

SOUTH JOINT COMMITTEE**18 DECEMBER 2008****Subject: Community Grants****Lead Officer: Contact Rebecca Goodman on 01789 260694****Portfolio Holder: Councillor Chris Williams**

Summary

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

Recommendation

That the Committee considers the recommendations made by the South 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 18th 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. Members of the Funding Sub Group for South area are Councillor's Jill Dill-Russell, Gillian Roache, Vince Seaman and Peter Moore, all of which attended the November meeting. 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.
- 1.4 Members are asked to refer to the procedure previously agreed by this Committee for handling these recommendations and agreeing grant awards. (Appendix 5).
- 1.5 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 South 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
South Area Budget 08/09	£136,535	
Grants Awarded to date	£70,953	£65,582
Awarded under delegated authority (3.1)	£1,126	
Recommended awards by FSG (3.2)	£47,072	
Recommended Strategic Proposal (4.2)	£0	£20480

3. NEW APPLICATIONS

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

Organisation	Project	Application score	Grant Award
Stratford Town Management Partnership	Accessibility guide	15	£400
Oxhill Village Hall	Kitchen tiling	12	£600
Epilepsy Action	Awareness campaign	12	£126

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

Organisation	Project	Application score	Recommended Award
CVS	Sports & Recreation web info service	17	£5,310
Grace's Playground	Improvements to Play facilities in Ilmington	15	£15,000
Shipston Scout Group	New Scout Hut	14	£10,000
Stratford Community Radio	Community radio station	14	£3,134

Organisation	Project	Application score	Recommended Award
SOA Trampoline Club	New equipment	14	£1,228
Lifespace	Workshops for teenagers	14	£2,400
Stourton & Cherington Playing Fields Assoc	Replacement play equipment in Stourton	13	£10,000

3.3 The Funding Sub Group recommends the following grant requests are declined. Details of applications can be found in Appendix 4.

Organisation	Project	Application score	Requested Award
Tredington Parish Council	Resurface car park	12	£6,920
Mezzo Mums	Competition costs for disadvantaged children	11	£2,322
Shipston Royal British Legion	Remembrance book	8	£1,398
Newbold Sea Scouts	Extension to scout hut	8	£6,170
Shipston St Johns Ambulance	Set up Youth group	8	£1,015

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 South area totals **£20,480**.

4.2 No proposals have been received in relation to the Strategic Allocation for this round of Committee meetings.

The Funding Sub Group recommends that the remaining strategic allocation of £20,480 is allocated for community grants for the next round of funding.

5 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.

6 Members' Comments

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

7 Implications of the proposal

7.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications

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

8 Financial

- 8.1 See 2.1
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 The Financial aspects of each grant application have been reviewed and considered by the Funding Sub-Group.

9 Environmental

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

10 Strategic Priorities

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

11 Equality Impact Assessment

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

12 Risk Assessment

- 12.1 A risk assessment has been conducted on each application

13 CONCLUSION

- 13.1 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 group's main service
- Ongoing refurbishment, repair or maintenance
- Any costs incurred before the grant is awarded (unless previously agreed)
- Services which are a group's 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
TOTAL POINTS		20

Appendix 3

Grant Applications with recommended 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"> • Details of all sports and recreation clubs and activities in the district • Volunteering opportunities • Register of qualified coaches and officials • Register of sports facilities and playing fields • Leagues, competitions and fun days • Information and guidance on training 		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£29,900	£14,750 £5,310 from South		49%
Score (out of 20)	17		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation	The need for this project has been by parish council's and parish plan steering groups during meetings with CVS's. It scores well against the aims of the community grants scheme. Award Grant of £5,310		

Organisation	Grace’s Playground		
Project	To improve play facilities at the village playground in Ilmington to include <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional play equipment• Adventure trail• Musical corner beneficial to special needs• Disabled play equipment		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
			1,000
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£54,406	£15,000		27%
Score (out of 20)	15		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The group have raised over £29k through fundraising activities. It will be one of the few play areas in the district to include play equipment suitable for disabled and special needs children.			
Award grant of £15,000			

Organisation	Shipston Scout Hut		
Project	Replacement of the existing Scout Hut with a new log style cabin to include <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More meeting rooms• Disabled toilet facilities• Energy efficiency measures such as sun tubes• Up to date catering facilities		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
			3,000
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£184,000	£15,000		8%
Score (out of 20)	14		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The project will realize significant developers funding that needs to be committed by the end of the financial year. The amount awarded is below the requested amount as the committee had a limited budget and felt that the project could be delivered at lower cost.			
Award grant of £10,000			

Organisation	Stratford Community Radio		
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Equip and run an internet based community radio station		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
	25%	25%	50%
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£18,870	£6,270		33%
	£3,134		
Score (out of 20)	14		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The project encourages volunteering in the community as the station will be manned solely by volunteers. The project will maintain close links with Stratford College.			
Award grant of £3,134			

Organisation	SOA Trampoline Club		
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New competition trampoline and safety mats • New equipment is needed to accommodate waiting list 		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
	35	15	50

