

LOCAL COMMITTEE FUNDING

Agenda Item 4.1 (a)

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Background Papers:- None
Financial Implications:- Detailed within report
Equalities Implications:- Detailed in report
Legal Implications:- None arising directly from this report
Options: To approve or amend the scheme
Risks: None arising directly from this report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Committees have been allocated a budget in which to improve the social, environmental and economic well-being of their area. The proposed scheme is intended to offer a structure in which each Local Committee will have maximum discretion to decide how their budget is to be spent. In particular the scheme highlights the significant role that the local Member can play in supporting and working with the community.

DECISION REQUIRED

To approve the scheme and the matrix and to apply the same to all future applications for funding from Local Committees.

LOCAL COMMITTEE FUNDING

Introduction

The creation of Local Committees was the first step towards revitalizing local democracy and strengthening the role of the local Member as a community leader. Until recently the focus in local government has been on executive decision making. Local government is now entering a phase of devolution where the emphasis is on creating a more effective role for all Members and where communities are better represented.

By working at a local level, Local Committees can connect with all parts of the community to tackle local problems. Delegated budgets can help to resolve local problems and to improve dialogue and relationships with residents and community organizations.

Summary of the Scheme

In 2008/09, Witham Local Committee will have £72,000 to spend on addressing local issues and/or supporting community projects. The proposed scheme is outlined in Appendix 1 and a summary of the key aspects are set out below: -

1. Types of Funding - applicants can seek funding for either revenue or capital expenditure or both. For example, an organisation looking to fund a project worker for a time limited initiative could apply under the scheme. There is no maximum or minimum limit and applications can be made throughout the year.
2. Assessment Criteria – all applications will be assessed against a matrix and points allocated for linking with the Council's corporate direction and ambition, value for money and benefit to the community. A proposed matrix is set out in Appendix 2.
3. Role of the Local Member – this is critical to the success of the scheme as an application will not be considered unless it has the support of the Local Member. The Local Member is best placed to engage with different parts of the community, to understand their issues and to then take direct action to address them.

Whilst the Local Committee will have maximum flexibility and discretion when considering applications, there are two limitations on funding and these are: -

- Applications which seek funding for the day to day costs of the applicant; and
- Applications relating to political activities, the promotion of religion, statutory duties, fundraising events or activities, animal welfare or individuals.

These types of application will not be eligible under the scheme.

Who can apply:	Parish and town councils properly constituted voluntary organisations and local Members may submit proposals.
What can be funded:	Projects that serve a clear local need in any of the following areas: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the environment is clean and green; - business is encouraged and the local economy prospers; - everyone can enjoy a healthy lifestyle; - housing and transport meet local needs; - people take pride in their local areas; and - we deliver excellent, cost effective and valued services.
When can applications be made:	Applications can be submitted throughout the year but the Council will need a minimum of 20 working days in order to process the application before a local committee can make a decision.
Content of Applications:	Applications must: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. have the support of the ward Member (see role below). 2. include evidence that matched funding has been investigated or secured. 3. include evidence that the project meets local needs and that it will be available to either all of the local community or to the community of interest as appropriate. 4. demonstrate that the applicant can meet any ongoing revenue costs. 5. confirm that any necessary consents or licences will be in place before the funding is awarded. 6. include project milestones, a completion date and monitoring arrangements.
Communication with local community:	The local community will be invited to comment on the applications and the Locality Co-Ordinator will publish details of all applications on the web page for either the appropriate Local Committee or on the web page of the sponsoring local Member. Wherever possible and appropriate, support will also be provided by BDVSA. Promotion of the scheme will be undertaken throughout the year to encourage the local community to submit applications and to work with their local Member.
How will applications be decided:	All applications will be subject to an initial assessment by a panel comprising the 3 Locality Co-Ordinators and the External Funding Manager. The assessment will include the identification of

	<p>alternative sources of funding and if appropriate, the applicant will be directed to apply to other bodies.</p> <p>The panel will 'score' each application using a funding matrix and then the relevant Locality Co-Ordinator will prepare a report for the next meeting of their Local Committee. All applicants will be invited to make a small presentation to the Local Committee.</p> <p>At the Local Committee, the Members will determine the application having regard to the report and to the presentation and/or representations made at the meeting.</p>
<p>Role of the Ward Member:</p>	<p><u>Application Stage:</u> To support the applicant as appropriate and to encourage the community to become involved.</p> <p><u>Decision Stage:</u> To make representations on behalf of the community.</p> <p><u>Post Award Stage:</u> To monitor progress and to provide updates to the Local Committee and the community, eg. Newsletter or item on their web page.</p>
<p>How will funding be given:</p>	<p>A simple agreement setting out respective obligations relating to the payment and the monitoring arrangements will be entered into by the applicant and the Council.</p>

FUNDING MATRIX

		Points	Score
Contribution to Corporate Ambition and Direction:	The environment is clean and green, (e.g. improve the appearance of neighbourhoods and the District, improved standards of environmental sustainability)	2	
	Business is encouraged and the local economy prospers	2	
	Everyone can enjoy a healthy lifestyle, (e.g. provision of opportunities and facilities for all ages, reducing the fear of crime)	2	
	Housing and transport meet local needs	2	
	People take pride in their local areas	2	
	Delivery of excellent, cost effective and valued services	2	
Evidence of Need:	Extensive research and consultation undertaken	3	
	Some research and consultation undertaken	2	
	Little research and consultation undertaken	1	
Value for Money:	Is there evidence of more than 1 quotation?	1	
	Has funding been allocated from other sources?	3	
	Is the initiative/project the most economic option?	1	
Impact on Community:	Significant impact	3	
	Limited impact	2	
	Minor impact	1	
Sustainability:	Is the funding required for than 1 year?	1	
	Has a plan been developed for continuing/maintaining this initiative/project after the funding has been used?	2	
Total:			