

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item No. 13

BRADFORD ON AVON AREA BOARD
24 NOVEMBER 2010

YOUTH PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING EVENT PROPOSAL

Purpose of the Report

To gain formal agreement from the area board to run a participatory budgeting event with young people at the area board on the 16th March 2011.

Background

At full council on 23rd February 2010, the Leader, Jane Scott, announced that it was intended to allocate approximately £100,000 across the eighteen area boards to allow for additional grant by each area board, specifically for children and young person's projects or activities.

Councillor Scott identified that the budget consultation carried out via Area Boards and Peoples Voice, had in each case, placed youth activities at the top of their priorities. Within that consultation and also following discussion with youth representatives, the need for transport for this group had consistently appeared at the top of their concerns.

The Bradford on Avon Board has now been allocated £4,711 for young people's activities in the community area. How this money is allocated is at the discretion of the area board. It is proposed that this money is allocated through a participatory budgeting event in which young people put forward and vote on projects.

Main Considerations

Participatory budgeting events are designed to encourage community involvement in decision making. Successful participatory budgeting events with young people have recently taken place in Salisbury and Melksham.

It is proposed that in Bradford on Avon the Youth Development Co-ordinator works with representatives from the Youth Council and Community Area Young Peoples Issue Groups to develop project bids and submit these on the application form attached (Appendix One). It will be possible for groups of young people to apply for up to £1000 for each project.

Young people would present their bids at the area board and then use electronic voting software to vote on whether the projects are value for money, on the number of people benefiting from the project and the quality of the project.

Environmental Impact of the Proposals

There are no environmental implications.

Financial Implications

£4,711 has already been allocated to the area board to improve access to youth activities in the Bradford on Avon Community Area. This report relates to the mechanism of distributing this funding.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications

HR Implications

There are no HR implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The proposal promotes the participation and involvement of young people in local decision making process. This initiative aims to promote equality of opportunity to encourage young people to voice needs and express views so that the area board can strengthen its work to promote equal life chances for all. Additionally, the proposal supports the Council's commitment to provide customer focused services.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the area board supports this initiative to encourage youth participation in local decision making and the provision of activities tailored to demand by young people.

Report Author: Elly Townsend, Community Area Manager

Tel No: 01225 718450

E-Mail: elly.townsend@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Application form

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report