

Community Capital Grant Request (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

For Members to consider a request for a community grant 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.

Recommendations

- Members agree an 'in principle' contribution of up to £27,500 (£22,710 from the Area East Capital Reserve and £4,790 from the Members Discretionary Budget) as a 4.8% contribution towards the extension and refurbishment of Caryford Hall, subject to standard grant conditions and the agreement of District Executive.
- Members note that, if agreed, this and the £12,500 contribution previously agreed by Area East Committee in December 2018 will result in a total contribution of £40,000 (7%) towards the extension and refurbishment of Caryford Hall.

Background

This request is considered as part of the Districtwide Community Grants policy which welcomes applications from community organisations, for funding towards non-capital works between £100 and £1,000, or capital projects between £500 and £1,000. These lower level requests can be considered at any time under delegated powers, subject to Ward Member agreement.

Within the District Council's scheme of delegation, capital projects seeking up to £12,500 are considered by Area Committees but District Executive is the decision making body for amounts over £12,500.

When assessed, projects which score above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current Districtwide policy. Attached to this report, appendix A and B show the standard grant conditions used by SSDC and the community grant's policy.

Caryford Hall Community Hall Association is requesting a £40,000 contribution towards an ambitious £568,000 project to refurbish and extend the hall

In December 2018, Members agreed a contribution up to £12,500 (19%) against £64,837 phased 1A project costs, towards preliminaries, foundations and structure of a new link corridor and plant room at Caryford Hall. This decision provided some added confidence to other grant giving bodies when the group submitted applications to key funders in December

The intention was that future requests should come forward incrementally for subsequent phases of the project. However, the current advice is that applications should be presented as a whole project

and considered once; referring to District Executive if the overall contribution exceeds the limits for Area Committee approval

This request for funding is therefore presented to Area East for endorsement but final sign off will be with District Executive in a report to be presented to the April meeting

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

Caryford Hall is a well located hall attracting users from across the settlement of Castle Cary/Ansford and a wider catchment. The hall has an extensive programme of regular activities which is complemented by occasional/one off events and bookings. Attached at Appendix C is an overview submitted in support of this application by Caryford Community Hall association

The current usage has outgrown the hall which opened in 1994 and has been in need of refurbishment and upgrade for some time. 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 sound leaks from one room to the other.
- A kitchen which is poorly laid out and outdated.
- Insufficient toilets that need upgrading.
- Insufficient storage.

The assessment of this application is as follows:

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.

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 re-negotiate agreements on grounds of viability. Previously, some Members have suggested that part of any funding award should take the form of a loan, in anticipation of the funds identified

through S106 agreements coming forward. However, the officer advice is that this is not desirable due to the uncertainty surrounding this funding.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding £	Status
Ansford Parish & Castle Cary Town Council	1	4,000	Secured
Own	6	36,000	Secured
Grant Yarlington Homes	1	3,000	Secured
Garfield Weston	5	30,000	Pending
Viridor	24	137,000	Pending
Multiple other funders	26	148,100	Mainly pending
Fundraising target	28	158,320	Pending
SSDC approved	2	12,500	Approved
SSDC requested	7	40,000	Requested
Total project costs	100	568,920	

Financial Implications

Caryford Community Hall Association requested £40,000 but Area East Committee is asked to endorse a funding allocation of £27,500 ahead of it being referred to District Executive for consideration.

There is currently an unallocated balance of £26,522 in the Area East Capital Reserve. If the Committee approved the recommendation in the previous report to move £4790 from the Members Discretionary Budget to the Area East Capital Reserve, it is suggested that Members request District Executive approval of an allocation of £27,500 from the Area East Capital Reserve towards the Caryford Hall project. This will leave an unallocated balance of £3,812 in the Area East Capital Reserve which will roll forward to 2019/20 and will be topped up with £25,000 giving a working budget in the Area East Capital Reserve of £28,812 for 2019/20.

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

An access audit has already been undertaken

Background Papers

Area East Agenda & Minutes December 2018
