
**Norton/Pedmore and Stourbridge East/Wollaston and Stourbridge Town
Community Forum – 19th March, 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 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 applications referred to in this report, appendix 2 has been emailed to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications for consideration at this meeting:

9th Stourbridge Oldswinford Scout Group

4. Funding of £2500 is requested to help towards the renewal of the group's patrol tents – which are well worn, leaking and in need of replacement – and the purchase of a new smaller mess tent which will be used for food preparation, dining and storage. One quote accompanied their application due to the specialist nature of scout camping equipment. It is intended that the balance of £3130 will be funded through a back pay of gift aid on subscriptions from HMRC.
5. The purpose of the Scout Association is to 'actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.' The tents will also be available to other scout and guide groups or any other organisation looking for the occasional use of camping equipment.

Pedmore Cricket Club

6. Funding of £2327 is requested to purchase materials and hire equipment for club members, volunteers and the community to undertake various jobs around the cricket club as part of their Cricket force weekend. It is anticipated that around 150 members will help with various jobs. Three quotes for materials have been provided but no

quotes have been included for the cost of equipment hire (although a breakdown of costs has been provided).

7. The aim of the Club is to promote the amateur sport of cricket in the Pedmore area and to provide social and recreational activities for its members and the local community. The funding will also help schools, the local church, Women's Institute and neighbourhood watch.

LIFE Debt Advice Centre (Stourbridge)

8. Funding of up to £5000 is requested towards start up costs to run a free to client debt and money advice centre through Churches Together in Stourbridge – and within a 7 mile radius of Stourbridge town centre – operational from 1st March 2014. There are no quotes included within the bid although a breakdown of what the funding would be spent is included together with a detailed proposal.
9. The proposal outlines key objectives of the project which include: to see 20 persons / families to be either debt free or in the process of being debt free by 31st December 2014; to see 160 persons / families to be either debt free or in the process of being debt free on an annual basis; to offer courses on the prevention of debt and to have delivered courses to 100 people on an annual basis from 1st January 2015.
10. They have identified in their application that the total cost of the project is £30,140 and a more detailed budget is set out in their proposal. They have received £6775 from local churches and individuals and have been promised a further £5950 from the same sources towards project costs. They have also received £3000 from Churches Together in Stourbridge for initial set up and are expecting a yearly contribution.
11. The LIFE Debt Advice Centre will be legally run as a separate charity and under affiliation to Community Money Advice (CMA) a Christian based national charity that for eleven years has enabled community groups to establish local, free to client, face to face debt advice services through the provision of a range of services.

23rd World Scout Jamboree Japan 2015

12. Two separate applications for £2995 each have been received from two local scouts who have been chosen to attend the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan in July 2015 as part of the West Mercia Scout County Unit of 36 young people and 4 adults. A Jamboree is an event where scouts from all over the world partake in scouting activities and attendance is on merit after a rigorous selection process. A total of 12 applications in total have been received from the Unit and referred to the relevant Community Forums for decision.
13. It is expected that each member will raise a total of £2995 each towards an overall cost of £119,800 for the whole unit. The remainder of the money will be raised through a series of sponsorship activities.

Finance

14. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive £10,000 per ward to allocate each financial year.
15. The total sum currently available to spend across all the wards is: £12,817.43
16. This amount includes unspent balances for resources allocated to the former Area Committees.

Law

17. 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.
18. 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

19. 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

20. That the Forum considers the application/s referred to in this report and makes recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.

Andrew Leigh

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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.