

Subject: Community Grants

Lead Officer: Contact Rebecca Goodman on 01789 260694

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Chris Williams
Councillor Peter Fowler

Summary

To consider the proposals made by the East Funding Sub Group for Community Grant awards.

Recommendation

That the Committee considers the recommendations made by the East Funding Sub Group and awards rejects or amends as appropriate.

1 Background/Information

- 1.1 This is the first round of applications received under the new Joint Community Grants Scheme.
 - 1.2 All applications have been assessed for eligibility (appendix 1) and scored against the agreed criteria for the scheme (appendix 2) by WCC and SDC officers. The applications have then been reviewed in detail by the Funding Sub Group held on 7th November 2008 and their subsequent recommendations are included in this report.
 - 1.3 The Funding Sub Group is made up of District and County Councillors from the main and opposition parties. The scope of the Group is to conduct a detailed review of each application and provide recommendation to the Joint Committee on whether a grant should be awarded and what level of grant should be.
 - 1.4 The committee is reminded that 15% of the grants budget can be used by the Joint Committee to support strategic proposals. No proposals have been submitted for this round of funding. Details of the Strategic Budget allocation for the East Committee are given in Section 4.
 - 1.5 1 grant application remains outstanding from the final round of SDC grant funding. This is detailed in section 5 and has been assessed against the previous SDC grant scheme criteria.
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2 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The budget shown represents the total District and County Council funds for this financial year and is no longer split between revenue and capital.

2.1 Grant Budget

		Balance remaining
East Area Budget 08/09	£114,000	
Grants Awarded to date	£41,243	£72,757
Awarded under delegated authority	£2,143	
Recommended awards by FSG	£36, 473	£34,141

3. NEW APPLICATIONS

3.1 The following grants have been awarded under delegated authority by officers

Organisation	Application score	Grant Award
SOA Trampoline Club	16	£368
Long Itchington PC	15	£675
Southam Youth Club	12	£995
Epilepsy Action (Stratford Branch)	12	£105

3.2 The Funding Sub Group recommends awarding grants to the following applicants. Details of applications can be found in Appendix B

Organisation	Application score	Recommended Award
Radway Playground Trust	16	£3,321
Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire Branch	15	£11,153
Fenny Compton Parish Council	14	£15,000
Shotteswell Parish Council	13	£6,000
Southam@Play	13	£1,000

- 3.3 The Funding Sub Group recommends the following grant requests are declined. Details of applications can be found in Appendix B.

Organisation	Application score	Requested Award
CVS	17	£4,425
Stratford Community Radio	14	£1,568
Mezzo Mums	11	£1,601
Southam Christmas Lights	8	£1,283
St Mary's School, Southam	7	£11,800

- 3.4 The recommended awards for each grant application are listed above; however these sums may be increased or decreased at the discretion of the Committee.

4. Strategic Budget Allocation

- 4.1 Under the terms of new joint community grants scheme, 15% of the total budget available may be used by the Joint Committee to fund Strategic projects identified via Community Forum. The Joint Committee may also choose to use the 15% allocation to award Community Grants. The 15% allocation in the East Area totals **£17,025**.
- 4.2 No proposals are brought forward in relation to the Strategic Allocation for this round of Committee meetings.

5. SDC Community Grants Scheme – Applications Outstanding

- 5.1 2 applications were deferred from the September East Committee Meeting. The application from Shakespeare Hospice has subsequently been withdrawn as additional funding has been secured.
- 5.2 The application below remains outstanding having been deferred from the last round of funding.

Applicant	Stratford & District Citizens Advice Bureau – 804 - Capital
Project	To move the entire CAB operation to different premises at which will provide easier access to clients and provide the opportunity to extend the range of services being offered
SDC Corporate Aims Met	One Point <i>Aim 1 A District where everyone shares in an improved quality of life</i> 1.2 Residents have easier access to local public services
Deprivation mapping	

Value to the Community	One Point The services are used by a significant number of users
Equality Impact Assessment	There will be no negative impact on any sector of the community
Risk Assessment	The premises are leased for the next 10 years and much of the items to be funded are removable. This project is therefore considered Low risk.
Outcomes to be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable CAB to provide a fully accessible range of services • Recruit an additional 12 volunteers in year one • Deal with an additional 2000 enquiries in year one
Total project cost	£41,397
Grant request	£2,250 (30% of the £7,500 requested)
Financial Appraisal	Contained within blue confidential papers
Project Rating	Two points Medium priority – may be considered for 20% - 25% of total project cost Award should be within the range of £2,484 – £2,587 representing the 30% allocation to East Committee.
Notes	<p>This application is now retrospective as the proposed move has taken place.</p> <p>The applicant has requested a grant of £7,500.</p> <p>The South Committee awarded £2,700 (36%) in July.</p> <p>The West Committee awarded £2,550 (34%) in September.</p> <p>CAB currently receive £56,000 per annum grant aid from SDC under a three year agreement to support its services, this arrangement is due for renewal (subject to approval) on 01/04/09.</p>

6 Options available to the Committee

The Committee has the option in each case of awarding, rejecting or amending the grant recommended by the Funding Sub Group.

