

Community Capital Grant Request (Executive Decision)

Assistant Director: Helen Rutter, Communities
Service Manager: Tim Cook, Area Development Team Lead (East)
Lead Officers: Tim Cook/James Divall, Neighbourhood Development Officers
Contact Details: tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01963) 435088
james.divall@southsomerset.gov.uk (01935) 462261

Purpose of the Report

For members to consider requests for capital grants from Horsington Parish Council, Blackford & Compton Parish Meeting, Castle Cary Town Council, Hadspen Village Hall Committee and West Camel Parish Council.

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a key way that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across Area East.

Background

Community Capital Grant applications are considered twice a year in June and December. The next opportunity to consider applications will be at the Area East Committee meeting in June 2018. Requests from community organisations for non-capital works are restricted to small grants with the upper limit of £1,000. A minimum amount of £100 has also been agreed. Capital projects requiring grants of between £500 and £1,000 can be dealt with at any time and are subject to Ward Member agreement.

Appendices A and B show the standard grants conditions used by SSDC and the policies under which all applications are assessed.

Recommendations

- 1) Members agree to transfer £16,000 from the Capital Reserve to the Community Grants budget for allocation in 2017/18.
- 2) Members agree a contribution of up to £5,000 (33% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital budget to Horsington Parish Council towards the installation of new play equipment.
- 3) Members consider a grant contribution of £8,000 (25% of costs) from the Community Capital Budget to Blackford & Compton Parish Council towards the new superfast broadband installation, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A;
- 4) Members agree a contribution of up to £3000 (26% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to Hadspen Village Hall Committee towards the provision of an extended car park, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A
- 5) Members agree a contribution of up to £2,500 (25% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to West Camel Parish Council towards the installation of an outdoor gym, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A and

- the provision of equalities and diversity statement
 - a direct contribution of at least £500 from the Parish Council
 - equipment should comply with the European standard for the provision of permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment which is currently EN16630:2015 and is independently tested to confirm compliance
- 6) Members agree a contribution of up to £7920 (32.5% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to Ansford Parish Council & Castle Cary Town Councils towards phase 3 of the Fairfield Project for the provision of an outdoor gym, adventure trail, planting and landscaping subject to the provision of additional quotes, standard conditions set out in appendix A and:
- Outdoor gym equipment should comply with the European standard for the provision of permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment which is currently EN16630:2015 and is independently tested to confirm compliance

2017/18 Community Capital Budget

There is currently £31,700 uncommitted Capital in Area East Capital Reserve. There is not enough currently allocated in the Community Capital Budget to meet all requests in this grant round. It is recommended that £16000 is transferred from the Reserve to the Community Capital Grants budget for allocation in 2017/18. This will allow for some further support for smaller schemes.

We have received applications for contributions totalling £34,222 for the December grants round. The recommended level support totals £26420

Horsington Parish Council – Purchase and Installation of new Play equipment

Horsington Parish Council has applied for a £5,000 grant towards new play and recreation equipment at Horsington Recreation Ground.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Horsington
Parish population	571
No. of Households	272
Precept 17/18	£9,920
Band D Charge 17/18	£33.94

The Project

Horsington Parish Council would like to install a new central feature climbing frame and safety surfacing at the parish play park.

The request for the new feature climbing frame has come at the request of the local community and has been supported by Horsington Parish Council. The climbing frame is a standard accessible item of play usable by a variety of age groups and abilities.

The product meets EN1176 requirements, the '*kite marked*', a quality standard that SDC require to meet our grant conditions. The Parish Council has also gone for a higher cost safety surfacing (recommended by our play & youth officer) unique to the play industry due to its quality for not only meeting safety standards but providing a longer and more sustainable surface for the park.

The communities have supported the parish council with regards to feedback on what equipment they would like and fundraising additional funds to support the parish council contribution.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	3
C Need for Project	5	3
D Capacity of Organisation	15	11
E Financial need	7	4
F Innovation	3	2
Total	37	23

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies. The application scores quite well in terms of need but the overall score is low due to the limited sources of funding and the fact that it is mainly focused on repair.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish Council	33%	£5,000	Secured
Local Fund raising (residents)	13%	£2,000	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	54%	£8,223	Application
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£15,223	

Blackford & Compton Parish Council – Superfast Broadband

Blackford & Compton Parish Council has applied for a grant towards the installation of superfast broadband fibre (FTTP) to approximately 75 dwellings in the Parish.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Blackford & Compton Parish Meeting
Parish population	139
No. of Households	70
Precept 17/18	£1,400
Band D Charge 17/18	£16.79

The Project

Broadband in Blackford & Compton Parish is extremely limited compared with availability in the majority of the country. The Parish suffer from low speeds (most people under 3mb) and frequent connection dropouts. For over a year a taskforce from the two villages has been investigating options to improve matters in the Parish and have now proposed a solution that will bring the latest technology at a cost that we believe is affordable with the help of SSDC.

