

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Warwick Area Committee

Date of Committee 13 September 2005

Report Title Well Being Fund 2005/6 – Funding Proposal – Culture in a Suitcase

Summary This report outlines a proposal for a project to be funded through the committee’s Well Being Fund for 2005/6.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Cllrs. Boad, Haywood and Randev as Area Committee funding sub group.
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Legal David Carter
- Finance Dave 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

Agenda No

Warwick Area Committee – 13 September 2005.

Well Being Fund Proposal – 2005/06 – Culture in a Suitcase

Report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive

Recommendation

That Members approve the funding proposal set out in section 3 below.

1. Introduction

1.1 At its meeting of June 21st 2005, this committee approved priorities for allocating Well-being Funds and Social Inclusion Funds for 2005/6 and for bringing proposals to committee. This report contains a funding proposal from the Area Team that has been considered by members of the Area Committee's funding sub group. Further details of any of these proposals can be obtained from the County Council's Warwick Area Office.

2. Well – being Fund – Available Resources

2.1 £66,670 is available to the Area Committee in this year's Well-being Fund. In addition to this, some £656.50 was carried over from 2004/5, making a total available balance this year of £67,326.50. £8,000 was committed at the July meeting of this committee, leaving an available balance of £59,326.50

3. Wellbeing Fund Proposal

3.1 **European Union Culture 2000 funding proposal – “Culture in a Suitcase”.**

a) Description of the Project

i) The EU Culture 2000 Programme aims to promote and assist with funding innovative cultural projects that bring together participants from at least 3 EU member states. For one year projects, EU grants of up to 150,000 euros are available.

ii) Emerging from the work of the Warwick Partnership Culture Group, a proposal is in development for an initiative exploring the cultural impact of the movement of migrant workers in Europe, including specific reference to experiences in Warwick District and south Warwickshire. The project would focus on the way that migrant workers make positive cultural contributions to the nations in which they work and the way that the culture of the host nation can also have a positive impact on migrant workers home countries when they return home. The project will aim to develop a better dialogue between

migrant worker communities and host communities via the medium of arts and culture. The proposed title for the project is "Culture in a Suitcase". The latest draft project proposal is attached as appendix A. The proposal has been explored with the agency promoting this funding stream on behalf of the EU in the UK who have been supportive of the concept and have encouraged further work on the idea.

- iii) Development work on the project is currently taking place. Contacts already exist with communities in Portugal who may wish to be part of the project and investigation is under way in establishing a link with Poland – exploring both the experiences of very recent migrant workers from Poland and also migrant workers and refugees who came to the area following the second world war. Other possible European linkages are also being investigated.
 - iv) A local consortium of organisations is involved in developing these proposals. The County Council's European Team in PTES are actively supporting the development of the proposal with their extensive knowledge of European funding and WCC Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards are involved in developing the cultural elements of the proposal along with Hybrid Arts, the Leamington based culture and arts group, who have strong linkages with the local Portuguese community. Warwick District Council are also involved in the development of the ideas.
 - v) The timescale for the submission of the funding proposal is tight, the date for submission of the final bid is 17 October. Several strands of work are taking place in parallel at the moment. The project will only go ahead if at least three European partners are committed to the project and if match funding for the EU grant can be found (assuming a grant bid is successful).
 - vi) Warwick Area Committee are asked to earmark up to £10,000 from this years Wellbeing fund as the County Council's potential contribution to the project. Work is in hand to identify other sources of the match funding required. If all of the other required funding is not forthcoming, the project will not go ahead, the £10,000 will not be required and will be available for other purposes. If the bid is successful, the area committee's £10,000 will have levered in other funding from the EU and other partners to a level of approximately 10 times that contribution and the area will play a leading role in an innovative European cultural project commencing in 2006.
- b) Applicant**
Peter Hunter, WCC Warwick Area Manager on behalf of the consortium of groups developing the proposal.
 - c) Amount of Funding sought**
Up to £10,000 with the proviso that the funding will only be required if the full project proceeds.
 - d) Total Cost of the Project**
Not yet finalised – may well be in the range £100,000 - £150,000.

e) Appraisal

The proposal will contribute to the Cohesive Community objectives of the community plan in exploring positive aspects of the migration of workers within Europe, with specific work with local migrant worker communities and their home communities.

f) Recommendation

Approve the allocation of up to £10,000 with the proviso that the funding will only be required if the full project proceeds.

