

Community Project Grant

East Area Panel, item 6

Committee: East Area Panel

Agenda Item

Date: 6th June 2007

6

Title: Community Project Grant

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Item for decision

Summary

This report provides Members with details of applications received from organisations requesting grant funding from the Community Project Grant.

Recommendations

That the Area Panel endorse the recommendations set out in the appended document.

That Parish Councils who, hitherto, have not applied for funding be contacted inviting them to apply for a reduced grant allocation from the surplus of £2,131.19 (e.g., £300 and 25% matched funding) within a defined time frame and that a further report be brought to the next area panel

Background Papers

Application Papers

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Town and Parish Councils are consulted with on an annual basis
Community Safety	Not applicable
Equalities	Certain projects enable hard to reach groups to access services at a localised level
Finance	Financial implications are set out within the body of the report
Human Rights	Not applicable
Legal implications	Not applicable
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

- 1 Following recommendations made by the three Area Panels in September 2006 it was agreed by the Community and Operations Committees that:

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- a) £4,000 is no longer ring fenced for the larger settlements (i.e., Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Great Dunmow and Thaxted).
 - b) each Area Panel's allocation for grants is increased by £10,000 per annum.
- 2 The total budget for the Community Project Grant Scheme has increased to £70,000. This breaks down as follows:
- a) £12,000 has been retained to support Uttlesford Community Travel
 - b) £4,000 has been retained internally for District wide promotions, e.g., signage etc.
 - c) There is £18,000 per area to award to local projects.
- 3 With regard to the East Area Panel, the amount of monies requested for projects is £15,868.81. This provides the Area Panel with a surplus of £2,131.19 and it is suggested that Parish Councils who, hitherto, have not applied for funding be contacted inviting them to apply for a reduced grant allocation (e.g., £300 and 25% matched funding) within a defined time frame and that a further report be brought to the next area panel. .
- 4 The Community Project Grant Scheme is open to any properly constituted voluntary organisation or similar body in the Uttlesford District such as Village Hall Committees, Community Shops, Town and Parish Councils, Community Associations, play and recreation clubs and groups.
- 5 With regard to community facilities, applications may be considered more favourably where a realistic sum is charged for commercial lettings. Applications from churches/religious authorities, schools, sports and arts groups **are not** eligible.
- 6 Applications from organisations in receipt of a grant from the Community Project grant schemes in the last two years will be considered but will be given a lower priority than applications from organisations not having benefited during the last two years.

Which projects are eligible?

- 7 Grants will be considered towards expenditure incurred in the provision of any of the following:
- development of land for recreational purposes, including environmental improvements.
 - buildings/facilities that are available for community use e.g. village halls, community centres, public conveniences etc.
 - car parks and access roads to car parks directly associated with a community use building.
 - children's play areas, including equipment and safety surfacing.

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- improvements, refurbishment or extension to any of the facilities outlined above.
- essential equipment that contributes significantly to the aims and objectives of the project.
- training or a one-off staffing cost that contributes significantly to the development of the project or increases benefits to the community. (Wages and salaries cannot be paid).

How much can be applied for?

- 8 The minimum grant available is £100 and the maximum is £3,500
- 9 The appendix attached to this report sets out details of grant applications received along with officers' comments in relation to eligibility for funding.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
All projects must be completed after 1st April 2007 and before the 7th March 2008	Not all applicants are always able to complete on time	Low	Officers monitor the allocation of grant monies and are in regular contact with the recipients