

## Area 2 Community Area Funding Working Group

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To agree a process for reviewing the current criteria for distribution of the Community Area Awards funding.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **To nominate and give delegated authority to two members of this Committee to represent the Area Committee on a Joint Community Area Funding Working Group who will review and set common funding criteria for distribution of Community Area Awards (capital and revenue), by Area Committees.**

### 3. Links to the Corporate Business Plan Priorities

- 3.1. Community Area Funding helps support groups and organisations, whose activities and projects assist the Council in achieving some of its priority areas identified within the Corporate Business Plan as well as those arising from the Community Plans. These include projects and schemes associated with Equalities and Diversity, Healthy Lifestyles Young People and Partnership Working.

### 4. Background

- 4.1. In January 2005 Members were invited to nominate two representatives from their Area Committee to join a Working Group to review the 2004/05 funding criteria and to make recommendations for any amendments to the criteria for the 2005/06 funding round.
- 4.2. In March 2005 a common set of criteria to be used by each Area Committee were agreed by the sub-group and subsequently approved by the Executive. These are attached as Appendix 1 for information.
- 4.3. Each Area Committee sets its own funding priorities for the coming year for the distribution of their capital and revenue, reflecting the community planning priorities for their Area. Officers use these priorities, along with the essential criteria when considering applications and making a recommendation to Committee.

### 5. Discussion

- 5.1. Officers are of the opinion that the funding criteria must be both robust and clear to the benefit of both applicants and Members and that once agreed must be adhered to.
- 5.2. Officers believe that there is scope for improving the presentation of the criteria and application form.
- 5.3. It is important that any process meets the Council's commitment to equality, transparency and openness in our dealing with the public.
- 5.4. There is pressure to agree the criteria as soon as possible to ensure that it can be approved by the Executive in February. This will enable information to be made available to local organisations as soon as possible and certainly prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, to enable applications to be considered by Members during the first calendar of meetings.
- 5.5. The approved criteria will then be reported to each Area Committee at which they will also agree their funding priorities for the coming year.

- 5.6. Based on experience from previous reviews, officers consider that only one meeting of the Joint Working Group will be necessary to undertake this work. The meeting will take place on Thursday, 5<sup>h</sup> January 2006 at 5.00pm.

**6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no funding implications directly relating to this report.

**7. Community and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. Awards made by the Area Committee enable applicants to contribute to meeting the Councils priorities and the continuance and/or the improvement of cultural, social and community activity and well being in the Community Area; the extent and specifics of which will be dependent on the individual projects.

**8. Human Resource Implications**

- 8.1. There are no Human Resource implications directly relating to this report.

**Documents used in the preparation of Report**

**REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC MANAGER TO THE AREA 2 COMMITTEE ON 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2005**

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