

Cover Report for Sheppey Area Committee Funding Scheme

Introduction

The Sheppey Area Committee has been allocated a total of £47,000.00 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 £38,412.10 of bids were received for consideration by the Committee. This means that there is potentially £8,587.90 worth of funding remaining. 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. One challenge was received for bid SHEP018 - Youth Resilience UK CIC – *“although the bid says it will benefit the whole of Swale there is no formal mention of benefiting Sheppey.”* The applicant was contacted who confirmed that schools on Sheppey would benefit from the project. The score was reviewed by two officers not involved in the scoring and agreed that as students living on Sheppey would benefit from the project, the maximum score of 9 that was awarded was fair and should remain unchanged.

Bid reference SHEP021 Queenborough Town Council, Neats Court footpath lighting, was withdrawn by the applicant.

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.

The Sheppey Area Committee may wish this evening to consider how they would like any remaining funding to be allocated. Any proposals agreed this evening will be taken away by officers to go through the assessment procedure described above and brought back to the December 2022 meeting for approval.

Option 1:

This option would allow all applicants to receive 100% of funding regardless of their score as the total bids received is less than the annual allocation to the Sheppey Area Committee. This will leave £8,587.90 funding remaining:

Applicant	Score	Funding request	Proposed allocation
Youth Resilience UK CIC - SHEP018	24	£1,560.00	£1,560.00
Sheppey Matters - SHEP019	29	£6,585.42	£6,585.42
Queenborough Town Community Centre Ltd, Castle Connections - SHEP020	27	£5,045.00	£5,045.00
Song Signing - SHEP022	19	£3,936.00	£3,936.00
Member bid – Cllr Elliott Jayes - SHEP023	30	£20,000.00	£20,000.00
Queenborough Town Council - SHEP024	20	£1,285.68	£1,285.68
Total			£38,412.10

Option 2:

This option would allow all applicants, except for bid SHEP023, to receive 100% of funding regardless of their score. This will leave £28,587.90 funding remaining. The reason for removing this bid is that the Constitution states that “*Any funding allocation agreed by the committee but unspent by the end of each electoral cycle (i.e. by May 2023) will be forfeited*”. As there is a risk that the project may not be completed by May 2023 and the funding remaining unspent, should this happen the funding would be forfeited.

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Queenborough Town Community Centre Ltd, Castle Connections - SHEP020	27	£5,045.00	£5,045.00
Song Signing - SHEP022	19	£3,936.00	£3,936.00
Queenborough Town Council - SHEP024	20	£1,285.68	£1,285.68
Total			£18,412.10

Option 3

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.

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

Janet Dart
Policy & Engagement Officer
September 2022