

Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

14 January 2009

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

Project proposals for funding in 2008/9

Summary

1. This report follows on from a report entitled “Project proposals for SIWG budgets 2008/9” considered at the meeting of 19 November 2008.
2. It asks members to offer their support to the outline project proposals expected to be funded from the SIWG projects support budget 2008/9 for work to be done in 2009/10. Detailed project application forms will then be filled in by project leads and sent to the Corporate Equality and Inclusion Manager for final approval.

Background

3. At its first meeting in July 2006 SIWG was advised by officers that there was a budget available for “social inclusion issues” and that according to the Council constitution “the Group had no powers to co-opt members or incur expenditure.... Technically, the Group could not make budgetary decisions and the Equalities Officer had control of the budget allocation. However, his decisions would be guided by the Group’s advice”.
4. At the first SIWG Development Day on 25 February 2008, the Group developed a set of funding principles to help the officer and guide budget allocation for financial year 2008/9 and beyond. The principles were arrived at so as to ensure that the budget available for social inclusion activity/projects directly contributes to the three SIWG objectives as outlined in the Council Constitution.
5. The principles discussed at the Development Day 2008 and approved at the meeting on 12 March 2008 are as follows:

“Projects requesting support from this budget should:

- a. Contribute to Social Inclusion Working Group objectives and agreed yearly work plans
- b. Support the engagement of the widest audience in each of the six Equality strands i.e. Gender, Race, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Religion and Belief, and Age
- c. Aim to engage hard-to-reach groups within each strand
- d. Explore new or emerging issues
- e. Be innovative and not previously tried
- f. Not be main running costs, which will not be funded
- g. Receive priority when brought forward by a number of community groups and covering a number of Equality strands”

These factors will also be taken into account to prioritise projects when there are more project proposals than budget available.

Groups will present end-of-year reports outlining project outcomes and final costs.”

6. It should be noted that the budget is available to any organisation and group that promotes projects/activity that support social inclusion, not only to the community groups that are invited to send co-opted non-voting representatives or any other representatives to SIWG. Nevertheless, the existence of this budget is not widely known and to date mostly groups that send representatives to SIWG have benefited from it, with the exception of the Citizens Advice Bureau which was given £1,500 in 2007/8 to go towards the coordination of a York Smart Card in support of the York Anti-Poverty Strategy.
7. In 2008/9, the SIWG budget available for activity related to social inclusion issues is £5,100.

Consultation

8. Community representatives and Members jointly considered and agreed project funding principles during the Development Day in

February 2008. Members formally approved the funding principles in March 2008.

9. Community representatives, expert witnesses and Members jointly considered the issues that form the contents of this report at the meeting on 19 November 2008.

Options

10. Option 1: To support the projects as outlined in Annex 1 to be led by community groups as indicated
11. Option 2: Not to support any of the projects in Annex 1 and seek new project ideas
12. Option 3: To support some of the projects in Annex 1

Analysis

13. **Option 1 is recommended.** The project proposals contribute to SIWG objectives and also meet all or the majority of the funding principles (please see Annex 1 for details).
14. Option 2 is not recommended because project proposals currently put forward contribute to SIWG objectives and also meet all or the majority of the funding principles (please see Annex 1 for details). In addition there is not enough time to seek new projects before year end when the budget available should be allocated.
15. Option 3 is not recommended. All project proposals currently put forward contribute to SIWG objectives and also meet all or the majority of the funding principles (please see Annex 1 for details).

Corporate Priorities

16. Projects put forward contribute to making York an inclusive city and also contribute to the Council's Equality objectives and Corporate Priorities.

Implications

17. These are as follows:
 - **Financial** – Projects 1-3 in Annex 1 can be funded from the approved budget. This would leave £1,160 available from the original budget of £5,100. Although payments in advance are

not normal practice, due to the nature of the projects requiring funding, it is proposed that grants will be paid in advance of the work being completed. As each of the payments is below £5k, a waiver from the Chief Financial Officer is not required.

- **Human Resources (HR)** – None
- **Equalities - Projects** suggested contribute to making York an inclusive city and also contribute to the Council's Equality objectives as well as to SIWG objectives.
- **Legal** - None
- **Crime and Disorder** - None
- **Information Technology (IT)** - None
- **Property** - None
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

18. N/A

Recommendations

19. To support the outline project proposals as in Annex 1

Reason: To ensure that SIWG budgets promote equality and inclusion.