7 Members' Comments

- 7.1 Each application has been supported by a District or County Councillor. These comments have been reviewed and considered by the Funding Sub Group.

8 Implications of the proposal

8.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications

- 8.2 There are no legal/human rights implications to this report

9 Financial

- 9.1 See 2.1

- 9.2 The grant requests are listed above. Recommended levels of grant award are shown with each individual application; however these sums may be increased or decreased at the discretion of the Committee.
- 9.3 The Financial aspects of each grant application have been reviewed and considered by the Funding Sub-Group.

10 *Environmental*

- 10.1 Successful applicants will be encouraged where appropriate to adopt sound environmental principles when delivering their project

11 *Strategic Priorities*

- 11.1 The extent to which each application supports delivery of the Local Area Agreement Strategic Priorities is identified within the scoring criteria.

12 *Equality Impact Assessment*

- 12.1 An equality impact assessment has been conducted on each application. Additional points are awarded for projects reducing inequality in the community.

13 *Risk Assessment*

- 13.1 A risk assessment has been conducted on each application

14 *CONCLUSION*

- 14.1 That the Committee considers and awards, rejects or amends grants as appropriate for the applications presented.

Robert Walsh

HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

David Carter
Strategic Director
Performance & Development
Warwickshire County Council

Appendix A
Criteria of Community Grants Scheme

Eligible Criteria

To be eligible to apply for a Community Grant the project MUST:

- Provide new opportunities for local people or develop the capacity of local people to run their own projects
- Provide lasting benefit
- Contribute to local Strategic Priorities
- Usually require a maximum of £15,000 from this fund
- Be looking to spend the grant within 24 months of its award subject to flexibility on a case by case basis
- Be led by a fully constituted organisation with its own bank account
- Have not been previously funded by this scheme (groups can reapply for a new project as long as previously funded projects have been completed)

The Community Grant WILL NOT fund:

- The running costs of an established group or activities which are that groups main service
 - Ongoing refurbishment, repair or maintenance
 - Any costs incurred before the grant is awarded (unless previously agreed)
 - Services which are a groups statutory responsibility
 - Activities promoting religious beliefs
 - Statutory public bodies such as District or Council Councils, Police, PCT (grants to Parish/Town Councils will be considered where evidence of need is indicated within a parish plan or equivalent)
 - Commercial projects
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Appendix 2
Evaluation Criteria

Area	Description	Maximum Points
Location	Projects that will benefit priority wards based on the index of Multiple Deprivation	0 - 4
Reducing Inequalities	Projects that will benefit a local community of Group of people experiencing specific disadvantage or exclusion from mainstreamactivities	2
Community Involvement	Projects that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have involved the local community and/or the projects end-beneficiaries in developing the project • Will generate new opportunities for people to get involved in their community • Will help to build the capacity of a community group 	4
Community Benefit	Projects that will provide new services or opportunities based on identified need	3
Sustainability	Projects that will create lasting benefits beyond the end of the funding	2
Partnership working	Projects that work effectively with other organisations	1
Quality	Projects that are well thought-out, with clear objectives, timescales, budget and success Measures. Projects that area aware of risks, and demonstrate value for money	2
Strategic Priorities	Projects that will contribute to one or more of the priorities listed and are additional and complementary to other initiatives	2 2

Appendix 3

Grant Applications with recommended award

Organisation	Radway Playground Trust		
Project	To replace worn out swings and improve safety of play area in Radway (Burton Dassett Ward)		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
		60	
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£6,641	£3,320.50		50%
Score (out of 20)	16		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation	<p>The playground is the sole play facility in this rurally isolated village and has been recommended for urgent replacement during the latest inspection.</p> <p>Award Grant of £3,320.50</p>		

Organisation	Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire Branch		
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Restoring habitats across sites in the East Area of Stratford District to enable the rare blue butterfly to return.Recruit and train large numbers of local volunteers, including school children, in conservation managementRaise public awareness on conservation and local environment		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
		10,000	
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£173,514	£11,154		6.4%
Score (out of 20)	15		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The project brings in substantial external funding with a £113,000 grant secured. The project supports biodiversity in the East Area and also encourages large scale volunteering.			
Award grant of £11,154			

Organisation	Fenny Compton Parish Council		
Project	To install new play equipment specifically for under-8's in the village of Fenny Compton		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
		100	
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£33,555	£15,000		50%
Score (out of 20)	14		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The need for this project was highlighted by the community through the parish plan.			
Award Grant of £15,000			

