

Area West Committee – 15th June 2011

10. Area West - Community Grants (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

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

Public Interest

Grant applications have been submitted by five community groups to help towards their running costs.

Recommendation

To approve grants for the following amounts:-

- (1) Chard Museum - £5,130
- (2) Chard Young People's Centre - £2,649
- (3) Crewkerne Heritage Centre - £2,114
- (4) West One Youth and Community Centre - £1,873
- (5) Ile Youth Centre - £2,037

Background

The five local organisations listed in the summary table have been in receipt of regular grants from the Area West Community Grants fund towards their running costs for a number of years.

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 agreed 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, as shown below. The awarding of grants is still subject to an annual application and approval process, but the maximum amount available to each organisation reduces by 20% each year, using the 2009 awards as a baseline. All the listed organisations were made aware of the adopted strategy in March 2010.

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Maximum Grant Award (£)	100%	80%	60%	40%	20%
Chard Museum	8,550	6,840	5,130	3,420	1,710
Chard Young Peoples Centre	4,415	3,532	2,649	1,766	883
Crewkerne Heritage Centre	3,523	2,818	2,114	1,409	705
West One Youth & Community Centre	3,121	2,497	1,873	1,248	624
Ile Youth Centre	3,395	2,716	2,037	1,358	679

It should be noted that from April 2011, as anticipated, the District Council has entered into an asset transfer arrangement for Crowshute House in Chard. The removal of rent from their annual running costs means that Crowshute House Ltd are no longer eligible for a grant under the strategy, but also that their annual running costs have been reduced.

Purpose of Grant Funding

The applications received this year are all from organisations that have had a Service Level Agreement with SSDC for the past two years, each of these five organisations are 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 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. A copy of the grant assessment form is attached at pages 18-24 for information.

Summary table of Grant Applications

Organisation	2010 Award	2011 Request	Purpose	Points scored	Recommended Grant
Chard Museum	£6,840	£5,130	Ongoing running costs	22	£5,130
Chard Young People Centre	£3,532	£11,245	Ongoing running costs	24	£2,649
Crewkerne Heritage Centre	£2,818	£4,000	Ongoing running costs	29	£2,114
West One Youth & Community Centre	£2,497	£2,000	Ongoing running costs	28	£1,873
Ile Youth Centre	£2,716	£3,000	Ongoing running costs	26	£2,037
Totals	£18,403	£ 25,307			£13,803

Detail of Grant Applications

Chard Museum

Chard Museum has submitted an application for £5,130, to contribute towards the cost of premises rental.

Museum Running Costs **£16,800**

Income:	£
Town Council (TBC*)	1,000
Admissions	4,000
Donations:	1,000
Friends of the museum.	4,000
Fundraising events.	1,250
Sundry	420

Total Income **£11,670**

Amount requested from SSDC. **£ 5,130**

* Chard Town Council will consider making grants from their community development fund later in the year.

Additional Information

Chard and District Museum is a registered charity, which has been established in the town since 1970. It occupies a building rented from South Somerset District Council.

To increase revenue, the Trustees have in the last year undertaken an appeal and a mail shot, which has resulted in a four-fold increase in the number of Friends of the Museum to 442. Subscription rates for Friends have been doubled from £5 to £10 and additional income derived from fundraising. A further initiative has been the introduction of a 50p off voucher scheme to encourage return visits.

The museum is open from April until October, and last year welcomed 2,049 visitors, which was an increase of 50% on the preceding year.

Corporate Aims

The application and project will meet the following corporate aims and targets:

- 3.18 - Individuals and communities enjoying healthier & more active lifestyles
- 4.16 - An empowered community where all people take part in shaping their neighbourhood
- 4.22 - Increasing those who participate in regular volunteering

Chard Young People's Centre

Chard Young People's Centre has submitted an application for £11,246 to contribute towards their running costs.

Young People's Centre Running Costs		£30,029
	£	
Income:		
Town Council (TBC*)	900	
Own Funds	17,633	
Other grants	250	
Total Income		£18,783
Amount requested from SSDC.		£11,246

* Chard Town Council will consider making grants from their community development fund later in the year.

Additional Comments

Chard Young People's Centre has provided a valued local resource to Chard and the surrounding villages since the 1970's. In addition to the youth service, the building houses a variety of local community groups including a baby clinic, a home education centre, community safety groups, young carers, churches together and Chard's Portuguese group. The Centre also provides a venue for community group meetings. Through fundraising, the Centre recently raised £16,000 to refurbish the kitchen and coffee bar area to a high standard.