DAVID CARTER
County Solicitor and Assistant
Chief Executive
Shire Hall
Warwick

25 August 2005

- Draft proposal Culture 2000

Culture in a Suitcase:

Enhancement of the role of culture in social development and integration

A suitcase is designed to allow us to store the items, which we think are necessary to carry with us, when we depart. We never travel with an empty suitcase, and we never return with the same belongs in the suitcase, we left some on the way, we swap, we get new ones... When people move to another country looking for a better life, bringing in their suitcases their local knowledge, their local culture... what will they unpack in the new place?

Through exploring the stories of migrants as a way of understanding the importance of multiculturalism, the project aims to create a flourishing dialogue between the traditional cultures and a contemporary hybrid culture, fruit of the influence of the new motherland. Using the Internet, we intend to improve the access of all groups to information through the web and multimedia. Working with disadvantaged communities, we will look for an approach to a European Cultural Identity, a way of integrating (or mixing) different cultures with the wider community.

On a European Level the added value of co-operation on this project will consist of three main aspects

- Mutual knowledge of cultures.
- Assist intercultural dialogue.
- Promote Equality for disadvantaged communities.

1. What activities are planned

Pack the suitcase

- **Training programmes in photography and graphics**
- With the theme of the cultural impact of economic migration, these ateliers will be organised with the local communities, universities, schools and churches. A wide range of participants young and old will be invited to pool their memories and reminiscences and compare them with present experiences.

Travel with the suitcase

- **European Suitcase**
Each partner will collate indicative content demonstrating the exploration of their own cultural diversity. The suitcase's will travel to partner countries and will be screened/streamed simultaneously at dedicated events.

Show the contents of the suitcase

- **Suitcase website**
A interactive website, which aims to be a platform to celebrate the vibrant cultural diversity between the participants, a meeting point where it is possible

to view a selection of the works, publish letters to friends and family in the birth countries, share images etc.

The website will also host a live cultural dialogue (the final outcome for each country), and through a video conference streamed to all partner organisations the participants will share their cultural findings across Europe.

Culture in a Suitcase will examine the common heritage of the European significance of the cultural effects that economic migration has had and is having on the partner countries.

For example, the Portuguese community in Leamington Spa (approaching 5000) has continued to grow within the native population, the influence this is having has largely gone unnoticed. They are a silent component in the region, without a voice or outlet for their own cultural contribution.

The project seeks to creatively explore the everyday changes to one's cultural behaviour to help achieve "cultural bonding" rather than "cultural collision"

Linking the experiences and understanding of economic migration and the integration of different cultures across Europe the project will break new ground with the use of technology.

The partners across Europe will document the past and present experiences of economic migration. Creative professionals will train young disadvantaged and socially excluded people in each partner country. This training will consist of photography and graphic design techniques. Also, we will seek permission to access archive photographic footage to compliment and inform the work.

The process will collate, document, celebrate and inform on how economic migration creates cultural diversity. The innovative use of digital streaming will be used to facilitate individuals, groups and partners in sharing examples of stories and experiences where "cultural crossover" is occurring.

Representatives, professionals, artists and participants will visit each other to foster a creative dialogue and mutual exchange of cultural experiences to inform the project. This physical visiting is a cultural exchange in reality to be mirrored by the virtual reality of the cultural experiences created by the streaming of content between European Countries.

The partners and participants will collaborate in the styling of the presentation. The project will cumulate with live streaming simultaneously with all partners, leading to a joined up European conversation.

This creation and collation of photographs with text will make European artistic creation and heritage more visible and more accessible to all. The live cultural event will link young people, the socially disadvantaged, cultural organisations, artists and the wider community across Europe in the recognition of the wealth of cultural diversity.

This innovative approach will use technology to present a new form of expression along side the traditional field of photography.

The project will wholly support social integration, celebrating the culture that economic migrants bring to other countries across Europe. The training of young

disadvantaged and socially excluded people in each partner country will lead to social integration for these vulnerable members of society.

There will also be a documentary made of the findings of the project and exhibition material produced out of the research and findings. The web site will create a sustainable resource for others to share the dissemination of the project.

1.

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