

Area West Committee – 20th February 2008

6. Progress Report on the Frontline Councillors Grant Scheme

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Purpose of the Report

To update members on the Frontline Councillors Grant Scheme pilot project. This is the second quarterly progress report required to be made to Area Committees by Full Council for members' information.

Recommendation

It is recommended that members note the report.

Background

Members, officers and communities have worked together to build the successful Area Working model that we currently enjoy. Specific work was carried out during 2006 by Area Chairmen, Heads of Area Development and others to further improve the Area Working model, especially in relation to community engagement and delivery of services to local communities.

As part of this work the Frontline Councillors Grant Scheme was developed. The decision was made at the Full Council meeting in December 2006 (with further amendments at the Full Council meeting in July 2007) to provide each individual member with a budget of £2,500 to support local community initiatives/projects in harmony with the council's priorities. Guidance has been issued to all members.

This first pilot year will close on 31st March 2008. See Financial Implications section for 2008/09 budget proposals.

Grants Awarded from July 2007 to January 2008

The previous (first) report covered the period from July to October 2007. The scheme was just coming into use and only 6 grants had been awarded to the end of October. By 7th February 2008 however, activity has increased substantially and 55 grants have been awarded. These include examples where several Councillors have jointly supported projects. A wide variety of community activity is being supported.

The table shows the projects supported and how much grant they have attracted.

Organisation/project	Grants Awarded	Number of Cllrs supporting
1 st Ilminster Brownies (purchase of air beds)	£250	1
Ashill Pre-School (Computer funding)	£300	1
Ashill Village Hall (resurfacing village hall car park)	£250	1
Avishayes Community Primary School (Activity Trail)	£1,000	1
Bampton Avenue Residents Association (play area)	£400	1
Chard 2000 (Wall plaque)	£350	1
Chard Christmas Lights 2008	£1,500	5

Organisation/project	Grants Awarded	Number of Cllrs supporting
Chard Detached Youth Project (skate park refurbishment)	£800	1
Chard District Guides (storage equipment)	£439	1
Chard Goldstar Majorettes (uniforms)	£350	2
Chard, Ilminster & Crewkerne Pensioners Forum (information events)	£250	1
Chard in Bloom (planters and plants)	£1,100	3
Chard Mini & Junior Rugby Club (coaching costs)	£500	1
Chard Town Council (Guildhall Clock)	£2,000	5
Chard Young Peoples Centre (furniture)	£500	1
Combe St Nicholas Parochial Trust (pond liner)	£250	1
Combe St Nicholas Sunday School Wood (wildflower meadow)	£250	1
Crewkerne Aqua Centre (10 th Anniversary)	£750	3
Crewkerne Christmas Lights	£750	3
Crewkerne Parochial Church Council (roof repairs)	£1,000	1
Crime Reduction Team (Chard/Ilminster radio link)	£500	2
Cygnets Pre-school (outdoor play area)	£500	1
Harlequin Carnival Club (construction of float)	£250	1
Hercules Opportunity group (purchase of equipment)	£425	1
Horton Parish Council (new village hall - pavement)	£625	1
Ilminster Flower & Veg Show (set-up costs)	£250	1
Ilminster Forum (booklets on history)	£250	1
Meeting House Arts Centre (Appreciation of Art project)	£500	2
Misterton Womens' Institute (repair to hall)	£750	3
Newsquest (Ditton Street diversion advert)	£250	1
Rotary Club of Ilminster (Young Citizen of the Year Award)	£250	1
Schools Out (garden shed)	£250	1
West Crewkerne Parish Council (notice board)	£250	1
West One Youth Centre (refurbishment works)	£750	3
Total spent so far	£18,789	55
Total budget	£40,000	
Fund available to spend	£21,211	

Financial Implications

Each Councillor has a budget of £2,500 for the financial year, making a total Area West budget of £40,000. To 7th February 2008, £18,789 had been spent, leaving 53% of the budget not awarded.

At 7th February the individual councillors' grant fund remaining was as follows:

Councillor	Spend so far	Remaining budget
Simon Bending	£0	£2,500
Mike Best	£1,000	£1,500
Dave Bulmer	£1,700	£800
Geoff Clarke	£2,000	£500
Nicci Court	£1,000	£1,500
Nigel Mermagen	£2,500	£0
Robin Munday	£250	£2,250
Ric Pallister	£0	£2,500
Ros Roderigo	£500	£2,000

Councillor	Spend so far	Remaining budget
Dan Shortland	£1,500	£1,000
Angie Singleton	£1,000	£1,500
Jean Smith	£1,964	£536
Kim Turner	£2,250	£250
Andrew Turpin	£0	£2,500
Linda Vijeh	£1,175	£1,325
Martin Wale	£1,950	£550
Total spent	£18,789	£21,211

The future of the scheme is subject to review. The 2007/08 budget is funded 50% revenue and 50% capital. There is no revenue provision for 2008/09, but continuance of the capital provision was agreed at District Executive on 7th February 2008. A review of the scheme will take place in April/May 2008.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

The grant awards meet the following corporate aims:

- To improve the health and well-being of our citizens
- To increase economic vitality and prosperity

Other Implications

None.

Background Papers: *Area West Councillors Grants file*
District Executive Report 7th December 2006
Full Council Report 14th December 2006
Full Council Report 19th July 2007
Area West Committee report 21st November 2007
