

Subject: Community Grants

Lead Officer: Contact Rebecca Goodman on 01789 260694

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Chris Williams

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 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 12th February 2009 and their subsequent recommendations are included in this report.
- 1.2 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 what level of grant should be awarded.
- 1.3 The committee is reminded that 15% of the grants budget can be used by the Joint Committee to support strategic proposals. Two project proposals have been submitted for this round of funding. Details of the Strategic Budget allocation for the East Committee are given in Section 4.

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	£83,860	£30,140
Awarded under delegated authority	£1,710	
Recommended awards by FSG	£24,840	£3,590

3. NEW APPLICATIONS

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

Organisation	Application score	Grant Award
Napton Parish Council	14	£750
Ratley Youth Club	13	£960

3.2 The Funding Sub Group recommends awarding grants to the following applicants. Details of applications can be found in Appendix 3

Organisation	Application score	Recommended Award
Getting Kineton Growing	20	£1,000
ILEAP	18	£4,500
Lighthorne Heath Village Hall	14	£2,000
Southam Christmas Lights	12	£1,600
Napton Youth Club	10	£740

3.3 The Funding Sub Group recommends the following grant requests are declined. Details of applications can be found in Appendix 3.

Organisation	Application score	Requested Award
George Povey Gardening Project	12	£4,950
Age Concern South Warks	8	£13,000
Half Crown Petanque Club	5	£1,000
Asian Community Equality Centre	-	£15,000

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 Two proposals have been received in relation to the Strategic Allocation for this round of Committee meetings. The Funding Sub Group recommends awarding grants to the following applicants. Details of applications can be found in Appendix 4

Organisation	Application score	Recommended Award
Lighthorne Heath Partnership	n/a	£12,000
Voluntary Centre Transport Scheme	n/a	£3,000

5. Remaining Budget Allocation

5.1 Based on the recommendations above, there is a budget balance remaining of **£3,590**. The Funding Sub Group proposed that this balance is used for "narrowing the gap" in the East Area by the Local Strategic Partnership.

5.2. Whilst the funds cannot be given directly to the LSP it can be achieved by requesting the LSP to develop a project that would be approved by a subsequent meeting of the Joint Committee. However this would require the funds to be carried forward to the next financial year and this is not possible as it would constitute "slippage". Any funds that are not committed to project activity in the current financial will be lost

5.3 The options available to the Joint Committee are:

- a) To award funds to a declined application or increase a grant award for one or more of the applications previously considered
- b). To surrender the balance of the budget to be offered as a cost saving.

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 and deciding the appropriate option for any budget balance remaining.

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

Appendix 1
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

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 mainstream activities	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 are 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

