

Cover Report for Sittingbourne Area Committee Funding Scheme

Introduction

The Sittingbourne Area Committee has been allocated a total of £37,000.00 for the financial year 2022/23.

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 Monday 1 August 2022 and £77,027.30 of bids were received for consideration by the Committee. This means that there are £40,027.30 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 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 applications to receive 100% funding from the scheme, however, the applicant with the lowest of these scores will receive slightly less to ensure that the annual allocation is not exceeded:

Applicant	Score	Funding request	Proposed allocation
Kemsley Community Centre Trust (SITT028)	37	£4,248.00	£4,248.00
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway Ltd (SITT034)	34	£5,800.00	£5,800.00
Diversity House (SITT023)	32	£8,560.00	£8,560.00
Milton Regis Society (SITT030)	31	£7,997.90	£7,997.90
Member bid Cllr James Hall (SITT035)	30	£4,000.00	£4,000.00
New Leaf Support (SITT027)	29	£6,575.00	£6,394.10
Total			£37,000.00

Option 2:

This option pays out 48.034% to all applicants regardless of their score but ensures that all bids receive an award:

Applicant	Score	Funding request	Proposed allocation
Kemsley Community Centre Trust (SITT028)	37	£4,248.00	£2,040.48
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway Ltd (SITT034)	34	£5,800.00	£2,785.97
Diversity House (SITT023)	32	£8,560.00	£4,111.71
Milton Regis Society (SITT030)	31	£7,997.90	£3,841.71
Member bid Cllr James Hall (SITT035)	30	£4,000.00	£1,921.36
New Leaf Support (SITT027)	29	£6,575.00	£3,158.24
Youth Resilience UK CIC (SITT022)	28	£1,560.00	£749.33
Ellie's Angels (SITT029)	28	£4,000.00	£1,921.36
Swale Media Arts Centre (SITT032)	28	£9,032.00	£4,338.43
Milton Creek Country Park (SITT026)	27	£9,000.00	£4,323.06
Member bid – Cllr James Hall (SITT031)	26	£4,000.00	£1,921.36
Sittingbourne Christmas Lights & Sleigh Rounds (SITT033)	22	£3,240.00	£1,556.30
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum (SITT025)	21	£1,964.40	£943.58
Sittingbourne Community Radio (SITT024)	16	£7,050.00	£3,386.39
Total			£36,999.28

Option 3:

This option pays out 71.465% to the highest scoring applications. This allows more organisations to receive a larger portion of funding.

Applicant	Score	Funding request	Proposed allocation
Kemsley Community Centre Trust (SITT028)	37	£4,248.00	£3,035.83
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway Ltd (SITT034)	34	£5,800.00	£4,144.97
Diversity House (SITT023)	32	£8,560.00	£6,117.40
Milton Regis Society (SITT030)	31	£7,997.90	£5,715.70
Member bid Cllr James Hall (SITT035)	30	£4,000.00	£2,858.60
New Leaf Support (SITT027)	29	£6,575.00	£4,698.82
Youth Resilience UK CIC (SITT022)	28	£1,560.00	£1,114.85
Ellie's Angels (SITT029)	28	£4,000.00	£2,858.60
Swale Media Arts Centre (SITT032)	28	£9,032.00	£6,454.72
Total			£36,999.49

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 bid. As the funding cannot be rolled forward to the year 2023/24, any unallocated funding by the end of the financial year would be forfeited and recorded as a saving for 2022/23. Additionally, any allocated but unspent funding by the end of this electoral cycle would be forfeited.

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

Janet Dart
 Policy & Engagement Officer
 August 2022