

Abingdon and North East Area Committee

Report of Head of Corporate Strategy
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To: Abingdon and North East Area Committee
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Capital Grants 2016/17

Recommendations:

- (a) that the Abingdon and North East area committee considers the application for a capital grant and awards a grant in line with the approved policy (2015).

Purpose of report

1. To give the committee the information needed to award a capital grant for their area.

Strategic objectives

2. Under the 'sustainable communities and well-being' corporate priority in our 2016-2020 corporate plan we commit to support community groups through our grant schemes.

Background

1. We opened the capital grant scheme between 5 September and 7 November 2016.
2. We received one valid capital grant application for the Abingdon and North East area, requesting £7,015 against a budget of £9,694.
3. We received two further applications that were subsequently withdrawn, as they could not provide the required eligibility information. They have both been encouraged to apply to a future round, once they have the required information.
4. Officers have evaluated the application using the scoring matrix in the agreed policy, approved in August 2015. See appendix one for the evaluation.
5. In line with the policy, officers have suggested a score for the committee to consider. The final score for the project dictates the priority level when considering the award decision.

Financial implications

6. In February 2016 the council set a 2016/17 capital grant budget of £100,000 for capital grants. The total remaining budget for this round of funding is £22,831. As per the policy, the Abingdon and North East area committee receives 42.46 per cent of the available budget during each round, which is £9,694 for this round of funding.

Legal implications

7. The council's legal powers to award these grants are contained in section one of the Localism Act 2011 that gives a general power of competence for local authorities.
8. In May 2016 full council delegated authority to three area committees to determine capital grant applications within the parameters of the agreed policy.

Risks

9. There are no overarching risks of awarding this grant. Officers have highlighted any individual risks to a particular project in their evaluations.

Conclusion

10. That the committee considers the application received and awards a capital grant in line with the approved policy.

Background papers

Cabinet approval of the capital grant policies (Aug 2015).

APPENDIX ONE Abingdon and North East Area Capital Grants 16/17 (round three) Officer Evaluations

Scoring summary

Ref no.	Organisation	Scheme	Total cost	Amount requested	% of cost requested	Suggested score	Suggested award
VC1R\99	Abingdon Rowing Club	Car park resurfacing and related work to reduce water runoff into building.	£14,515	£7,015	48.33%	9	48.33% of the total cost, capped to £7,015 (100% of the requested amount)
			TOTAL	£7,015		Total	£7,015
						Budget	£9,694
						Unallocated budget in 2016/17	£2,679

Officer recommended award levels (budget permitting)

9-12 points	High priority – award as requested (up to 50% of total cost)
5-8 points	Medium priority – award between 50 and 75% of requested amount
0-4 points	Low priority - no funding

Scoring and award matrix:

Criteria	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points
New facilities or activities	The project offers very little if any new activities or facilities	The project replaces existing facilities or allows existing activities to continue	The project improves an existing facility or activity	The project will provide a new facility or will allow new activities to take place
Community benefit	The project offers little if any benefit to the community	A single sport or special interest group will benefit	More than two community groups or a minority group will benefit from the project	The whole community will benefit/the project will help to integrate new and existing communities
Funding the project	They haven't secured much if any of the other funding needed for the project	They've secured some of the other funding needed but still have some to find	They've secured most of their other funding and have a plan in place for raising the rest	They've secured all the other funding needed for the project
Organisation's contribution	They aren't contributing to the project	They're contributing less than 25% of the project cost	They're contributing between 25 and 50% of the project cost	They're contributing over 50% of the project cost

Award matrix:

9-12 points	High priority – award as requested (up to 50% of total cost)
5-8 points	Medium priority – award between 50 and 75% of requested amount
0-4 points	Low priority - no funding

Abingdon Rowing Club**Ref**

VC1R\99

Car park resurfacing and related work to reduce water runoff into the building.

Total project cost	£14,515	
Amount requested	£7,015	48.33 per cent of the total cost
Organisation's contribution	£7,500	Organisation's latest bank balance £46,300

Previous grants

2012 - £1,011 new gym flooring (Capital grant)

2011 - £2,000 junior coxed quad (Community grant)

2011 - £500 electrical work (Community grant)

Scoring

New facilities or activities		
The project will improve the current car park and block up a doorway to reduce rainwater run-off entering their building. As this will improve the existing property, we should award two points.	Score	2/3
Community benefit		
Rowers using the club will benefit (especially those using the changing rooms, which are particularly affected by the run-off issue). As the benefit is limited to a single sport, their score is limited to one point.	Score	1/3
Funding the project		
The club are funding the rest of the cost themselves and have enough reserves to cover this, so they can receive the maximum three points.	Score	3/3
Organisation's contribution		
The club is contributing 51.67 per cent of the cost, which entitles them to three points.	Score	3/3
They had £46,300 in the bank when they applied. They have allocated £7,500 to this project and have ring-fenced £25,000 to pay for new boats and to refurbishing the changing rooms next year.		
Consultation		
No formal evidence of consultation, although a master builder has advised/quoted for them and a member of their club has done some research on potential solutions.		
Project completion within timeframe		
Their intended start and end dates work with our time limits for the scheme.		
Financial and project management plans		
They will use their annual income of over £46,000 to maintain the whole site, including the new car park.		
OFFICER CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	Total score	9/12
	Recommended Grant	48.33% of the total cost, capped to £7,015 (100% of the requested amount)

Applicant responses

Details of the project	This project is to replace the car parking surface and block up a vulnerable doorway to prevent frequent flooding and subsequent damage/damp from rainwater runoff.
Financial statement from the organisation	Following this project the rowing club will look to refurbish the changing rooms at an estimated cost of £15,000. The club is looking to buy new lightweight double sculling boats to support the increasing membership. It is estimated that the club will look to spend £10,000 on boats in 2017.
Statement about town/parish support	no
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	Abingdon Rowing club - members aged 13 to 87 The following schools use the facilities for beginners courses: St Helen and St Katharine School St Hugh's School The following colleges use the facilities: Balliol College St Johns College St Edmund Hall The club runs beginners courses twice a year open to all - 18 Abingdon residents participated in 2016 Local residents will benefit from improved outer appearance of the club
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	We have been working with our neighbours to improve the facilities. We have recently replaced fencing with the neighbouring properties and work to make sure that the appearance of the club is maintained. The car park work will enable the façade to be better protected and presented.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	The car park surface being put in place is hardwearing and semi-permeable. This will better absorb and direct water away from the building, and the hardwearing nature will prevent continued erosion of the ground outside the front of the club.
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	We don't have evidence of the consultation as this was done very early on. Following repeat flooding in 2015 and early 2016 we asked a master builder to advise us on how to address the issue. A member of the club with building experience also spoke to colleagues and completed research on car park surfacing to reduce water run off.
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	This project will improve existing facilities by preventing flooding, preventing damp and building damage, and enabling the club to then refurbish the changing facilities to a higher standard making space for more members and a safer changing environment.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	This project will enable us to improve the facilities to facilitate a growing membership