

Community Capital Grant Request (Executive Decision)

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Nick Weeks
Service Manager: Tim Cook, Locality Team Manager (East)
Lead Officers: Pam Williams, Neighbourhood Development Officer
Terena Isaacs, Community Support Assistant
Contact Details: pam.williams@southsomerset.gov.uk (01963 435020)
terena.isaacs@southsomerset.gov.uk (01935 462268)

Purpose of the Report

For Members to consider requests for community grants from:

- Caryford Community Hall Association

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 full round of applications will be at the Area East Committee meeting in June 2019.

Requests from community organisations for non-capital works are restricted to small grants of between £100 and £1,000. Capital projects requiring grants of between £500 and £1,000 can be dealt with at any time and are subject to Ward Member agreement.

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies. Appendices A and B show the standard grant conditions used by SSDC and the policies under which all applications are assessed.

Recommendations

Members agree:

- to extend the allocations approved in June 2018 to Milborne Port Parish Council for Springfield Road car park improvement project and Ilchester Parish Council for allotment purchase, for a further 6 months.
- a contribution of up to £12,500 as a 19% contribution from the Community Grants Capital Budget for phase 1A, (the preliminaries, foundation and structure) of a new link corridor and plant room which will facilitate the Caryford Hall extension and refurbishment project, subject to the standard conditions set out in Appendix A

Extension of grant period for previous awards

SSDC policy is to award grants on the basis that the money is spent within 6 months.

Members will recall that an award of £3,910 was made in June 2018 towards Springfield Road car park improvements in Milborne Port. Work has started and should be complete by the end of December 2018. An extension has been sought in case work runs behind schedule.

Members agreed to an award of £6,500 (as 25% of cost) towards Ilchester allotment purchase, since the meeting in June 2018 the allotment area has been valued by the District Valuer at £12,000. The Parish Council have agreed not to pay more than this figure. Negotiations are taking place and a decision should be made in the New Year. If the negotiated sum reduces the grant amount will also reduce to 25% of purchase price.

2018/19 Community Capital Budget

There is currently £22,948 uncommitted Capital in Area East Capital Reserve

We have received one application, requesting £40,000 from the December grants round. The recommended level of grant support totals £12,500.

An application from Templecombe Recreation and Sports Club has been held pending a decision from other funders due in January. If this decision is not favourable, a grant request for funding from Area East will be brought to the February committee meeting.

Caryford Community Hall Association – Extension and Refurbishment Project

Caryford Community Hall Association has requested up to £40,000 towards phase 1A & 1B of a three phase project to extend and refurbish Caryford Hall

Parish Precept information

Parish	Ansford
Parish population	1085
No. of households	481
Precept 2018/19	£29,730
Band D Charge 2018/19	£74.77

The Project

The extension and refurbishment of Caryford Hall is much needed to overcome its shortcomings, inevitable in a Hall which opened in 1994. The main issues are:

- An inability to meet the needs of a growing population in its current layout.
- A meeting room which is small, dark and difficult to let out at the same time as the main hall, as being next to each other, sound leaks from one room to the other.
- A kitchen which is poorly laid out and outdated.
- Insufficient toilets and are way past their best.
- Insufficient storage.

The improvements are needed as the hall is struggling to meet the use demands of the current population. The facility serves Ansford and Castle Cary, the settlement as a whole has planning permissions granted for over 650 new dwellings which, if built, will increase the population by about a third.

There is £240k of S106 contributions for Community Halls in Ansford & Castle Cary but the trigger points have yet to be reached for any site and there is no guarantee that funds will be received as developers may try renegotiate agreements on grounds of viability.

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	15
E Financial need	7	4
F Innovation	3	3
Total	37	31

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

Funding Sources	% funding of 1A & 1B cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Ansford Parish & Castle Cary Town Council	3%	£4,000	Secured
Own	3%	£3,003	Secured
Grant Yarlington Homes	3%	£3,000	Secured
Gift Aid	0.2%	£222	Secured
Viridor	50%	£50,000	Pending
SSDC/Other funding	39%	£40,000	Pending
Total Scheme Phase 1A & 1BCost		£100,225	

The recommendation is for £12,500 towards phase 1a (the preliminaries, foundation and structure) for a new link corridor and plant room which need to be put in place ahead of the other phases of the project. The cost of phase 1A is £64,832, therefore the District Council proposed contribution represents 19% of cost whilst combined contributions from Ansford Parish Council and Castle Cary Town Council equate to a 6% contribution.

Across the phases, the overall project cost to extend and refurbish Caryford Hall exceeds £550k.

Agreeing support at this point will give other funders some confidence about the deliverability of this phase of the project. Once decisions from other funders are known, it is anticipated that, in February 2019, a second application for a further £12,500 will be submitted in respect of phase 1B of this project. At this point, Members may wish to top-up the Community Grant capital budget from unallocated balances within the Members Discretionary budget.

Financial Implications

There is currently £22,948 uncommitted Capital in Area East Capital Reserve.

If Members choose to support the recommendations contained in this report, it will mean that there is £10,448 budget unallocated.

Corporate Plan Implications

To build healthy, self-reliant, active communities by:

- Supporting communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions

- Target support to areas of need
- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities

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

Projects help enhance accessibility. In both projects staff 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.
