

Area North Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008

## 11. Area North Community Grants – Martock Youth Project (Executive Decision)

*Head of Service:* Charlotte Jones, Head of Area Development (North)  
*Lead Officer:* Madelaine King-Oakley, Area Support Team Leader (North)  
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*Assessing Officer:* Teresa Oulds, Community Development Assistant

### Purpose of the Report

To consider an application and draft Service Level Agreement from the Martock Youth Centre for financial support for the Martock Youth Project from the SSDC Community Grants Programme.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are RECOMMENDED to:

- Approve a grant of £4,000 from the Area North Community Grants Budget; with a forward commitment for £3,500 in 2009/10 and £3,000 in 2010/11, subject to budgetary provision, evidence of financial need and satisfactory fulfilment of the service level agreement. (draft attached in Appendix B). The standard SSDC grants conditions to apply also (Appendix A).
- Subject to recommendation 1, authorise the Head of Area Development to sign the Service Level Agreement on behalf of SSDC between Martock Parish Council, Martock Youth Centre and SSDC.

### 1. Application Details

Name of applicant	Martock Youth Centre Management Committee
Project	Martock Youth Project
Project description	The provision of a fully accessible Youth Centre and a full time Youth Development Officer in Martock who will develop a fully active youth centre with a range of activities in a safe, supervised environment for young people aged 8 to 18. Application is for financial support over a 3 year period.
Total project cost	£114,080
Amount requested	£10,500
Special conditions	Service Level Agreement between SSDC, Martock Parish Council and Martock Youth Centre.
Application assessed by	Teresa Oulds, Community Development Assistant
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### 2. Background Information

Martock Youth Centre was established as a registered charity in 1976, at which time the former Martock Junior School in Church Street was purchased for the youth club's use. The control and management of the premises were vested in a Management Committee. The charity was dedicated to the provision of a wide range of activities and training for young people in Martock and the surrounding area and continues to work in this way.

There are over 1,000 young people under the age of 16 living in Martock. In September 2003, a community survey (with responses from 661 households and 1,227 individuals) was conducted as part of the preparation of the 2004 Martock Local Community Plan. Only 7% of respondents felt that existing facilities for young people were good, and 30% thought they were poor. A new Youth Centre was identified as a key youth need.

In 2003, the Martock Youth Affairs Committee was established to provide a forum for discussion of the issues, needs, provision and priorities concerning children and young people in the Martock area, and to take forward specific projects to improve their welfare, quality of life and community facilities. Representatives from Somerset County Council, SSDC, the Local Service Delivery Team (previously County Youth Service), Martock Parish Council, Martock Youth Centre and Martock School sit on this committee. One of its roles is to offer support to the Martock Youth Centre Management Committee.

In 2006, the existing Youth Centre was condemned by Somerset County Youth Service on Health and Safety grounds and closed. In response to this, and a shortage of County and volunteer resources to run youth sessions, the Martock Youth Affairs Committee determined to refurbish and reopen the Youth Centre and provide a full time youth worker.

The updated 2007 Community Plan includes the vision that Martock will be a community which values, supports and cares for its young people, in which:

- They are offered a voice in decision-making
- They are provided with a wide range of accessible formal and informal youth facilities
- Strong links are maintained with their local schools

In 2007, the Martock Youth Parish Council was formed. Its members are actively involved in all of the youth projects and have been instrumental in organising a number of youth activities. They are also involved in fundraising and are represented on the Youth Centre Management Committee and the Martock Youth Affairs Committee.

The Martock Youth Parish Council reported on its own survey of young people, strongly recommending the re-opening of the Youth Centre to provide formal (organised) and informal (drop-in) sessions.

The refurbishment of the Youth Centre was carried out during the period May 2007 to February 2008 at a cost of £29,000, raised from local sources (including £2050 from SSDC). A full time Youth Development Officer was appointed by Martock Parish Council in October 2007, funded by the parish precept, and the Youth Centre re-opened on 8 March 2008.

### **3. The Martock Youth Project**

The Martock Youth Project is a long term undertaking, the purpose of which is to deliver an excellent young people's programme in Martock that:

- Meets the needs of the young people of age 8 years and over and the Martock community
- Revitalises and optimises the profile and use of Martock Youth Centre
- Increases the number of young people participating regularly in out-of-school education and leisure opportunities
- Enhances the range and quality of opportunities available for young people

### 3.1 Current Position

The Youth Development Officer has been in post since October 2007. The Youth Centre is now run by the officer, who is a member of the Management Committee. The Youth Development Officer co-ordinates and supervises an extensive range of activities which are advertised to young people attending the centre, on local notice boards, in leaflets, in the schools and in the local magazine, The Leveller, and by the Youth Parish Council.

