

CONSIDERATION OF CAPITAL GRANT AID APPLICATIONS RECEIVED- 2009/10
(Report by Head of Environmental & Community Health Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to outline the current grant aid budget and make recommendations for capital awards (Appendix 'A') for 2009-10. The report also provides details of unclaimed awards made in previous years that to date have not been allocated.

2. CAPITAL PROJECTS

2.1 The aim is to support capital projects that deliver a meeting place, a playground or a playing field to identifiable communities. It is also normal for projects supported by this fund to have significant lead-in periods. Projects meeting the overall aim can further be assessed against a range of agreed criteria to allow a priority list to be evolved. The priority order is:

- Priority 1 Projects to address legislative requirements;
- Priority 2 Projects for the correction of health and safety failures;
- Priority 3 Projects for the provision of facilities where none currently exist;
- Priority 4 Projects for the replacement of provision which has come to the end of its natural life; and
- Priority 5 Projects for the improvement or replacement of existing facilities.

2.2 It has previously been agreed that the maximum grant payable to support any one project is £30,000, but no grant from this fund may exceed one quarter of the total cost of the project.

2.3 Appendix 'A' attached provides details of the applications received for this financial year. The details include: a brief summary of the purpose for which grant aid is requested, officer comments on the individual applications and recommendations.

The budgetary position for capital awards is set out below:-

	£'000
2008/09 Capital Budget	120
Add 2007/08 Uncommitted Amount	45
2007/08 Unpaid Amount	64
	<hr/> 229
Less Virement to Revenue	-46
	<hr/> Maximum Budget Available 2008/09
	183
Less Payments made in 2008/09	-126
Unpaid Commitments	-57
	<hr/> Uncommitted Balance to Carry Forward to 2009/10
	0
2009/10 Capital Budget	69
	<hr/> Total Budget Available in 2009/10
	69

2.4.1 As the nature of community development is changing as the growth within Huntingdonshire escalates some of the capital funds may be more productively used to support the revenue used to commission community services. It is intended a report will be presented to the Council's Cabinet in April 2009 requesting that the capital grant aid budget be reduced to allow increase in the revenue budget by £34k. The later Cabinet report will outline the business case in detail however to allow scope for that decision Members have the opportunity to allocate up to £35k capital at this time.

3. Recommendations

3.2 Members agree the recommendations set out in Appendix 'A' of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grant aid applications received

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Appendix 'A'

Name of Organisation	Grant Summary	Amount requested	Officer Comments	Recommendations
HuntsCamtad	The Charity supports individuals with hearing loss in Cambridgeshire the organisation wishes to expand its services in Huntingdonshire by providing audiology and social service support to individuals with hearing loss.	£10,000 Total project cost £10,000	The applicant wishes to open clinic's attached to GP surgeries therefore taking pressure of both Addenbrookes and Hinchingbrook Hospital services	No award this application fails to meet the district council's eligibility criteria.
Great Staughton Village hall	Grant aid is requested by the Village hall committee to meet costs associated with replacing the existing wood block floor.	£1,500 Total project cost £6,000	This project meets the District Council's priority 5 eligibility criteria. Projects for the improvement or replacement of existing facilities. Members have for the last 2 financial years supported applications from organisations Great Staughton.	Support only if budget permits.
Somersham Parish Council	Somersham Parish Council are requesting grant aid from the district council to act as 3 rd party funding to support an award made by Donbarbon environmental trust towards costs associated with replacing the existing fencing which is now in a very poor condition that is around the multi games sports area. The Parish Council have agreed to contribute £8,172 to the project.	£6,057 Total project cost £24,230	This project meets the District Council's priority 4 eligibility criteria Projects for the replacement of provision which have come to the end of its natural life.	Support only if budget permits.

