

Grant to Chard Rugby Club (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director:

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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant for £4,064 towards the costs of refurbishing the kitchen at Chard Rugby Club.

Public Interest

Chard Rugby Club has applied for financial assistance from the Area West Community Grants programme. The application has been assessed by the Neighbourhood Development Officer who has submitted this report to allow the Area West Committee to make an informed decision on the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that councillors award a grant of £4,064 to Chard Rugby Club, the grant to be allocated from the Area West capital programme subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A) and the following special conditions:

- Subject to confirmation of a pending grant application to Chard Town Council

Application Details

Name of applicant	Chard Rugby Club
Project	Kitchen refurbishment
Total project cost	£13,264
Amount requested from SSDC	£3,814
Amount recommended by SSDC	£4,064 (31.5%)
Recommended special conditions	Subject to confirmation of funding from Chard Town Council
Application assessed by	Alison Baker, Neighbourhood Development Officer, Area West

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. In order to be considered for SSDC funding under the Community Grants policies, applications need to meet the minimum score of 22.

Category	Actual Score	Maximum score possible
A Eligibility	Y	Y
B Equalities Impact	5	7
C Need for project	3	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	2	3
Grand Total	28	37

Background

Chard Rugby Club currently has over 600 members and has very active junior and adult sections including a growing female membership of both players and volunteers.

The clubhouse is used every day by various community groups as well as for rugby training and fixtures. It also regularly hosts functions as income generation for the Club.

The kitchen at the clubhouse has had little investment since it was built in 1993. A recent Food Standards Agency inspection rated the facility as 2 - 'Some improvement is necessary' and the Club now find it necessary to refurbish the kitchen to make it fit for purpose.

Parish Information

Parish*	Chard
Parish Population*	13,074
No. of dwellings*	6,066

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

Chard Rugby Club would like to refurbish their outdated kitchen area. This will involve new electrics, new cupboards and storage and new major appliances.

Local Support / evidence of need

The Clubhouse and kitchen are used almost daily. During the week the facilities are used by various community groups including The Watch Project. The Club estimate that around 120 a week use the facility. With rugby fixtures at the weekend it is estimated that more 450 will use the facilities including home and visiting members, officials and players.

In addition the Clubhouse is used for various community and private functions including Firework night, concerts and private parties bringing important revenue to the club.

Providing catering facilities is an important part of this community and private use of the clubhouse and is expected on match days. However, the kitchen is no longer fit for purpose which has been borne out by the recent Food Standards inspection. Much of the equipment is outdated and unserviceable.

Chard Rugby Club is growing club with more than 600 members. There are 5 adult teams (including a ladies VI), 8 junior teams (including 3 girls teams) and 5 mini teams

Project Costs

Supply of new Kitchen Cupboards and Appliances	£9,640
Installation of above	£3624
Total project cost	£13,264

Funding Plan

Funding Source	Funds secured
Own funds (inc funds from firework night)	£6500.00
Town Council (pending)	£1000.00
St Austell Brewery	£1200.00
Atom Fabs	£500.00
Amount recommended from SSDC	£4,064.00

The Club has requested £4,064 from SSDC. This equates to 31.5% of the total budget cost.

They are currently awaiting the results of a grant application to Chard Town Council.

N.B. The original request from the Rugby Club was for £3,814. However, this was subsequently amended after a personal donation of £250 was no longer available.

Previous grants

None during the last three years.

Chard Rugby Club is subject to 100% Business Rate Relief as a charity

Consents and permissions

None required

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £4,064 is awarded.

Financial Implications

It is recommended that this grant is awarded from the Area West Community Grants revenue fund. If this grant is awarded there will be £12,546 unallocated until the end of this financial year.

Council Plan Implications

The project supports:

Our Vision for South Somerset

A place where businesses flourish, communities are safe, vibrant and healthy; where residents enjoy good housing, leisure, cultural and sporting activities

Economy

- Capitalise on our high quality culture, leisure and tourism opportunities to bring people to South Somerset.

Health and Communities

- Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions.
- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities.

Area West Development Plan Implications

Priority 4 - Health & Wellbeing of individuals - Supporting community groups and the voluntary sector to work with statutory providers to improve access to advice, services, social activities, with an emphasis on vulnerable individuals and groups- e.g. LIC's, youth support, activities for older people, making better use of halls, digital inclusion skills etc.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The Club is fully inclusive and has an equality statement as part of its constitution.

Background papers: grant file

Appendix A

Standard conditions applying to all Community Grants.

This grant offer is made based on the information provided in the application form and represents 31.5 % of the total project costs. The grant will be reduced if the costs of the total project are less than originally anticipated. Phased payments may be made in exceptional circumstances (e.g. to help with cash-flow for a larger building project) and are subject to agreement.

The applicant agrees to: -

- Notify SSDC if there is a material change to the information provided in the application.
- Start the project within six months of this grant offer and notify SSDC of any changes to the project or start date as soon as possible.
- Confirm that all other funding sources have been secured if this was not already in place at the time of the application and before starting the project.
- Acknowledge SSDC assistance towards the project in any relevant publicity about the project (e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, and promotional materials) and on any permanent acknowledgement (e.g. plaques, signs etc).
- Work in conjunction with SSDC officers to monitor and share the success of the project and the benefits to the community resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project.
- Provide a project update and/or supply before and after photos if requested.
- Supply receipted invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the **full** cost of the project so that the grant can be released.

Standard conditions applying to buildings, facilities and equipment

- Establish and maintain a "sinking fund" to support future replacement of the building / facility / equipment as grant funding is only awarded on a one-off basis.
- Use the SSDC Building Control service where buildings regulations are required.
- Use a contractor selected from the SSDC approved list for play area facilities.
- Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.

Special conditions

- Subject to confirmation of a pending grant application to Chard Town Council