

WEST JOINT COMMITTEE**11TH DECEMBER 2008**

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 West Funding Sub Group for Community Grant awards.

Recommendation

That the Committee considers the recommendations made by the West 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 11th 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 West 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
West Area Budget 08/09	£129,500	
Grants Awarded to date	£45,019	£84,481
Awarded under delegated authority	£1,979	
Recommended awards by FSG	£20,194	
Recommended strategic proposal	£0	£57,184

3. NEW APPLICATIONS

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

Organisation	Project	Application score	Grant Award
SOA Trampoline Club	new equipment	16	£860
Wootton Wawen Parish Council	parish plan	13	£1,000
Epilepsy Action (Stratford Branch)	awareness campaign	12	£119

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	£5,015
Stratford Community Radio	Community radio station	14	£1,568
Langley Village Hall	Energy efficiency measures	13	£1,111
Great Alne & Kinwarton Village Hall	Kitchen improvements	12	£12,500

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
Snitterfield Parish Council	Flood alleviation measures	12	£15,449
Mezzo Mums	Competition costs for disadvantaged children	11	£4,083

- 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 West Area totals **£19,350**.
- 4.2 No proposals are brought forward in relation to the Strategic Allocation for this round of Committee meetings.

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

David Carter
Strategic Director
Performance & Development
Warwickshire County Council

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 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 4
Community Benefit	Projects that will provide new services or opportunities based on identified need	3 3
Sustainability	Projects that will create lasting benefits beyond the end of the funding	2 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 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 £5,015 from West		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 £5,015		

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 £1,568 from West		33%
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 £1,568			

Organisation	Langley Village Hall		
Project	Improve insulation in village hall to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce carbon footprint• Reduce heating bills to improve sustainability of hall• Improve comfort of hall for users		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
	160		
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£2,223	£1,111		50%
Score (out of 20)	13		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
This project meets the aims of the community grants scheme and is a reasonable amount of money for a improvements to a community venue.			
Award Grant of £1,111			

Organisation	Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall		
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remove dilapidated unitsInstall new kitchen units and appliancesRetile and redecorate kitchen		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
	1200		
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£25,000	£12,500		50%
Score (out of 20)	12		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The project meets the aims of the community grants scheme. As well as benefiting the general community, it will be used by Great Alne Primary School and the W.I. to run the national “Lets Cook” project.			
Award Grant of £12,500			

Appendix 4

Grant Applications recommended no award

Organisation	Snitterfield Parish Council		
Project	Flood Alleviation measures to include <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expansions of the Bell Brook culvert• Installation of trash screen• Safety railings to allow safe access		
Project Beneficiaries	West	East	South
	130		
Total Costs	Grant Requested		% of Costs
£30,899	£15,000		50%
Score (out of 20)	12		
Funding Sub Group Recommendation			
The group have received a flood alleviation grant of £3,200 from SDC towards this project. Whilst the involvement of the community in trying to find a solution is very commendable it is felt the community grants scheme does not have sufficient budget to support flood alleviation in the district. The work undertaken is on a stream that is the responsibility of the Environment agency.			
No grant award.			

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 £4,083 from West		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.			

REPORT INFORMATION SHEET

Please complete and submit to Committee Services with draft report

Committee/Date	West Joint Committee 11 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 Sir William Lawrence</i> <i>Cllr Chris Williams</i>	✓	Draft Report / 17.11.08 / Cllr Sir William Lawrence noted that the report contained a high level of detail which may not be required now that a funding sub-group has been established.
FINANCIAL SERVICES * <i>Richard Burrell</i> <i>Sarah Pittaway</i>	✓	Draft Report /17.11.08 / no comments received
Legal Services * <i>*Richard Hood</i>		Draft Report /17.11.08 / no comments received
Other Services		
Other organisations Martin Gibbins , Amanda Wilson-Patterson – WCC	✓	Draft Report /17.11.08 /
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