

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

4th September - Norton/Pedmore and Stourbridge East/Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Centre Community Forum

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 2013/14 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:

4. Alderman Tye Scout and Guide HQ South Road, Stourbridge.

An application has been received from the Management Committee of the above organisation. The application is for a total £1000, in relation to a total bill of £2,150 for the repair of the roof. This request relates to work already completed and paid for from the organisations reserves. The application is accompanied by an invoice from the contractor. The invoice for the works is dated 25th April 2013 and Members may wish to consider if the works were of an emergency nature, not allowing for the application to be submitted in advance. It is noted that no submission was made to the June 2013 meeting of this Forum.

The application also states they have not benefited from funding from the forum within the last 3 years. Members may recall an application considered in April 2013 where this Forum approved a grant for £5000 for furniture and equipment for the same venue. The current application does not include 3 quotes obtained prior to letting the contract.

5. 451 Stourbridge Air Training Corps Squadron, Territorial Army Centre, Swinford Road, Stourbridge.

An application has been received from the training Corps whose aim is to provide young people with information and guidance in relation to aviation and the Royal Air Force. It provides training useful for both civilian and military life. The organisation supports over 61 people and has 12 members residing in the Borough. Funding is requested for the purchase of laptops and computers, printer, camcorder, screens and networking and media drives to enable cadets to increasingly undertake on line training for BTEC and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

A total of £5000 is requested from a total expenditure of £6920.35p. Three quotes have been included with the application.

No previous applications have been made.

Ward Members have been circulated with details of the application prior to the forum.

Finance

12. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive £10,000 per ward to allocate each financial year.
13. The total sum currently available to spend is:

£41,800.98p, this allocation is the sum of monies allocated from the 3 wards as requested by members at the last Forum.
14. This amount includes unspent balances from the resources allocated to the former Area Committee and the first meeting of this community forum.

Law

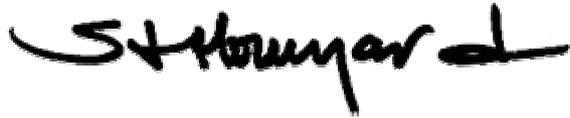
15. Pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do.
16. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory function.

Equality Impact

17. 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

18. 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.



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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.



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.