

Area West Committee – 18th June 2008

9. Area Development Grants – Meeting House, Ilminster (Executive Decision)

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

For members to consider an application for financial assistance submitted by the Meeting House, Ilminster.

Recommendation

That a grant of £2,080.54 be awarded from the Area West unallocated capital budget to the Meeting House, Ilminster towards the purchase of new stage lighting and an induction look subject to the standard grant conditions.

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.

Background

This application was received in March 2008 and has been held over pending the next Opportunity Ilminster event. However, officers accept that this was not made clear to the organisation at the time of their application. Therefore, to assist the management of Ilminster Meeting House, members are requested to consider the application now.

We have amended the advice we will give in the future.

This application has been through a rigorous assessment process clearly set out in the SSDC Grants policies. The overall assessment was 20 out of 34. Schemes scoring 20 or above are recommended for support.

Applicant	Amount sought	Capital/ Revenue/	Points scored	Officers recommend
Ilminster Meeting House	£2,080.54	Capital	20	Approve funding of £2,080.54

Iminster Meeting House (AW/08/219)

The Arts Centre in Iminster wish to purchase new stage lighting that will enable them to deliver a quality performance experience. In addition they would like to install an Induction Loop to allow people who are hard of hearing to attend performances at the centre. Iminster Meeting House request £2,080.54, which is 50% of the cost of this project. The other 50% will be raised through business sponsorship (£1,500), local fundraising (£500) and their own funds (£80.54).

Project costs:

Lighting equipment	£1,555.42
Alpha Pack 2 15A Dimmer & 12A plug x 2	£575.28
Supply & installation of Induction Loop	£1,805.49
Handover & training of system	£76.38
Certification of Induction Loop System	£148.50
TOTAL	£4,161.07

Additional Information

In 2007, the Meeting House Arts Centre put on over 15 performances, which were mainly jazz and classical concerts. Feedback from both customers and performers highlights the need for improved stage lighting. The installation of an Induction Loop is part of the ongoing commitment to improve facilities for the disabled at the Arts Centre. It is hoped that improving the quality of the performance experience will attract a larger loyal audience, thereby improving the financial stability of the centre.

Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Actives

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

Financial Implications

If the recommendation is approved, £2,080.54 will be taken from the Area West unallocated capital budget.

Background Papers: *Iminster Meeting House Application & assessment (AW/08/219)*
