
Report to Halesowen North and South Community Forum 4th November 2014

Report of Lead Officer

Area Grants

Purpose of Report

1. To consider applications for grant assistance from the Community Forum Funding Budget.

Background

2. The 10 Community Forums are responsible for allocating expenditure from the 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. Copies of the applications referred to in this report have been sent to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications

3. There are five new applications be considered. These are:
 - **Black Country Wheels** – an application for £5,000 from each of the 10 forums, so £500 from us to support the delivery of a beauty therapy course for 10 people who have been out of education/work for some time.
 - **Halesowen Chamber of Commerce** – an application for £5,000 for both Halesowen forums for festive lighting in Halesowen town centre. Since the last meeting this forum's elected members have approved an award of £2,500 in respect of this application.
 - **Dudley Council's Environmental Management Division** – an application for £2,069.60 for Christmas trees in Long Lane and St. John's Church, High Street. I am establishing if this is to be considered by both Halesowen forums.
 - **Dudley Duke of Edinburgh Award Association** – an application for £5,000 from each of the 10 forums, so £500 from us to train leaders to deliver the award scheme to more young people.
 - **Halesowen in Bloom** – an application for £7,250.86 for both Halesowen forums, so £3,635.43 from us, for window boxes and barrier baskets.

Finance

4. Taking account of all previous commitments, the current balance of funding available to the Halesowen North and South Community Forum is **£23,432.71**. This made up of the original funding balance of £9,196.61 and the balance of the

new empty shops grant & high street innovation funding of £14,236.10 (taking into account the Halesowen Chamber of Commerce award detailed above).

Law

5. 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

6. This report complies with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Recommendation

7. That:-
 - i) The Community Forum considers the applications 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

- The application forms on which this report is based have been sent to Members prior to the meeting but contain exempt information under the terms of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- Appendix 1 Corporate Guidelines for Considering Funding Applications.