Application Information from East Area Funding Sub Group

Organisation name	Project Title	Project Description	Ward	Number of Beneficiaries in East Area	Total Points Scored	Amount Requested	Total Project Costs	Recommended from FSG West	Recommended from FSG East	Recommended from FSG South	FSG Comments
Getting Kineton Growing	Getting Kineton Growing - Food Project	To engage the local community in growing, cooking and eating local, sustainable and ethical food	Kineton	2500	20	£4,600	£11,050	£0.00	£1,000	£0.00	The FSG had questions about the commercial nature of some activities of the project. Recommend award partial grant to fund demonstration plots to get project started.
ILEAP	ILEAP in Leisure in Stratford on Avon	To provide people with mild and moderate learning disabilities and difficulties and their disabled and non-disabled peers the opportunity to meet with friends and take part in leisure activities in their community	district wide	25	18	£15,000	£160,000	£5,100	£4,500	£4,800	The project supports disadvantaged young people. ILEAP have an excellent track record of delivering successful projects. ALL 3 FSGs recommend AWARD GRANT
Lighthorne Heath Village Hall	Kitchen Refurbishment	Replace old kitchen units and refurbish kitchen to import health and hygiene standards	Kineton	350	14	£2,000	£4,154.	£0.00	£2,000	£0.00	The Village Hall is in urgent need of upgrading and is situated in an area of need. AWARD GRANT.
Napton Parish Council	Nosh and Natter Club	To provide a meal and an opportunity to socialise and share information	Stockton and Napton	50	14	£750	£1,050	£0.00	£750	£0.00	AGREED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Ratley Youth Club	Circus Skills Workshop	2 practice sessions with workshop leader plus an all-age workshop open to family and villagers followed by a performance.	Burton Dassett	60	13	£960	£960	£0.00	£960	£0.00	AGREED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY
George Povey Gardening Project	George Povey Gardening Project	To obtain locally a plot of land to develop a wildflower and vegetable garden to improve life skills of autistic children.	Snitterfield	6	12	£4,950	£9,900	£1,649	£0.00	£852	West FSG - Award Grant, South FSG - Award part Grant of £852 due to budget constraints, East FSG - No Award due to low number of beneficiaries.
Southam Christmas Lights	Southam Christmas Lights	Christmas lights for Southam and a switch on event for the community with father Christmas and mop fair with charity stalls.	Southam	1000	12	£1,600	£8,526	£0.00	£1,600	£0.00	The group have raised a significant amount through own fundraising. The switch on event is free and brings all the community together. Award Grant of £1600. The applicant should be aware that cannot reapply for the same project in future funding rounds
Napton Youth Club	Pathway and Projector	Provision of an overhead projector for members to use with x-box and Wii games in multi-player roles. Construction of concrete path from storage shed to village hall	Stockton and Napton	50	10	£1,090	£2,180	£0.00	£740	£0.00	The FSG fully support the application for a Projector, however felt that installing a concrete pathway should be the responsibility of the Village Hall and not the Youth Club. Award £740 to fully fund projector.

Age Concern South Warks	Helping Older People to stay Happy and Healthy and at Home in Stratford District	Development of an information and health/training programme to be promoted with partners responsible for promoting the well being of all Elders.	district wide	500	8	£13,000	£26,300	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	The costs are for a salaried post. No other funding secured yet and no plans on how this post can be funded ongoing. Consultation with other partners, including SDC and SCAN has not yet taken place and potential for duplication of services.
Half Crown Petanque Club	Land Purchase	To purchase the land used by the club when the lease expires	Stockton and Napton	100	5	£1,000	£1,000	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	The group are not contributing any of their own funds to this project. The FSG are concerned about funding land purchase and potential issues of community access. There is no evidence of benefit to wider community outside the club. No Grant Award
Asian Community Equality Centre	Development of Essential Services to the Community	Raising awareness and influencing local issues, stimulating local action and good practice. Advice and support to local businesses and community. Professional advice for key services and combating inequality issues. Support the needs of vulnerable community	district wide	0	0	£15,000	£21,595.20	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	The Application does not meet the criteria as activities take place outside the district (Leamington Spa) and the application is for running costs.
Southam and District Children's Centre	Family Counselling by Relate	To provide a family counselling service at Southam Children's Centre for 2 families per week	Southam, Stockton, Napton, Harbury, Bishops Itchington	0	0	£2,377	£8,066	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Application withdrawn

East Joint Committee Project Proposal

Name of Project: Lighthorne Heath Partnership

Description of Project for which funding is sought from Joint Committee

The Southern Area Community Learning Partnership representing a range of local partners has identified Lighthorne Heath as an area with many opportunities to develop a more coherent and coordinated delivery of local services particularly around the needs of learners. The area has many positives but it has been recognised as an area of relative deprivation in terms of education, economic opportunities and social activities.