Organisation	Shotteswell Parish Council		
Project	Additional children's play equipment (zip wire) and adult fitness equipment on Shotteswell Village Playing field		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
		350	
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£21,679	£10,800		50%
Score (out of 20)	13		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The parish council were awarded a grant of £10,000 3 years ago for children's play equipment. The recommendation is therefore to fund the adult equipment and make a smaller contribution towards the additional children's equipment			
Award Grant of £6,000			

Organisation	Southam@play		
Project	To install a Youth Shelter on the recreation ground in Southam		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
		100	
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£7,600	£1,000		13%
Score (out of 20)	13		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
This project is supported by the Vision for Southam Group and is a result of partnership working between various groups including the police, town council			

and youth groups.

Award Grant of £1,000

Appendix 4

Grant Applications recommended no award

Organisation	C V S		
Project	To provide a web based Sports and Recreation information service for Stratford District to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All sports and recreation clubs and activities• Volunteering Opportunities• Register of qualified coaches and officials• Register of sports facilities and playing fields• League information, competitions and fun days Whilst some of the above is available, it is accessed from places and methods. The aim is to provide a single, easy point of access.		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
	Unknown – 34% of users	Unknown – 30% of users	Unknown – 36% of users
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£29,900	£14,750 £4,425 from East (30%)		50%
Score (out of 20)	17		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
Whilst the project scored well against the aims of the scheme, the information included in this service is already currently available, albeit from different organizations. The FSG felt that this was not an appropriate use of the grants budget.			
No grant award.			

Organisation	Stratford Community Radio		
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Start up costs for a new community radio station.The station will be manned by volunteers, 22 of which are already recruited - costs relate to new equipment and studio rental.The station will be internet based and available across the district		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
	25% of listeners	25% of listeners	50% of listeners
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£18,870	£6,270 £1,568 from East (25%)		33%
Score (out of 20)	14		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
Whilst the project scores well against the scheme criteria, the matched funding from advertising and sponsorship is yet to be secured. The FSG felt this made it an uncertain venture and audience appeal in the East Area could not be ascertained until the station was up and running. No grant award.			

However, would consider an application once the station is established.

Organisation	Southam Christmas Lights		
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To erect Christmas lights in SouthamCosts for “switch on” event		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
		1,000	
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£8,526	£1,283		15%
Score (out of 20)	8		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
<p>The application did not score well against the aims of this scheme, particularly around sustainability and quality of application. The applicant is able to fund this years cost and is applying for 2009 costs.</p> <p>No award. However the FSG support the work of this group and recommend that group work with the Area coordinator on a sustainability plan and resubmit an improved application for the next round of funding.</p>			

Organisation	Mezzo Mums		
Project	To pay for travel and costs for 35 disadvantaged children to attend national championships in Ireland with the rest of the dance group (95 children in total)		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
	18	7	10
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£16,012	£8,006 £1,601 from East (20%)		50%
Score (out of 20)	11		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The project doesn't represent good value for money as calculates as £228 per beneficiary and is for a one-off benefit. There is no evidence of own fundraising to pay towards the travel costs. No grant award.			

Organisation	St Mary's School PTA		
Project	To improve sports facilities in St Mary's School grounds including new equipment and an extension to the existing Astroturf pitch.		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
		250	
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£23,600	£11,800		50%
Score (out of 20)	7		

Funding Sub Group Recommendation

<p>The main beneficiaries are the school and the facilities are only available to the community at limited times. The project therefore does not sufficiently meet the aims of the community grants scheme. No award is recommended</p>
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REPORT INFORMATION SHEET

Please complete and submit to Committee Services with draft report

Committee/Date	East Joint Committee 9 December 2008	
Item No/Title of report	Community Grants	
Consultations undertaken		
Consultee	✓	Details / Date of consultation / comments received
Ward Members		
Committee Chairman/ Portfolioholder * <i>*Cllr John Appleton</i> <i>Cllr Chris Williams</i>	✓	Draft Report / 13.11.08 /
FINANCIAL SERVICES * <i>Richard Burrell</i> <i>Sarah Pittaway</i>	✓	Draft Report / 13.11.08 / comments received in regards to financial allocation of SDC grant budget. Finance would like the budget and associated applications to be identified as capital or revenue by officers.
Legal Services * <i>*Richard Hood</i>		Draft Report / 13.11.08 / no comments received
Other Services		
Other organisations Martin Gibbins , Amanda Wilson-Patterson – WCC	✓	Draft Report / 13.11.08 /
Final decision by this Committee or recommendation to another committee/Council ?		Final decision
Does this report contain exempt information? If so, under which paragraph(s) ?		No
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Executive Forward Plan)		No