

Area West Committee – 16th April 2008

## **6. Area Development Grants (Executive Decision)**

*Head of Service:* Andrew Gillespie - Head of Area Development (West)  
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### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is for members to consider applications for financial assistance from local organisations within Area West for the financial year 2008/09.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that members:-

- (1) note the changes that have been made to the SSDC Community Grants Policy;
- (2) instruct officers to develop Service Level Agreements with the organisations listed in the summary table to ensure that they remain eligible for core funding in 2009/10;
- (3) approve the grants of £46,661 as recommended in the summary table.

### **Background**

Through the Community Grants scheme Area West Committee has been able to offer financial support to projects and organisations that contribute to the well being of local communities. However, when considering Area Development grants in April 2007, members indicated that they would encourage frequently supported organisations to achieve higher levels of match funding from now on.

### **Standard Grant Conditions**

All grants agreed will be offered subject to the following conditions:

- proof that all partnership funding is secured;
- quotations for building work are obtained in line with SSDC financial procedures;
- where appropriate, reference is made to SSDC funding in any publicity material;
- building inspection is carried out prior to release of grant monies;
- the grant offer is kept open for one year only from the date of grant approval; however, applicants may reapply or request an extension;
- the grant is only to be used for the purpose specified in the offer letter.

### **SSDC Grant Policies**

Councillors need to be aware that Community Grants Policy 4 Repeat Funding and Service Level Agreements (SLAs) was changed at District Executive on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The Policy now states:

- Grant funding is for one year only;
- A second grant application for the same project will not be considered within 3 years of the first award;

- All organisations requesting repeat funding should have a Service Level Agreement with SSDC;
- SLAs will be based on:
  - a) an agreed set of measurable targets against which performance will be monitored;
  - b) monitoring of the continued health of the individual organisation;
  - c) value for money being demonstrated;
- SLAs will be:
  - d) for 1 year if SSDC wishes to support the organisation's core running costs on an ongoing basis, but will consider funding annually ....

Therefore to remain eligible for repeat funding from Area West Committee towards running costs and discretionary rate relief in future years organisations must have an SLA in place. It is recommended that members instruct officers to develop Service Level Agreements with Organisations listed in the summary table.

## Assessment of Applications

Each application has been through an assessment process against criteria laid down in the SSDC grants policy. Schemes achieving a score lower than 20 would not be recommended for financial support. However this year all schemes were assessed at 20 or above. A copy of the grant assessment form is attached at pages 8-14 for information.

## Financial Implications

To reach our savings target for the financial year 2008/9 the Area West Discretionary grant fund has been reduced by £5000, or approximately 10%.

In February 2008 potential applicants for grants in 2008/9 were advised that the grant fund was smaller this year than in previous years and therefore grants from SSDC were likely to be smaller and fewer. As in previous years potential applicants were reminded that any grant awarded would be a one off and should not be taken as a commitment by SSDC to provide any funding in future years.

A number of organisations made applications and these are shown in summary and detail below.

An application from Chard Youth Club has been withdrawn pending the receipt of further information. A verbal recommendation will be made at committee if possible in line with the principles laid down in this report. In April 2007, Area West Committee awarded a grant of £5,459 towards the running costs of Chard Youth Club.

The recommended grants in the summary table represent 95% of the amounts requested. This still represents substantial support but also means that these organisations will be encouraged to seek higher levels of match funding this year.

The Area West Revenue Grants budget for 2008/2009 is £52,850. If the recommended revenue grants total of £46,661 is agreed, a balance of £ 6,189 will remain pending further consideration of the grant application by Chard Youth Club.

## Summary Table of Grant Applications

Organisation	2007 Award	2008 Request	Purpose	Points scored	Recommended Grant
Ile Youth Centre, Ilminster	£4,169	£3,970	Ongoing running costs	22	£3,772
West One Youth & Community Centre, Crewkerne	£3,889	£3,650	Ongoing running costs	24	£3,468
Crewkerne Heritage Centre	£4,120	£4,120	Ongoing running costs	22	£3,914
Crewkerne Aqua Centre	£9,235	£9,610	Disc. rate relief	24	£9,129
Chard Museum	£10,000	£10,000	Ongoing running costs	24	£9,500
Crowshute House	£12,500	£12,500	Ongoing running costs	22	£11,875
CRESTA	£5,061	£5,267	Disc. rate relief	23	£5,003
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£48,974</b>	<b>£49,117</b>			<b>£46,661</b>

## Detail of Grant Applications

### 1. Ile Youth Centre, Ilminster (AW/08/222)

The Youth Centre has submitted a grant application for £3,970.42p, which is 15% of the total running costs for 1 year. They have applied for other funding from Ilminster Town Council and Somerset County Council. They generate some income by charging their users a small fee and letting out the centre to other community groups. The Ile Youth Club needs a financial contribution towards the running costs to help them to continue to provide a much needed service to the community of Ilminster and its surrounding parishes.

Total Running Costs: £26,277

#### Income

Town Council	£3,000 (not secured)
Somerset County Council	£5,356.53
Own funds	£1,774.02 (subs & coffee bar)
Local Fundraising	£5,001.98
Estimated income	£7,174.30 (lettings)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£22,306.83</b>
<b>Amount requested from SSDC</b>	<b>£3,970.42</b>

#### **Additional Information**

The Youth Club have delivered a Healthy Eating Project during club sessions. The kitchen and exterior areas have been refurbished. A drop in café has been created to allow young people to have a coffee and a chat with their friends.

**Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Activities**

The project meets three of the SSDC Corporate Aims in the Corporate Plan 2005-12.

