

**Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum**

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Community Forum Grants**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the delegated Community Forum grants budget for 2013/ 2014.

**Background**

2. Part of the remit of the Community Forums is the allocation of the delegated grants budget for each area.
3. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered which have been established are set out in Appendix 1.
4. This Report is the standard report of the changed arrangements and responses to any clarifications required as part of the new process can be made as needed. As the Community Forum develops, this Report can be changed to support the direction that Elected Members of the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum in consultation with people living in their wards wish to give.
5. The balance for the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum is £56,720 (as at January 2014) which includes carry forward from last year (2012/13.) Applications received at the last Community Forum meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were:
  - Dudley MBC Environmental Management – request for £2,162.20 for provision of Christmas trees at 2 locations – recommended for approval;
  - Sedgley Community Association – request for £5,000 for Christmas lights – recommended for approved;
  - Bayer Street Allotment Association – request for £3,000 for fencing and gates – recommended for approval;
  - Unit3sixty – request for contribution to skateboard park in Stourbridge – recommendation deferred pending the provision of further information;
  - St Andrew’s Methodist Church for a new entrance to the Church – recommendation deferred pending three quotes. This request was subsequently withdrawn on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013;
  - Fast Aid – request for £1,000 as contribution to maintenance of voluntary support service – recommendation to refuse.
6. There are 3 new applications and 1 deferred request for funding to be considered on this occasion. Paper copies of the applications will be made available to Members at the meeting of the Forum. The applications are:

**a. Sedgley & District Age Concern:**

Funding is requested towards the redecoration of the day centre including main hall, rest room and toilets. The Age Concern general aim is to support older people in the area to lead independent and fulfilling lives within the local community. The facility is used by other organisations such as Age UK. It is anticipated that the redecoration will enhance the ambience of the building for elderly members of the community, many of which attend the facility to ease the isolation experienced from living alone. They state their volunteers support approximately 60 people from the local area. They have received 3 quotations for the works. The same request has also been made to the Gornal and Upper Gornal Community Forum meeting being held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £ 1,700.00

**b. Upper Eттingshall Methodist Church:**

Funding is requested towards the costs of enlarging the existing kitchen to the community café, improvement of the access and refurbishment of the meeting room. The facility caters for the needs of various groups such as Moms and Toddlers and the Coseley Comets Ensemble. Improvements to the community café will mean larger groups can be catered for and improvements to the meeting room will create a more aesthetically pleasing environment for community meetings. They have received 3 quotations for the work and have also been promised funding from the Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust.

Sum requested: £5,000.00

**c. Coseley Comets Youth Marching Band:**

Funding is requested for the provision of 2 new drums for the marching band to replace out dated instruments. These will benefit people who are learning to play the instruments and will enhance the experience of those listening to performances at local community events. They have received 3 quotes for the new instruments.

Sum requested: £3,009.00

**d. Unit3sixty:**

This request for funding was made to the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013 meeting of the Forum. A recommendation was deferred pending further information. Unit3sixty sought a contribution of funding from all community forums towards a new skateboard park in Stourbridge. Additional information was subsequently provided by Unit3sixty to Members for further consideration.

Sum requested: £5,000.00

7. In making their decisions when applications are received, Members take account of current allocation for the Community Forum area and judge applications against the criteria established for grant allocation at the Community Forums and attached as an Appendix to this Report.

## **Finance**

8. The latest balance for the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum is £56,720.

## **Law**

9. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.
10. 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**

11. This report complies with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity. Applications may include facilities which are available to children and young people.

## **Recommendations**

12. That the Coseley East/Sedgley Community 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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## **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.