

10. Area North Community Grants – Equipment for Somerton Town Council Community Hall (Executive Decision) (Excepted Business)

Head of Service: Charlotte Jones, Head of Area Development (North)(SSDC)
Lead Officer: Les Collett, Community Development Officer (North)(SSDC)
Contact Details: leslie.collett@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01458) 257427
Assessing Officer: Leslie Collett, Community Development Officer (North)

Purpose of the Report

For Members to consider the request for a grant towards equipment for the new Community Hall in Somerton.

Recommendation(s)

- 1) Members are asked to approve £12,500 to Somerton Town Council project to be allocated from the Area North Capital Programme allocation for “Improving Community Halls and Facilities”, 2009/10 subject to the standard terms and conditions for SSDC Community and Leisure Grants, (see Appendix A) and the following special conditions:
 - a. The equipment and facilities are made available to community and charitable groups at affordable rates.
 - b. In the event of the closure of the hall, the equipment may only be re-sold or transferred to a third party with the prior written agreement of SSDC.

1. Application Details

Name of Applicant:	Somerton Town Council
Project name:	Equipment for Somerton Community Hall
Project description:	Equipping the new Community Hall with tables chairs crockery, cutlery, glassware, tableware, serving utensils/trays etc
Total project cost:	£26,000
Amount requested from SSDC:	£12,500
Application assessed by:	Leslie Collett Community Development Officer
Contact details:	Leslie.collet@southsomerset.gov.uk (01458) 257427

2. Community Grants Assessment score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. In order to be considered applications need to meet the minimum score of 22, for SSDC funding under its Community Grants Policies.

Category	Score	Maximum
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	7	7
C Project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	3	7
F Innovation	3	3
Total	33	37

3. Background information

Somerton has several venues within the community in which people can meet and take part in various activities.

For some decades there has been talk of the need of a large community hall in Somerton. This was also highlighted in Somerton Town Plan published in 2005 as one of the key actions of the plan, to fund and build a community hall for at least 300 people.

Somerton Town Council recently purchased a large industrial unit on Somerton Business Park and are in the process of converting it into a multi purpose community building for use by all sections of the community.

On the first floor there is an office for the Town Clerk, generous size meeting room, small meeting rooms and kitchenette facilities. A lift to the first floor is also being installed. The ground floor is a large auditorium space with capacity of over 300, with a generous stage, bar area, and full kitchen facilities. The building is well served with car parking and away from the residential areas.

4. About the project

This application is to help with the purchasing of the necessary equipment, including tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery, glassware, tableware, etc, so that it can be brought into immediate community use when the building conversion work has been completed in the spring of 2009.

The town council aims to make the overall project self-funding together with a sinking fund for repairs and replacement of the building and equipment.

The town council is also exploring options to involve user groups in the management and promotion of the community hall.

5. Cost and match funding

- a) **Cost** -The cost of the work is estimated to be £26,000 this is based on a number of supplier price lists.
- b) **Funding** - 52% of the funding for this project is already secure; a full breakdown of the funding secured for this project is detailed in the table below.

Funding sources are as follows:-

Funding Source:	
Somerton Town Council	£8,250
Local fundraising	£1,000
SCC – Frontline Councillor fund	£4,250
Total	£ 13,500
SSDC	£ 12,500
Total	£ 26,000

Conclusion

The Town Council has fulfilled its commitment to provide a large community building in Somerton. This will soon be completed and available for public use. The District Council has not provided any other capital funding towards the new community hall.

Provision of a full range of equipment for hirers use, will help ensure the widest possible range of bookings.

It is recommended that this application be supported with a grant of £12,500.

Financial Implications

There is £11,310 remaining in the Area North Capital Grants Programme allocation for “Improving Community Halls and Facilities”; the remainder will be funded from the revenue budget as a revenue contribution to capital.

Corporate Priorities

This project supports the following Corporate Aims:-

- To deliver well managed cost effective services valued by our customers
- To increase economic vitality and prosperity
- To improve the housing, health and well-being of our citizens
- To ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

Other implications

Supporting local community projects help to meet the following Area Priority of: -

3.6 – Support communities to maintain and develop facilities and activities

Background Papers: *Community Grant Application*