

Area North Committee – 27th June 2007

14. Community Grants Update

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Purpose of the Report

To give the Members an overview of Area North Grants for 2006/07 and to update members on grants approved under delegated authority for April and May 2007. Details are also provided for projects that have been carried over from previous years and have yet to be completed.

Recommendation

It is **recommended** that Members note the contents of the report.

Background

South Somerset District Council provides significant financial support in the form of grants to other organisations, to contribute to:

- Match-funding for projects – for example:
 - community projects, assessed under SSDC Community Grants policies
 - partner / agency led projects
 - special grants programmes (e.g. business grants)
- Services provided by key partnerships and organisations
- Other innovative or feasibility work to address local needs

Area North's financial resources include an annual grants budget and the Area Capital Programme. The Committee has also established a small business development grants programme, which is reported on separately by the Community Regeneration Officer.

Community grants for projects whose benefit fall mainly within Area North area are administered by the Area Development Service, working closely with other teams notably Sport, Arts and Leisure.

Appendix 1 contains the current SSDC Community Grants Policies for Member's reference.

Report

The table below lists the grants approved last year by the Area North Committee (or the Head of Area Development under delegated authority for grants of less than £750).

Grants awarded during 2006/07

Applicant	Project Description	Project Cost	Grant awarded	% of project cost	Current position
Curry Rivel Youth Moves	Ramajazical Keep Fit	£ 3,760.00	£ 100.00	3%	Paid
Seavington - Village Shop Association	Feasibility Study	£ 1,500.00	£ 750.00	50%	Paid
Chilthorne Domer	Rate Relief (revenue support grant)	£ 2554.70	£ 510.94	20%	Paid
Ilton "Toddlers to Codgers"	Crockery & Cutlery	£ 1,300.00	£ 100.00	8%	Paid
LADT / Langport Youth Centre	Christmas Arts Project	£ 1,263.00	£ 150.00	12%	Paid
Stanchester Sports Centre	GP Referral Scheme State Training	£ 464.00	£ 232.00	50%	Paid
Ilton Youth Club	Secure Storage for Youth Club	£ 1,500.00	£ 250.00	17%	Paid
Seavington Village Shop Association	Plunkett Foundation – training cost for volunteer	£182.00	£ 90.00	49%	Paid
South Petherton Twinning Association	Development grant	£1,250.00	£ 250.00	20%	Paid
Ilton Village Hall	Surfacing of car park	£ 21,917.00	£ 10,950.00	50%	Paid
Avon & Somerset Police	Portable CCTV equipment	£ 9,000.00	£ 3,000.00	33%	Paid
Langport Area Development Trust	Revenue support grant	£ 36,489.00	£4,264.00	12%	Paid
Martock Tennis Club - phase 2	New lights & courts for the tennis club	£101,758.00	£ 7383.00	7%	Part paid
Aller Recreation Association	Play area equipment	£ 14,905.00	£ 7,452.00	50%	Under construction
Somerton Town Council	Bus Shelter (Behind Berry)	£ 2,545.00	£ 1,272.50	50%	Pending
South Petherton Tennis Club	Installation of third court	£ 21,820.00	£ 4,320.00	20%	Awaiting invoices
South Petherton Cricket Club	Implement safety measures	£ 2,077.33	£ 696.84	34%	Paid
Norton Sub Hamdon Changing Rooms	Update changing rooms	£ 22,050.00	£ 11,000.00	50%	Under construction
South Petherton Allotment Holders	Provide fencing for security	£ 2,500.00	£ 1,250.00	50%	Pending
Barrington Players	Contribution towards lighting etc	£ 12,885.00	£ 1,500.00	12%	Completed awaiting invoices
Martock Play equipment	Play area & recreation equipment	£ 60,000.00	£ 12,500.00	21%	Under construction
Hambridge & Westport Recreation Trust	Disabled access & toilets	£ 9,000.00	£ 4,693.00	52%	Completed, awaiting invoices
Long Sutton Village Hall & Recreation Committee	Renovation of the pavilion	£ 18,000.00	£ 8,000.00	44%	Under construction
Somerton Memorial Gardens	Play area & recreation equipment	£ 90,000.00	£22,500.00	25%	Under construction
TOTAL		£438,720.03	£103,214.28	24%	

Evaluations of the above projects will be reported to a future committee.

Grants carried forward from previous years into the current year.

