

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

6th November - 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:

**Fast+Aid Charity no1147703,
Alrewych Court, Northgate, Aldridge, WS8 9AF**

4. The above organisation has applied for a grant in total across all community forums of £10,000. To date consideration has taken place at the Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Forum on the 3rd September 2013 where the application was approved in principle on the basis that it should be referred to all forums as a Borough wide application. The final amount awarded being dependant upon support being forthcoming from the other 9 forums. The application has also been considered by the Amblecote/Cradley and Wollescote/Lye and Stourbridge North Members who have recommended to award £1000.
5. The aims of the charity are to provide a professional and caring team of volunteers who support the West Midlands Ambulance Service in responding to 999 emergency calls using a group of trained volunteers. There are a total of 62 volunteers all based within Dudley borough.

6. The funding is to purchase a second vehicle to be used in the Dudley area so that they can respond quickly to 999 calls. The Fast+Aid vehicle and crew provide life saving care to a patient whilst waiting for the arrival of the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Dudley MBC- Directorate of Urban Environment, Environmental Management Division

7. Funding is requested for the provision of Christmas trees at 2 locations within the Forum area. The application is for the funding to purchase the trees, erect them and then remove them together with the energy costs for lighting them. The costs of maintenance and installation of the lights will be met from within the Environmental Management Division budget .The amount of funding applied for is £2,273.37.

The two locations listed are: Chequers Public House Stourbridge and Oldswinford Cross

Unit3sixty C.I.C.

Block f bays 5 and 6 The Stourbridge Estate Mill Race Lane Stourbridge.

8. Funding of £5000 is requested from this and all other community forum for a project the estimated total cost of which is £150,000. The funding is for match funding for capital equipment and revenue to provide membership packages to ward residents .The project is to provide a skate park and the aim of the organisation is to create a vibrant local community enterprise for the youth of Dudley borough. The application states they hope to have a target of 3000 members 2000 of which are in the Borough.
9. To date the application states that some of the balance of the funding needed is from the Community enterprise fund £40,000 and £75,000 from the Charity Bank social enterprise loan.
10. The applicants will need to apply for planning permission for change of use of the premises in Mill Race Lane, it is advised that if Members are minded to recommend the approval of the application to the Director of Corporate Resources that they do so subject to planning permission.

Ward Members have been circulated with details of the applications 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 across all wards is: £37,340.80
14. This amount includes unspent balances for all three wards within the forum area.

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.