

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee

Date of Committee 23 January 2008

Report Title Stratford on Avon Potential Well being Fund and Social Inclusion Fund Projects

Summary The Area Committee considers whether to approve the Well being Fund and Social Inclusion Fund projects set out in the report.

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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 as Area Committee Funding Sub Group. Cllr Stevens expressed some concerns over the information & advice project for the Polish community.
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Legal Lisa Arben – Solicitor
- Finance Nicola Cumberledge – Finance Officer
- Other Chief Officers David Carter – Strategic Director Performance & Development
- 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

Agenda No

Stratford on Avon Area Committee – 23 January 2008.

Stratford on Avon Potential Well being Fund and Social Inclusion Fund Projects

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development

Recommendation

That the Area Committee:

- 1: Approves the Well being Fund proposals set out in Section 4 and the Social Inclusion Fund proposal set in Section 5
- 2: Nominates three representatives to the Funding Panel for the Youth Work Development Grant
- 3: Approves the establishment of a Small Grants Fund

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report contains funding proposals that have been considered and are supported by the members of the Area Committee's Funding Sub Group. Further details of any of these proposals can be obtained from the County Councils Stratford on Avon Area Office.
- 1.2 Potential commissions can be identified by a Theme 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 current priorities for the use of the Well being Fund are projects that address one or more of the following priorities:-
 - Climate Change & Environment
 - Health & Older People
 - Stronger Communities
 - Safer Communities
 - Children, Young People & Families

2. Available Resources Well being Fund

- 2.1 A total of £65775 is available to the Area Committee in this years Well Being fund to commit in 2007/08. At previous Area Committee meetings projects with a total value of £10180 were agreed. This leaves a total of £55,595 to be committed.

3 Social Inclusion Fund

- 3.1 The Social Inclusion Fund has a total of £92491 available to commit in 2007/08. At previous Area Committee meetings projects with a value of £53150 have been agreed leaving a balance of £45505 to committed.

4. Well being Fund Proposals

4.1 Public Realm Grant Programme

a) Description of Project

Improvement of the public realm and encouraging people to feel proud of their local community and their environment are key priorities for the District. In order to help local communities to improve their surroundings, Warwickshire County Council has introduced a Public Realm Grants scheme, through which up to £1,000 is being made available to every town and parish in Stratford on Avon. All projects funded through the scheme must, in some way, improve a publicly accessible external area, thereby providing direct benefit to the local community. In this context, the “public realm” is very broad, and the scheme is available to fund a wide variety of projects. The possibilities are endless, but may include:

- Repainting of street furniture
- Replacement or provision of benches in public areas
- Purchase of litter pickers for use within the community
- Replacement of existing litter bins
- Parish/village information boards
- Creation and planting of shrub or flowerbeds in public areas
- Supply and planting of flower tubs

These ideas are merely examples of the type of projects that the Public Realm Grants scheme will support. Your community/parish may wish to propose other projects.

Grant awards can be made to local community groups, schools, businesses or directly to town/parish councils. Regardless of the potential grant recipient, however, the relevant town/parish council must endorse all projects submitted to the award scheme. A town/parish council may choose to endorse a number of projects, although the maximum cumulative award for any one area is £1,000.

All projects must be supported with 50% match funding. This match funding must be in cash. Potential schemes that have secured the support of their town/parish council will be considered by the Funding sub group for determination.

b) Proposer of Project

Area Committee Funding Sub Group

c) Amount of Funding

£30,000

d) Contribution to Area Committee Priorities

The project will contribute towards the Area Committee priority of Stronger Communities.

4.2 Eco Awareness Days

a) Description of Project

This project will develop and run a programme of eco awareness days around Stratford District. This will be achieved by developing a toolkit for use by those delivering the training to provide them with the necessary information and any necessary support materials. Member of the community will be trained to deliver the programme utilising the toolkit. This will also help to ensure that the project is sustainable. The theme of the days will be reduce and re-use to encompass energy, waste management, food and biodiversity.

Eco awareness advice will be delivered by fellow members of the local community Through formation of partnerships, the eco-awareness days will provide one platform for existing organisations to reach local communities Expense and duplication of multiple events avoided

b) Proposer of Project

Stratford on Avon CVS

c) Amount of Funding sought

Activity	Cost
1. Plan outline of the eco-awareness days and recruit partners	£1,000.00
2. Prepare toolkit for the days	£9,500.00
3. Hold pilot event and evaluate it	£2,000.00
4. Set up at least two more eco-awareness days	£1,350.00

d) Total Cost of the Project

£13,850.00

e) Contribution to Area Committee Priorities

The project will contribute towards the Area Committee priority of Stronger Communities.