All options have been investigated - that included suppliers on the Connecting Devon & Somerset list. In brief summary those investigations showed that the theoretical options were in reality narrowed to the chosen supplier:

1. Satellite: expensive monthly costs, data caps, lack of future proofing, vendor lockin etc. In most situations this is likely to be the least attractive option.

2. 4G: expensive monthly costs, data caps etc. This is best suited to a short term fix and indeed some residents have had to take this option until we get superfast fibre broadband but 4G is not suitable as a long term solution due to costs, data caps and not being totally reliable. It also has no guarantees on future proofing.

3. Wireless: expensive monthly costs, data caps etc. On the face of it this appeared a viable option but there are issues with getting 100% coverage due to the need for 'line of sight' to each dwelling and impact by weather. Speeds are reasonable but packages are expensive for best speeds. There is also vendor lockin and lack of future proofing.

4. Fibre: It was clear this was the best option - with best future proofing, packages with no data cap available, best speeds, no vendor lockin (once Openreach install the infrastructure residents can order from any supplier). Other potential vendors were considered but they could not meet the criteria and in reality the group are absolutely certain that the quote from Openreach was much less than other communities have been faced with. At a total cost per dwelling of around £500 - which is the amount of grant that typically is made available via a Broadband Delivery entity.

BT Openreach will install a fibre connection (FTTP) to each property and will currently provide download speeds of 50 to 300mb with vast improvement in upload speeds too. Openreach will maintain and operate this network. The project has the support of over 90% of the community, with each dwelling pledging at least £250 towards the overall cost. These funds will pay the infrastructure costs.

This solution will not be viable for all communities. Density of properties in the 2 villages, the existing infrastructure that included ducts and poles as well as the run of fibre that already runs nearby and has all contributed to keeping the costs down and make the project viable.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	5
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	13
E Financial need	7	5
F Innovation	3	3
Total	37	30

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish Meeting	4%	£1,000	Secured
Own funds (Residents input)	71%	£23,035	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	25%	£8,000	Applied for
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£32,035	

The Parish meeting would like to apply for a grant rather than a part grant / part loan award due to the nature of its governance and structure. As a parish meeting, there is local concern that the Parish Meeting it is not as strong in terms of governance and financial stability due to its governing structure. The make up as the Parish Meeting is led by a chair and not a Parish Council but may have similar precepting powers. This option maybe discussed further at Area East Committee.

Castle Cary Town Council & Ansford Parish Council – Fairfield

Castle Cary Town Council (accountable body) has applied for a grant towards developing a range of facilities jointly with Ansford PC.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Castle Cary Town	Ansford Parish
Parish population	2276	1085
No. of Households	1177	472
Precept 17/18	£124,380	£33,355
Band D Charge 17/18	£146.32	£87.02

The Project

In 2014 Castle Cary Town Council purchased a 4.5 acre field in the middle of Castle Cary and Ansford as a joint initiative between the two Councils. The site had been used for many years as open space and for the annual visit of the fair.

The purchase was an opportunity to develop the area as multi use space, with facilities for all the community to enjoy, while retaining the environmentally friendly character of the field.

The Fairfield Development and Management Committee was established to take the project forward; they initially consulted on the design of the facility ahead of trying to secure funding to bring the plans for the Fairfield to fruition. The project comprises hard pathways for young families, the elderly, disabled and partially sighted. A pump track, exercise equipment, picnic areas, sensory and wildflower gardens and areas for community activities such as the annual fair, circus and other events are all part of the plan

Earlier this year the decision was taken to adopt a phased approach, thereby enabling one of the time limited grants from an external funder to be utilised for fencing and paths which are now completed.

Area East committee originally approved £7920 funding for this project in June 2016 (a six month extension to the original offer was granted in December 2016 as not all partnership funding was in place).

Following a successful funding application to Sport England the majority of the project funding has been secured. The funding now requested from Area East committee will therefore focus on funding

the final phase of the project, the outdoor gym, adventure trail, picnic furniture, sensory garden and planting scheme. It is suggested that a similar level of funding to the previous award should be considered.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y*
B Equalities Impact	7	5
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	12
E Financial need	7	4
F Innovation	3	3
Total	37	28

*subject to the provision of additional quote

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Overall project costs for the Fairfield project are as follows:

£

Phase 1	Fencing	4586	Completed
Phase 1	Drainage	3700	Completed
Phase 1	Footpaths	30,000	Completed
Phase 2	Pump park	35,000	Programmed (funded)
Phase 3	Trail, gym, benches & planting	30,862	
	Total	104,148	

Funding Sources for overall project:

Parish & Town Council	30,000	Secured
Fundraising	4497	Secured
Sport England	42151	Secured
Grant aiding organisations	16500	Secured
Tesco bag scheme	1,0000	Pending
Total	94,148	

