

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee**

Date of Committee **21 September 2005**

Report Title **Stratford on Avon Well being Fund
Priorities and Potential Commission**

Summary That the Area Committee identifies the priorities for the use of the Well being Fund in 2005/06. The Area Committee consider whether to approve a Well being Fund commission for the establishment of a fund for disabled access improvements to community facilities

For further information please contact: Martin Gibbins
Area Manager - Stratford on Avon
Tel: 01789 290784
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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) George Atkinson, Jill Dill Russell, Bob Stevens
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive David Carter - Reporting Officer
- Legal Peter Endell – Senior Solicitor
- Finance David Preece – Finance Officer
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Stratford On Avon Area Committee - 21 September 2005.

**Stratford on Avon Well being Fund Priorities
and a Potential Commission**

Report of the County Solicitor & Assistant Chief Executive

Recommendation

That the Area Committee:

1. Agrees that the priorities for the use of the Well being Fund shall be those set out in paragraph 2.1 of this Report as supplemented by the themes set out in paragraph 2.2 and
2. Approves the Well being Fund proposal set out as Appendix A to this report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Well being Fund seeks to address the social, environmental and economic well being needs of local communities in the District. This is achieved by commissioning projects that meet priorities identified by Stratford on Avon Area Committee. The priorities are based on those identified through the Stratford District Community Plan, the County Strategic Plan or the Area Business Plan.
- 1.2 Potential commissions can be identified by the Key Group of the Stratford District Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership) in support of the actions identified in the Community Plan, by the local Area Managers and by Area Committee.
- 1.3 The Stratford on Avon Well being Fund has a total of £162,290 to commit in 2005/06. This includes an uncommitted balance of £98,370 from 2004/05 and an allocation of £63,920 for 2005/06.

2. Priorities for 2005/06

- 2.1 The priorities for the use of the Well being Fund are set by the Area Committee. The issue was considered by the Funding Sub Group at the meeting on 16 August. After some discussion it was agreed that the priorities

for 2005/06 should remain unchanged from those identified for 2004/05. The proposed priorities are:

Environment
Improving Health
Community Safety
Young People
Community Involvement

- 2.2 To assist in the development of appropriate commissions it is suggested that as additional guidance that the additional themes set out below are used:

Promoting Community Cohesion	Reducing Crime and Promoting
Anti Poverty Work	Community Safety
Achieving Equality	Young People
Improving Public Health	Older People
Local Initiatives (targeting the most	Working with the Community and
deprived communities locally)	Voluntary Sector

3. Potential Commission

- 3.1 A potential commission for the Well being Fund is attached as appendix A to the report. After discussing the potential commission the Funding Sub Group supported the award of the commission. The Part A of the form provides information about the project brief and the corresponding Part B sets out the Expression of Interest from the potential project deliverer. The Committee is requested to consider approval of expenditure on this project from the Well-being Fund.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 With the agreement of the priorities for the use of Well being Fund it will be possible develop potential commissions. A number of potential commissions are in the early stages of development and these will be brought to the Area Committee in due course.

DAVID CARTER
County Solicitor & Assistant
Chief Executive

Shire Hall
Warwick

23 August 2005

Warwickshire County Council Well-being Fund 2004/05

Part A – Project Brief - To be completed by the commissioning theme group

Name of Project: Disability Access Project

Name of Local Strategic Partnership:

Name of Theme Group promoting project:

Description of Project for which funding is sought from Area Committee

The purpose of the project is to ensure that more community buildings within Stratford District are accessible to people with sensory and mobility disabilities. The project will provide grant assistance to enable improvements to be made to the building enabling more people to access the facility.

Many organisations have made some modifications to their building often using grants to fund the work. The typical works undertaken includes the installation of ramps or provision of disabled toilet facilities. Much of the work undertaken so far has been funded through grants covering all or part of the cost.

However whilst a number of buildings have made some improvements there are still many where improvements need to be undertaken. Also much of the work undertaken so far has been focussed on providing ramps or disabled toilet facilities. Few groups have undertaken an Access Audit to identify the complete range of work necessary to improve disabled access to their building.

One of the major problems facing groups and organisations is that there are now few grants available to fund this work. As a result organisations are now finding increasingly difficult to fund improvements. The improvements can also be costly for a small community group. For example a disabled persons toilet will normally cost, depending on the work necessary, in excess of £3,000.

To help address this issue it is proposed that a grant fund is established specifically to address disability access to community buildings.

For an organisation to be eligible for a grant the building must have wide community access and include: village halls, community centres etc. Buildings not normally accessible by the wider community, for example a sports club, would not be eligible for a grant.