The aims and objectives are:

- Provide quality local services that best suit needs
- Use local resources in the most efficient way possible
- Ensure issues in the local community are addressed in a joined up way
- Narrow the Gap experienced by more disadvantaged people and communities

The project will develop strategic and collaborative ways of reaching groups of learners in the local community who would not normally access learning opportunities. In order for these to be achieved we would see that the following would need to be put in place

- Opening lines of communication
- Providing a community lead
- Improving the multi agency collaborative approach
- Publicising activities and opportunities
- Sharing and adding value to resources
- Generate funding
- Increase participation by local people
- Promote volunteering

The appointed coordinator will firstly consult with the local people, community groups, Extended Services, the local school and newly opened Childrens' Centre and other partner organisations to identify gaps in local services and areas where greater multi agency collaboration will ensure better provision. The coordinator will then develop an action plan to ensure those gaps are met through closer local partnerships and through the commissioning of new activities, if necessary. In order for the project to have a lasting benefit to the community and to create sustainability we would encourage community ownership. We would need to work closely with the community and agencies involved to be open to new ideas, and to be approachable.

Sharing knowledge and experience from previous work and projects will enable best practice models to be used.

Priorities, set by the Joint Committees, that will be addressed

- Children & Young People
- Safer Communities
- Stronger Communities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Healthier Communities</u> • <u>Economic Development & Enterprise</u>
Location of Project
2.1 Lighthorne Heath focus although through the links to the local schools' Extended Services Cluster, it is hoped opportunities will be created across the cluster area
Who will benefit from the Project?
2.2 Local people of all ages, local community groups and the community as whole through the empowerment of local people and the development of further community cohesion
When will it be delivered?
JANUARY 2009 - DECEMBER 2009
Outputs to be Achieved
<p>Greater coordination of existing services</p> <p>New Projects delivered</p> <p>Increase in learning participation</p> <p>COMMUNITY EVENT</p> <p>Improved services</p> <p>Improved publicity</p> <p>Volunteer participation</p>
Outcomes to be Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community attendance • Community ownership • Reduction in fear • Reduction in anti-social behaviour • Improved community spirit • Sustainable projects • Improved services • Volunteers • Skills shared • Mutual respect between young and old • Community learning • Healthier community • All heard
Proposed monitoring arrangements
2.3 This project will have regular management meetings and reports will be given to the

Southern Area Community Learning Partnership

What is the long term future of the project (If appropriate)

2.4 The project is planned to establish and develop closer partner collaboration and develop greater local community participation which it is expected will lead to the long term empowerment and ownership of local provision and activities in the Lighthorne Heath area

Details of other sources of funding

NONE

When would the project start?

January 2009

Analysis of costs – Please be as precise as possible

Staff (Salaries and Expenses)	£
Salary for Coordinator	13000
Training & materials	1000
Expenses	1000
Capital/Equipment	£
Other	£
Total	£15,000

Appendix 5

East Joint Committee Project Proposal

Name of Project: Voluntary Community Transport
Warwickshire County Council Social Services

Description of Project for which funding is sought from Joint Committee			
<p>The Council for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Bureaux, Stratford on Avon, provides Warwickshire County Council with a transport service for the following departments: Social Services Adult, Social Services Disability Team, Social Service Specialist Team, and Social Services Children's Team.</p> <p>These departments contact us to arrange for travel for clients to attend day care centres such as Lower Meadow, Limes Day Centre, Low Furlong, Saltway Day Centre, Loxley Day Unit, Victor Hodges Day Centre, Wootton Lodge, Dell Court, etc. We are also asked to take children to schools, foster homes, and other ad hoc needs as they arise.</p>			
Priorities, set by the Joint Committees, that will be addressed			
<p>We have not been advised of any priorities set by the Joint Committees; however, this service assists in meeting a number of key National Indicators including NI6, NI50, NI71, NI124, NI141, NI175, NI139.</p>			
Location of Project			
<p>The project is delivered throughout the District of Stratford on Avon.</p>			
Who will benefit from the Project?			
<p>All clients referred by Social Services Adult, Social Services Disability Team, Social Service Specialist Team, and Social Services Children's Team. Journeys undertaken in the last financial year were:</p>			
Area	Journeys	Passengers	Mileage
Alcester Adults	611	622	8,295
Alcester Children	156	157	3,282
Shipston Adults	1,251	1,332	28,303
Southam Adults	378	401	7,221
Southam Children	6	6	176
Stratford Adults	2,285	2,704	48,293
Stratford Children	470	704	7,320
TOTALS	5,157	5,926	102,890
When will it be delivered?			
<p>The project is delivered weekdays throughout the year, and at week-ends if required by a client's particular needs.</p>			
Outputs to be Achieved			
Per year:			

