

## **Grant to Martock Parish Council for Our Place Martock Programme (Executive Decision)**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant for £12,000 over three years, to Martock Parish Council, towards the overall running costs of the Our Place programme.

### **Public Interest**

Martock Parish Council has applied for financial assistance from the Area North community grants programme, under a Service Level Agreement over a three-year period. The application has been assessed by the Neighbourhood Development Officer who has submitted this report to allow the Area North Committee to make an informed decision on the application.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that councillors award a grant of £12,000 to Martock Parish Council, with £5,000 of this awarded in 2016/17, towards the overall costs of the Our Place programme, and with years 2 and 3 being subject to budgetary approval and completion of a service level agreement. The grant to be allocated from the Area North Community Grants budget, subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A) and the following special conditions:

- Service Level Agreement, renewable annually, for operation of the programme over a three-year period starting 1 April 2016.

### **Application Details**

Name of applicant	Martock Parish Council
Project	Our Place Programme
Total project cost	£231,131 (over 3 years)

	Year 1 (16/17)	Year 2 (17/18)	Year 3 (18/19)	Total
<b>Amount requested from SSDC</b>	£5,000	£4,000	£3,000	<b>£12,000</b>

Recommended special conditions	Service Level Agreement 2016-2019
Application assessed by	Mary Ostler, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)

## Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. In order to be considered for SSDC funding under the Community Grants policies, applications need to meet the minimum score of 22.

Category	Actual Score	Maximum score possible
A Eligibility	Y	Y
B Equalities Impact	6	7
C Need for project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	12	15
E Financial need	6	7
F Innovation	3	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>

## Background

In 2014, Martock Parish Council was accepted into the Our Place programme, a package of grants and support designed to transfer ownership of funding from central government into local communities, so that local people and organisations could identify, develop and manage directly, services needed in that community.

Our Place developed from the Neighbourhood Community Budgets Programme first initiated as a pilot scheme in 12 areas across the UK in 2012/13, with the support of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

In December 2013, DCLG commissioned Locality to run Our Place 2014/15 to support 118 areas – including Martock – with developing an operational plan by March 2015.

## Parish Information

Parish*	Martock
Parish Population*	4,766
No. of dwellings*	2,196

\*Taken from the 2011 census profile

## Evidence

Our Place Martock encompasses the whole of Martock with a particular focus on the north-eastern area. This ranks in the lowest 25% nationally, in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, in terms of education and skills, income and employment. Apart from Yeovil and Chard, this area is the most deprived in South Somerset with 36% one person households (21% age 65+); 19% long-term sick or disabled; 23% with a household income of £15k or less; and 34% age 16+ with no qualifications. NHS statistics show that the per capita health and social service costs in this area are nearly twice the South Somerset average.

## **Operation**

The programme is funded principally through the Martock Parish Council precept. Research and advisory support was provided by Locality during the development stage of the programme and there are grant applications pending with Somerset County Council *Invest to Save* fund and Yarlinton Housing Group.

The aim of the programme is to fill gaps in services caused by withdrawal of services or the access bar being raised due to economic pressures. Based on needs identified through research and consultation, the programme has developed four key service strands:

- Building self-reliance
- Improving access to services
- Addressing social isolation
- Enhancing employability

Our Place is promoted through the Martock Online website, a dedicated Our Place Martock website and through local press and social media channels.

Since commencing operation in April 2015, the programme has appointed a Community Services Co-ordinator (CSC); Seniors Support Co-ordinator; and Job Club Co-ordinator, and started delivery of a range of services and support for local people. All the services depend on the involvement of committed volunteers.

The CSC supervises the work of the other two post-holders and works in partnership with the youth workers contracted through the Community Youth Project (Somerset).

