

Westfield Academy Grant Application (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Place & Performance
Assistant Director: Kim Close / Helen Rutter, Communities
Service Manager: Kim Close, Area South Development Manager (South)
Lead Officer: James Divall, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
Contact Details: James.divall@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462261

Purpose of the Report

For members to consider requests for capital grants from Westfield Academy.

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 Yeovil and villages across Area South.

Background

Area South Capital Grant applications are considered throughout the year. In recent years the Westfield neighbourhood (Yeovil West Ward) has been selected as a priority location for the Liveequal programme (South Somerset's Health Inequalities Project) and more recently the 'Our Place' national programme managed by Locality & DCLG (Department of Communities & Local Government). In both programmes road safety has ranked highly as a concern for residents and an area for improvement.

Recommendation

Members to agree a contribution of £12,500 (28% of the total project costs) from the Area South Capital Budget to Westfield Academy towards a new bus parking bay in Westfield.

Westfield Academy – New bus & mini bus parking bays

Westfield Academy has applied for a grant towards building a new bus and mini bus parking bay inside the grounds of the Academy in the lower school entrance. This development will take the bus bay away from the top entrance to the school and help improve both the accessibility in the area as well as community and road safety.

The Project

Over a number of years Stiby Road has been highlighted by local residents as a community and road safety concern. This has been evidenced in the recent 'Our Place' report in 2014, in the community consultation in 2013 and ten years prior in the Westfield Planning for Real© documentation.

Like all major road works, a number of different agencies need to be involved. Westfield Academy have taken this action upon themselves following the concerns highlighted within the 'Our Place' operational plan to develop plans to move the bus bays inside the Academy grounds at the lower school entrance as a priority project.

Westfield Academy have highlighted the same safety concerns as the residents, reporting near misses, highlighting safety concerns around road safety and even adding

additional staffing to the area at the start and end of the school day (adding additional cost to Academy's operational budget).

By moving the bus bays to the lower school area, this will not only provide the students with a safe location to use the bus but improve the accessibility, visibility and human traffic at the top entrance on Stiby Road.

Better visibility will be possible for cars coming out of the school gates on to Stiby Road. More room on the pavements for pedestrians will also be available as a result of no waiting areas for students. The empty bus lanes may even provide a much needed drop off zone for parents who are currently parking in dangerous locations around the main Stiby Road entrance.

Westfield Academy do not need planning permission for the development but it will need to receive advice from the Disability Forum for an access audit. The Neighbourhood Development Officer has highlighted this requirement. This will be an action for the Academy within the next few months.

Works are planned to take place after the October half term holidays leading up to the Christmas break.

	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	2	7
C Project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	12	15
E Financial need	4	7
F Innovation	3	3
Grand Total	26	37

Projects scoring above 26 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Scheme Total Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Town Council		£2,000	Applied for
Own Funds	66%	£28,000	Secured
Our Place Operational funds	6%	£2,500	Applied for
SSDC (Area South)	28%	£12,500	Applied for
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£45,000	

The majority of the funds (66%) is secured already from the Academy's own funds. Due to its strategic importance in the Westfield area, £2,500 has been offered from the 'Our Place' operational funds.

Financial Implications

If members agree the recommendations set out in the previous item there is currently £163,715 unallocated within the Area South Capital Budget. If Members agree the above recommendations, this will leave a balance of £151,215.

Corporate Priority Implications

(Focus Four: Health & Communities)

Priority Project for the Westfield 'Our Place' Programme.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

The Neighbourhood Development Officer has highlighted the need for an Access Audit for the new bus bays.

The new bus bays will provide a safe location to board and disembark the transportation in a new internal controlled area.

The movement of the bus bays will improve accessibility within the community especially around the pavements along Stiby Road.

Background Papers

* Westfield 'Our Place' Operation Plan 2014

* Our Neighbourhood – Westfield Consultation report 2014