

Executive – 6 September 2007

## COMMUNITY GRANT FUND – ROUND 6:

### ▪ HARBERTONFORD VILLAGE HALL APPLICATION

#### Report of Head of Community Regeneration

**Statutory Powers:** Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 19 and Local Government Act 2000, Part 1.

**Financial Implications:** Grant of £15,000 to Harbertonford Village Hall from a remaining Community Grant Fund budget of £33,627.

**Purpose:** To seek Executive approval to offer grant assistance to Harbertonford Village Hall towards the cost of extending the village hall and upgrading its disabled access facilities.

The Community Grant Fund strengthens the Council's commitment to supporting communities in achieving its overall aim 'to improve the well-being of the people of the South Hams' whilst contributing to Council Priorities and Commitments.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**That the Executive RESOLVES to:**

**approve a grant of £15,000 or 50% of the total project cost, whichever is the lesser, to Harbertonford Village Hall towards extending the village hall and meeting Disability Discrimination Act requirements, subject to project match funding being secured by the applicant.**

## Background

1. The revised Community Grant Fund (CGF) was approved by the Executive on 8 January 2004 (E.126/03). Applications for the sixth round of the CGF closed on 29 June 2007. Four applications were received. They have all been assessed by a Scoring Panel, consisting of four officers and a representative from the voluntary sector, using the approved Prioritisation Scoring Mechanism. Two applications have subsequently been awarded a total of £7,903 under the delegated authority of the Community Development Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Community Policy Development Group and the relevant Ward Members. The Scoring Panel was broadly in support of the other application which can be dealt with under delegation, but felt unable to recommend a grant offer until further information is provided by the applicant.
2. The application from Harbertonford Village Hall cannot be dealt with under delegation as the grant request is over £5,000. Information on this application is set out below.

## Harbertonford Village Hall

3. Harbertonford Village Hall has applied to the CGF for funding towards extending the village hall, making alterations to its layout to enable more flexible usage of the space and upgrading its disabled access (including provision of disabled ramp access to the car park). These together with other provisions give a total project cost of £75,000.
4. The village hall committee has raised £30,000 towards this project. They are the first project on Devon Renaissance's Community Boost Fund waiting list, having applied for a grant of £15,000. If other projects within the scheme do not spend they will receive grant assistance towards the project. They will be reapplying to the Community Council of Devon for a grant of £15,000 at the end of the year. If Members approve a grant of £15,000 from the CGF, and the project fails to secure financial assistance from Devon Renaissance and the Community Council of Devon, the village hall committee will need to raise a further £30,000 from other external funding streams.
5. It should be noted that any funding secured by the village hall committee through Devon Renaissance must meet the spend deadline of end of March 2008. It is therefore important that the full funding package is in place as soon as possible.
6. This grant application has been scored by a Scoring Panel (detailed above). It scored very strongly (18/25) on CP5 'improving access to key services' as the improvements to the village hall will enable more members of the community to access the building and therefore the services, activities and clubs provided within it. This part of the assessment was undertaken acknowledging that grants for improving access to community facilities does not fully conform to the wording within CP5, which relates to 'an accessible Council'. The project also scored 33/75 on CP2 'economy' as the hall will become more economically sustainable when its facilities are improved, making it easier for it to attract bookings. The project will also create the opportunity for a limited number of part-time / occasional catering positions for local people. The project also offers good value for money (CP6) as a contribution of £15,000 towards a £75,000 represents an intervention rate of 20%.
7. The project scored strongly (51/75) on CC3 'community involvement and vibrancy' and 16/25 on CC1 'equality of opportunity' as it will specifically improve access for disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the local community, whilst also making the village hall a safer venue for all its users.

## Strategic Risk Assessment

Risk	Mitigation
The project still has to secure further match funding before it can commence.	No grant payments will be made until evidence of all match funding for the project has been submitted to the Community Development Officer. The stage payment system will guard against overpayment of the grant.

## **Conclusion**

8. A grant should be offered to Harbertonford Village Hall as this project will contribute to Council Priorities and Commitments by increasing social inclusion and improving access to services through improvements to a vital and well used community facility.

Kay Kilgallon  
Community Development Officer

Executive  
6 September 2007

Lee Bray  
Head of Community Regeneration

### **Background Documents:**

Completed Community Grant Fund Application Form  
Business Plan & supporting information