

Kingswinford North & Wall Heath, Kingswinford South, Wordsley Community Forum

Tuesday 12 November 2013

Report of the Lead Officer

Community Forum Funding

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget for the remainder of the 2013/14 municipal year.

Background

2. 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. Copies of the applications referred to in this report have been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications for Consideration at this Meeting

4. **Fast+Aid Charity**

An application has been received from Fast+Aid Charity for funding of up to £1,000 from each of the ten Community Forums to enable them to purchase an additional vehicle which will be used in the Dudley borough. This will benefit the local community by allowing Fast+Aid to respond to 999 emergency calls, providing critical or even life saving care to patients whilst awaiting the arrival of the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

5. No funding has been awarded previously to this group. If Members approve this grant then funds will be earmarked but not released until approval is given by the other Community Forums.
6. *I am recommending that Members consider whether a grant of up to £1,000 should be approved.*
7. Wordsley Wasps (Under 18's) Football Team
An application has been received from Wordsley Wasps (Under 18's) Football Team for funding of up to £300 to pay for resources over and above those that can be met from the monthly running costs e.g. hiring of astro turf pitches, referee fees, replacement shirts, shorts and footballs.
8. No funding has been awarded previously to this team. However, it should be noted that in June 2013 the Community Forum awarded £2,400 to Wordsley Wasps Girls (Under 16's) football team. There are a number of teams, representing different age groups and genders, that are all affiliated to the Wordsley Wasps Club.

The group are mainly based within the Wordsley Ward.

9. *I am recommending that Members consider whether a grant of up to £300 should be approved.*
10. Dudley MBC – Environmental Management Division
An application has been received from Dudley MBC – Environmental Management Division for funding of up to £2,102.44 to enable them to purchase and erect two Christmas trees located at Wordsley (Mere Education Centre) and Wall Heath (Enville Road), together with associated energy costs for lighting. The funding is also to cover the energy costs to light an existing live tree at Townsend Place, Kingswinford. The costs associated with installation and maintenance of the tree lights will be met from within Environmental Management's existing budget.
11. Members may recall funding agreed to purchase Christmas trees for the Borough in previous years. This was actioned through individual Area Committees. If Members approve this application, they may wish to request that the Environmental

Management Division also explore the feasibility of planting live trees in Wordsley and Wall Heath, in agreed locations, for future years.

The areas detailed above cover Wordsley and Wall Heath Wards.

12. *I am recommending that Members consider whether a grant of up to £2,102.44 should be approved.*

13. Unit3sixty C.I.C

An application has been received from Unit3sixty C.I.C for funding of up to £5,000 from each of the ten Community Forums to match fund capital equipment and revenue to provide membership packages to residents. This organisation is a community enterprise wishing to create an indoor recreation centre with facilities including a skate park, dance studios, urban graffiti art studio, DJ Decks and café. The total cost of the project is £150,000.

This is an ambitious project which will require funding from a number of sources. If Members wish to approve a grant then it is recommended that approval be subject to Unit3sixty obtaining planning permission and securing the rest of the funding required. On that basis, funds would be earmarked but not released until these conditions had been met.

14. No funding has been awarded previously to this group.

The group are based within the **Lye & Stourbridge North Ward**, but the facility will seek to attract users from across the borough.

15. *I am recommending that Members consider whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.*

Finance

16. Each Community Forum has received £10,000 per ward to allocate. The total sum currently available to spend is £29,588.80. This amount includes unspent balances from the resources allocated to the former Area Committees.

Law

17. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the Community.
18. 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

19. 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

20. That the Forum considers the applications referred to in the report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.



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Mr Iain Newman - Lead Officer

Contact Officer: Mr Iain Newman
Telephone: 01384 814802
Email: lain.newman@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

- The application forms on which this report is based have been emailed 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.