Individuals are able to contact staff directly to gain support and help. An extensive referral and contact route has developed through partnership with other agencies including: Martock Post Office, Surgery, Primary School, Youth Centre, Yarlinton and other housing associations, Adult Social Care, Get Set and CAB. All partners in this network promote the Our Place services and the multiple points of contact enable a wide range of referrals to be made.

## **Development**

The CSC provides a direct service to individuals by giving information, advice and practical support on a range of issues: welfare benefits and housing issues; access to the Local Assistance Scheme via CAB and to the Lords Larder food bank; signposting and help with self-referral to other agencies; employment support, family support, confidence building and dealing with specific needs identified by CAB and by social care assessment.

The Seniors Support Co-ordinator also carries out home visits on issues such as Careline; home maintenance concerns; basic provisions; support to use the Friends and Neighbours transport scheme; help with sheltered housing applications; home safety advice and personal care support.

The weekly day support service for elderly people is at full capacity (24), plus two who attend morning only, having increased from 16 in April 2015.

A monthly carers group has been established with Compass Carers and a befriending scheme has been started recently to provide 1:1 support on a flexible basis, led by individual

need. Four users are now matched with trained volunteers. A seasonal Come for Soup session has begun monthly, in response to the number of food parcels that were being requested via the CSC, this provides for up to 45 people per session

Health Walk volunteers have been recruited and trained and are now leading monthly walks.

Since April 2015, there were 115 new registrations at the Job Club. 79 users moved into paid employment and many more into volunteering roles and training. A total of 865 visits were made to the Club.

Volunteer input across all Our Place activities during the last quarter, amounted to 1570 hours (65 days) with an equivalent value of £20,927 - estimated using the Somerset average hourly wage.

## **The Future**

The Our Place team, under the management of the Parish Council's Services Committee, is working on a three-year development model to improve, integrate and progress services to benefit more residents in a greater number of ways.

The programme will continue to provide employment support; advice and individual case work to deal with crisis issues; and one-to-one advice and care. The team estimate that they will work with approximately 250 individuals per year on a one-to-one basis, with a further 500 accessing additional services and advice and a wider impact of approximately 2000, taking into account family members and dependents. In addition events and social provision will impact on approximately 1500 residents.

The programme will expand provision to support digital inclusion, in partnership with Yarlinton Housing Group. An interactive system is to be placed in Martock Post Office to support residents in using digital services and Our Place staff will be provided with mobile Wi-Fi access to support clients at home in learning to use online benefits, banking and housing systems.

The programme will work with other agencies and partners to develop a hub at the library for residents to obtain information and services and will explore the viability of a community meeting place in the Bracey Road area.

Our Place Martock has recently been awarded £10,000 by DCLG to create a monitoring and evaluation model to measure the work of the programme and link it to the existing Manchester New Economy Cost Benefit Analysis model.

## **Service Level Agreement**

The terms of the partnership between SSDC Area North and the Our Place Martock programme will be governed by a Service Level Agreement. SSDC's funding will contribute towards the staffing costs of the Our Place programme and the SLA will delineate the focus of work and the expected outputs and key performance indicators (KPI), in four main areas (see appendix B):

- Residents are helped to access information and services online
- Residents are helped to access information and services at key local points

- Local opportunities are provided that help to reduce social isolation
- Job-seekers are helped into employment

Outputs and KPIs will be reviewed regularly and updated annually.

SSDC will provide background advice and support for the programme.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

The Our Place programme will provide quarterly reports and, annually, a budget for the coming year and schedule of funding.

The monitoring and evaluation model currently being implemented by the Our Place programme will, in due course, generate information analysing the cost benefits of the programme.

