

## **Tabled Paper to replace Item 11 Cover Report in the agenda pack.**

As bid reference number SITT014 has been withdrawn due to it being fully funded from the Special Projects Fund, the proposal and options have been amended accordingly for Committee Members to vote on.

## **Cover Report for Sittingbourne Area Committee Funding Scheme**

### **Introduction**

The Sittingbourne Area Committee has been allocated a total of £44,000.00 for the financial year 2021/22.

The process proposed by the Area Committee Review Working Group, and agreed by Area Committee Chairs, was to carry out a scoring process on applications received for Area Committee Funding. The deadline for applications was Friday 12 November 2021 and £58,179.33 of bids were received for consideration by the Committee. This means that there are £14,179.33 worth of bids in excess of allocation. All applications have been assessed for eligibility by officers and a scoring process carried out.

Three impartial officers have independently considered each application and given them a score against the criteria set out in the Applicant Guidance Notes. Each criteria were scored as follows High – 3, Adequate – 2, Limited – 1, None – 0. All three officers scores were added together and presented to Committee Members in Appendix 1. Also attached to this paper is the summary report on applications received which contain the full text provided by applicants describing projects/activities (Appendix 2). Committee Members were given the opportunity to challenge the scores and request a review. No challenges were received.

### **Proposal**

Having considered the summary report and supporting papers, along with the scoring and background information, officers would like to submit 3 options for allocating funds for the Committee to vote on.

Part of the reason for the Working Group's recommendation that impartial officers should score bids based on criteria agreed in advance by Members was to create a degree of separation between the Committee's decision-making on the one hand and Members with a disclosable interest in a bidder (e.g. involvement with a community group or membership of a parish council) on the other. Members who have a disclosable non-pecuniary interest in any of the bids should declare it in the usual way and will be able to vote, as long as the voting is on the basis of the presented options, as this is unlikely to result in any Member having a bias. However, in the event that the Committee agrees to vote on amendments to these options, favouring (and by implication disfavouring) certain bids, Members with a disclosable non-pecuniary interest in the favoured bid(s) should not take part in the vote.

### Option 1:

This option would allow the highest scoring applications to receive 100% funding from the scheme, however, the applicant with the largest bid of these will receive slightly less to ensure that the annual allocation is not exceeded:

Applicant	Score	Funding request	Proposed allocation
Sittingbourne in Bloom (SITT011)	29	£9,649.25	£9,649.25
Sittingbourne in Bloom (SITT015)	24	£568.80	£568.80
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum Trust (SITT017)	24	£23,818.00	£21,781.95
Raybel Charters (SITT012)	23	£12,000.00	12,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>£44,000.00</b>

### Option 2:

This option pays out 75.625% to all applicants regardless of their score but ensures that all bids receive an award:

Applicant	Score	Funding request	Proposed allocation
New Leaf Support SITT010	21	£3,080.00	£2,329.25
Sittingbourne in Bloom SITT011	29	£9,649.25	£7,297.25
Raybel Charters SITT012	23	£12,000.00	£9,075.00
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway SITT013	22	£8,170.00	£6,178.56
Sittingbourne in Bloom SITT015	24	£568.80	£430.15
Sittingbourne in Bloom SITT016	20	£893.28	£675.54
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum Trust SITT017	24	£23,818.00	£18,012.36
<b>Total</b>			<b>£43,998.11</b>

**Option 3:**

This option pays out 81.17% to the highest scoring applications. This allows more organisations to receive a larger portion of funding.

Applicant	Score	Funding request	Proposed allocation
Sittingbourne in Bloom SITT011	29	£9,649.25	£7,832.29
Raybel Charters SITT012	23	£12,000.00	£9,740.40
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway SITT013	22	£8,170.00	£6,631.59
Sittingbourne in Bloom SITT015	24	£568.80	£461.69
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum Trust SITT017	24	£23,818.00	£19,333.07
<b>Total</b>			<b>£43,999.04</b>

Sittingbourne Area Committee Members are invited to vote on the above options.

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 December 2021