

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee

Date of Committee 19 March 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.
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Legal Lisa Arben – Solicitor
- Finance Nicola Cumberledge – 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

Agenda No

Stratford On Avon Area Committee – 19 March 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 project proposals set out in Section 3

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

- 2.1 As a result of commitments made by the Area Committee at previous

meetings there is £10928 within the Well being Fund and £12446 within the Social Inclusion Fund, a total of £23374 to be committed. To simplify the process it is proposed that the uncommitted balance from both funds are combined.

3. Project Proposals

3.1 Just Me!!

a) Description of Project

Just Me! is a voluntary organisation whose purpose is to provide members (parents, carers, support workers, sufferers) with a support group and social contact for adults 18 years and over who have autism and who do not receive any statutory service provision in Warwickshire.

The project, Education and Awareness In, aims to provide awareness sessions to statutory and voluntary organisations, businesses and other organisations in South Warwickshire to raise the profile of autistic people by members of the group becoming trainers.

The project will include the purchase of 3 laptops, Powerpoint Training, Powerpoint Software, Powerpoint Projector and PTLT Training (learning to be trainers), which will help to promote the group, what its aims are and allow more effective communication with all statutory and voluntary organisations within South Warwickshire (MIND, CVS).

Once trained, members (Management Committee 5, Other Volunteers 5, Service Users 20) will speak to organisations and companies by giving presentations to raise funds so as to provide assistance for autistic adults, which will enable them to socialise within the community.

This project was a previous applicant to the Community Development Fund in November and, as with all the applicants to CDF, there were a number of issues that needed to be resolved. It was therefore decided not to recommend this project for funding but to support the group via alternative sources.

b) Proposer of Project

Just Me!!

c) Amount of Funding sought

£3,000

d) Total Cost of the Project

£5,000 (the project has recently received £2,000 towards running costs from Stratford Town Trust)

- e) **Contribution to Area Committee Priorities**
The project will contribute to the Healthier Communities & Older People priority of the Area Committee.

3.2 Addressing Anti Social Behaviour in Alcester

a) **Description of Project**

Alcester has been identified as the base for the project as it is an area of high social deprivation with identified needs for young people, particularly around the estates of Ten Acres and Conway. There are particular issues associated with young people and anti social behaviour in the vicinity of Hopkins Precinct which reached a level where a dispersal order was imposed.

The aim of the project is to encourage young people who have had no experience or access to music and give them the opportunity to work with professional musicians and mentors. There will also be the opportunity for the participants to perform live with the help of professional musicians. The target group are 12 – 18 year old young people with behaviour problems/antisocial behaviour, at risk of crime.

Mentors will be drawn from young people who have been through similar projects, often having themselves been at risk of, or who have, offended and are now using music as a way of addressing their anti social behaviour.

Workshops will be held at the Greig Hall and held 2 hours per group once every 2 weeks (based on 20 young people split into 4 groups of 5). Groups will be based on age, music style, experience and compatibility. 7 sessions for each group plus a performance – 28 sessions in total over 14 weeks.

This project has the support of the police and Inspector Warren Ayres has been involved in the development of this project. Robert McCluskey Area Youth & Community Officer for the County Council is supportive of the project.

The project will be targeted at those young people from the area who have come into contact with the Police as a result of their behaviour, have been referred to the Pupil Referral Unit.etc. The project is being viewed as a pilot with a view to running it in other communities across the district over subsequent months.

- b) **Proposer of Project**
Hijack Music
- c) **Amount of Funding sought**
£8,000
- d) **Total Cost of the Project**
£8,000

e) Contribution to Area Committee Priorities

The project will contribute towards the Area Committee priority of Safer Communities

3.3 Community Facility in Shipston

a) Description of Project

The potential for the development of a community facility to enable a number of different activities to take place has been identified within the Shipston on Stour area. The facility could include meeting space, small business units, offices, café. Such a facility would be for use by and for the benefit of the community.

There are a number of community facilities within the area however few if any of these, as with community facilities elsewhere within the District, are capable of housing the wide range of uses proposed.

There is some evidence to suggest that there is a clear need for this type of facility but to date this has not been clearly established. Clearly a soundly based business case for a Community Building needs to be established.

In order to establish the potential of creating such a Community Building it is proposed to undertake a detailed study to develop the business case for taking the project forward. The study will consider the many issues that need to be addressed including:

- Identifying whether there is a need for a new community facility
- Identifying partners (statutory and voluntary)
- promote cross - community working and cohesion
- promote genuinely home-grown local initiatives
- promote sustainability for the Stour Valley
- promote added value to partnership working
- look at transport issues
- identify the location(s)
- Consider the viability of buildings identified for community use.