Total Costs	Grant Requested	% of Costs
£5031	£2456 £1,228 from South	50%
Score (out of 20)	14	
Funding Sub Group Recommendation		
The project meets the aims of the community grants scheme and there is an evident need as the club has a waiting list for classes.		
Award grant of £1,228		

Organisation	Lifespace		
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Delivering 6-week “how to drug proof your kids” for parents of children aged 10-18 living in StratfordCreating and delivering a series of interactive workshops on “managing emotions” for parents and teenagers in Stratford		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
			120
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£4,922	£2,400		49%
Score (out of 20)	14		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The project meets the aims of the community grants scheme and provides support for young people in a targeted area.			
Award grant of £2,400			

Organisation	Stourton & Cherington Playing Fields Association		
Project	Replace all equipment in the village playing fields		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
			200
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£34,974	£15,000		43%
Score (out of 20)	13		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The project meets the aims of the community grants scheme, however not all funding has been secured and there is no financial contribution from the parish council. Given this and budget constraints, the recommendation is to award below the requested amount.			
Award grant of £10,000			

Appendix 4

Grant Applications recommended no award

Organisation	Tredington Parish Council		
Project	Improve access to village hall by resurfacing the car park		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
			360
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£13,840	£6,920		50%
Score (out of 20)	12		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The car park is owned by the parish council and therefore the FSG felt that it was their responsibility to pay for the resurfacing.			
No grant award.			

Organisation	Mezzo Mums		
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Travel and competition costs for disadvantaged children to attend national championships		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
	18	7	10
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£16,012	£8,006 £2,322 from South		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. The application is for retrospective funding. No grant award.			

Organisation	Shipston Royal British Legion		
Project	Publication of a book detailing the background and lives of all men detailed on Shipston War Memorial		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
			4,000
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£2,797	£1,398		50%
Score (out of 20)	8		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The funding sub group recognized the value of this project but felt this was not the scheme for this type of project as it was not originated or developed by the community. The District Council Grants team will provide support on alternative avenues for funding.			
No grant award.			

Organisation	Newbold Sea Scouts		
Project	Extension to the existing scout hut to add: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toilet facilities• Girls changing room• Additional Storage facilities		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
			60
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£12,340	£6,170		50%
Score (out of 20)	8		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The project does not demonstrate wider community usage or any other matched funding.			
No grant award.			

Organisation	St John’s Ambulance, Shipston Branch		
Project	To purchase uniforms and handbooks to start a Youth group of the St John’s Ambulance		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
			30
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£1015	£1,015		100%
Score (out of 20)	8		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The application form was incomplete and therefore it was not clear on the project aims. The amount for grant requested was over the maximum limited for full funding. No other funding has been considered or applied for.			
No grant award.			

Grants – working with the Grants Sub Group

Procedures the SJC Chair will adopt to handle grants

General Principle; Members should gather all the information they need to help them decide whether they agree with the Grants Sub Group's recommendations. The SJC should not duplicate the detailed deliberations of the Grants Sub Group without good reason.

Proposed method for managing the Grants Sub Group section

1. Members ask officers and/or Grants Sub Group members factual questions regarding grant applications – no opinions expressed at this point.
2. Members request, stating their reason, that a detailed debate on a particular grant application occur. (nb; the SJC has agreed that ward members cannot vote on an application in their patch. However as they can speak I think they should not be precluded from requesting a detailed debate for an application for which they are ward member).
3. For those applications for which a detailed debate has not been requested, the Grants Sub Group recommendations are automatically agreed en bloc. (nb do we need a formal vote? – if so members who have an application within their ward in the en bloc section will have to refrain from voting)
4. Detailed debate occurs on extracted applications. Commences with a brief summary from a member of the Grants Sub Group (and/or relevant officer) of the reasoning behind the grant. Reference should also be made to any comments already made in the meeting. During the debate members can ask applicants further questions.
5. The Grants Sub Group's recommendation are agreed, rejected or amended. For the latter two options reasons should be recorded so that they can be communicated to the applicants.

Richard Hyde

Chair of SJC

Circulated to members 26th August 2008

Discussed at lead members/officers meeting, 4th September and SJC, 25th September

REPORT INFORMATION SHEET

Please complete and submit to Committee Services with draft report

Committee/Date	South Joint Committee 18 th 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 Richard Hyde</i> <i>Cllr Chris Williams</i>	✓	Draft Report / 20.11.08/ Cllr Hyde requested names & attendance details of the funding sub group are included in the report and that the procedure agreed by Committee for making grant decisions is circulated as part of the report.
FINANCIAL SERVICES * <i>Richard Burrell</i> <i>Sarah Pittaway</i>	✓	Draft Report /20.11.08/ no comments received
Legal Services * <i>*Richard Hood</i>		Draft Report /20.11.08 / no comments received
Other Services		
Other organisations Martin Gibbins , Amanda Wilson-Patterson – WCC	✓	Draft Report /20.11.08 / 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