After considering the project proposal the funding sub group have recommended that the project be supported at 50% - £6925

4.3 Warwick Road Lands Management Plan Action

a) Description of Project

The Ecology Unit of Warwickshire County Council was commissioned by Stratford District Council (SDC) to carry out preliminary survey work essential to the basis of a management plan in 2005. Whilst the preliminary survey work was undertaken the management plan remains to be completed. The aim of this project to complete the Land Management Plan. The purpose of which is to increase the biodiversity of the site, increase public understanding and enjoyment of the site, increase wider appreciation of the complex issues surrounding biodiversity on the urban fringe and unlock the potential sources of funding that will enable the implementation of the practical actions included within the management plan. It will also provide plan that can be used to attract funding from other sources.

The project will be undertaken by the Ecology Unit of the County Council with support from officers at Stratford on Avon District Council.

This action will be an essential contribution to meeting the targets within the E9 objectives within the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement within the Stratford region.

b) Proposer of the Project

Climate Change & Environment Theme Group

c) Amount of Funding sought

Action

Produce a Discussion Draft of Management Plan – “Ideal” management prescriptions and recommendations for consultation	£1240
Consult with all stakeholders associated with the park (SDC, Stratford Town Trust, local residents and visitors of the area, wildlife groups and fishermen)	£700
Complete Management Plan –Full management prescriptions with maintenance plan for contractors and 10 year Action Plan table.	£1550
Total	£3490

d) Total Cost of the Project

£3490

f) Contribution to Area Committee Priorities

The project will contribute towards the Area Committee priority of Climate Change & Environment

After considering the project proposal the Funding Sub Group have recommended that the project be supported at 50% - £1745

4.4 Software for Community Groups

The Funding Sub Group in considering the applications for Community Computers have proposed that, as with the first round of Community Computers, those groups awarded a computer are also able to purchase a copy of Microsoft office. This proved to be very popular with groups awarded a community computer.

The Funding Sub Group have proposed that the same offer be made as with the first round of Community Computers that each group awarded a computer is also given a grant of up to £300 to purchase Microsoft office. If all groups were to take up this offer the total cost would be £6,000.

5 Social Inclusion Fund Proposals

5.1 Welcome Pack Initiative

a) Description of Project

The initiative is managed by the Village Liaison Officer Project at Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), and has been funded initially through the Rural and Social Communities Programme (DEFRA 2006-2008).

The Village Liaison Officer (VLO) project has developed the Welcome Pack initiative working with 10 communities in Stratford District in 2007.

Each Parish Council receives support, guidance and funding advice from the VLO project on how to research, produce and distribute the packs, according to their individual community needs.

Project Outline

To further expand and extend this model across Stratford District to work with more Parish Councils, and to explore further communication and capacity building initiatives with Parish Councils, subject to the availability of additional resources.

The project would seek to recruit dedicated volunteers in more parishes, and work with the respective Parish Councils to promote the Welcome Pack Initiative.

The Welcome Pack is designed as a tool to inform local people about local service provision, to improve accessibility to information about services. It will also encourage them to integrate into their local community and help to build the capacity of the community.

The pack includes:-

- A 'Welcome' letter from a Community Leader
- Background history of the local community
- A directory of local services, contact info on local organisations, and statutory organisations with who to contact for what problem
- Local transport information
- A local map
- Parish Council news
- Who's who in the village

The Welcome Pack is promoted via key community figures, local volunteers, the Parish Council, the church and through the parish magazine distribution network.

In addition, working with local estate agents and the Council's tax staff (i.e. Council Tax) is proposed should the model be expanded, to consider other ways to reach new householders.

Project costs

The current budget for 07/08, supporting 10 parishes is £14,170

Working with an increased number of parishes, a figure of £23,480 would enable this work to be expanded extensively across the District. A more detailed breakdown of the budget is given below.

Anticipated Outcomes and Indicators

The project is currently working in Barford, Bidford, Ilmington, Lighthorne Heath, Oxhill, Tanworth, Tysoe, Ufton, Welford and Wellesbourne. The expansion proposal would focus around working with 8/10 "cluster/locality groups", working with a local volunteer and a representative from the Parish Council to work with, and enable, them to develop a Welcome Pack.

Time Scale

The project could start in January 2008 and be rolled out to Parish Councils from February/March 2008.

Monitoring and reporting

The Village Liaison Officer Project would continue to manage the project, from the Stratford Council for Voluntary Service office. A dedicated and experienced Project Officer would be responsible for delivery of the project, with support in kind being offered by Stratford CVS Projects Manager.

Expansion of the project would be focused around working with 8/10 "cluster/locality groups", working with a local volunteer and a rep from the parish council to work with them and enable them to develop a local Welcome

pack. In addition there is the scope to work with the Parish Council, to look at developing Communication Strategies, and providing further training e.g.: newsletter writing. A communication sub group of the parish council, or a small group within the community would be established to take responsibility for the 'Welcome Pack' in the longer-term.

b) Proposer of Project

Stratford on Avon CVS

c) Amount of Funding sought

Staff costs	£10,506
On costs	£1,316
Travel costs	£500
Office costs	£6,680
Management costs	£1,978
Project activity costs	£2,500
 Total	 £23,480

d) Total Cost of the Project

£37,650

e) Contribution to Area Committee Priorities

The project will contribute towards the Area Committee priority of Stronger Communities.