Name of Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Amount Awarded	% of project cost	Status
Langport Town Trust	Stair lift and ramp	£ 21,292.00	£ 4,000.00	19%	Partial payment made.
South Petherton Blake Hall	Toilet Replacement & Lift Platform	£ 20,383.00	£ 5,000.00	25%	Installation issues to be resolved
Martock Parish Council – Phase 1	New lights & courts for the tennis club	£ 14,965.00	£ 3,375.00	23%	Largely complete, awaiting invoices
Martock Parish Councils	Disabled access	£ 1,128.00	£ 525.30	47%	Mostly paid
Sedgemoor District Council	Economic impact study (Parrett Sluice)	£ 45,000.00	£ 5,000.00	11%	Completed, awaiting invoices

Community Grant applications approved under delegated authority, by Head of Area Development (in consultation with Ward Members) 1st April 2007 – 31st May 2007

		Total cost	Approved	% of project cost
Hambridge Community Primary School	Talk School International Conference	£6,500.00	£ 500.00	8%
Kingsbury Episcopi May Festival	Purchase of a new PA system	£ 507.20	£ 200.00	39%
Martock Parish Council	Lighting Survey - Precinct	£ 710.00	£ 205.00	29%
The Green Fair	Activities for young people	£ 1,550.00	£ 425.00	27%
Bursary	County Badminton Team (joint with Area East)		£ 100.00	

Implications for Corporate Priorities

The award of grant aid by the Area Committee contributes to the following corporate objectives:

Objective 8: Work in partnership with the public and private sector in developing and delivery of the Market Town Vision.

Objective 9: Identify and address the particular issues affecting rural areas.

Objective 15: Increase to 65% by 2010 the people who feel engaged in and can influence decisions that affect their communities.

Objective 16: Maintain above 80% the people satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live.

Other implications

The provision of grants can also contribute to priorities within:

- The Area North Development Plan
- The Somerset Local Area Agreement
- Town and Parish community plans

Financial Implications

None from this report, the current financial position is set out below:

Opening balance of grants Budget	£ 34,900
Awards since 1 st April	
Somerton & Langport Links – Community Transport	£12,500
Delegated grants approved by ward member (see above table)	£1,430
Available balance	£20,970

Background Papers: *Grant application files*

**SDDC Community Grants Policies
Feb 2007**

1	Corporate Priorities	Grants criteria and priorities will be linked to the Council's Aims and Objectives in the Corporate Plan. These are published in the application pack and incorporated into the assessment and scoring system. Specific criteria linked to specialist work areas (e.g. Arts, Sports) should be published on separate sheet in grants pack.
2	Area Priorities	Area Committees set their own priorities for the year and publicise these to applicants. Area grants should reflect local priorities within the broad district-wide framework.
3	Area or District-wide?	An organisation should be considered for a District-wide grant if: 40% or more of the organisation's activity is benefiting people in 2 or more SDDC areas It is unique in the district and no equivalents exist in the areas. It may have a local base but plans to develop quickly across the district. District-wide organisations receiving core funding should apply to the areas separately for local project work. Where new local projects involving district-wide organisations crop up through the year they should be supported by the area committee on a one-off or pilot basis (say 1-3 yrs). If this project then becomes part of core activities, this should be built into a Service Level Agreement.
4	Repeat Funding & Service Level Agreements	SDDC grant funding is for <i>one year only</i> . Service Level Agreements (SLAs) are agreed when an organisation is delivering services on behalf of SDDC which are high priority for the Council and deliver against the Corporate Plan. All organisations which need repeat funding should have an SLA, but funding will still be confirmed on an annual basis only At least 1-years notice is given to all organisations on SLAs of any changes in potential funding levels. Grants can only be paid for a single year and a second application is not allowed for the same project within 3 years (unless SLA)
5	Funding/costs	Up to 50% of the total project costs is available (up to 75% for safety surfacing in play areas). Up to £12,500 is available for Area grants. Project costs will be monitored to ensure that the SDDC contribution does not exceed 50% of the total project costs. Grants will be awarded subject to other funding being secured
6	VAT	SDDC may be able to recover VAT on major schemes costing over £100,000. Gifts in kind may be used to avoid VAT, where appropriate.
7	Publicity	SDDC should be acknowledged on publicity material. A simple menu of 'publicity opportunities' is sent out with all grant offer letters.
8	Monitoring	Monitoring arrangements will be a condition of grant and will be included in offer letters. Monitoring will be proportionate to the size of grant and organisation Monitoring information will be fed back to the relevant Committee.
9	Non-financial support	Other forms of Council assistance will be listed in applications and committee reports. A menu of non-financial SDDC support is sent to all applicants.
10	Delegation	Requests for £750 or under are delegated to officers following consultation with Area Chair, Portfolio Holder or Ward Member as appropriate and reported to relevant committee for information only.
11	Retrospective support	Retrospective support is not eligible for funding.
12	Planning Permission	Outline planning permission/building regulation approval should be obtained before grant goes to committee. Awards will only be offered subject to planning permission (and other relevant permissions) being given (where relevant).
13	Parish/Town Council Funding	SDDC will only fund projects where a contribution is being made by the Town or Parish Council, unless there are very exceptional circumstances. This contribution should be proportionate to the size of the Parish. Applicants should approach Town/Parish Council for funding before coming to SDDC. Parishes need to make better use of their precept to support local organisations.
14	Maintenance	Routine maintenance and replacement of equipment is not eligible.