Activities provided as part of the project to date have included:

Regular youth club sessions:

- intermediates – Tuesday evenings
- seniors – Wed evenings
- after school drop-in – Tues, Wed and Thursday
- juniors – Thurs evenings (from Nov 08)

Organising Martock Fun Day (in conjunction with SSDC Community Play Officer – over 500 attended)

February and May school holiday activities

Administration of £1,000 service enhancement grant from SSDC Area North to provide additional activities to the young people of Martock

Facilities for and support to other organised youth sessions:

- Army cadets, Mon and Thurs evenings
- Martock Christian Fellowship youth club – Fri evenings and Sun mornings

Support (including fundraising) to other youth projects in the Local Community Plan for improved outdoor facilities and the proposed provision of a new youth centre

Regular reporting to, and support of, the Youth Affairs Committee

Formation of a Youth Parish Council, which has been involved in the following since Jan 08

Summer activities, including

- Scrapbooking
- Outings
- Emergency first aid course for teenagers (alcohol, drugs and stabbing based)
- Coffee, cakes and books coffee morning
- Youth Factor (like X-Factor!)
- Performance Dance over 2 days
- Lego Fun Day
- Recycled fabric bag workshop

- Grand opening of Youth Centre
- First annual Easter egg hunt
- Helping with Inters youth club sessions once a week
- Hosting a consultation session about skate park extension
- Hosting a welcome for the St Margaret's Hospice walkers
- Helping at Youth Service Area Worker interviews
- Attending Youth Awards
- Attending planning meetings for Play Day
- Purchasing of equipment for the Play Day

The Youth Centre now operates a daytime 'open door' policy, so that parents, carers and other members of the community can visit, view the facilities and find out what is going on. It is open every weekday evening for organised youth sessions, and an after school drop-in club operates three afternoons a week.

The Youth Centre Management Committee is composed as follows:

- Chairperson (representative of the Parish Council)
- Secretary (Youth Development Officer)
- Treasurer (independent)
- Second Parish Council representative
- Independent community member
- Youth Centre trustee
- Youth Parish Council (two representatives)

The Management Committee holds an open Annual General Meeting in July, where a full report is given of the activities conducted during the previous year.

### 3.2 Support for the Project

The Martock Youth Project is fully supported by Martock Parish Council and Martock Youth Affairs Committee, on which Somerset County Council and SSDC are represented. The Parish Council has pledged to contribute 78% of the total project costs (rising from 71% in 2008/09 to 81% in the subsequent two years).

### 3.3 Costs and Funding

This is an application for a financial contribution towards the full operating costs of the Martock Youth Project, principally the running costs of the re-opened Youth Centre for the three years to 2012.

Youth Centres are harder to let for wider lettings and meetings than other community facilities due to the bespoke nature of the centre for young people. The rooms are less flexible, and equipment must be left in place. However the efforts made by the Youth Centre Management Committee and Martock Parish Council, to renovate the building, has in turn supported greater use, which is encouraging. The building is an historic building, with the inevitable costs attached to maintain its fabric.

There will be on-going costs after the end of the three years but plans are in place to work towards further income generation. From April 2009 the full employment costs of the Youth Development Officer will be met by the Martock parish precept.

Members may also be aware that currently, a number of key bodies in Martock are investigating the possibility of building a new, combined facility that could result in the sale of the existing Martock Youth Centre. If this plan is successful, the existing indoor provision will be transferred to the new multi-use community facility, which will be run by its own management company and funded through a combination of earned income and grants from Martock Parish Council and Martock Christian Fellowship.

The current financial plan (below) shows a need for additional income over and above that achieved from existing funding sources and forms the basis of this funding application.