Needingworth Village hall Trust	Grant aid is requested towards costs associated with repairing the exterior fabric of one of the rooms at the village hall. The parish Council have agreed to raise £400 towards the cost of the project via their village precept.	£400 Total project cost £1,600	This project meets the District Council's priority 5 eligibility criteria. Projects for the improvement or replacement of existing facilities	Support only if budget permits
St Ives Town Council	The Town Council are requesting grant aid assistance towards costs associated with installing a lifts at both the front and rear of the Corn Exchange building in St Ives the total cost of repairs and refurbishment of the building are approximately £800,000	£10,000 Total project cost (Lift installation) £40,000	Members are fully aware that the redevelopment of Corn Exchange building has been the subject of major discussion in St Ives. The Town Council have previously raised funds via the town council precept towards refurbishment and repair (as at 31/3/08 £449,541). Even though the Town Council have clearly set aside substantial funds the Corn Exchange building is not the only public meeting place in the town.	This application is not supported.
Ramsey Forty Foot Village Association	Grant aid is requested towards costs associated with installing central heating in the village hall.	£2,143 Total project cost £8,575	This project meets the District Council's priority 5 eligibility criteria. Projects for the improvement or replacement of existing facilities	Support only if budget permits

RAF Wyton	Grant aid is requested towards costs associated with installing a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on land adjacent to RAF Wyton and Wyton on the Hill.	£12,000 Total project cost £57,000	The land identified for the MUGA is outside the confines of the RAF base but would meet the needs of both the local and military community. Houghton & Wyton parish council have agreed to provide £8,000 towards the cost of the project and that Modern Housing Solutions a company sub contracted by the MoD will be responsible for both insurance and maintenance of the project. This project meets the District Council's priority 3 eligibility criteria. projects for the provision of facilities where none currently exist	Support only if budget permits
Sawtre Parish Council	Grant aid is requested toward costs associated with upgrading and improving play facilities at the central play park in Sawtre. This will require the repair and reciting of some play equipment and the removal of other equipment that is no longer safe.	£26,808 Total project cost £107,233	Officers of the council's parks service are presently in discussions with Sawtre Parish Council on a number of issues relating to the provision and upgrading of play facilities in Sawtre and potential financial assistance towards costs via s106 etc.	Decision on this application deferred subject to further consultation with Parks service.

All Saints Church Ellington	Grant aid requested towards costs associated with installing a toilet in the church	£8,750 Total project cost £35,000	Even though the church is used for many community activities in addition to its religious services the church is not the only meeting place. Members have always agreed that public funds can only be allocated to religious buildings if they are the only publicly accessible building this is not the case in Ellington.	This application is not supported.
Huntingdon Bowls Club	Grant aid is requested towards costs of bringing the electrical supply and heating up to legal requirements.	£2,395 Total project cost £7,395	The Huntingdon Bowls club building was until recently owned by Huntingdon Town Council, the Town council transferred the ownership of the building to the bowls club with the aim of reducing its own potential costs. The works outlined in the application were known to the Town Council at the time of transfer.	This application is not supported
St Peter's Church, Easton PCC	Grant aid is requested towards costs associated with altering the church to provide community facilities. For the village of Easton.	£23,231 Total project cost £92,926	The church is a grade 1 listed building consequently any proposed changes will require planning approval. Unlike the previous application from a churchy there is no other community meeting place in Easton however the village only has 60 Houses.	This application is not supported

Application received after closing date 30-11-08				
Upton Village Hall Management Committee	Grant aid is requested towards costs associated with replacing kitchen cooker and work surfaces and providing a double drainer sink. Plus providing fencing around the external boiler and tank.	£500 Total cost of project £2,000	This project meets the District Council's priority 5 eligibility criteria. Projects for the improvement or replacement of existing facilities.	Support only if budget permits
Brampton Parish Council	Grant aid is requested towards costs associated with building and installing a Multi Use Games Area on the parish council playing field on Brampton Road.	£20,000 Total cost of project £105,000	This project meets the District Council's priority 5 eligibility criteria. Projects for the improvement or replacement of existing facilities. However the proposed location of the MUGA raises concern as to its proposed location close to residential housing with the potential for anti social behaviour.	Decision on this application deferred subject to further consultation with Parks service and Planning.