<p>Support 200 volunteer drivers within Stratford on Avon District.</p> <p>Support 35 office volunteers in Volunteer Centres in Stratford upon Avon, Alcester, Shipston on Stour and Southam.</p> <p>Provide 6,000 vulnerable members of the community with a vital transport service.</p>
<p>Outcomes to be Achieved</p>
<p>Improved quality of life to people living in rural communities who cannot access public or private transport.</p> <p>Improved quality of life to people referred by Social Services who through this project are able to receive care and engage in social activities with others.</p> <p>Through ongoing training, volunteer drivers are able to provide a caring companion to the clients, which is not the case when the alternative of a commercial taxi service is used.</p>
<p>Proposed monitoring arrangements</p>
<p>Detailed written records are kept of all journeys booked and undertaken.</p> <p>Client feedback is monitored through the use of regular surveys and informal qualitative data.</p>
<p>What is the long term future of the project (If appropriate)</p>
<p>Stratford on Avon District has a particular need for volunteer transport services because of its rural nature and isolated communities. This will continue to be a factor for the foreseeable future. Projections by Prof Owen (DEFRA research project) highlighted that transport issues will become more urgent and important to rural communities in the period up to 2015.</p> <p>We anticipate that demand will increase further as pressures mount through the current recession, resulting in many financial and social difficulties for families, and with regard to the growth of the elderly population in the District.</p>
<p>Details of other sources of funding</p>
<p>Mileage at 40p per mile is reimbursed to drivers for each journey undertaken.</p> <p>There is no external funding to assist with the administrative cost of arranging for transport, checking driver claim forms, photocopying and posting claim forms to the appropriate Social Services cost centre. Administration, stationery, postage, phone and photocopying costs are currently covered by the CVS/VC from its own funds.</p>
<p>When would the project start?</p>
<p>The service has been in operation for 30 years, and has grown considerably over the past 20 years. We have experienced increasing demands from WCC Social Services on the CVS/VC to supply the service.</p>
<p>Analysis of costs – Please be as precise as possible</p>

<p>Staff (Salaries and Expenses)</p> <p>Based on: one third costs of two part-time staff members. The other two-thirds are for time expended on other voluntary transport journeys supported by the PCT.</p> <p>The staff operating the scheme from our Alcester, Shipston on Stour and Southam Volunteer Centres are all unpaid volunteers.</p>	<p>£10,000</p>
<p>Capital/Equipment</p>	<p>£</p>
<p>Other</p> <p>Based on: administration for 6,000 journeys @ 70p per journey. This includes telephone calls (minimum 2 per journey), stationery, photocopying, postage, claim form processing, and liaison with Social Services.</p>	<p>£4,200</p>
<p>Total</p>	<p>£ 14,200</p>

REPORT INFORMATION SHEET

Please complete and submit to Committee Services with draft report

Committee/Date	East Area Joint Committee 10 th March 2009	
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 16/2/09
FINANCIAL SERVICES * <i>Richard Burrell</i> <i>Sarah Pittaway</i>	✓	Draft Report 16/2/09
Legal Services * <i>*Richard Hood</i>		Draft Report 16/2/09
Other Services		
Other organisations Martin Gibbins , Amanda Wilson-Patterson – WCC	✓	Draft Report 16/2/09
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

