

Area Committee West – 21st April 2010

6. Community Grants

Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Place and Performance
Assistant Director: Martin Woods, Communities
Service Manager: Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West)
Lead Officers: Zoë Harris, Community Regeneration Officer
Claire Littlejohn, Community Development Officer
Contact Details: zoe.harris@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01460 260423
claire.littlejohn@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01460 260359

Purpose of the Report

To consider applications for community grants from organisations within Area West for 2010/11.

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:-

- (1) note the changes to the SSDC Community Grants Policy regarding discretionary business rate relief;
- (2) approve the awarding of grants of £26,953 as shown in the summary table, subject to confirmation that a grant will also be made by the appropriate Town Council.

Background

Eight local organisations have been in receipt of regular grants from the Area West Development grants fund for a number of years. Six of those organisations have had grants towards their running costs and two organisations have had grants towards discretionary business rates relief.

The organisations are;

Chard Museum
Crowshute House
Chard Young People's Centre
CRESTA
Crewkerne Aqua Centre
Crewkerne Heritage Centre
West One Youth and Community Centre
Ile Youth Centre

In April 2009 Joint Area Committee West agreed that it was necessary to put a strategy in place that would ensure local community organisations did not come to rely on an annual grant from SSDC as a source of sustainable long term core funding.

In March 2010 Area West Committee adopted a strategy to reduce financial dependency in a fair and transparent way, allowing time for these organisations to develop other funding streams and increase income/reduce costs to enable their continued success.

The strategy is based on a phased reduction in the grant levels offered to these organisations. The awarding of grants will still be subject to an annual application and approval process, but the maximum amount available to each organisation will be reduced by 20% each year, using the 2009 awards as a baseline.

The level of the awards shown in the summary table has been established after applying this strategy.

Members will recall that Grants Policy 13 states that “SSDC will only fund projects where a contribution is made by the Town or Parish Council. [and that] This contribution should be proportional to the size of the Parish.”

Although all Town Councils are able to consider grant applications for 2010-11, not all have done so yet. Chard Town Council will not be in a position to approve grant applications until mid June. It is therefore recommended that any decision to award funds be given on the condition that the groups are successful and funds are held until notification of the decision is confirmed.

Discretionary Business Rates Relief

On 1st April 2010 the District Executive agreed a further change in the community grants policy regarding discretionary business rate relief. From this date any community organisation eligible for discretionary business rate relief will no longer be able to apply for financial assistance through the Area Committees but instead will need to apply directly to SSDC Business Rates section, as they do already for mandatory business rate relief. This change will affect both the Crewkerne Aqua Centre and CRESTA organisations, who have now been advised to make applications directly to the Business Rates section.

Purpose of Grant Funding

The applications received this year are all from organisations that now have a Service Level Agreement with SSDC. The SLA ensures value for money for the community and that the organisation’s work will help SSDC achieve its own objectives concerning development of the local community.

Each of these organisations is requesting funding towards their day-to-day running costs.

Assessment of Applications

Each application has been through an assessment process against criteria laid down in the SSDC community grants policy. Schemes achieving a score lower than 22 would not be recommended for financial support. This year all schemes were assessed at 22 points or above. (Please see appendix at pages 7-8 for details)

Summary table of Grant Applications

Organisation	2009 Award	2010 Request	Purpose	Points scored	(Recommended) Grant Award
Chard Museum	£8,550	£9,000	Ongoing running costs	22	£6,840
Crowshute House	£10,688	£12,500	Ongoing running costs	26	£8,550

Organisation	2009 Award	2010 Request	Purpose	Points scored	(Recommended) Grant Award
Chard Young People's Centre	£4,415	£8,500	Ongoing running costs	24	£3,532
Crewkerne Heritage Centre	£3,523	£4,000	Ongoing running costs	24	£2,818
West One Youth & Community Centre	£3,121	£3,000	Ongoing running costs	25	£2,497
Ile Youth Centre	£3,395	£3,395	Ongoing running costs	24	£2,716
Totals	£33,692	£40,395			£26,953

Detail of Grant Applications

Chard Museum (AW/10/233)

Chard Museum has submitted an application for £9,000 to cover the cost of premises rental.

Museum running costs: £ 16,400

Income

Town Council £ 1,000 - tbc
Admissions, sales, donations £ 5,400
Fundraising events £ 1,000
Total Income: £ 7,400

Amount requested from SSDC £ 9,000

Additional information

There is a long-standing relationship with the Museum Trustees. To maximise their own income they have agreed to open the Museum on Saturdays for the 2010 season and build their 'friends of' club. The Trustees will also be working with Natalie Watson SSDC Museum Development Officer to develop a realistic business plan.

Corporate Aims

The application and project will meet two of the SSDC Corporate Aims including and in particular the following targets: 3:19, 3:26, 4:27, 4:29 & 4:30.

Crowshute House (AW/10/240)

Crowshute House Management Committee has submitted an application for £12,500 to cover the cost of premises rental.

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.

Building running costs: £22,128

Income

Town Council	£ 1,000 - tbc
Own funds	£ 3,366
Room rentals	£ 2,260
Fundraising	£ 1,160
Total Income:	£ 7,786

Amount requested from SSDC £12,500

Additional information

Over the last 12 months Crowshute House Management Committee have been successfully proceeding along the path of asset transfer. They have gained Company status and are applying to become incorporated. The groups themselves have also started operating under a joint venture agreement and running regular fundraising activities for the centre.

