

9. Frontline Members Grants Monitoring Report

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Purpose of the Report

To report on the progress of the pilot Frontline Councillor Grant scheme in Area North.

Recommendation

Members are requested to note and comment on the report.

Background

The Frontline Member Grant scheme was introduced as a pilot initiative, as part of the Councils work to enhance Area Working, promoting the role of the frontline Councillor. This was approved by Full Council in December 2006 and a budget allocation made by District Executive to provide each Councillor with £2,500 to support local community projects. The detailed arrangements for the scheme were agreed in July 2007, with an agreement to evaluate the success of the scheme in April 2008.

The aims of the scheme

- To enhance the role of Ward Members as Community Champions, providing them with the tools to support local groups in their communities and become more involved in local projects.
- Provide an opportunity for Ward Members to support projects they know that meet identified local needs.
- Enable projects to secure funding when they don't meet the criteria and priorities of other funding programmes.
- Provide a quick and easy, accessible pot to enable projects to get off the ground.
- Ensure flexibility to enable projects to secure their last bit of funding, and ensure that other SSDC grant money (particularly Area Grants) is not being held up by delayed projects.

Full details of the scheme are included in Appendix A.

The scheme is administered by the Area Support Team Leader, with the authorisation of grants delegated to the Head of Area Development. A quarterly report will be provided to the Area Committee on the grants awarded by each member.

Grants awarded (1st July – 30th September 2007)

App No	Ward Member	Parish	Project description	Grant amount	% of project cost
FC/07/05	Ann Campbell	Martock	Martock Youth Centre Refurbishment	£ 500.00	2%

FC/07/06	Ann Campbell	Long Load	Improvement to entrance of Long Load	£ 600.00	12%
FC/07/07	Derek Yeomans	Puckington	Parish Church Path Safety Resurfacing	£ 700.00	25%
FC/07/08	Patrick Palmer	Martock	Martock Youth Centre Refurbishment	£ 500.00	2%
FC/07/09	Patrick Palmer	Long Load	Improvement to entrance of Long Load	£ 600.00	12%
FC/07/11	Sue Steele	Hambridge and Westport	Refurbishment of Hambridge village hall	£ 300.00	17%
FC/07/14	Derek Yeomans	Kingsbury Episcopi	Redecoration of East Lambrook School Room	£ 600.00	70%
FC/07/18	Derek Yeomans	Muchelney	Renovation of the Lady Chapel - installation of lighting and fixtures	£ 550.00	3%
FC/07/19	Sue Steele	Beercrocombe	Preservation of Village Green	£ 300.00	40%
FC/07/22	Derek Yeoman	Barrington	New Village Hall Noticeboard	£ 650.00	61%

The deadline for Members to award their grant allocation is March 2008.

Financial Implications

None

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Applying the frontline councillor grant scheme contributes to a number of corporate priorities, at a very local level:-

- 8 Work in partnership with the public and private sector in developing and delivery of the Market Towns Vision
- 9 Identify and address the particular issues affecting rural areas
- 11 Work in partnership with others to improve the health prospects for all
- 15 Increase to 65% by 2010 the people who generally feel engaged in and can influence decision that affect their communities
- 16 Maintain above 80% the people satisfied with their neighbourhoods as a place to live
- 17 Increase economic vitality and prosperity.

Other Implications

The frontline councillor grant scheme provides the ward member with a simple means to make relatively small contributions to important parish projects – many of which have arisen through parish plans, or other identified local need. In addition, Councillors can support many of the priorities within the Area North Development Plan.

Background Papers: *Area North Councillor Grant file*
District Executive Report 7th December 2006
Full Council Report 14th December 2006
Full Council Report 19th July 2007