

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 - Norton/Pedmore and Stourbridge East/Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Centre Community Forum**

**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 year.

**Background**

2. 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.
3. A copy of the application/s referred to in this report, appendix 2 has been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

**Applications for consideration at this meeting:**

***Transition Stourbridge (River Stour Clear Water Project)***

4. Funding of £262.00 is requested to erect a bridge plaque where the A491 crosses the River Stour just to the north of Stourbridge town centre. The purpose of the plaque will be to help to draw people's attention to the town's local river and give local people a sense of the history of their town. The applicants have had discussions with DMBC's Traffic Manager who has also provided an estimate of £524.00 for the works. Transition Stourbridge have not received any funding from the council's community forums / area committees in the last three years. This application has also been submitted to the Amblecote, Lye & Stourbridge North and Cradley & Wollescote community forum for the remaining monies.
5. The River Stour Clear Water Project have been working for two years on various projects including clearing rubbish from the river, and the production of a calendar to raise the profile of the 'invisible' River Stour.

## ***Black Country Wheels***

6. 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. The course will run for six months. The overall cost of the pilot is £18,459.94 with the remainder of the cost being requested from the community forums (up to a total of £5000) and other grant awarding bodies including funding from the Gannett Foundation and Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation. Black Country Wheels have not received any funding from the council's community forums or area committees in the last three years. They do, however, receive grant aid / funding from the Local Education Authority of £191,176.
7. 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.
8. Ward Members have been circulated with details of the applications prior to the forum.

## **Finance**

9. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive £10,000 per ward to allocate each financial year.
10. The total sum currently available to spend across all wards is: £18,101.86.
11. This amount includes unspent balances for all three wards within the forum area.

## **Law**

12. Pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do.
13. 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 function.

## **Equality Impact**

14. 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**

15. That the Forum members consider the application/s referred to in this report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.

*Andrew Leigh*

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**Andrew Leigh**  
**Head of Housing Strategy & Development**

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**List of Background Papers**

*Appendix 1 – Corporate guidelines for considering funding applications*

*Appendix 2 - The application forms on which this report is based have been emailed to Members prior to the meeting but contain exempt information under terms of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.*