

Report to Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum 19th June 2013

Report of Lead Officer

Area Grants

Purpose of Report

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

Background

2. The 10 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. Copies of the applications referred to in this report have been sent to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications

3. 2 previous applications have been approved at the former Halesowen Community Forum, for which the funding commitment will be shared equally between the Halesowen North and Halesowen South and the Belle Vale and Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forums. For information, these applications are;
 - Halas Homes - £5,000 toward an extension to an existing building in order to provide increased floor space for training provision.
 - Ups and Downs - £4,595 toward play equipment and the cost of trips etc for a group providing support to families with children with Downs Syndrome.
4. There are 2 applications which were previously deferred/refused by the Halesowen Forum that have requested that their application be reconsidered. These are;
 - Halesowen British Legion – an application for £5,000 toward events and activities co-ordinated by the British Legion and to purchase lap tops to support the work of their case workers. At its February meeting, the former Halesowen Community Forum requested information as to whether the Group had access to centralised funding from the British Legion. The Group subsequently confirmed that they are self financing and have no access to centralised funding.

At its April meeting, the Halesowen Community Forum reconsidered the

application and requested officers to establish whether the Halesowen British Legion had received any other funding toward this project. The Group have subsequently confirmed that they have received lottery funding toward items such as a sound system, lighting, clothing and other support equipment. The Group has not advised the level of this funding. The £5,000 currently being requested is toward a total project cost of £7,092.

- St Margarets Well Surgery Patients Panel – the Patients Panel based at St Margarets Surgery, Quarry Lane, Halesowen previously requested support to purchase an M8-PGT machine with blood pressure monitor. This is a safe and easy to use self service automated machine that can be used by patients on their arrival at the surgery. The application was for £3,594 which was the full cost of the equipment.

At its April meeting, the former Halesowen Community Forum did not support this application. However, the applicants have asked for the application to be reconsidered and have requested that Members be made aware that the equipment would be open to anybody to use (not just patients at St Margarets Well surgery) and that this would save patients from visiting chemists for such checks which cost £2.

Following the closing date for reports to the last meeting of the former Halesowen Community Forum, 1 further application was received;

- Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club – an application for £4,200 which is the total cost of highway closures and diversions in relation to the annual fun run and charity race organised by the group for 22nd September 2013.
5. Members should note that because the applications from the Royal British Legion, St Margarets Well Patients Panel and the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club were submitted to the former Halesowen Community Forum, these applications are now being referred to this Forum and to the Belle Vale and Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum.

Finance

6. Taking account of previous commitments from the former Halesowen Community Forum, the current balance of funding available to the Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum is £15,202.25.

Law

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

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

8. This report complies with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Recommendation

9. That:-

- i) The Community Forum consider the applications referred to in this report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.



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and Lead Officer to the Community Forum.

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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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- Appendix 1 Corporate Guidelines for Considering Funding Applications.