The Young People's Centre is housed in an old building that needs regular repair and renovation. The Area West Community Development Officer is now working with the Centre to resolve external maintenance issues and to improve the energy efficiency of the building.

Corporate Aims

The application and project will meet the following corporate aims and targets:

- 3.18 – Individuals and communities enjoying healthier and more active lifestyles.
- 4.0 – A community that feels safe
- 4.1 -Deliver positive activities for children, young people (especially those at risk of exclusion or offending) and families.
- 4.16 – An empowered community where people take part in shaping their neighbourhood.

Crewkerne Heritage Centre (AW/09/236)

The Heritage Centre has made an application for £4000 towards running costs

Estimated Running Costs		£9,380
	£	
Income:		
Town Council	1,500	
Rents	500	
Other - fundraising	3,380	
Total Income		£5,380
Amount requested from SSDC.		£4,000

Additional Information

This is a very well run organisation that is constantly looking at ways to secure funds and keep costs down. They have regular changing exhibitions and displays, as well as their permanent collection, all of which is of high quality. The Heritage Centre welcomed approximately 4,000 visitors last year and has managed to increase their income to help offset the reduction in grant from SSDC. When the museum closed for the season at the end of October, most of the building was transformed into an art gallery, exhibiting work by two local artists throughout the month of November. The exhibition helped boost visitor figures and income, and as it proved so popular there are now plans to have an annual event exhibiting the work of local art and crafts people.

The Heritage Centre is housed in an old building that needs regular repair and renovation. Work was recently carried out on the lead gully to the front of the building and repairs were made to the plasterwork. Over the forthcoming year volunteers plan some redecoration

Corporate Aims

This project and application meets the following SSDC corporate aims:

- 1.11 – A vibrant and sustainable market towns and rural economy
- 2.13 – Tackling climate change - through careful monitoring of energy use, recycling and more insulation is planned.
- 3.11 – increase choice & improve quality of life for older and vulnerable people
- 3.18 – Individuals and communities enjoying healthier and more active lifestyles
- 4.16 – An empowered community where all people take part in shaping their neighbourhood
- 4.22 – Sustainable local communities

West One Youth & Community Centre

West One has made an application for £2,000 towards running costs

Estimated Running Costs		£24,085
	£	
Income:		
Town Council	10,250	
Estimated income from fees etc	8,000	
Own Funds	3,835	
Total Income		£22,085
Amount requested from SSDC.		£ 2,000

Additional information

West One continues to provide a home to a number of children and young peoples organisations in Crewkerne. All the groups that use the centre worked together and attended the Henhayes Fete in June 2010 where they raised funds. This year has seen the County Council withdraw some of their support for West One by reducing their youth sessions from two to one. To replace the lost session West One is now working with Active Learning and Skills who deliver 'Wild Wednesday' sessions once a week to

children aged 11 to 13 years. Older teenagers in Crewkerne volunteer at these sessions and help carry out craft activities and games with the younger children.

Representatives from West One continue to work with local sports clubs to construct a new purpose built sports and youth facility in Crewkerne, planning permission has been secured and most of the funds are in place, they hope to commence building soon.

Corporate Aims

This organisation helps SSDC meet the following corporate aims:

- 3.18 – individuals and communities enjoying healthier and more active lifestyles.
- 4.0 – A community that feels safe
- 4.16 – An empowered community where people take part in shaping their neighbourhood.
- 4.22 – Increasing those who participate in regular volunteering.

Ile Youth & Community Centre

The Ile Youth & Community Centre has made an application for £3,000 towards running costs.

Estimated Running Costs		£13,250
	£	
Income:		
Town Council (TBC)	3,000	
Estimated income from fees etc	3,000	
Own Funds	5,250	
Total Income		£11,250
Amount requested from SSDC.		£ 3,000

Additional Information

Like Crewkerne the Ile Youth Club has had a reduction in the number of Somerset County Council led youth sessions from two a week down to one. To ensure the continued provision of youth activities the club is now working with Active Learning and Skills, a community group that encourages teenagers to volunteer and help deliver activities to children aged 11 to 13. This new session takes place once a week and is proving very popular.

Corporate Aims

The Ile Youth Club meet the following SSDC Corporate aims:

- 3.18 – individuals and communities enjoying healthier and more active lifestyles.
- 4.0 – A community that feels safe
- 4.16 – An empowered community where people take part in shaping their neighbourhood.
- 4.22 – Increasing those who participate in regular volunteering

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 forms*
 Area West Committee April 2010 agenda and minutes
 Area West Committee March 2010 agenda and minutes
 District Executive April 2010 Agenda