**2. West One Youth & Community Centre**

West One Youth and Community Centre provides 3 evening youth sessions per week and is well used by a variety of community groups including a crèche, playgroup and after school club. West One generates some income from subs and room hire and is supported by the Town Council, they have submitted an application for 20% of their running costs (£3,650).

Total running costs: £18,800

Income

Crewkerne Town Council	£7,250
Estimated income	£7,900
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£15,150</b>
<b>Amount requested from SSDC</b>	<b>£3,650</b>

**Additional Information**

Over the past 12 months West One has expanded the Junior Youth Club both in terms of numbers of young people attending and staff employed. In addition the playgroup celebrated 25 years at the centre.

**Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Activities**

The project meets five of the SSDC Corporate Aims in the Corporate Plan 2005-12.

**3. Crewkerne Heritage Centre (AW/08/217)**

The Heritage Centre is applying for £4,120 towards running costs. The annual amount needed by Crewkerne Heritage Centre Ltd to run the building and its services is £9,100. The grant application to SSDC is for 45% of the running costs. Crewkerne Heritage Centre is supported by Crewkerne Town Council and they also generate income through room hire and entrance fees to the museum.

Total running costs: £9,100

Income

Crewkerne Town Council	£1,500
Own funds	£3,480
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£4,980</b>
<b>Total Requested from SSDC</b>	<b>£4,120</b>

**Additional information**

Over the past 12 months Crewkerne Heritage Centre have increased their visitor figures from children by working closely with local schools and youth groups. The Heritage Centre has put on three successful special exhibitions in addition to their usual displays. Crewkerne Heritage Centre is currently applying for accreditation through the Museums and Libraries Association.

### Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Activities

The project meets five of the SSDC Corporate Aims in the Corporate Plan 2005-12.

#### 4. Crewkerne Aqua Centre (AW/08/220)

Crewkerne Aqua & Active Lifestyle Centre is requesting discretionary grant relief on the remaining 20% of the business rates charged to the centre.

Total cost of rates	£9,609.60
<b>Amount requested from SSDC</b>	<b>£9,609.60</b>

#### Additional Information

Over the past 12 months Crewkerne Aqua Centre has developed a closer working relationship with Somerset PCT and they now offer some health services at the centre.

### Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Activities

The project meets three of the SSDC Corporate Aims in the Corporate Plan 2005-12.

#### 5. Chard Museum (AW/08/213)

Chard Museum has submitted a grant application for £10,000, £9,000 of which is to pay rent for the building to SSDC. The remaining £1,000 is to hire the Stringfellow room for five quarterly meetings and the AGM as well as a contribution towards general repairs and improvements.

Museum Running Costs:	£27,538.52
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#### Income

Admissions:	£2,877.00
Grants & Donations:	£2,159.27
Friends of Museum Group:	£580.00
Rate Relief:	£8,214.00
Sales	£916.89
Sundries	£2,791.36

<u>Total Income</u>	<u>£17,538.52</u>
<b>Amount requested from SSDC</b>	<b>£10,000</b>

#### Additional information

The Museum continues to build in its popularity with over 3,600 visitors and recipients of talks. In the first year of the website figures from June to November 2007 report 20,487 hits to the site. The museum also continues to be a useful resource for schools and local members of the community.

### Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Activities

The application and project will meet three of the SSDC Corporate Aims in the Corporate Plan 2005-2012.

**6. Chard Young People’s Centre (AW/08/218)**

An application from Chard Youth Club has been withdrawn pending the receipt of further information. A verbal recommendation will be made at committee if possible in line with the principles laid down in this report. In April 2007, Area West Committee awarded a grant of £5,459 towards the running costs of Chard Youth Club.

**7. Crowshute House (AW/08/224)**

The grant application has been submitted by Crowshute House Management Committee to cover the cost of rent paid by the committee to SSDC for use of the building.

This organisation exists to manage Crowshute House leased from SSDC on behalf of the users of the building. The users are: Chard Amateur Theatrical Society, Chard Light Operatic Society, Chard Concert Brass and Crowshute House Association.

Total running costs: £21,827.15

Income

Room hire	£1,000
Football club	£1,450
Bingo	£1,200
Refund charges	£2,863
Interest	£300
Rent shortfall	£2,500
SSDC grant	£12,500
Total Income	£21,810
<b>Amount requested from SSDC</b>	<b>£15,000</b>
<b>(Maximum allowed under grants policy)</b>	<b>£12,500</b>

**Additional Information**

The Crowshute House Management Committee have requested £15,000 in respect of the full rent payable to SSDC for the use of the building. However payment of such an amount would be counter to the policy of the District Council under which the maximum grant allowable is £12,500. Their request, therefore, has been amended to £12,500.

Officers are working with the Management Committee to improve their business case proposal to move towards a ‘full repairing’ lease and peppercorn rent to remove dependency on SSDC funding.

**Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Actives.**

The application and project will meet 6 of the SSDC Corporate Aims in the Corporate Plan 2005-2012.

**8. CRESTA**

The CRESTA centre in Chard provides sport and educational facilities to benefit all members of the local community. The centre has made an application for the sum of £5,266.80 to meet the remainder of their rates once they have received rate relief.

Total running costs: £540,259

Income

Total income:	£112,060
<b>Amount requested from SSDC</b>	<b>£5,266.80</b>

**Additional Information**

The CRESTA centre has received funding in previous years; last year's award was £5,061.

**Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Actives**

The application and project will meet 4 of the SSDC Corporate Aims in the Corporate Plan 2005-2012.

**Background Papers:** *Grant application forms*  
*Minutes Area West Committee April 2007.*  
*District Executive – 6th March 2008 - SSDC Community Grants Policies*

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