The project would provide grants of up to 50%, to a maximum of £5000 for schemes that would make community buildings more accessible for people with disabilities. Potential beneficiaries would need to have undertaken, and funded themselves, an Access Audit in order to be able to qualify for a grant. The Access Audit will highlight those areas where work is necessary and prioritise that work. Grant support would only be available for work identified in the Access Audit. The issues covered by a typical Access Audit include:

Getting To The Premises

- Parking
- Approach and routes to entrance
- Lighting and signage to entrance
- Surfaces of approach
- Street and grounds furniture

Getting Into The Premises

- Steps and ramps
- Entrance doors and thresholds
- Reception areas including desks, seating and lighting

Getting Around The Premises

- Lateral circulation, width of corridors etc
- Internal direction signs
- Floor surfaces, and tonal contrasts of surfaces
- Vertical circulation - lifts and stairs

Using The Services In The Premises

- Toilets, washrooms, changing and bathroom facilities
- Access to and in eating and bar areas
- Public room access and layout
- Lighting, heating and acoustics
- Accessibility of switches, handles and controls
- Seating and furniture
- Telephones and electrical equipment
- Alarms and acoustics

Getting Out Of The Building

- Fire exits and escape routes
- Emergency lighting and warning systems
- Safe refuge areas in event of fire

Managing The Building And Service

- Keeping routes clear and obstructions removed
- Maintenance of lighting, heating and alarm systems
- Attitudinal approach of staff
- Publicity material, menus etc

The project would be administered by Warwickshire Rural Community Council who have the necessary experience and knowledge to oversee the scheme. They employ a village halls advisor who is highly regarded and very knowledgeable about the issues facing village halls and community buildings.

It is proposed that the fund of £30,000 is set up. Based on the criteria for the fund it will mean that as a minimum 6 buildings will undergo improvements and there will be at least £30,000 of match funding.

Priorities, set by the County Council Area Committee, that will be addressed

The project will help to address the Community Involvement priority of the Area Committee. The project will also assist in addressing the Social Inclusion Strategy theme of Supporting the Community & Voluntary Sector by enabling more people to access community facilities.

Location of Project

The project will benefit groups across the whole of Stratford on Avon.

Who will benefit from the project?

There will be benefits for the whole community in particular those with visual or mobility disabilities. It will enable more community facilities to be accessible by more people enabling a wider number of people to participate in the life of their community. The project is particularly important in Stratford on Avon given the large, and increasing, number of older people.

When will it be delivered?

It is expected that the project will be delivered within 12 months of award of the commission.

Expected Outputs

At least 6 Access Audits will be undertaken.

At least 6 community buildings will be improved.

Note: Final output figures are difficult to quantify at this stage as they are dependent on the buildings improved.

Expected Outcomes

The outcomes will include an increase in the number of people able to access community facilities

Proposed monitoring arrangements/Indicators of success

A report will be prepared for each of the potential grants prior to their award setting out what will be achieved, works to be undertaken, timescale, beneficiaries, costs etc. The project will be monitored during the implementation of the work to ensure it is on track and any issues are resolved. A report will be prepared on the completion of the project to evaluate how successful it has been both at the individual organisation level and of the project as a whole. This will set out in detail the outputs and outcomes achieved and the amount of additional funding levered in.

What is the long term future of the project (If appropriate)

The project itself is time and cash limited. However the benefits of the improvements undertaken will be long lasting for the whole community who use the buildings improved as the result of a grant from the project..

Eligible for Main Programme or other funding? - No
Details of other sources of funding The individual projects will have to provide at least 50% of the total project costs from other, non County Council, funding sources that will include their own resources.

Contact on LSP Theme Group

Contact name			
Address			
Telephone No.		Fax No.	
E-mail			

Signature of Chair of Theme Group

.....

Date signed

.....

Well-being Fund 2004/05

Part B – Expression of Interest - To be completed by the body/individual interested in undertaking a commission

Name of Project: Disability Access Project

Details of body/Individual interested in commission

Name of Organisation	Warwickshire Rural Community Council		
Contact name	Alison Chapel		
Address	Unit 25 Stoneleigh Deer Park Strareton Warwickshire		
Telephone No.		Fax No.	
E-mail			

Description of Project (from project brief)

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Details of timescale. When would you be able to commence this project?

The project would commence once confirmation of the commission is received. The aim is to complete the project within 12 months of the award of the commission.

Outputs – What can you offer the Project?

Examples of similar projects previously undertaken

Warwickshire Rural Community Council has extensive experience of working with groups and organisations running community facilities. We employ a Village Halls advisor, Mavis Wilkins, specifically to provide advice to groups on a range of issues associated with village halls and community centres. The work of the Village Halls advisor is well respected and is acknowledged to be the person groups turn to when needing support or seeking advice. The Village Halls advisor would be responsible for overseeing the project. No other organisation working within the District has the knowledge possessed by the WRCC on Village Hall issues.

Analysis of costs – Please be as precise as possible

Total Project Cost	£33000
Expenses Promotion Administration Visits	£3,000
Capital/Equipment	£0
Other Grants	£30,000
Total	£33,000

Signature of representative of organisation interested in commission

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Position

Date