

Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum – 17th September 2018

Report of the Chief Officer Health and Wellbeing

Community Forum Funding

Purpose of Report

1. To update the forum on the allocation of expenditure from the community forum funding budget for the 2018/19 municipal year.

Recommendation

2. That the Forum considers the application referred to in the report, and makes appropriate recommendations to the Chief Officer Health and Wellbeing.

Background

3. The ten community forums are responsible for allocating expenditure from the delegated community forum funding budget. The Cabinet, in March 2018 approved a new set of criteria to replace the previous guidelines against which allocations from the delegated budget should be considered, and which are attached.
4. The Cabinet also agreed to the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) neighbourhood funding through community forums. This report identifies any CIL funding available to the forum and applications will begin to be assessed against CIL criteria from the January 2019 round of forums.
5. A copy of the applications referred to in this report has been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications for Consideration at this Meeting

1st Lapal Guides

6. An application has been received from 1st Lapal Guides.

7. The group is seeking a total of £2,200: £1,700 to replace the roof of the storage cabin which houses the unit's camping equipment and £500 to purchase replacement camping equipment.
8. The group has not been awarded any community forum funding in the last three years.

Friends of Hurst Green Park

9. An application has been received from the Friends of Hurst Green Park.
10. The group is seeking a total of £3,000: £1,249.71 to install materials donated to improve drainage in the park; and £1,750.29 towards the purchase of a see-saw.
11. The group has received, in the last three years, £1,000 for tools and equipment to remove fencing and prune trees and for a donation to Community Payback to paint the play area in January 2017 and £5,000 for bench seating and picnic tables in October 2017.

Finance

12. Each community forum receives an annual allocation of £10,000 per ward.
13. The balances currently available to spend are as follows:

£	Balance Bfwd from 17/18	Annual Funding 18/19	Actual Spend 18/19	Committed	Balance to award
Halesowen North	13,223.26	10,000.00	3,557.46	3,460.80	16,204.96
Halesowen South	12,757.50	10,000.00	3,557.47	3,460.80	15,739.21
Total	25,980.76	20,000.00	7,114.93	6,921.66	31,944.17

14. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding includes a 15% Neighbourhood Funding element which will be allocated through community forums. It is to be spent on projects which meet the requirements to 'support the development of the area' in relation to:
 - a. The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
 - b. Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

15. The balance of this funding allocated to Halesowen North ward is £769.50. The applications received for consideration at this meeting have not yet been assessed against the CIL criteria.

Law

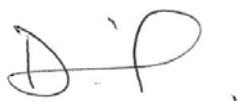
16. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the Community. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

17. The awarding of a grant to voluntary and community organisations is intended to secure general social benefits and improved well-being for members of the local community.

Human Resources/Transformation

18. There are no direct implications arising from this report.



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Chief Officer Health and Wellbeing

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List of Background Papers

- The application form on which this report is based has been emailed to Members prior to the meeting, but contains exempt information under the terms of part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
- Criteria for considering funding applications attached.

Funding criteria for applicants – Community Forum and Community Infrastructure Levy neighbourhood funding

1. Voluntary or community organisations based in Dudley borough, or which benefit people in the borough, can apply for up to a maximum of £5,000 per year. The same project will not normally be funded more than once in every three years (see note 1).
2. Applications should be for local projects i.e. in a particular ward/small number of wards and not borough wide. Applications should be from a parent organisation rather than, for example, an individual team within a sports club.
3. Applications should demonstrate how they will contribute to Dudley Council's aim to support local people and organisations to work together to improve the local community or area and encourage local people to be active citizens.
4. Applications may be for capital and/or revenue expenditure (see note 2), but revenue costs must be one-off or strictly time-limited; ongoing revenue costs will be the applicant's responsibility and will not be funded by the council.
5. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate match funding or efforts to obtain funding elsewhere/share resources with other organisations.
6. Applications are to be submitted at least 21 days before a forum meeting in order to be considered at that meeting. Later applications will be held over to the next available meeting. Genuinely urgent applications may be considered between meetings at the discretion of community forum members.
7. Once an application is received, where appropriate a council community development worker will arrange to meet the applicants to provide advice and support with the application before it proceeds.
8. Applications will only be considered if the application form is completed fully and the requested documents submitted (see note 3).
9. If appropriate, applications may be recommended for, or redirected to, funding from other sources.
10. Applicants will need to attend the forum meeting at which their application is considered to share what they plan to do and answer any questions.
11. A recommendation on the application will be made by the forum's elected members to the council's Chief Officer Health and Wellbeing, or for Community Infrastructure Levy neighbourhood funding, to the Chief Officer Regeneration and Enterprise.
12. A funding approval may be given with particular conditions attached e.g. equipment purchased to be shared with other organisations.

Notes:

Note 1. Individual community forums reserve the right to make exceptions depending on the circumstances of the application.

Note 2: Capital – one-off expenditure on buying equipment, vehicles, land or buildings, or carrying out improvements or new build. Revenue – expenditure on running costs of projects or activities, including staff costs and purchase of consumable items or services.

Note 3: an alternative way to apply will be available to people who may have difficulty in completing the application form because of a disability

Terms and conditions of funding

Payment will usually be made once work or an activity has been carried out and/or goods/equipment purchased and related paid invoices or receipts provided to the council.

If approved, funding will be provided on the basis that:

1. The funding is spent within nine months of approval by the community forum i.e. paid invoices/receipts are submitted to the council within this timescale. If (in exceptional circumstances) funding has been provided in advance, paid invoices/receipts must be provided to the council within three months or the money will need to be repaid to the council.
2. A representative of the organisation attends a meeting of the community forum within twelve months of the application being approved to share feedback about the difference the funding has made.
3. The organisation uses the funding only for the purpose stated, agrees to provide any extra information that the Council may require and allows Council officers to inspect goods/equipment purchased, if required.
4. Any goods/equipment funded are sufficiently insured.
5. The Council's internal and external auditors have the right to inspect documentation relating to the funding application.
6. If funding has been awarded based on misleading or inaccurate information, or the organisation receives funding for the same items from another source, the organisation will repay part or all of the allocation as required by the Council.

Elected members, when considering community forum applications:

1. should apply the funding criteria for applicants in considering applications; the council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and the council's legal powers must be complied with in dealing with applications;
2. should declare any interests that they have in any of the applications to be considered;
3. will make recommendations on applications for community forum funding to the Chief Officer Health and Wellbeing who has delegated authority for community forum funding and to the Chief Officer Regeneration and Enterprise for Community Infrastructure Levy neighbourhood funding;
4. are free to decide whether to pool their resources across wards or to use each ward allocation only for applications relating to that ward;
5. may wish to identify with the local community some priorities for their areas on an annual or other basis and invite grant applications which relate to these;
6. should allow applicants, who will be asked to attend forum meetings, to present their applications, and successful applicants, who will be attending a future meeting, to provide feedback. This will help in establishing accountability and a clear audit trail for expenditure, as well as sharing learning and inspiration with other community groups; and
7. have discretion in dealing with applications at meetings in the absence of the applicants.