

Brierley Hill/Brockmoor & Pensnett Community Forum – 25th March 2014

Report of the Lead Officer

Community Forum Funding

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of remaining expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget for the 2013/14 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.

Applications for Consideration at this Meeting

4. **Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch**

An application was received on 11/3/14 from Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch for funding of £4,452. The specific purpose for which funding was requested is to;

- a) To repair a high retaining wall at the back of Beryl House. The wall is in a poor state of repair and is a potential danger to people and property.
- b) To assist with the replacement of 3 computers which are essential to service delivery. The current computers were purchased in 2005 and use Windows XP as their operating system and have reached the end of their useful life.

It should be noted that this request has been presented to all ten Community Forums.

Therefore I am recommending that Members consider whether a grant should be approved and in doing so that they take account of the guidelines for considering funding applications which are attached to this report.

5. **Dudley Arts Council**

An application was received on the 10/3/14 from Dudley Arts Council for funding of up to £5,000. Costs identified to support event planning equal £4899. The specific purpose for which the funding was requested is to:

- a) Support the delivery of the Black Country festival across the whole borough. The official national Black Country Day is July 14 and the intention is that a festival of activities will take place across the borough around this date. By engaging the whole community in a celebration of all things Black Country, everyone should have the opportunity to not only be aware of what is being delivered in their locality but should they so wish, to take part either as a performer or spectator.

It should be noted that this request has been presented to all ten Community Forums.

Therefore I am recommending that Members consider whether a grant should be approved and in doing so that they take account of the guidelines for considering funding applications which are attached to this report.

Applications approved as matters of urgency

6. No applications require approval as matters of urgency.

Finance

7. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive approximately £10,000 per ward to allocate.
8. The total sum currently available to spend in Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett is shown in the table below:

	Balance Bfwd	Annual funding 13/14	Actual spent 13/14	Committed	Balance to award
Brierley Hill	5,640.00	10,000.00	15,365.52	-	274.48
Brockmoor & Pensnett	5,640.00	10,000.00	4,543.45	2,456.55	8,640.00
Total	11,280.00	20,000.00	19,908.97	2,456.55	8,914.48

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

Law

10. 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

11. 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

12. 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 emailed to Members prior to the meeting, but contain exempt information under the terms of part I 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 two 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.