

Community Innovation Fund Round 1 report to the Social Value group

Date: 13th October 2016

Report Originator: Laura Cornette

1. Background

Following approval for the proposed grants process from the Social Value Group on the 13th May round 1 for the Dorset Community Innovation Fund opened for applications on 2nd August, closed on 12th September and the applicant panel was held on 6th October.

The fund was advertised widely; on Grantfinder, through the DCC community networks, DCC Member networks and on social media.

2. Application Portfolio

The portfolio contained 31 applications with total project costs of £559,144

Round 1 overview	Applications	Total Project Values	Grant Value
Total	31	£559,144	£275,076
Declined at stage 1 assessment	12	£213,474	£96,354
Progressed to stage 2 assessment	19	£345,670	£178,722
Invited to Panel	8	£211,123	£89,323
Awarded a quick grant	1	£1,000	£1,000
Awarded following applicant panel	6	£179,599	£63,724

The quality of applications in Round 1 was high with 61% of the applications progressing to the stage 2 assessment.

42% of those that passed stage 2 were invited to Assessment Panel and 1 application seeking just £1,000 that scored highly being offered a quick grant.

In total 7 applications were funded, giving an overall success rate of 23% which compares favourably to most grant programmes.

Common reasons for being declined at stage 1 assessment are:

- Applicant organisation not in eligible area
- Project did not significantly differentiate to organisations core business.
- Organisation was a private organisation with no community interest stated in Memorandums of Articles document.

A detailed list of the 31 applications is appended to this report.

3. Safe, Healthy, Independent & Prosperous Objectives

As part of the application organisations had to demonstrate which outcomes their project would help to deliver and how these outcomes would be measured. Most organisations understood this and identified where their projects would contribute towards this, though some did identify some of their own outcomes. I have made recommendations to make this clearer in round 2. Some applications also tried to meet too many of these outcomes for the scope of their projects.

Lessons Learnt – Application & Assessment Process:

Overall the new application and assessment process worked and round 2 only needs a few tweaks. Feedback received from the panel and the applicants who attended the panel felt it was well organised and were able to 'bring the projects to life', particularly those who chose to bring along service users.

One critic of the application process for round 1 was the time of year it was open for applications – being open for 6 weeks during August and September, several organisations have chosen to defer their applications to the second round due to summer staffing resource restrictions during the application period. I have helped to balance this by allowing a significant underspend in round 1.

Please see the below improvement register for full list of improvements.

4. **Underspend** We have an underspend of £20,276 which will be awarded in Round 2 as from conversations with organisations throughout the application process, I envisage a greater application response for Round 2 so the fund will be able to benefit a wider portfolio.

5. Request for the Social Value Group

I would like to seek authorisation for the Grant fund to be altered for Round 2 to accommodate the below modifications to the application criteria and assessment process:

Request	Reason
Set a criteria of maximum organisation income of £500,000	To prevent large organisations from applying for funding ensuring the funding goes to smaller community organisations
To set a criteria for new organisations must have been in existence for a minimum of 6 months prior to the application process and they must submit a business plan and 2 year projected finances	To give organisations a chance to set up governance procedures make proper business plans and seek alternative advice and guidance prior to applying.
To ask applicant organisations disclose any DCC funding they have received in the last 18 months	To prevent 'double dip' funding
To create a clause whereby any funding issued to Youth provision are not permitted to use that to apply for Crowdfunder allowance.	To prevent 'double dip' funding
To amend criteria no. 15 to remove District Council's from applying and warrant Town and Parish councils to be eligible on the condition they work with a VCSO	To deter large public bodies from applying whilst allowing Town and Parish councils to apply in partnership with the voluntary sector to help aid partnerships and co-production.

Allow grants officer discretion to award 'Quick Grants' for applicants seeking less than £1000 For projects that score highly and fall within the funding threshold.

To allow provision for projects that score highly in the 1st assessment process and are asking for a maximum of £1000 to allow the Budget Holder to permit a 'quick grant' so they do not need to come to the applicant panel. (Only 1 application would have met this criteria in the 1st round).

6. Application summary portfolio

	Ref No	Organisation name	Project name	Project Summary	Total Cost	Grant Request	Assessed Score	Panel fund Y/N	Panel comments
25	R125	SturQuest	White Hart Link	To create / improve the network of rights of way, public footpaths to form a circular 80km around north Dorset linking the 5 towns. It will use existing routes and will improve access for mobility scooters, bicycles and horses by up grading the surfaces and clearing growth. The 5 towns are working together on this project.	£ 20,000	£ 10,000	30	Y	An excellent partnership project. This project addresses the 'Prosperous' element of the co-corporate plan. Need to set specific time links to achieve within the 12 month period. Project is not dependant on the other funding sources being successful as they are for the 'extras'.
14	R114	SPARK	SPARK self-sustainability project 2016	Upgrade and make a newly acquired, ex DCC youth centre, (now re-born as the Wellbeing centre) building fit for community use. Applicant is seeking funding towards equipment and fit out costs only. SPARK have already sought organisations to use the space for the greater benefit of the whole community.	£ 8,904	£ 8,904	29	Y	An exemplar project on how the Youth service provision can work within communities. Need to advise that funding awarded cannot be drawn down against any Crowdfunder funding