5.2 Polish Community: Information & Advice

a) Description of Project

At present, there is no targeted support available for Polish residents who live in Stratford and agencies have been reluctant to offer support as they do not have the capacity and resources to support this work. Very little awareness is held by public and traditional voluntary agencies (ie. CABs and CVSs) as to issues surrounding racial inequality and the measures to address racist incidents.

Worcester Research July 2006; Marc Bayliss & Rob Gullen showed that between May 2004 and December 2006, 2,096 Polish workers registered through the Worker Registration Scheme in Stratford on Avon. However, the majority of the growth appears to relate to immigration from the EU accession states, particularly Poland. Recent research conducted by Worcester Research has indicated over 2,000 new arrivals in Stratford on Avon.

One of the gaps that exists is provision of advice and information for recent migrants, particularly Polish people, in the district. One of the few places in the District where a significant number of Polish people meet is St. Gregory's Church for the service on Sundays. This provides an opportunity to meet, listen to and provide advice and support to people on a variety of issues.

Some limited work has been undertaken in this area over the past few months and it is clear that the ability to speak Polish would be a significant advantage.

It is proposed that a Polish Interpreter will be engaged for one day of every week (Monday) plus an additional two hours every Sunday. Their base on a Sunday will be at St. Gregory's Church, Stratford-on-Avon. The Interpreter will also work alongside a WREP officer on the scheduled one day a week. This work will involve in-depth case work, advice and support, signposting, and helping to clarify the needs of Polish residents in Stratford-on-Avon.

The project will include interpretation and translation, marketing and printing costs to support the work on new arrivals in Stratford on Avon (e.g. WREP recently held a Diversity Event in Stratford upon Avon to capture some of the needs of BME residents, which was supported by other officers of WREP).

This additional work will compliment and fully engage with the work already being conducted:

- Engagement
- Consultation
- Casework
- Interpreting support
- Needs Analysis

The project will run for an initial period of 6 months after which it will be reviewed to see whether it should be continued. If so funding from alternative sources will be sought.

b) Proposer of Project

Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership

c) Total Cost of the Project

£7500

d) Contribution to Area Committee Priorities

The project will contribute to the Area Committee priority of Stronger Communities

6. Former ACEC Funds

6.1 Each Area Committee has been given an allocation of funds from the former ACECs according to the formula used previously for the ACEC. In Stratford case the allocation is £6400. The Funding Sub Group has considered how this fund should be used and has proposed that a small grants fund should be established. The fund:

- Would be aimed at existing and emerging community/voluntary groups.
- Can be used for any purpose which has a community benefit.
- cannot be used for religious or sporting activity.

- Would not be used to support projects which are eligible for Youth Work Development Grants.
 - may also be used to support community initiatives in response to issues raised at Electoral Divisional Panels or Locality Forums.
- 6.2 Grants will be no more than £500. No group will receive more than £1,000 during a financial year. A simple application form will be used to capture basic information. The fund will be locally publicised using the CVS, Parish & Town Councils and other local networks. Administration of the Fund would be undertaken through the Stratford Area Office.
- 6.3 Grant awards will be delegated to the funding sub-group of the Area Committee, through a 'rolling programme' rather than any official deadlines. So long as applications have the approval of all members of the funding sub-group, the group does not have to meet.

7. Youth Work Development Grants Panel

- 7.1 The County Council has established a fund for young people, the Youth Work Development Grant, that will provide grants to support:
- Any voluntary youth organisation that is working with 11-25 year olds making a contribution to the 'Warwickshire Youth Offer'
 - Service Agreements with local voluntary youth organisations that make significant contributions to the Youth & Community Service delivery action plan; whose members are included in the data collection of the service and who have set targets for recorded outcomes and accreditation.
 - Any partnership project that contributes towards the 'Warwickshire Youth Offer' involving at least two of the Enhanced Youth Support Services
 - 5 five day subsidised residential experiences using the Marle Hall Outdoor Education Centre in North Wales
 - Support for any International Exchange involving young people organised outside of a School, College or University.
- 7.2 Support for the Youth Development Grant process is provided by the Youth & Community Service. Grant awards are made at the District or Borough level by a Funding Panel made up of young people from the Youth Forum and representatives from the Area Committee.
- 7.3 The Area Committee has been asked to nominate three representatives to serve on the Funding Panel to agree the distribution of the Youth Development Grant for the District.

DAVID CARTER
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Development
Shire Hall, Warwick
December 2007