15	Reserves	SSDC will only fund projects where a maximum of 1 year's running costs is held in free reserves. If a group has dedicated reserves for a particular project, these should be ring-fenced.
16	Leases	Capital grants can be awarded to leased facilities on the following grades: <£5k grant = minimum 10 yr lease. >£5k grant = minimum 15 year lease. Proof of ownership or evidence of an appropriate lease is required at the application stage.
17	Buildings, Facilities & Equipment	3 estimates should be submitted with buildings, facilities and equipment applications where possible. Access to buildings and sharing use of equipment should be demonstrated, where appropriate, and will be a condition of grant. Play area refurbishments will only be eligible for grant aid if the contractor is selected from the SSDC approved list. Rent/income from facilities should reflect market rates. Capital grants are on a one-off basis. Capital grant applications should include a strategy for maintenance of equipment to applicable standards, and a strategy for replacement (or otherwise) if appropriate Proper signage to buildings/facilities will be a condition of grant. Capital projects will need to have incorporated disabled access and an access audit will be required where relevant. Requests for capital funding of over £12,500 are beyond the remit of the Community Grants programme. A Capital Appraisal will be required and referred to the relevant Committee for approval separately.
18	Rent	Organisations occupying SSDC owned property should be assessed and treated in the same way as any other organisation. They should all know the full rent payable. They should apply for a grant in the normal way and include rental costs in their budget. SSDC support should reflect the value placed on the work of the organisation not the cost of the accommodation.
19	Rate Relief	All organisations eligible to 100% Rate Relief apply directly to Business Rates. Charitable Arts and Sports organisations who are entitled to 80% Rate Relief can apply to Area Committees for a grant to meet the 20% shortfall. Assessments are made using an adopted set of criteria.
20	Offer letters/grant conditions	All grants offered by SSDC will be based on a set of conditions, which will be presented in Committee reports, to include the following: Projects must start within 6 months of the grant being offered or as otherwise specified in the offer letter A project update will be provided every 3 months Other monitoring arrangements as specified Publicity options (e.g. photos) Return signed acceptance slip Grants can only be paid for a single year and a second application is not allowed for the same project within 3 years (unless SLA) Any changes to the project should be notified to SSDC Share good practice with other organisations All other funding sources are secured Grants only payable upon receipt of invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the costs of project/purchase Evidence of relevant permissions being obtained (e.g. planning permission)

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21	Loans	<p>SSDC will help applicants access loans from other sources where possible, and consider loans only when alternative forms of borrowing are not available or at a prohibitive cost. All loans will incur interest</p> <p>Village Halls can borrow up to £5,000 through the District-wide Village Hall Loans Scheme</p> <p>Loans of up to £5,000 can be approved by Area Committees</p> <p>Loans exceeding £5,000 will require a full appraisal & business plan</p> <p>Loans are offered at the appropriate Public Works Loan Board rate for the period of the loan</p> <p>The maximum repayment period will be 10 years and repaid in instalments in accordance with the agreed payment reschedule</p> <p>The maximum amount of a loan shall be £150,000. Any requests above this are beyond the remit of the Community Grants programme and will be considered separately by Full Council.</p> <p>Other loans may be available from other suitable sources</p>
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