

West Coker Commemoration Hall Grant Request (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

For members to consider the request for a community grant from West Coker Commemoration Hall for new accessible facilities within their community building.

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 consider this application for up to £2,370 from the community grants budget.

Background

Community buildings play a crucial role in local communities as a focal point for community activity and a base for local groups. They also play a valuable role in building the capacity of local communities, encouraging active citizenship and developing social cohesion. Community buildings help to make communities stronger and healthier. Community facilities also allow better access to services, this is particularly important in a large geographic district like South Somerset that has poor transport links in some areas and low car ownership.

Project

West Coker Commemoration Hall has established a refurbishment plan to enhance the user environment of the facility and provide more sustainable and efficient running costs for the other facilities. Recent projects have included a new boiler, new kitchen facilities and a digital inclusion project that has supported training and learning but also Wi-Fi accessibility in the hall.

After a recent access review on the 16th March 2016 the management committee added accessibility and DDA compliance to the plan installing hearing loops as well as a project to develop a new accessible entrance and improved accessible toilet facilities for users.

The committee has obtained 3 quotes and has District Councillor support and the project has been supported by an 'Access for All' access review.

Ward Member Comments:

Ward Member is supportive of the project.

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 Equalities Impact | 6 | 7 |
| C Evidence of Need | 4 | 5 |
| D Capacity of Organisation | 12 | 15 |
| E Financial need | 4 | 7 |
| F Innovation | 2 | 3 |
| <i>Grand Total</i> | 28 | 37 |

Funding Breakdown

| Funding Sources | % Funding of the Total Project Cost | Amount of Funding (£) | Status |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| West Coker Parish Council | 11 | 500 | Secured |
| West Coker Village Fund | 11 | 500 | Secured |
| West Coker Carols in the Square | 6 | 300 | Secured |
| West Coker Commemoration Hall | 22 | 1070 | Secured |
| SSDC (Area South) | 50 | 2370 | This application |
| Total Project Cost | 100% | 4,740 | |

Financial Implications

If the Hardington Parish Council grant (previous agenda item) is approved the uncommitted 2017/18 grants budget would be £8,305. If members agree this award of £2,370, it will leave £5,935 remaining in the budget.

Grant Conditions

The grant would be subject to all the standard grant conditions.

The grant offer would be made based on the information provided in the application form and would represent up to 50% of the total project costs (the final payment may be reduced if the costs of the total project are less than originally anticipated, however payment will not exceed the grant amount approved at committee).

Corporate Priority Implications

Health and Communities

To build healthy, self-reliant, active communities we will:

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

Environment

To keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive we will:

- Support communities to develop local, parish and neighbourhood plans.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None.

Equality and Diversity Implications

This project is all about improving equality and accessibility across the community and enabling everyone to be able to access and use the community facilities in West Coker.

The hall has received an access audit highlighting improvements needed – which in turn has formed the action plan needs for the hall.

Although the access to the building still needs to be completed the toilet facilities will make a big difference in meetings users' needs in the hall.

Background Papers: None