### Project Costs

	<b>Year 1 (16/17)</b>	<b>Year 2 (17/18)</b>	<b>Year 3 (18/19)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Staffing – FT Community Services Co-Ordinator, PT Seniors Support Co-Ordinator, PT Job Club Co-Ordinator	£60,963	£62,792	£64,676	£188,431
Running costs and expenses – materials, training, venue hire, additional insurance, PR	£8,500	£9,200	£10,000	£27,700
Community Hub development	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£74,463</b>	<b>£76,992</b>	<b>£79,676</b>	<b>£231,131</b>

### Funding

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Year 1 (16/17)</b>	<b>Year 2 (17/18)</b>	<b>Year 3 (18/19)</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Parish Council</b>	26,463.00	29,991.89	28,675.65	85,130.54
<b>Yarlington Housing Group</b>	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
<b>Somerset County Council - Invest to Save</b>	35,000	30,000	25,000	90,000
<b>Other grants / traded income</b>	5,000	10,000	20,000	35,000
<b>Total</b>	69,463.00	72,991.89	76,675.65	219,130.54
<b>Shortfall</b>	5,000	4,000	3,000	12,000
<b>Amount requested from SSDC</b>				12,000

## **Previous grants**

Area North Committee awarded a community grant of £1,000 in 2014 – 15, towards costs of research and consultation for the Our Place operational plan.

## **Consents and permissions**

None applicable.

## **Conclusion and Recommendation**

This application is for £5,000 in year 1 (2016-17) representing 7% of the project cost; £4,000 (5%) in year 2; and £3,000 (4%) in year 3.

The Our Place programme meets SSDC Area North's priority "to promote greater levels of self-help, to promote the sustainability of local services and facilities for all ages". It is an innovative programme at a time when government spending on public services is being reduced.

The Service Level Agreement will enable SSDC to be involved as a partner on aspects of the programme, supporting the principle of resourcing communities to find appropriate local responses to local issues. It offers a unique opportunity to help meet the needs of residents at a neighbourhood level and, at the same time, gain insight and knowledge of the processes and resources that are necessary to make this viable for individuals and for communities.

It is therefore recommended that this application for £5,000 is approved for 2016-17. Future years will be subject to budgetary approval and the satisfactory completion of the service level agreement, in line with SSDC community grants policies.

## **Financial Implications**

There is £10,680 available in the Area North Community Grants programme for 2016-17. If the recommended grant of £5,000 is awarded, £5,680 will remain in this allocation for 2016-17.

## **Council Plan Implications**

The project supports:  
Focus One: Jobs  
Focus Three: Homes  
Focus Four: Health & Communities

## **Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications**

Access to local information, advice and services reduces carbon emissions produced by travel to centralised locations.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

Martock is a linear community extending over nearly three miles, with shops and services in a relatively small, centralised area. The Our Place programme is working to address the needs of residents who find it difficult to reach the services they need – older people, young families, people with disabilities – by delivering information and advice either at home, or as close to home as possible, and by enabling greater use of digital services.

Martock Parish Council has an Equal Opportunities Policy and a Safeguarding Policy.

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## Appendix A

### Standard conditions applying to all Community Grants.

This grant offer is made based on the information provided in application form no. AN16/01 and represents 7% of the total project costs for Year One. The grant will be reduced if the costs of the total project are less than originally anticipated. Phased payments may be made in exceptional circumstances (e.g. to help with cash-flow for a larger building project) and are subject to agreement.

The applicant agrees to: -

- Notify SSDC if there is a material change to the information provided in the application.
- Start the project within six months of this grant offer and notify SSDC of any changes to the project or start date as soon as possible.
- Confirm that all other funding sources have been secured if this was not already in place at the time of the application and before starting the project.
- Acknowledge SSDC assistance towards the project in any relevant publicity about the project (e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, and promotional materials) and on any permanent acknowledgement (e.g. plaques, signs etc).
- Work in conjunction with SSDC officers to monitor and share the success of the project and the benefits to the community resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project.
- Provide a project update and/or supply before and after photos if requested.
- Supply receipted invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the **full** cost of the project so that the grant can be released.

### Special conditions

The grant offer is subject to a Service Level Agreement renewable annually, for operation of the Martock Our Place programme over a three-year period starting 1 April 2016.