<b>Itemised project costs 2008-2011</b>	<b>08/09</b>	<b>09/10</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>Total</b>
YDO employment cost (including NICS and expenses)	£27,592	£28,972	£30,420	£86,984
Youth Centre annual running costs	£8,595	£9,025	£9,476	£27,096
<b>TOTAL (A)</b>	<b>£36,187</b>	<b>£37,996</b>	<b>£39,896</b>	<b>£114,080</b>

<b>Funding body</b>				
Martock Youth Centre	£4,648	£3,525	£4,476	£12,649
Martock Parish Council	£25,739	£30,972	£32,420	£89,131
SCC Local Service Team	£1,000	£0	£0	£1,000
SCC Councillor Initiative	£800	£0	£0	£800
<b>TOTAL (B)</b>	<b>£32,187</b>	<b>£34,496</b>	<b>£36,896</b>	<b>£103,580</b>
<b>Amount requested from SSDC (A-B)</b>				
Required grant	<b>£4,000</b>	<b>£3,500</b>	<b>£3,000</b>	<b>£10,500</b>
Percentage	11.05%	9.21%	7.52%	<b>9.2%</b>

#### 4. Community Grants Assessment Score

In order to be considered for SSDC funding under the Capital Grants Scheme, applications need to attain a minimum score of 20 and the table below shows the scoring achieved in this case.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Maximum possible</b>
A Eligibility	<b>Yes</b>	
B Target groups	1	6
C Project	4	5
D Capacity of organisation	12	15
E Financial need	5	5
F Innovation	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>34</b>

#### Comments on the assessment and conclusion

The assessment score reflects the fact that this is a well-planned, innovative project, which needs further financial support to succeed. The main priority group is young people, although the services provided by the project will also support other target groups, within the context of the wider Martock area community.

For many years, it is acknowledged that investment in supporting young people from within the community, and developing their involvement in leading and developing services for young people has been inadequate. This project represents a highly innovative and commendable project, which could act as a model for other larger settlements in Area North and beyond. In particular this project will enhance the capacity of the management trustees of the Martock Youth Centre, and maintain the quality of the building, and a successful project will provide an excellent case study for others to consider.

The increased capacity and leadership for young people's work in the Martock area will also support the various services of SSDC and SCC to deliver effective and efficient services, and benefits from wide support from a number of strategies and plans referred to at the end of this report.

To provide longer term project development, in particular to develop work with young people not currently engaged with the Martock Youth Centre, a three year funding agreement is sought. Under SSDC grants policies this requires a service level agreement.

## 5. Service Level Agreement

As this is an application for more than one year, a Service Level Agreement will be required and a draft agreement is attached in Appendix B.

- a) The main activities and services to be delivered are below:
- A comprehensive programme of activities to take place after school, during the evenings and holidays. These should include two training courses a year, in addition to a range of fun activities.
  - An annual Play & Youth Day, in conjunction with the SSDC Community Play Officer.
  - Hosting of an annual networking event for those involved in youth work on behalf of SSDC Area North and the Somerset County Council Local Service Delivery Team.
  - Encouragement and support of the young people to be actively involved in their community, e.g. through a Youth Parish Council, helping them to organise activities for their peers, and to participate in active fundraising.
  - An annual event that will include older members of the community (i.e. those aged over 60).
  - The duties of the Youth Development Officer, as specified in the Job Description that forms part of the employment contract with Martock Parish Council.
- b) There will be an annual monitoring meeting, with the first to take place in July 2009. Details are in the Service Level Agreement (Appendix B).

### Financial Implications

£13,850 remains in the Area North Community Grants budget, approving this recommendation will leave £9,850 during 2008-09. Future years commitments will be subject to budgetary provision.

### Implications for Corporate Priorities

The provision of a grant to the Martock Youth Project supports the following corporate objectives:

- 9:** Identify and address the particular issues affecting rural areas.
- 15:** Increase to 65% by 2010 the people who feel engaged in and can influence decisions that affect their communities.

### Other Implications

The provision of this grant would support priorities contained in the following:

Area Development Plan –

- 3:** Promote and enhance activities and informal facilities for children and young people
- 5:** Support the development and enhancement of community managed facilities, activities or services
- 10:** Promote and increase levels of community safety and cohesion.

Local Area Agreement –

- 26:** Making our communities feel safer and reducing anti-social behaviour
- 29:** Develop strength and role of community groups and voluntary organisations

**30: Community cohesion**

Every Child Matters -

- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution

SSDC Youth Strategy -

- 2:** To ensure 70% of young people have access to at least two youth facilities within 15 minutes walking distance by 2012.
- 4:** To ensure access to two hours per week of constructive activities in clubs run by their community by 2012.
- 14:** To increase year-on-year the number of opportunities for young people to contribute to service development and community decision making.
- 15:** To increase the number of young people involved in local democracy by at least 20% by the end of 2008.

**Background Papers:** *Martock Local Community Plan 2007*

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