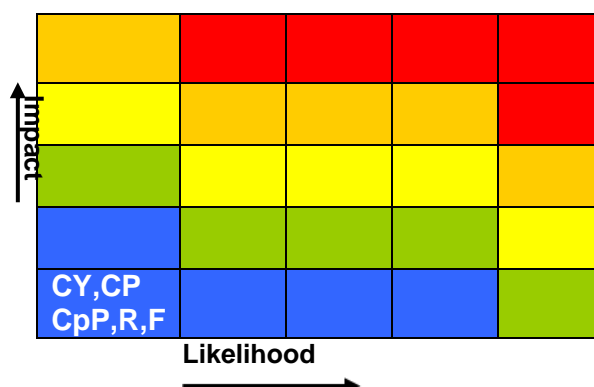
None for this report.

## 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

Funding the Voluntary and Community Sector through its various grants programmes assists the Council deliver on the following values and priorities in the 2016-21 Council Plan:

### Values

- Supporting people and communities, enabling them to help themselves
- Working with partners to improve services, efficiencies, resilience and influence priorities

### Priorities

- High Quality Cost Effective Services
  - Work with partners to achieve economies, resilience and influence
- Economy
  - Capitalise on our high quality culture, leisure and tourism opportunities to bring people to South Somerset
- Environment
  - Support communities to develop local, parish and neighbourhood plans.
- Health and Communities
  - Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions
  - Target support to areas of need
  - Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities
  - Work with partners to tackle health issues such as diabetes and hypertension
  - Help keep our communities safe

## **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**

All funded bodies are required to comply with equalities requirements as applicable to their project or activities.

## **Privacy Impact Assessment**

Not applicable

## **Background Papers**

District-wide voluntary sector grants 2016/17 District Executive report 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016;  
District-wide voluntary sector grants 2017/18 District Executive report 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017;  
Area Committee grant reports.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Projects supported by the Area community grant scheme 2016/17**

#### **Area North – Somerton Parish Room chairs – Friends of the Parish Rooms**

**Project costs - £5,796**

**SSDC award - £1,000**

The project includes the purchase of 100 chairs to be used in the Somerton Parish Rooms to replace the old furniture that looked "tired" and had been the subject of complaints by regular users as being uncomfortable.

The Friends of the Parish Rooms Committee consulted with the local community, presenting a questionnaire to the town, which received a favourable rate of response and resulted with some donations to the cause. They also had sample chairs in the hall with comment sheets which elicited a good response from hall users and guided the final chair selection. The chairs are now in situ and have been well received by users.

It is hoped that upgrades such as these will add to the appeal of the parish rooms and bring forward additional bookings.

#### **Area South – St James 2020 Reordering Project**

**Project costs - £345,000**

**SSDC award - £5,000**

St James Church is situated on Preston Road and covers the old parish of Preston Plucknett, which includes roughly 15,000 people in the area between Thorne Lane, Western Avenue, Preston Road and Ilchester Road. However, the church groups and premises are open to all, regardless of where they live.

The group runs activities for parents, children, young people, senior citizens and relationship support, accessed by over 500 members of the community and have hosted groups for addiction recovery, uniformed organisations, local community groups and a community choir.

The group also support and promote volunteering for other charity and community causes including school governors, Street Pastors, hospital patient support, debt support and the food bank.

The project to re-fit the interior has made it more suitable for community use serving the needs of a growing church in a growing area of Yeovil. The old uncomfortable restrictive fixed pews have been replaced with flexible comfortable seats with underfloor heating, a raised dais for performances and shows, and new lighting, AV, Wifi and loop facilities. The changes will make the building usable all year round, by community and church groups, with seating capacity of 130 in a flexible layout.

#### **Area East – Horsington Pond Project – Horsington Parish Council**

**Project Cost - £13,880**

**SSDC award - £6,000**

Horsington pond is fed by stream which means that there will always be a deposit of silt build up that needs to be removed every 7 years or so. Removing the silt (using heavy machinery) had the adverse effect of removing and destroying the wildlife habitat that has developed since the previous time it was dredged.



## **APPENDIX 1**

The Parish Council took advice from DEFRA, The Pond Conservation Trust, the Freshwater Habitats Trust, Environment Agency, and various other specialists in the field of pond life and aquatic plants and wildlife and produced a plan that entails creating three specific areas to the pond with dedicated roles in creating and maintaining the freshwater habitat.

One area created traps silt at the lodge end, along the roadside, which will allow the Parish to clean the silt from this area more frequently from the roadside, without the need to put machinery into the pond and at less cost. Most importantly of all, the natural level of the pond allows us to lower the water level sufficiently to remove the silt from the trap, whilst still being able to maintain sufficient water level at the other two areas to allow the survival of the pond inhabitants, this is key to this project.

The second area is a still water frog and newt pond to the southerly side of the sluice gates with gabion cages. This will give a different wildlife area of mainly still water area attracting the likes of frogs, newts, water beetles, water boatman, pond skippers and many other species. This area is edged by a new and extended dipping platform, with shallow water level, secure from the main deep water pond. This area is designed for supervised use by children to learn about pond life, an information board will be located on the dipping platform with illustrations of what you should see within the pond and surrounding area.

The third area is the main body of the pond which should remain relatively silt free. Providing a freshwater environment for native fish such as minnows, sticklebacks, and all associated pond life naturally found in a pond supplied by a freshwater stream flow. Floating aquatic plants will naturally find their place in this area.

### **Area West – Hinton St George Village hall improvements St George's Hall & Playing Fields Management Committee**

**Project Cost - £62,432**

**SSDC award - £12,432**

The village hall is a popular facility in Hinton St George and is located next to the village playing field; both facilities are managed by the same committee.

To bring the building up-to-date and make it more attractive to potential hirers a number of improvements have been carried out. These include building a small extension to the rear of the hall to create much needed storage. Fitting a new combination boiler to replace the old one, which was not working effectively. Installing a new disabled toilet and improving the gent's toilets and the playing field toilets. Creating a new front entrance and resurfacing the car park. The hall has also been repainted inside and out to make it look better.

The improvements have brought about a number of benefits to both hall and playing field users these include:

- Improved access to the hall for the disabled and people with limited mobility
- Safer car park area with no trip hazards and improved lighting
- Access to external toilets for users of the playing field during daylight hours
- New combi boiler should help reduce the energy bills for the committee.
- Additional lettable space as the new storage facility will free up the conservatory area which was being used for storage and can now be used as a small meeting room.