

Abbey Community Association (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

To consider funding towards the refurbishment of the Abbey Manor Community Hall.

Public Interest

Community grants are available in each area to voluntary and charitable organisations, not-for-profit groups, Parish or Town councils and other organisations that benefit the wider community. Applications are encouraged that meet a clearly identified local need.

Recommendation

That members agree an award of £3,000 from the Area South Capital budget.

Background

Abbey Community Association run the Abbey Manor Community Hall, which is a well used community facility. User groups include: a new youth club, a weekly Tea Dance Group, the guides and scouts, fitness groups, knit and natter group, dance classes and family services held by St James' Church.

Project

Abbey Manor Community Association have received comments from potential user groups that the toilet cubicles are too small and make it difficult for users with children. Therefore, the group are planning to make changes to the male and female toilets and add baby changing facilities. The new toilets will also benefit users with mobility problems and those who need carers/assistance. The group also plan to improve the lighting and flooring in order to increase accessibility for users who have problems with their sight and/or mobility issues.

It is hoped that these changes will increase the usage of the hall and make the facilities as accessible as possible for the whole community.

This application is recommended for approval as improving community facilities is part of the Area Development Plan and also community buildings need to ensure they can maximise usage and become as sustainable as possible.

Assessment Scoring

Below is the summary table from the grant assessment form. It is recommended that funding is only awarded to projects scoring 22 points or more.

Category	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Y	
B Equality Impact	4	7
C Project	2	5
D Capacity of Organisation	14	15
E Financial need	6	7
F Innovation	1	3
<i>Grand Total</i>	27	37

Funding Breakdown

Funding Sources	% Funding of the Total Project Cost	Amount of Funding (£)	Status
Parish Council	14	2000	Pending
Own Funds	20.5	3000	Secured
Local Funders i.e. Screwfix, Somerset Community Foundation and ASDA	45	6500	Pending
SSDC Area South Grants	20.5	3000	This application
Total Project Cost	100%	14,500	

Financial Implications

The uncommitted Area South Capital Budget stands at £143,160. If members agree this award of £3,000 it will leave a balance of £140,160.

Corporate Priority Implications

The project contributes to the Council Plan Focus Four: Health and Communities

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

The project will introduce baby changing facilities and also larger cubicles which will benefit a number of user groups such as people with disabilities, people with carers and users with children.

Background Papers: None.