

# **Request for a Community Grant – Chaffcombe Village Hall (Executive Decision)**

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## **Purpose of the Report**

To consider one application for financial assistance from the Area West Community Grant Scheme. Chaffcombe Village Hall Committee intend to undertake structural alternations to increase the internal floor space of the hall.

## **Public Interest**

This report considers one application made under the Area West Community Grant Scheme. This Scheme was established to assist local communities to bring forward projects that benefit their town or village.

## **Recommendation**

That members approve the following grant.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant requested</b>
<b>Chaffcombe Village Hall Committee</b>	Alterations to the internal layout of the hall	£7,191

## **Chaffcombe Village Hall.**

## **Background**

Chaffcombe is a small rural parish of approximately 80 houses and 250 residents. The village hall has been in use since 1961 although the building itself dates back to 1879.

The hall provides an active hub for clubs and entertainments to the residents of both Chaffcombe and the surrounding villages of Knowle St Giles, Cricket Malherbie and Lydmarsch, who lack village halls of their own.

The groups who currently use the hall include:

The Arts Group

The Disabled Arts Group  
The Singing Group  
The Social Coffee Mornings Group

Additional events are organised throughout the year including concerts, flower festivals, whist drives, wassail evenings and the harvest supper. In the past year a programme of communal lunches has been organised which are normally sold out.

The building was originally designed as the village school with an internal layout that has proved unsuitable for later use as a village hall. This project will remove an internal wall to offer a more attractive venue for larger user groups such as wedding receptions and parties. An anticipated increase in bookings will also contribute towards the long term financial viability of the hall.

There is one consideration to note with this application. SSDC grant policy guidelines require a gap of three years before a subsequent grant can be awarded to the same project. A grant was awarded by the September 2012 Area West Committee for repairs and replacement of doors and windows and repointing of two walls of the village hall. The Neighbourhood Development Officer has taken the view that whilst both the windows and door project and the internal layout projects are within the village hall, they are distinct from each other.

The grant awarded in 2012 was £1,390. If this grant request is approved it will take the total awarded in this period to £8,581.

The financial accounts for the hall committee show annual running costs of circa £4,048.87. The January 2014 accounts showed a balance of £8,177.67.

It is normally thought prudent for a community organisation of this sort to maintain a reserve equivalent to twelve months running costs.

### **Project Description**

The internal layout of the village hall has at present a wall intruding into the main hall. This reduces the available space and presents visibility problems for concert attendees. This project will pull back the wall to create a rectangular internal layout, and increase the available floor space by 15m<sup>2</sup>.

### **Project costs**

Quotes were obtained and the total cost for this project is £ 14,382

Table 1:

Building materials	£10,500
Electrical work	£2,882
Contingency	£1,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>£14,382</b>

## Funding

The hall committee have undertaken many fundraising events to secure 50 % of the total project cost, which includes an award from the Parish Council.

Table 2:

<b>Funding Source</b>		
Own Funds	£6,691	Secured
Parish Council	£500	Secured
SSDC	£7,191	Pending
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>£14,382</b>

## Assessment

Table 3:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Maximum score</b>
Eligibility	Y	
Target Groups	7	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of Organisation	12	15
Financial need	4	7
Innovation	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>37</b>

The Neighbourhood Development Officer has assessed the application and the project has reached an overall score of 28 as outlined in the table above. This application exceeds the minimum score required for funding to be considered.

## Financial Implications

A grant of £7,191 can be awarded from the Area West capital programme. This would reduce the unallocated balance from £119,712 to £112,521.

## Council Plan Implications

Focus Four: Health and Communities – We want communities that are healthy, self reliant and have individuals who are willing to help each other.

## Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

Improvements to the hall facilities may reduce car travel outside of the village.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

Disabled access and disabled toilet facilities are provided in the hall.

### ***Background Papers:***

*([www.southsomerset.gov.uk/communities/funding-for-your-group-or-project](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/communities/funding-for-your-group-or-project))*

*Area West Committee September 2012*

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