

**Belle Vale, Halesowen North, Halesowen South and Hayley Green & Cradley
South Community Forum – 18th April 2013**

Report of the Lead Officer

Area Grants

Purpose of Report

1. To consider applications for grant assistance from the Community Forum Funding budget.

Background

2. The nine 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 the applications referred to in this report have been sent to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications

4. Two applications were deferred by the Forum at its February meeting, for consideration at this meeting.

Halesowen British Legion

5. An application has been received from the Events Co-ordinator of Halesowen British Legion, based at Townends Club, 2 Stourbridge Road, Halesowen. The grant requested is for support towards events and activities co-ordinated by the British Legion and to purchase laptops to support the work of their case workers.
6. Members are asked to consider whether a grant of £5,000 should be approved. The total cost of the project is £7,092.88 and so the requested allocation represents 70% of the total project.
7. At its February meeting, Members requested that officers should confirm with the applicant whether the British Legion would be able to fund this activity from its own budgets. The applicants have confirmed that they are self financing and have access to no centralised funding from the British Legion.

St Margaret's Well Surgery Patient Panel

8. The Patient's Panel based at St Margaret's Surgery, Quarry Lane, Halesowen is requesting support to purchase an M8-PGT (with BP) monitor, which is a safe, easy to use self-service automatic machine that can be used by patients on their

arrival at the surgery. Full details of the machine and its uses are set out in the application form circulated to Members.

9. Members are requested to consider whether a grant of £3,954 should be approved. This represents the full project cost.
10. Since the February meeting, one further application has been received.

Halas Homes, Wassell Road, Halesowen

11. Halas Homes provides Respite Care and Supported Living for young people and adults with physical disabilities and/or learning difficulties. The organisation currently works with 100+ people across the borough to help to overcome difficulties resulting from a range of conditions including cerebral palsy, autism, downs syndrome, dementia and general mobility.
12. Funding of £5,000 is being requested toward an extension to an existing building to enable increased provision of training and development in general life skills including food preparation, general housekeeping, washing etc. Total project costs including fees etc are £20,340. The level of grant assistance applied for is therefore 24.6%.
13. Members' attention is drawn to the Council's guidelines for Community Forum funding which suggest that "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". Halas Homes received a £5,000 grant from the former Halesowen Area Committee in July 2011.

Finance

14. The current balance of funding available to the Belle Vale, Halesowen North, Halesowen South and Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum is £40,000.

Law

15. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the Community.
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 functions.

Equality Impact

17. This report complies with the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

18. That the Community Forum consider the applications referred to in this report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.



.....
Phil Coyne
Assistant Director of the Urban Environment
And Lead Officer to the Community Forum

Contact Officer: Phil Coyne
Telephone: 01384 814004
Email: phil.coyne@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 I of Schedule 12A to 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.