One key issue that will be addressed is to ensure that any facility that might be identified is sustainable. In the future it is key that the project is not in a position whereby it is always seeking support to keep operating..

If the study is successful in identifying an appropriate building it will provide a sound evidence base on which any funding applications can be based.

b) Proposer of the Project

c) Total Cost of the Project

£16,000

- d) **Contribution to Area Committee Priorities**
The project will contribute to the Area Committee priority of Stronger Communities.

After considering the project the Funding sub Group have recommended that a grant of £6000 be awarded.

3.4 Back & 4th Transport

a) Description of Project

The Back & 4th Transport project is a community focussed group hire and transport brokerage project. Back and 4th Transport offer transport to individuals and community groups in the Stratford District, who cannot access conventional transport because they are elderly or disabled, rurally or socially isolated or unable to afford commercial transport. Purposes for which vehicles can be hired include education, medical appointments, group outings and other social activities.

The project has three vehicles: one 7-seater Mercedes Vito (known as The Rider) and Two 17-seater vehicles - a Mercedes Sprinter and a Fiat Rohill. All of which can be flexibly arranged and are fully adaptable for wheelchairs.

In addition to the three vehicles it owns the project acts as a broker for other community group's vehicles, typically minibuses, and currently uses 8 such vehicles. The project uses volunteer drivers and has trained 45 people to MiDAS standard (Minibus Drivers Awareness Standards). As well as being trained to MiDAS standards the drivers are also police checked every two years.

Back & 4th fits well with other community focused transport initiatives operating within the such as Community Links, Flexibus, Volunteer Centre Medical Journey Scheme. Each of which addresses specific aspects of community transport.

The project is currently managed by Warwickshire Rural Community Council and is based at HRI in Wellesbourne.

The County Council is working with Back & 4th to reduce the amount of support the organisation requires. The funding requested will support the organisation as it continues to develop for example it is currently in the process of taking on a home to school transport contract.

The Area Committee has supported Back & 4th over the past three years. This support has been £20,000 per annum.

- b) **Proposer of the Project**
Back & 4th Transport & Environment & Economy Directorate, WCC

c) Amount of Funding sought

£16,500

d) Total Cost of the Project

£82,771

e) Contribution to Area Committee Priorities

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

Note: If the grant is awarded it will be a commitment against the 2008/09 grant allocation.

3.5 Citizens Advice Bureau, Southam

a) Description of Project

Southam Town has a population of 6509 (2001 census). Southam and the surrounding villages suffer from pockets of deprivation and rural isolation, especially as public transport is limited.

The Stratford on Avon Citizens Advice Bureau has been operating from a base in Southam for many years. The CAB help people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing information and advice and by influencing policymakers.

In addition to the Stratford office the CAB run sessions in Alcester, Wellesbourne and Southam. A part time outreach worker supervises the Alcester and Wellesbourne offices whilst a volunteer currently supervises the Southam office.

There is a CAB in Leamington, but they only see clients from the Warwick area. Experience has shown that people who might need the CAB services from Southam and the surrounding villages do not come to Stratford. There is no direct bus route, it is a 4 hour return trip via Leamington at considerable cost.

The CAB are moving out of their current base located at the Grange in Southam due to the cost of rent. The CAB is committed to working in Southam and has actively been seeking new accommodation to operate from. Agreement in principle has been reached with the County Council for the CAB to use a meeting room at the Library one day per week.

Unlike Alcester and Wellesbourne outreach offices, which are run by a part-time paid member of staff, The CAB has relied until now on the goodwill of a volunteer to run the service in Southam. Unfortunately, the volunteer is in his seventies and is retiring at the end of March. Despite extensive enquiries, the CAB has not been able to find another volunteer willing to take over responsibility for the Southam office.

It is proposed that the CAB is funded, for twelve months, to employ a part time member of staff to be responsible for the Southam office. This will put the Southam office on the same basis as the offices in Wellesbourne & Alcester. This worker would be responsible for running the CAB operation in Southam, not just providing advice to clients.

b) Proposer of the Project

Stratford on Avon Citizens Advice Bureau

c) Amount of Funding sought

£6614

d) Total Cost of the Project

£6614

e) Contribution to Area Committee Priorities

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

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director of
Performance & Development

Shire Hall
Warwick

18 February 2008