

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. At the Extraordinary Sittingbourne Area Committee Meeting on Tuesday 1 February 2022, £34,361.33 of funding was allocated. Committee Members agreed that the unallocated funding of £9,638.67 should be made available for external organisations via a second funding round.

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 the second round of applications was Thursday 17 February 2022 and £29,351.29 of bids were received for consideration by the Committee. This means that there are £19,712.62 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 was scored as follows High – 3, Adequate – 2, Limited – 1, None – 0. All three officer 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 contains 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 4 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 application to receive 100% funding from the scheme. The second highest scoring application would receive the remaining funds, however, this would only part fund that bid. This will ensure the annual allocation is not exceeded:

Applicant	Score	Funding request	Proposed allocation
Diversity House (SITT020)	38	£8,216.29	£8,216.29
Milton Creek Country Park Trust (SITT019)	23	£9,000.00	£1,422.38
SATEDA (SITT018)	22	£9,120.00	-
New Leaf Support (SITT021)	22	£3,015.00	-
Total			£9,638.67

Option 2:

This option would allow the highest two scoring applications to receive 55.985% funding from the scheme. This will enable the second highest scoring applicant to receive a higher proportion of their bid, however this reduces the proportion the highest scoring application receives. This ensures that the annual allocation is not exceeded.

Applicant	Score	Funding request	Proposed allocation
Diversity House (SITT020)	38	£8,216.29	£4,599.89
Milton Creek Country Park Trust (SITT019)	23	£9,000.00	£5,038.65
SATEDA (SITT018)	22	£9,120.00	-
New Leaf Support (SITT021)	22	£3,015.00	-
Total			£9,638.54

Option 3:

This option pays out 32.835% to all applicants regardless of their score but ensures that all bids receive an award and ensures that the annual allocation is not exceeded.

Applicant	Score	Funding request	Proposed allocation
Diversity House (SITT020)	38	£8,216.29	£2,697.82
Milton Creek Country Park Trust (SITT019)	23	£9,000.00	£2,955.15
SATEDA (SITT018)	22	£9,120.00	£2,994.55
New Leaf Support (SITT021)	22	£3,015.00	£989.97
Total			£9,637.49

Option 4:

So that all possible options are presented for Committee Members to vote on, the final option is to award no funding to any of the applicants. As the funding cannot be rolled forward to the year 2022/23, the unallocated £9,638.67 of funding would be recorded as a saving for 2021/22.

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

Janet Dart
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