

Gornal /Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Community Forum – 29 January 2014

Report of the Lead Officer

Community Forum Funding

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget for the remainder of the 2013/2014 municipal 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. Copies of the applications referred to in this report have been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting
4. **Applications for Consideration at this Meeting**

(a) Upper Gornal Methodist Church

The Upper Gornal Methodist Church currently has a £5,000 grant unspent from an award made by the former North Dudley Area Committee in December 2012. The project would see the extension of the church entrance together with provision of wheelchair access to the building. The project was reliant on a significant grant from another funding source which failed to materialise, consequently the original project has been abandoned.

However, the church still wish to address the issue of wheelchair/mobility access and the provision of off road disabled car parking spaces and have sought quotations for this work.

The cost of this work is £24,181 and the church can find £14,181 from its own resources given that there are other works to the church that are required in the current year, leaving a balance of £10,000 to be found from other sources.

The church have requested that the £5,000 grant previously approved by the North Dudley Area Committee be reaffirmed by the Area Forum, and that a further grant of £5,000 from the Area Forum is requested to enable the project to proceed.

I recommend that Members consider whether a grant should be approved.

(b) Upper Gornal Brownies

2014 commemorates the 100th year of Brownies and a range of activities are being planned to celebrate. Specifically there are 4 events at regional, county, district and local level that the Upper Gornal troupe wish to participate in.

The total cost of the events is £3,900 and a grant of £3,300 has been requested with the balance coming from participants.

I recommend that Members consider whether a grant should be approved.

(c) Age Concern – Sedgley & District

An application has been submitted by the above organisation to both the Sedgley and Coseley and Gornal/Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Forums on the basis that residents from all wards benefit from the services provided by the organisation.

The application is for grant aid to fund the redecoration of the Day Centre in Sedgley, specifically the main hall, rest room and toilets. The cost of the work is £1,700.

The application will initially be considered by the Sedgley and Coseley Area Forum on Tuesday 28 January 2014 and I will be able to advise Members of the outcome of this at the Forum meeting.

I recommend that Members consider whether a grant should be approved.

Finance

5. The total sum currently available to spend in each ward is:-

Ward	Amount £.
Gornal	0
Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	37,658

This amount includes unspent balances from the resources allocated by the former Area Committees.

Law

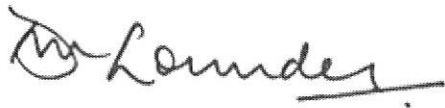
6. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.
7. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

8. This report complies with the Council's policies on equality and diversity. Some of the applications include facilities, which are available to children and young people.

Recommendation

9. That the 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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List of Background Papers

- The application forms on which this report is based have been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting, but contain exempt information under the terms of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
- Appendix 1 – Corporate Guidelines for considering funding applications.

Community Forums

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.

Standing Orders requires the submission of at least three quotations, unless the Director of Corporate Resources deems that one is acceptable. The Director of Corporate Resources should exercise this discretion where the Members of a Community Forum have received copies of the grant application, have discussed the matter in public and have recommended award of a grant.

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.