

Report to Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum

Tuesday 9 September 2014

Report of Lead Officer

Community Forum – Love Your Local Community Fund

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.

Background

2. The 10 Community Forums are responsible for allocating expenditure from the Community Forum Funding Budget. The guidelines against which allocations from the delegated budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. These are corporate guidelines only and it is ultimately for each Community Forum to decide on individual applications.
3. Copies of applications referred to in this report have been sent to Members prior to the meeting.

Deferred Applications for Consideration at this Meeting

4. There were 3 applications for funding deferred at the July meeting of the Community Forum. Copies of the applications were e-mailed to Members prior to that meeting.
5. St Margaret's Church, Hasbury

An application was received for a project to provide car parking facilities and a permanent access for people with disabilities. The total project cost was estimated to be £30,000.

This was deferred at the July 2014 meeting to enable the recommendation of the Halesowen North and South Community Forum to be taken into consideration.

In June 2014 the Halesowen North and South Community Forum deferred this application pending the submission of more detailed information.

6. COCOA – Welcome to Dudley Project

In March 2014 an application was received from COCOA for funding towards a project intended to work with individuals newly arrived in Dudley to encourage them to access mainstream services appropriately.

In principle a contribution of £1,000 was approved, subject to a contribution being considered by the Halesowen North and South Community Forum, and it was agreed that the application would be considered further at the July meeting of this Forum.

At the July meeting the application was deferred in order to ascertain the outcome of the Project's endeavours to secure funding from other sources, including Dudley Council for Voluntary Services (DCVS). This reflected the recommendation of the Halesowen North and South Community Forum from 24 June 2014.

No further information has been received at the time of preparing this report.

7. Life Centre Debt Advice

An application from Life Centre Debt Advice was made to all 10 Community Forums. The application was for £1,230 to assist with the appointment of a Debt Advice Manager's post.

This was deferred at the July 2014 meeting to enable a scoping exercise to be undertaken to confirm the benefits of the application on people in Halesowen.

No further information has been received at the time of preparing this report.

New Applications for Consideration at this Meeting

8. There have been 3 new applications for funding since the last meeting of the Community Forum. Copies of the applications referred to in this report have been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

9. Halesowen Abbey Trust - Purchase of Leasowes Walled Garden

Halesowen Abbey Trust is seeking funding to enable the purchase of the 18th century Walled Garden in Leasowes Park to enable it to be restored and opened to the public.

The total cost of purchase is £50,000 and the Abbey Trust has secured funding of £10,000 from A.J. Mucklow, £5,000 from Halesowen North and South Community Forum and a £400 public donation.

I recommend that Members consider whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.

10. Black Country Wheels

Black Country Wheels are proposing to deliver a pilot City and Guilds accredited Level 1 Beauty Therapy course in support of ten single parents who have been out of education and work for some time. The focus of the course is to support people to learn new skills, help them to gain qualifications and to progress into further education or employment.

The total project cost is £18,459.94 and all ten Community Forums are being asked to make an allocation of £500.

I recommend that Members consider whether a grant of up to £500 should be approved which is equal to one tenth share when shared equally with the other Forums.

11. Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS)

DCVS provides infrastructure support to the voluntary, community and enterprise sector in Dudley. It also provides support to organisations and individuals looking to undertake voluntary work.

DCVS has requested funding of £3625.60 to help fund annual Dudley Volunteer Awards. The aim of the event is to recognise publicly the contribution of volunteers. It is a high profile event publicised through a range of media outlets and helps to promote the work of voluntary organisations and volunteering opportunities. A schedule of costs has been submitted with the quote.

This funding request has been submitted to all 10 community forums. DCVS receives funding from Dudley MBC, Dudley PCT and Dudley Community Partnership.

I recommend that Members consider whether a grant of up to £362.50 should be approved which is equal to one tenth share when shared equally with the other Forums.

12. The approach adopted by other Community Forums will be reported verbally at the meeting on 9 September.

Finance

13. Taking account of all previous commitments from this Community Forum, the current balance of funding available to the Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum is **£11,718.84**. Details have been forward to Members prior to the meeting.

Law

14. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.

15. 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.

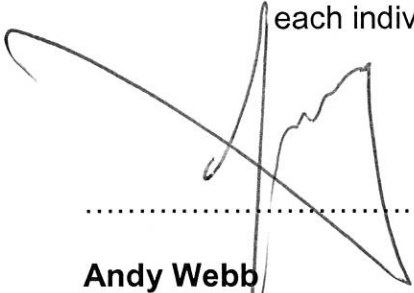
Equality Impact

16. This report complies with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Recommendation

17. That:-

- i) The Community Forum considers the applications referred to in this report and makes recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andy Webb', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Andy Webb
Head of Sport and Physical Activity, Culture & Leisure Division, Directorate of Urban Environment and Lead Officer to the Community Forum.

Contact Officer: Andy Webb
Telephone: 01384 815579
Email: andy.webb@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

- The application forms on which this report is based have been sent to Members prior to the meeting but contain exempt information under the terms of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- Appendix 1 Corporate Guidelines for Considering Funding Applications.

Community Forums

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.