

Subject: Vision for Southam Project Funding
Lead Officers: Contact Katherine Geddes on 01789 260102
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Williams

Summary

This report provides updated information on the progress of the Vision for Southam projects and suggests funding allocations for the remaining 08/09 budget of the 2020 Vision Action Plan

Recommendation

That Committee considers and agrees to the allocation of funds as requested and detailed below.

1 BACKGROUND/INFORMATION

- 1.1 In its budgets for 2008/2009 the Council has allocated £25,000 to be spent in support of the projects identified in the 2020 Vision Action Plan for Southam.

The community based and led *Vision for Southam* group has begun work on delivering the projects agreed by the East Joint Committee earlier in the year and progress is given below. The group have also identified the remaining projects they wish to be funded in the 08/09 financial year and their findings are presented here together with requests for the allocation of the identified funds.

- 1.2 The control and management of these funds will remain with officers of the Council in conformance with standing orders

2 VISION FOR SOUTHAM PROGRESS REPORT

- 2.1 Community Technology Bank

This was launched on 25th October. It is being well used and courses are already fully booked for January 2009. Users are from Southam and the surrounding area including people signing up from Harbury and Long Itchington.

- 2.2 Community Group Newsletter
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30 local groups have been invited to send a representative to an initial meeting on 6th December where the content and design of the newsletter will be decided.

2.3 Cycle route feasibility study

This is underway and due to be completed by the end of December. Initial meetings regarding the proposed route were well attended including representatives from Cemex, Southam Town Council, Warwickshire County Council and Stockton Parish council.

2.4 Streetscape & transport research

The traffic study on market hill has been completed and the results will be fed back to the group in December. The street scene improvements are scheduled for February 09 and will include painting, litter bins and tree planting.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 *Budget*

The Council has made available a budget of £25,000 which is to be allocated during 2008/9 and is available in support of the identified agreed projects

Allocations to date and current requests are shown below

Applications previously agreed	Allocation
Application 835 Farmers Market Signage and Directory	£3,500
Application 836 Community Technology Bank	£9,894
Application 837 Streetscape & Transport Research	£4,853
Total Allocated	£18,247
Applications to be considered at this meeting	Allocation
Application 836 Community Technology Bank	£2,400
Application 863 Park Lane Youth Shelter	£4,000
Total Requested	£6,400
Carried forward	£353

Projects

- 3.1.1 **Application 836 Community Technology Bank** This is an existing project that has received £9,894 from the previous round of vision funding. The laptops purchased are now in place as part of the Technology Bank and are already being well used. Courses in digital photography and Microsoft Office are booked up for January 2009.

The requested fund allocation...

Will enable additional laptops to be purchased to enlarge class sizes, increase available places and reduce the costs for people attending.

Anticipated outcomes Include...

- Increased number of community groups accessing IT training and becoming better skilled.
- Increased usage of the Graham Adams Centre as a central community venue.

3.1.2 **Application 863 Park Lane Youth Shelter**

The pressing need for a suitable gathering place for Southam and District's young people has been evident for some time as voiced by residents, businesses, police, councillors and young people. A sturdy, purpose-built shelter has been chosen as the best design for this project by the Vision Action Group, young people at Southam College, Southam Youth Club and members of Southam@play. A suitable site at Bury Orchard Recreation ground has been identified through work with other stakeholders including the Town Council and police.

The requested fund allocation...

Alongside other funding will enable the purchase and installation of the portable youth shelter

Anticipated outcomes Include...

- Provision of a centrally-located, sheltered recognised meeting place for young people
- Discourage young people from gathering to socialise in other locations and therefore reduce the fear of crime.

4 OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

- 4.1 The Committee has the option in each case of awarding or rejecting funding allocation requests.

5 MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- 5.1 None received

6 IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

6.1 *Legal/Human Rights Implications*

- 6.1.1 At this stage there are no legal/ human rights implications to the projects detailed in this report if this changes the implications of those changes will be considered and appropriate action taken
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6.2 *Financial*

- 6.2.1 The total budget available is detailed in 3.1 above.

6.3 *Environmental*

- 6.3.1 All projects will wherever possible be based upon sound environmental principles.

6.4 *Corporate Strategy*

- 6.4.1 The potential projects directly address aspects of the Council's Corporate Strategy and also link to the 2020 Vision for Southam and the Action plan derived from it.

7 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The individual projects all require, to greater or lesser degrees match funding to ensure their progress to fruition, some of the funds are secured others not and for this reason the projects collectively are categorised as medium risk

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1.1 At this stage there is no adverse Equality Impact implications as all of the projects are intended to be for the direct or indirect benefit of all members of the community. If specific issues are identified at a later stage these will be considered and appropriate action taken

9 CONCLUSION

The Vision, its derived Actions Plan and the project proposals contained within this report follow extensive community consultation over a period of two years. The deliberations of the dedicated Action Plan delivery group has resulted in the prioritisations identified. These are aimed at furthering the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of Southam and its surrounding Hinterland. It is recommended that the proposals are supported

Robert Walsh
HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



REPORT INFORMATION SHEET

Please complete and submit to Committee Services with draft report

Committee/Date	East Joint Committee 9/12/08	
Item No/Title of report	VISION FOR SOUTHAM - PROJECT FUNDING	
Consultations undertaken		
Consultee	✓	Details / Date of consultation / comments received
Ward Members		
Committee Chairman/ Portfolioholder * <i>*Cllr Williams</i>	Y	Draft report / 15.11.08 / Cllr Williams /no comments received
Financial Services * <i>*Richard Burrell</i> <i>Sarah Pittaway</i>	Y	Draft report / 15.11.08 / no comments received
Legal Services * <i>*Richard Hood</i>	Y	Draft report / 15.11.08 / Richard Hood / no comments received
Other Services		
Other organisations	Y	Draft report / 2020 Vision for Stour / No Comments received
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