

Community Capital Grant Request (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

For Members to consider requests for community grants from:

Cucklington Parish Council
Milborne Port Parish Council
Ilchester Parish Council
Lydford & Foddington Broadband Project

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 full round of applications will be at the Area East Committee meeting in December 2018. However, there will be a grant request on the July agenda from Templecombe Sports & Social Club. At the time of finalising this report some additional information was required. If eligible, once assessed and the approach set out below is applied to this application, a grant of £6,000 would be recommended.

As June is the first funding round in 2018/19 and there are 4 grants to be considered, there will be limited funds remaining. Most eligible projects have a recommendation for a grant around 25% of project costs rather than the 50% which can be accommodated by the community grant's policy. This will mean that some funding can be preserved for the December grant round.

Requests from community organisations for non-capital works are restricted to small grants of between £100 and £1,000. Capital projects requiring grants of between £500 and £1,000 can be dealt with at any time and are subject to Ward Member agreement.

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies. Appendices A and B show the standard grant conditions used by SSDC and the policies under which all applications are assessed.

Recommendations

- 1) Members agree a contribution of up to £6,000 (25% of the total project costs) from the Parish Infrastructure Fund budget to Cucklington Parish Council towards the upgrade of the village hall car park, subject to the standard conditions set out in Appendix A
- 2) Members agree a contribution of up to £3,910 (16% of the total project costs) £1,971 from the Parish Infrastructure Fund budget and £1,939 from the Community Grants Capital Budget to

Milborne Port Parish Council towards the installation of lighting and automatic barrier at the village hall car park, subject to the standard conditions set out in Appendix A

- 3) Members agree a contribution of up to £6,500 (25% of the total project costs) from the Community Grants Capital budget to Ilchester Parish Council for the purchase of Allotments Area, subject to the standard conditions set out in Appendix A and the drawing down of funds within 8 months, a repayment clause if the land ceases to be used as allotments within 20 years of the award and undertaking an access audit
- 4) Members refuse a contribution of up to £4,025 (25% of total project costs) from the Community Capital budget to Foddington Residents for the installation of fibre broadband system to 16 residents, on the basis that the settlement is included within the next phase of the Superfast Broadband programme

2018/19 Community Capital Budget

There is currently £39,232 uncommitted Capital in Area East Capital Reserve. This figure includes £7,971 from the Parish Infrastructure Fund.

We have received applications for contributions totalling £46,241 for the June grants round. The recommended level support totals £16,410. One additional application will be considered at July's Committee Meeting.

Cucklington Parish Council – Cucklington Village Hall car park upgrade

Cucklington Parish Council has applied for a £8,000 grant towards the upgrade of the village hall car park.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Cucklington
Parish population	173
No. of households	89
Precept 2018/19	£1,250
Band D charge 2018/19	£13.49

The Project

The new hall was built in 2006 and the car park was surfaced in rolled stone, which has required regular and ineffective maintenance. The surface has deteriorated badly (accelerated by increased hall usage) and now has many potholes and mud (which is then walked into the hall increasing the cleaning task and damaging the wood floor). This surface provides inappropriate parking and access from the highway to the hall for the elderly and infirm. The Health & Safety issues are of increasing concern. Further repair of the existing surface appears futile and the Trustees believe the best long-term solution is to tarmac the whole car park.

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	5
D Capacity of Organisation	15	13
E Financial need	7	4
F Innovation	3	2
Total	37	31

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

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish Council – Community Benefit Fund	33%	£8000	Secured
Own Funds	4%	£1000	Secured
3 rd Party Funding	29%	£7000	Application in progress
SSDC (Area East)	33%	£8000	Requested
Total Scheme Cost		£24000	

Recommendation is for £6,000 (25%) from the Parish Infrastructure Fund

Milborne Port Parish Council – Springfield Road Car Park Improvements

Milborne Port Parish Council has applied for a grant of £3,910 towards car park improvements at the village hall. Improvements include lighting and an automatic barrier, which will prevent access to vehicles after normal operational hours.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Milborne Port
Parish population	2802
No. of households	1,446
Precept 2018/19	£72,975
Band D Charge 2018/19	£63.72

The Project

This project will benefit all users of the village hall car park. This project will allow safer access to the facilities, so that residents are not dissuaded from attending activities because of the physical hazards that an unlit car park poses.

More attendance at the facilities will not only encourage better and more active communities, but will also provide a degree of discouragement to the antisocial behaviour that is sometimes present at the car park.

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	5
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	8
E Financial need	7	6
F Innovation	3	2
Total	37	25

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

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish Meeting	42%	£10,000	
Big Lottery Fund	42%	£10,000	
SSDC (Area East)	16%	£3,910	Requested
Total Scheme Cost		£23,910	

Recommendation is for £3,910 (16% of total project costs) £1,971 from the Parish Infrastructure Fund, £1,939 from the Community Capital Budget.

Ilchester Parish Council – Purchase of Allotments’ Area

Ilchester Parish Council has applied for £12,500 towards the purchase of Allotments Area.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Ilchester
Parish population	2153
No. of households	1004
Precept 2018/19	£24,500
Band D Charge 2018/19	£34.96

The Project

Ilchester Parish Council have leased the allotment area on a lease dated 17 June 1982 with the Master Fellows & Scholars of Trinity College Cambridge. The College are disposing of their land estate in Ilchester. The Parish Council would like to purchase the land as all 32 allotments are let with a waiting list. This area is very important for the community now and in the future.

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	5
C Need for Project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	15	11
E Financial need	7	2
F Innovation	3	3
Total	37	26

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

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of funding	Status
Town/Parish Council	50%	£12,500	Secured
Own Funds			
SSDC (Area East)	50%	£12,500	Requested
Total Scheme Cost			

Recommendation is £6,500 (25% of total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget, with a requirement for an access audit to be undertaken and the grant to be repaid if the land ceases to be used for allotments within the next 20 years.

Foddington Residents – Lydford and Foddington Broadband Project.

Representatives of Foddington Residents have applied for £9,831 to assist with the installation of BT fibre system.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Babcary
Parish population	248
No. of Households	106
Precept 2018/19	£3,782
Band D Charge 2018/19	£31.26

The Project

This project is aimed at the 16 Foddington residents who are connected to an old-style BT cabinet, which in turn is connected to the Wheathill exchange. BT has advised this exchange cannot be converted to fibre and did not include Foddington in Phase 1 of the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme. So unless residents take action, the system will stay as it is. The proposed solution will bring the latest future-proofed technology.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of funding	Status
Town/Parish Council		£320	Secured
Own Funds		£5,950	Secured
SSDC (Area East)		£9,831	Requested
Total Scheme Cost			

The settlement is included within the Connecting Devon and Somerset Superfast Broadband programme, although it has not been possible to obtain an indication of the timescales for delivery. It is understood at the time of preparing this report that funding a settlement included within this programme could mean a breach of State Aid rules – clarification will be sought about this and a verbal update will be provided to Committee.

Financial Implications

There is currently £39,232 uncommitted Capital in Area East Capital Reserve. This figure includes £7,971 from the Parish Infrastructure Fund.

If Members choose to support the recommendations contained in this report, it will mean that £22,822 will be available for future applications.

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.