	Ref No	Organisation name	Project name	Project Summary	Total Cost	Grant Request	Assessed Score	Panel fund Y/N	Panel comments
1	R101	Weymouth Street Pastors	Expanding Awareness	WSP is a voluntary group that run patrols supporting the night time economy in Weymouth by providing direct support on the evening to people who have become vulnerable and education within schools & colleges. Demand has increased for both functions and they would like to purchase a projector to help train new volunteers and be used when visiting Further Education establishments (by a volunteer)	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	28		An excellent project, this small amount will have great impact on their great work saving the emergency forces lots of time and money in Weymouth
18	R118	Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust	The Centre	To enhance, improve and re-brand the youth centre in Swanage as part of the community.	£ 82,250	£ 15,000	27	Y	A good solid project with committed Trustees. Swanage is a vulnerable location when it comes to community action. Will use a Youth case study.
20	R120	The Horse Course	Training frontline workers in 'Non-Verbals'	The project will develop a new training programme for frontline professionals to teach education, social work, offending, D&A treatment and respond appropriately minimise difficult behaviour and maximise engagement and learning.	£ 9,950	£ 9,950	27	Y	The most innovative project put forward. Organisation has excellent data capturing methods aviette on the award that 60% of the professional beneficiaries must be from DCC

	Ref No	Organisation name	Project name	Project Summary	Total Cost	Grant Request	Assessed Score	Panel fund Y/N	Panel comments
21	R12 1	Christchurch & East Dorset Councils	Community Active for Health	This Christchurch and East Dorset based project will provide information, guidance and a menu of delivered opportunities to help improve health and wellbeing with a particular focus on those who are overweight or obese. The proposal will sit alongside The 'Active 4 Health' service which focuses on encouraging local people who fall within the low, moderate or high risk population to become more active.	£ 20,000	£ 10,000	27	N	Organisation did not demonstrate how this project would partner with the VCS as described in application form and was presented as more of an extension to the existing health & exercise related programme in place by EDDC & C 'church councils
27	R12 7	WLP Community Support	Water Lily Project		£ 38,350	£ 11,050	25	Y	Organisation brought a service user to the presentation to discuss in their project then went on to state how this development funding would expand the project

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10	R110	Volunteer Centre Dorset	Involve Dorset	The service will target families and older adults making use of green spaces to encourage active lifestyle within the natural environment, alongside leisure centres, community venues and links with many voluntary groups and approved activity partners	£ 14,524	£ 13,774	22	N	Well presented project, however the panel felt there could have been stronger links with communications such as social media and other Youth based organisations. The scope of the project could also have been broadened to include a wider training package for young volunteers and not just the placement of.
16	R116	People first Dorset	People first Dorset	PFD aims to help adults with learning difficulties socialise and participate in events. This project aims to involve their members in the development and coordination of an event in May 2018, the Glitter Ball.	£ 17,145	£ 10,645	22	Y	Organisation brought a service user along to present how the project would lead to personal development. Partial grant offer of £7000 + will match fund up to £1825 for sponsorship sought for the entertainment and to help them work towards becoming sustainable. Due to the nature of the service users, this project will make more than 12 months to complete but will be completed within final project timescales. Organisation will also not be able to approach any other DCC departments to seek funding for this project.

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15	R115	Future Roots	Seasons in a box	Future Roots is part of the growing 'care farming' movement, this includes supporting older people to cope with the life-changes they experience following retirement or becoming ill.	£ 27,000	£ 11,000	21	N	
30	R130	Dorchester Youth & Community Centre	DYCC Future	Recruitment of a part time (20 hours per week) Centre Youth Manager to manage and develop the Youth Service provision, ensuring a safe and stimulating environment, to attract more young people to use the facilities that the club offers. To increase community involvement in, and usage of the centre. To assist with fundraising activity to secure the long term future of the club. The post is intended to be permanent but will initially be for a probationary period of 6 months, to continue based on the appointee performance and the benefit accrued towards attracting additional users and funding.	£ 13,500	£ 11,000	21	N	
23	R123	Dorchester Arts	The Maltings Conversion Architectural study	To commission a study into how The Maltings building on Brewery Square, Dorchester can be converted into a regional arts venue at minimum cost.	£ 25,000	£ 10,000	21	N	

