

**Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum**

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**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 2014/ 2015.

**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 but 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. Applications received at the last Community Forum meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were:
  - Sedgley Scorpions Football – a request for £1,305.60 for new portable goal posts was endorsed;
  - West Midlands Fire Service – request for £4,000 towards the cost of a fire awareness course was deferred subject to further information. The funding has subsequently been provided directly from the schools concerned and no further action is required by the Forum.
6. Prior to the 27<sup>th</sup> January Forum a partially completed application was received from Sky-Hunters for financial support to the business. This matter did not progress to Forum. The proprietor of Sky-Hunters was contacted prior to the Forum and given a range of advice and contacts that might be useful for him to improve/enhance the application. No revised submission has been received.
7. At the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 Forum a request for £2,000 funding was made by Black Country Community Radio. Their application, supported by ward members, was subject to them being awarded a licence from Ofcom. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful and have subsequently confirmed they will not require the funding.

8 There are no new applications for funding to be considered on this occasion.

### **Finance**

9. The latest balance at 25 February 2015 for the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum is £ 44,578.03 being made up as follows:

	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Available to award</b>
<b>Coseley East</b>	Community Forum	32,674.21
	Shops/High St Innovation	nil
	<b>Ward balance</b>	<b>£ 32,674.21</b>
<b>Sedgley</b>	Community Forum	9,930.44
	Shops/High St Innovation	1,973.38
	<b>Ward balance</b>	<b>£ 11,903.82</b>

### **Law**

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

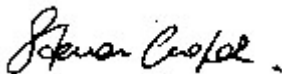
11. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory functions.

### **Equality Impact**

12. 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**

13. It is proposed that the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum note the current funds available.



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## Appendix 1



### **Guidelines for considering 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.