
Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum

18th March 2014

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Community Forum Grants

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the delegated Community Forum grants budget for 2013/ 2014.

Background

2. Part of the remit of the Community Forums is the allocation of the delegated grants budget for each area.
3. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered which have been established are set out in Appendix 1.
4. This Report is the standard report but can be changed to support the direction that Elected Members of the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum in consultation with people living in their wards wish to give.
5. Applications received at the last Community Forum meeting of the 28th January 2014 were:
 - Upper Ettingshall Methodist Church – request for £5,000 funding as contribution towards cost of refurbishment of kitchen and community café - recommended for approval;
 - Coseley Comets Marching Band – request for £3,009 for provision of new drums – recommended for approval;
 - All Saints Church, Sedgley – request for £549.99 for the provision of a new cooker – recommended for approval;
 - Sedgley and District Age Concern – request for £1,700 for redecoration of internal rooms – recommended for refusal;
 - Unit360 – request for £5,000 funding as contribution towards new skateboard park in Stourbridge – recommended for refusal.
6. There is 1 new application for funding to be considered on this occasion. Paper copies of the application will be made available to Members at the meeting of the Forum. The application is:

a. The High Arcal School:

Funding is requested towards the cost of refurbishing a room within the school to create a new business and community centre. This would enable the school to better cater for local groups such as the Turls Hill Residence Association and The High Arcal

Association, children's groups such as the Scouts, Brownies and Guides and local residents through adult education groups. The school provides its facilities at little or no cost to such groups and the enhanced facility will help them to continue with this support. The school has provided several quotes for various parts of the work. The quotes have been provided from the Council's approved list of contractors and approved furniture suppliers. They are seeking a £2,744 contribution towards the refurbishment (partitioning work and carpet) and £2,256 towards the furniture included in quotation option 1. The school has not sought funding from any other forum.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £5,000.00

7. In making their decisions when applications are received, Members take account of current allocation for the Community Forum area and judge applications against the criteria established for grant allocation at the Community Forums and attached as an Appendix to this Report.

Finance

8. The latest balance at 05 March 2014 for the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum is £48,161. This is broken down below:
 - Coseley East £ 39,412
 - Sedgley £ 8,749

Law

9. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.
10. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

11. This report complies with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity. Applications may include facilities which are available to children and young people.

Recommendations

12. It is proposed that the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum note the current funds available.



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Guidelines for considering funding applications

Community Forums will consider every funding application on its own individual merits.

Community Forums have discretion to make recommendations on each application taking account of the funding available.

A decision on an individual application will not be seen as setting a precedent for the consideration of any other applications received by the Council or another Community Forum.

Guidelines

The following guidelines are to assist Community Forums in considering funding applications.

Community Forums reserve the right to make exceptions to these guidelines depending on the circumstances of each individual application.

1. The funding allocation may be spent on “capital” and/or “revenue” schemes:

Capital: one-off expenditure on buying, constructing or improving land, buildings, equipment or vehicles;

Revenue: expenditure on running costs of projects or activities, including staff costs and the purchase of consumables and services from third parties. Priority will be given to one-off, time-limited, or start-up spend, rather than ongoing running costs. The latter should normally be funded by the organisation itself.

2. Schemes should contribute to the Community Strategy and should not conflict with Council policy. Consideration will be given to how a scheme fits with wider community initiatives.
3. Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups and should make a difference in the local area.
4. Funding applications may be submitted to more than one Community Forum depending on the area(s) of benefit. Each individual Forum shall retain discretion over its own funding allocation. A recommendation made by one Community Forum shall not create an expectation that it will be supported by another Forum.
5. Schemes should not result in any on-going revenue costs that the organisation cannot fund from its own resources – e.g. running costs and repair and maintenance of new/improved buildings and equipment.
6. All expenditure must be in accordance with Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, be subject to the Council’s legal powers and demonstrate good value for money.

7. Individual funding applications should be for a maximum of £5,000 unless there are exceptional circumstances. Organisations will be encouraged to match fund or seek further funding through other means. Priority will be given to schemes that might generate such funding.
8. Applications will not normally be considered from organisations who have previously applied for funding to the Community Forums (or former Area Committees) within the previous three years.
9. Once an application has been approved, it will be on the condition that the commitment is spent within nine months; otherwise the allocation will be returned back into the available budget and a fresh application would be required.
10. In appropriate circumstances, it may be required that certain items of equipment funded by these allocations are to be made available for use by other organisations.