	Ref No	Organisation name	Project name	Project Summary	Total Cost	Grant Request	Assessed Score	Panel fund Y/N	Panel comments
29	R129	Home Start West Dorset	Big Hopes, Big Future	To create a volunteer led evidence based home school readiness programme for hard to reach families in West Dorset.	£ 18,767	£ 10,767	20	N	
6	R106	Open House	Open House - Phase 2	The final stage of development of the project is to find ways to take the farm to those who are no longer able to leave their homes due to ill health. We aim to take the seasonal changes of farm life to them by providing: chair-based activities; videos and soundscapes; and trained workers.	£ 2,100	£ 2,100	20	N	
12	R112	EDP Pop-up Café	Flourish Pop-up Café	Following a successful pilot in Bridport, this funding request is for a series of Pop-up cafes which focus on a different theme each week around well-being run by trained volunteers.	£ 10,254	£ 9,076	18	N	
4	R104	Bus Stop Club	Mental Health first aid training	To offer mental health training to 32 volunteers in 2 groups of 16. These places will be made available to volunteers supporting the Bus Stop Club.	£ 8,000	£ 7,680	17	N	

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24	R124	Dorchester Town Council	Dorchester Community Land Trust	To create a community land trust to develop sites for the town for affordable housing for young people who work but cannot afford to live in the town. Once the CLT was established will assist the CLT to develop specific site projects (the 1st of which is referred to in the application).	£ 10,000	£ 10,000	15	N	
22	R122	Stratton Youth Club	Stratton Youth Club	The setting up and running of the Youth Club provision including a termly club and organised activities, also offering guidance and information affecting their lives. There maybe some off site activities and trips.	£ 6,426	£ 5,776	11	N	
2	R102	West Parley Residents Association	Keep West Parley Green	Clearing up the pavements and paths of West parley, maintaining flower displays, trimming hedges and the restoration of Parley Wood.	£ 1,500	£ 1,000		N	
3	R103	Break the Cycle	Mind the Gap	This is a 6 module course (each module is 2 hours) working with men to rebuild their self esteem and confidence following a violent / abusive relationship in groups of 10.	£ 7,170	£ 7,170		N	
5	R105	Bournemouth Alcohol and drug Service User Forum	BADSU F representatives	Representatives will work with people with substance and alcohol mental health issues in the areas of housing, support & guidance.	£ 47,500	£ 12,000		N	

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7	R107	Home in Bridport	Edible Garden and Skilling Allotment	Following from the success of the 'edible garden' project which started 2 years ago (and further allotment in the deprived area of Skilling 18 months ago). This project grant would enable the development of innovative educational workshops and community events for the use of cookery, gardening, arts and cultural activities. The grant would purchase materials, equipment and pay volunteer expenses	£ 17,100	£ 8,150		N	
8	R108	Community Road watch	Safer roads for Melbury Abbas & Cann	The project will use a portable speed indicator device (SID) in 3 locations of the Parish's zones to digitally record the speed of the cars and flash to tell drivers of their speed.	£ 7,260	£ 3,630		N	

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9	R109	The Magdalen Environmental Trust	Dorset Young Carers at Magdalen Farm	To provide a fully-catered 3-day residential visit for 20 Young Carers (plus 3 support staff) from Dorset with activities tailored to meet their specific needs, thus providing maximum therapeutic and emotional benefit. Proposed sessions include: animal feeding, a practical job such as making a bird table to take home, sensory scavenger hunt, walking in the woods, transplanting vegetable plants and other activities closely related to farm life.	£ 5,120	£ 3,720		N	
11	R111	The Health Hub	Get moving	Provide exercise / education classes to improve the elderly and anyone suffering from a range of medical conditions to improve their well being. Classes will be on a weekly basis in Bridport and Dorchester and referred via health professionals. Links have already been made in Bridport	£ 9,968	£ 8,928		N	

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13	R113	Home start Solutions East Dorset	Home-start solutions for vulnerable parents and children	The project will seek to address and improve the mental health and other emotional problems among mothers with at least one child who live in Christchurch, East Dorset, Purbeck by providing weekly 1:1 support and referring them, where appropriate, to seek appropriate support.	£ 11,720	£ 9,502		N	
17	R117	BEST & BYPAT	ASPIRE	Preparation and training for work for people with mental health issues	£ 15,329	£ 9,329		N	
19	R119	Island Community Action	Silver island	A new and improved range of services that will benefit residents aged 50+ in Wyke Regis and Portland	£ 59,173	£ 10,591		N	
26	R126	Shaftsbury & District Carers Association	Hope2Learn	This project will help people with learning disabilities to acquire new skills and become more independent, at the same time as giving them opportunity to socialise. The funding will be used for a co-ordinator post to provide 1:1 support, co-ordinating workshops and administration	£ 11,984	£ 9,984	0	N	
		SUBMITTED AFTER DEADLINE							

	Ref No	Organisation name	Project name	Project Summary	Total Cost	Grant Request	Assessed Score	Panel fund Y/N	Panel comments
28	R128	Safer Dorset Foundation	Together We Can (subject to change)	This project will pilot two match-making events introducing 8 small charities to philanthropic networks to generate donations and awareness at each event supporting safety, victim and rehabilitation projects (target £5-10,000 per event) and develop relationships between donors and charities with no major donors resulting in longer-term donations and volunteer support for the charities and new networks for charities to meet wider donors	£19,650	£12,350		N	
					Total Cost	Total Requested			Total awarded
					£559,144	£264,076			65,549