

## Cover Report for Eastern Area Committee Funding Scheme

### Introduction

The Eastern Area Committee has been allocated a total of £40,000.00 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 £27,237.00 of bids were received for consideration by the Committee. This means that there is potentially £12,763.00 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. No challenges were made.

### Proposal

Having considered the summary report and supporting papers, along with the scoring and background information, officers would like to submit 2 options for allocating funds for the Committee to vote on:

#### 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 Eastern Area Committee. This will leave £12,763.00 funding remaining:

Applicant	Score	Funding request	Proposed allocation
Youth Resilience UK CIC EAC023	23	£1,560.00	£1,560.00
West Faversham Community Association EAC024	22	£4,000.00	£4,000.00
Faversham Swimming Pools EAC025	25	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Swale Friends of the Earth EAC026	33	£1,233.00	£1,233.00
Teynham Parish Council EAC027	29	£5,444.00	£5,444.00
Oare Village Hall EAC028	23	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>£27,237.00</b>

## Option 2

So that all possible options are presented for Committee Members to vote on, the second option is to award no funding to any bid and return the funding to the General Fund and it be recorded as a saving for 2022/23.

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

## Next Steps

The Eastern Area Committee may wish this evening to consider how they would like any remaining funding to be allocated. A second bidding round could commence on 10 October 2022 and closing on Friday 4 November 2022. The Area Committee could either allow:

- 1) Bids from external organisations that comply with the criteria agreed by the Eastern Area Committee, however, there is a possibility that the value of bids received could exceed the amount of funding remaining.
- 2) Bids from external organisations that would specifically contribute to one or two of the Work Plan objectives agreed by the Eastern Area Committee at the June 2022 meeting, as set out below. The Area Committee would need to agree which ones should be retained:
  - a. Active Travel – consultation events or infrastructure improvements;
  - b. biodiversity planting above the current plans; and
  - c. support for interventions around the cost-of-living crisis – food banks and VCS support such as debt advice etc.
- 3) Bids from external organisation that would specifically contribute to any of the three agreed Work Plan objectives agreed by the Eastern Area Committee at the June 2022 meeting, as set out above.
- 4) The final option is to not allocate the remaining funding to any project, the funding would be returned to the General Fund and it be recorded as a saving for 2022/23.

As before, all bids will be reviewed by officers and go through the assessment procedure described in the introduction and brought back to the December 2022 meeting for approval.

Area Committee Members are asked to note that 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.