

Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum

16th April 2013

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 2012/ 2013.

Background

2. Part of the remit of the new 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 second of the changed arrangements and responses to any clarifications required as part of the new process can be made as needed. As the Community Forum develops, this Report 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. The latest balance for the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum is £72,617.37.
6. Applications for funding received by the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum on this occasion are:
 - Summerhill Community Association- for the sum of £3,500 to replace existing windows in order to increase security, retain heat and improve appearance of the centre. A petition for improvements has been received with 51 signatures included.

A 'hard' copy of this application will be available to Elected Members at the meeting should they wish to inspect it.

7. In making their decision, Members will take account of current allocation for the Community Forum area and will judge the application against the criteria established for grant allocation at the Community Forums and attached as an Appendix to this Report.

Finance

8. The latest balance for the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum is £72,617.37.
9. On this occasion, there has been one application for a sum of £3,500.

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
 - Consider the application for funding made on this occasion as set out in para. 6.0.

Brendan Clifford

.....

Brendan Clifford - Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: Brendan Clifford – Ext 5806



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.
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.