For phase 3, the outdoor gym adventure trail, picnic furniture, sensory garden and planting scheme the funding breakdown is as follows:

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Phase 3 funding	Status
Town/Parish Council	32.5%	10,000	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	32.5%	10,000	Requested
Grant aid organisations	35%	10,862	Secured
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£30,862	

A further condition is suggested that the equipment should comply with the European standard for the provision of permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment which is currently EN16630:201

It is also suggested that the Area East contribution is in line with the amount agreed by committee in June 2016 which would be £7920 (or up to 32.5% of the phase 3 of the project). That officer's work with the Parish/Town Council to agree the best way to monitor the use of the new facility

Hadspen Village Hall – Car Park Extension

Hadspen Village Hall Committee has applied for a grant towards extending the hall car park.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Pitcombe Parish Council
Parish population	532
No. of Households	195
Precept 17/18	£6959
Band D Charge 17/18	£33.98

The Project

Hadspen Village Hall was rebuilt in 2006 and has been very successful in providing a venue for a range of activities. As the use of the hall has increased and developed, the existing car park has regularly been at capacity with users resorting to parking on the lane. This has resulted in criticism from hall and road users and is creating traffic safety issues in what is a small lane. The rural nature and demographics of the parish means that many residents rely on cars to attend events at the hall.

This project would create 16 additional parking spaces and external space for outside events.

The village hall is identified in the Pitcombe Parish Plan as a really important local facility which provides access to a range of activities. Actions identified were focussed on improving the range of activities and no physical improvements to the hall were mentioned. This is reflected in the scoring in the table below but is not enough to qualify the project for funding under the Community Planning Implementation Fund.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	
B Equalities Impact	7	3
C Need for Project	5	3
D Capacity of Organisation	15	13
E Financial need	7	3
F Innovation	3	1
Total	37	23

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish Council	4%	£500	Secured
Own funds	68%	£7700	Secured
SSDC (Area East)*	26%	£3000	Applied for
Other - Donation	2%	£200	Applied for
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£13000	

*The applicant originally requested a grant to match the local contributions but has worked with Area Development team to apply for additional funding (£9300) from the National Lottery Awards for All scheme. The outcome of this application will not be known until after the committee meeting and any grant agreed will be reduced if the lottery application is successful.

West Camel Parish Council – Purchase and Installation of new Play equipment

West Camel Parish Council has applied for a grant towards an outdoor gym

Parish Precept information

Parish	West Camel
Parish population	459
No. of Households	266
Precept 17/18	£7986
Band D Charge 17/18	£44.09

The Project

Several methods of consultation were used to determine support for this project including, a public meeting, the parish newsletter and a resident poll. As a result of this a project was developed which will comprise seven pieces of outdoor gym equipment along a pathway close to the Davis Hall. Including:

- Air skier
- Double air walker
- Combination Seated Chest Press / Pull Down
- Arm and leg cycle
- Push up and dip station
- Seated leg press
- Twist and Step.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	3
C Need for Project	5	3
D Capacity of Organisation	15	12
E Financial need	7	2
F Innovation	3	2
Total	37	22

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies. The application scores quite well in terms of need but the overall score is low due to the limited sources of funding and the fact that it is mainly focused on repair.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Cost	Amount of funding	Status
Parish Council	0%	£0	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	49.9%	£4,999	Requested
West Camel Community Benefit Fund	50.1%	£5,000	Pending
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£9,999	

The Parish Council holds the Community Benefit funding in their account but sign off of grants is by a separate panel comprising five non-councilors and two councilors - all elected at the Annual Parish Meeting. There was no direct Parish Council contribution to this project (from the precept) identified and no other funders had been approached, it is therefore suggested that the funding allocation be reduced and the offer should be contingent on:

- the provision of equalities and diversity statement
- a direct contribution of at least £500 from the PC
- equipment should comply with European standard for the provision of permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment which is currently EN16630:2015

It is suggested that the amount awarded is reduced to £2,500 (25% of the total project costs) and that officer's work with the Parish/Town Council to agree the best way to monitor the use of the new facility

Financial Implications

There is currently £12,934 remaining in the Community Capital Budget. If Members agree to the first recommendation which tops-up this budget from the Area East Capital Reserve this would give us an available budget of £28,394. If recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 as set out at the beginning of the report are also agreed, there will be £2,514 remaining in the Community Capital budget for allocation as delegated awards.

Corporate Priority Implications

All projects help to support communities so that they identify their needs and develop local solutions and, help people to live well by enabling quality cultural leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities and activities. (Focus Four: Health and Communities)

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications

Providing local access to a range of activities and services reducing the need to travel which therefore reduces carbon emissions.

Equality and Diversity Implications

All projects help enhance accessibility for all. In each of the projects the Neighbourhood development officers have advised the community groups to obtain an access audit for the venue, providing them with expert advice on how to make their community facility more accessible and user friendly.
