

Castle and Priory, St. James's and St. Thomas's Community Forum

5th November 2014

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 financial year.
2. The Community Forum is asked to consider making recommendations on the applications referred to below taking account of the corporately agreed guidelines for considering funding applications as attached to this report.

Background

3. 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. The guidelines have been updated to take account of the additional funding relating to the High Street Innovation and Empty Shops Grant funding.
4. This report contains only a brief summary of each application along with the amount of grant requested. Copies of the application forms referred to in this report and associated background information have been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

Deferred Application for Consideration at this Meeting

Claughton Youth Centre (St Thomas's Ward)

5. An application from the Claughton Youth Centre for funding towards the purchase of 12 laptops, software, printers and a cabinet was deferred at the last meeting as the application did not clearly identify the cost of the items or the total amount of funding being sought.
6. The Centre has since confirmed that total funding required amounts to £5,139 (see application appendix for details).

New Applications for Consideration at this Meeting

Black Country Wheels (All Wards)

7. An application from Black Country Wheels for funding of £500 is requested from each of the community forums to deliver a pilot City & Guilds accredited Level 1 Beauty Therapy Course for local community members in their existing custom made hair and beauty salon. It is intended that the programme will specifically support ten individuals from across the Borough who have been out of education / work for some time.
8. Black Country Wheels is a registered charity based in the Lye area of Dudley. The aim of the organisation is to support people to advance their skills and capabilities to enable them to become more independent so that they can participate fully in society.
9. It is proposed that Members consider whether an appropriate grant contribution should be approved by this Community Forum in accordance with the guidelines for considering funding applications.

Whole Child Foundation (St Thomas's Ward)

10. An application has been received from Whole Child Foundation for funding of up to £4990 towards providing children and young people from the Dudley borough who may not engage with formal education the chance to gain an additional qualification, achieve their goals and fulfil their dreams. At least 20 young people living in the St Thomas' area and surrounding areas will benefit from a series of workshops to be run during the school holidays. The workshops will deliver the Arts Award and young people will achieve a qualification at bronze and silver levels.
11. It is proposed that Members consider whether an appropriate grant contribution should be approved by this Community Forum in accordance with the guidelines for considering funding applications.

Arc Aid Charity Shop (St James Ward)

12. An application has been received from Arc Aid Charity Shop for funding of up to £2161.90 towards security equipment, floor covering and various electrical items. The organisation aims to raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos and mesothelioma and to raise funds for research into mesothelioma to offer support for victims and families.
13. It is proposed that Members consider whether an appropriate grant contribution should be approved by this Community Forum in accordance with the guidelines for considering funding applications.

Dudley MBC – Environmental Management Division (St James Ward)

14. An application has been received from Dudley MBC – Environmental Management Division for funding of up to £10,289.72.90 towards the purchase and erection of Christmas trees and to cover associated energy costs for lighting at two locations,

Dudley – Stone Street Square (£1,289.72) and Milking Bank (£9,000 to cover costs for a new tree, lighting, installation and maintenance costs). Similar funding requests have also been made to the other nine Community Forums for Christmas tree provision in their areas.

15. It is proposed that Members consider whether an appropriate grant contribution should be approved by this Community Forum in accordance with the guidelines for considering funding applications.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Association (All Wards)

16. An application has been received from the Dudley Duke of Edinburgh Award Association for £5,000 for ten leaders to attend Basic Expedition Leadership training at £300 per person plus an additional £110 for first aid training. Any remaining funding will go towards a higher qualification of £500 per person. Previously training was funded by the Local Authority Youth Service.
17. The application has been submitted to all Community Forums for consideration and it proposed that Members consider whether an appropriate grant contribution of up to £500 should be approved by this Community Forum in accordance with the guidelines for considering funding applications.

Finance

18. Community Forums receive £10,000 per ward to allocate annually.
19. Current balance to award across wards:-

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Castle and Priory	£5,591.57
St James's	£21,259.07
St Thomas's	£4,391.52
Total	£ 31,242.16

This amount includes unspent balances from 2013/14 and accounts for resources allocated to former Area Committees.

The High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant allocation is as follows:-

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Castle and Priory	£5,578.70
St James's	£5,578.70
St Thomas's	£5,578.70
Total	£ 16,736.10

Law

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

21. 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

22. The awarding of a capital grant to community and voluntary organisations is specifically intended to secure general social benefits and improved well-being across community groups.

Recommendation

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Griffiths', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Griffiths

Democratic Services Manager – Lead Officer to the Community Forum

Telephone: 01384 815235

Email: steve.griffiths@dudley.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Aaron Sangian Policy Analyst Health Well-Being and Communities

Telephone: 01384 816955

Email: aaron.sangian@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 funding applications

Every funding application will be considered on its own individual merits by community forum elected members, who will take into account the funding available and make recommendations on each application to the Council's Director of Corporate Resources.

Applications will be considered only from voluntary and community organisations that are based in the Dudley borough. Applications should be submitted through a parent organisation e.g. a sports club rather than an individual team within a club.

Applications are to be submitted at least 21 days before a community forum meeting in order to be considered at that meeting. Later applications will be considered at the next available forum meeting. Elected members can make recommendations on genuinely urgent applications between forum meetings.

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.

All expenditure must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, be subject to the Council's legal powers and demonstrate good value for money. Quotations must be provided in line with the Council's procedure rules. Details are set out in the application form.

Guidelines for considering applications

The following guidelines are to assist elected members in considering funding applications. Individual community forums reserve the right to make exceptions to these guidelines depending on the circumstances of each individual application.

1. Funding 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 which should normally be funded by the organisation itself.)
2. Schemes should contribute to the aims of the Community Strategy and not conflict with Council policy. 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.

3. 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.
4. Schemes should not result in any on-going revenue costs that the organisation cannot fund from its own resources e.g. running costs or repair and maintenance of buildings and equipment.
5. 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.
6. Applications will not normally be considered from organisations who have previously received funding from a community forum (or former area committee) within the previous three years.
7. Representatives of organisations submitting applications are encouraged to attend the forum meeting and to speak if they wish in support of their applications.
8. Once an application has been approved, it will be on the condition that the funding is spent within nine months, otherwise the funding will be returned to the Council. A fresh application would need to be submitted and approved in order for the funding to be released.
9. In appropriate circumstances, funding may be given on condition that certain items of equipment purchased with the funding are made available for use by other organisations.

High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant Funding Applications

10. One-off funding has been made available in 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.
11. The Council will decide which source of funding successful applications will use, but as guidance for applicants High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant funding will be considered for the following:-

Eligible proposals

- Proposals will be considered either for Capital or Revenue activities.
- Proposals of up to £5,000 in value (including VAT where applicable).
- Proposals are preferred for projects within the Borough's defined Principal or Local Centres, but applications may be considered in any location where benefits to the local economy or environment may be demonstrated.

- Proposals that show a partnership approach (between for example business and the Community will be preferred).

Ineligible proposals

- Proposals which create ongoing revenue costs for the Council. Proposals must demonstrate how any improvements will be maintained.
- Proposals which are required as a direct result of a planning condition, enforcement action or any other statutory consent.
- Proposals that do not have the agreement of the owner or occupier of land or property affected.
- Proposals that do not have a realistic prospect of being granted planning permission.

Suggested areas of expenditure

- Proposals to improve the appearance or condition of empty commercial or retail premises.
- Proposals to improve vacant or unsightly land.
- Match funding to support funding bids for the above.
- Activities and events to support centres economic vitality.