Mike Atkinson, Social Enterprise Co-ordinator (SCC), successfully submitted a bid to the Development Trust Association to support the development of Asset Transfer policies and practices across the County. This will provide Crowshute House and SSDC with additional support to help this process.

Corporate Aims

The application and project will meet a number of the SSDC Corporate Aims including: 3:29, 3:30, 3:31, 3:26, 3:22, 4:26 and 4:28.

Chard Young People's Centre (AW/10/235)

Chard Young People's Centre has submitted an application for £8,500 to cover running costs.

Youth Centre running costs: £35,952

Income

Town Council	£ 1,000 - tbc
Rental income	£22,500
Grants	£ 3,000
Fundraising	£ 2,000
Total Income:	£28,500

Amount requested from SSDC £ 8,500

Additional information

The current building has a 10 year life span and investigation is currently being conducted into improving the efficiency of the building, which could help to reduce the centre's carbon footprint and fuel bills. Alongside this it has been recommended to the Management Committee that they prioritise the development of a business plan and funding strategy.

Corporate Aims

The application and project will meet a number of the SSDC Corporate Aims including: 3:11, 3:12, 3:13, 3:16, 3:17, 3:18, 3:20, 3:24, 4:1, 4:5 and 4:8.

Crewkerne Heritage Centre (AW/10/236)

The Heritage Centre has made an application for £4,000 towards running costs.

Running Costs **£9,180**

Income

Town Council £1,500

Rental income £1,200

Estimated income £2,480

Total **£5,180**

Amount requested from SSDC **£4,000**

Additional Information

Over the past 12 months Crewkerne Heritage Centre has put on three special exhibitions in addition to their regular displays. The Heritage Centre continues to engage with the local community; working closely with local schools and community groups and providing mini exhibitions for Maiden Beech School and the Tour of Britain cycle race. Unfortunately the Heritage Centre have experienced a decrease in rental income from hire of their meeting room as one of the main users has had their funding cut and reduced their use of the room.

Corporate Aims

This application meets four of SSDC's Corporate Aims and in particular meets the following targets: 1:14, 2:10, 3:31, 4:1 & 4:19-22.

West One Youth & Community Centre (AW/10/237)

West One has made an application for £3,000 towards running costs.

Running Costs **£22,958**

Income

Town Council £10,250

Estimated income from fees etc £ 7,400

Own funds £ 2,308

Total income **£19,958**

Amount requested from SSDC **£ 3,000**

Additional information

West One continues to provide a home to a number of children and young people's organisations in Crewkerne. The Youth Club gained funding for an art project and the young people worked with a professional artist and produced some excellent art work which is now on display in the main hall. The hall way has been refurbished with new doors, décor and improved storage. Representatives from West One have been working

with local sports clubs to raise funds and construct a new purpose built sports and youth facility in Crewkerne and this year they were granted planning permission, taking this project closer to fruition.

Corporate Aims

This project and application meets SSDC's corporate aims 3 & 4.

Ile Youth & Community Centre (AW/10/238)

The Ile Youth & Community Centre has made an application for £3,395 towards running costs.

Running Costs **£17,354.00**

Income

Town Council	£3,250 – tbc
Own funds	£2,664.26
Estimated Income from fees etc	£2,790
Total income	£8,704.26

Amount requested from SSDC **£3,395**

Additional information

Users of the youth club have been on several trips including a residential to Skern Lodge. Improvements have been made to the interior of the building, this includes better toilet facilities for the disabled, renewed emergency lighting and the main hall has been redecorated.

Corporate Aims

The application and project will meet 2 of the SSDC Corporate aims and in particular the following targets: 3:19, 3:20, 3:24, 3:26, 4:1, 4:18 & 4:20.

Financial Implications

All of the recommended awards can be met from the existing Area West Community grant budget.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None.

Equality and Diversity Implications

These grants will support organisations that work to promote social cohesion.

Background Papers: *Grant Application Pack – Corporate Aims
Grant application forms AW/10/#
Area West Committee March 2010 agenda and minutes
District Executive April 2010*

Community Grant Assessment

Applications are assessed on their eligibility and how well they score against set criteria. That criteria includes:

- Which target groups the organisation serves,
- The strength of the evidence of need for the project
- The capacity of the organisation to deliver the work
- The level of funding required from SSDC
- How innovative is the project that they require money for.

The tables below show how each application scored against the criteria:

Chard Museum

Category	Score	Maximum Score
Eligibility	Y	
Target Groups	2	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of organisation	11	15
Financial need	4	7
Innovation	1	3
Total	22	37

Chard Youth Centre

Category	Score	Maximum Score
Eligibility	Y	
Target Groups	4	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of organisation	11	15
Financial need	4	7
Innovation	1	3
Total	24	37

Crowshute House

Category	Score	Maximum Score
Eligibility	Y	
Target Groups	4	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of organisation	12	15
Financial need	4	7
Innovation	2	3
Total	26	37

Crewkerne Heritage Centre

Category	Score	Maximum Score
Eligibility	Yes	
Target Groups	2	7
Project	3	5
Capacity of organisation	11	15
Financial need	5	7
Innovation	3	3
Total	24	37

Crewkerne – West One Youth & Community Centre

Category	Score	Maximum Score
Eligibility	Yes	
Target Groups	1	7
Project	3	5
Capacity of organisation	12	15
Financial need	7	7
Innovation	2	3
Total	25	37

Ile Youth & Community Centre

Category	Score	Maximum Score
Eligibility	Yes	
Target Groups	1	7
Project	3	5
Capacity of organisation	12	15
Financial need	6	7
Innovation	2	3
Total	24	37