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## **Revised Report**

### **DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

#### **28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 - Norton/Pedmore and Stourbridge East/Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Centre Community Forum**

#### **Report of the Lead Officer**

#### **Community Forum - Love Your Local Community Funding**

#### **Purpose of Report**

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

#### **Background**

2. The ten Community Forums are responsible for allocating expenditure from the delegated 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. A copy of the application/s referred to in this report, appendix 2 has been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

#### **Applications for consideration at this meeting:**

##### ***Gig Caritas***

4. Funding of £2000 is requested to purchase extra staging to enable an increase in the level and variety of events that Gig Caritas are able to present including a concert in March 2015 at St John's URC in Stourbridge. It will also add to the current stock of staging enabling more local groups to use the equipment for a variety of purposes, artistic and non-arts related. One quote is attached with an explanation that the staging needs to be the same as the equipment they already own. It can only be obtained from the manufacturers direct.
5. Gig Caritas received £4000 funding from the Forum last year to purchase a range of lighting and sound system equipment. They have also received funding from other sources including the National Lottery and have an income of approximately £2000 from other sources including fund raising and hire of equipment.
6. Gig Caritas is a community organisation that brings together musicians and artists to present concerts and other events to raise money for local charities. It has been

in existence for about three years and in that time has raised about £10,000 for a number of local and varied charities.

### ***West Midlands Fire Service***

7. Funding of up to £4000 is requested by West Midlands Fire Service to fund a non core activity – an accredited 5 day course in Understanding Fire. This course will provide an opportunity for 15 young people who attend Coseley High School - identified as at risk of being NEET, and lower academic achievement - to achieve a specific qualification whilst challenging attitudes and risky behaviour. The programme aims to reduce anti social behaviour particularly in relation to activity around Network Rail property and track whilst raising aspirations.
8. They have received no funding from any community forums or other council funding bodies in the last three years. An application will be made to the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum.
9. West Midlands Fire Service is a publicly funded service although this programme is not part of their core activity.

### ***Home School Association – Ham Dingle Primary School***

10. Funding of £3871.02 is requested by the Home School Association – Ham Dingle Primary School - to support a new reading scheme for the school. The scheme aims to encourage children to love reading which ultimately helps them with their wider education. The current scheme is over 7 years old and books have been lost due to wear and tear, loss and damage. One quote is attached as this particular reading schemes is only produced by one company.
11. They have received no funding from any community forums or other council bodies in the last three years. A request has been made to the Lead Officer for the Amblecote, Cradley & Wollescote, Lye & Stourbridge North Community Forum for the application to also be considered there as the catchment area for the school includes parts of the Lye and Wollescote. The remainder of the money will come from the school.
12. The Home School Association is a voluntary parent partnership group who fundraise to help the school offer children those little extras. They work closely with the children so the money they raise makes a difference.

### **Finance**

10. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive £10,000 per ward to allocate each financial year.
11. The total sum currently available to spend across all wards is: £11,339.92.
12. This amount includes unspent balances for all three wards within the forum area.
13. Additional one off funding of £20,919 from the High Street Innovation / Empty Shops Grant Funding has been made available for the 2014/15 financial year for projects which improve the appearance or economic vitality of an area, with preference to the Borough's centres and High Streets. This is an increase on what was reported at the previous Community Forum and is the result of an amended

allocation formula agreed by the Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing) and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

14. The total sum available from this funding to spend across all wards is; £18,595.60.

### **Law**

15. Pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do.
16. 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 function.

### **Equality Impact**

17. This report complies with the Council's policies on equality and diversity. Some of the applications include facilities which are available to children and young people.

### **Recommendation**

18. That the Forum members consider the application/s referred to in this report and make recommendations to the Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation) on each individual application.



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### **List of Background Papers**

*Appendix 1 – Corporate guidelines for considering funding applications*

*Appendix 2 - The application forms on which this report is based have been emailed to Members prior to the meeting but contain exempt information under terms of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.*