Contact Details

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Team
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**Chief Officer Responsible for the
report:
Heather Rice
Director of People and Improvement
Report** **Date** 5-1-09
Approved

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex 1 – Outline projects to be funded by SIWG budgets in 2008/9

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Project 1: SIWG Diversity Mobile Exhibition

Activity funded: To put in place a mobile exhibition made up of display boards showing material about the experiences of and issues faced by people from each of the 6 Equality strands living in York. It is expected that material will be provided by all community groups currently involved in SIWG, including groups that provide expert witnesses. The 11 community groups currently engaged in SIWG will be given £60 each to produce and assemble material to go on stands. The groups are: YOPA, MESMAC, YREN, Interfaith Forum, ACCESS group, York Humanists, Valuing People Partnership, York People First, Higher York, Travellers Trust, York Mental Health Forum

Total cost: £ 1,940

6 display boards (one per strand) at £180 each	£ 1,080
£200 to YOPA for co-ordination	£ 200
£ 60 to each the 11 SIWG community groups to help them gather material to be exhibited from within their membership	<u>£ 660</u>
Total	£ 1,940

Leading group: YOPA to procure the stands and co-ordinate the collection and presentation of material that will be on exhibition.

SIWG Objectives met * : Objectives 2 and 3

Funding principles met ** : a, b, e, f, g

Expected outcomes: Each group will be expected to create its own part of a diversity display involving and engaging their membership. The display boards could be used at community engagement and consultation events, festivals etc or be split up for small events held by individual groups. They could also be displayed in libraries or put up at Council meetings and events including Ward Committee meetings as well as be used as teaching support material for school, colleges and the universities in York to help promote diversity awareness amongst young people and students.

Project 2: SIWG Diversity Day

Activity funded: An outdoor event to celebrate diversity in York. The event will cover all six Equality strands including gender. In this respect it will meet the resolution made at the SIWG meeting in January 2008 “that priority consideration be given to applications from community groups relating to gender issues from the 2008/09 budget”. The event is expected to include community group stalls, the diversity exhibition, international food, performances by community groups, culture crafts, awareness activities, games, equality issues quizzes etc. External sponsorship can be sought to supplement costs. Public, private and CVS organisations in York will be invited to attend and contribute to the day in kind or by adding to the “seed” money made available through SIWG.

Total Cost: £1,500

Item	Cost
Publicity materials	£300
Gazebo(s)	£ 100
International Food	£ 500
Transportation	£100
Performing groups costs	£ 500
Total:	£1,500

Leading group: It is suggested that an organising committee should be drawn from groups currently engaged in SIWG. They should then choose the leading group from amongst them.

SIWG Objectives met *: Objective 2

Funding principles met **: All

Expected outcomes: This event is expected to engage people from all strands to attend and celebrate diversity together. This will be the first time that gender issues concerning women, men and trans-gendered people will be celebrated in the city. With respect to celebrating gender issues, the International Women’s Day is currently the main city-wide gender-related event but celebrates women’s issues only. In addition the event will add to community cohesion and will give SIWG members the opportunity to gather informal views about the current status of equality and diversity in the city.

Project 3: Supporting CANDI parents to offer disability training

Activity funded: Payments to enable parents with disabled/special needs children from the York Children and Inclusion Group (CANDI) to meet personal costs associated with offering training to professional people in York about the needs of disabled children/special needs children.

Total cost: £ 500

10 training sessions x £50 per session x 1 (different) parent per session
= £ 500

Leading organisation: CANDI

SIWG Objectives met *: Objective 2

Funding principles met **: All

Expected outcomes: Parents involved are the main carers of children often with complex disabilities. They are one of the hardest groups to reach and engage in service delivery and planning. Supporting them to offer training to professionals will enable them to gain confidence in dealing with professionals and advocating for their children's inclusion and wellbeing. In the majority they are women therefore supporting this application will help meet the resolution made at the SIWG meeting in January 2008 "that priority consideration be given to applications from community groups relating to gender issues from the 2008/09 budget".

Project 4: YREN/youth service collaboration regarding BME youth inclusion

Details of activity and costs to be provided at the meeting

Notes

* SIWG Objectives are:

Objective 1

Advise the Executive on Equality issues in general and in relation to CYC projects and initiatives

Objective 2

Extend and build contacts with groups and individuals involved in Equality issues in York to facilitate equality related input into CYC policy and plans and to provide opportunities for all citizens to influence CYC equalities policy and practice

Objective 3

To provide a link with Ward Committees so that Equality issues which are raised there can be taken further

** SIWG funding principles are:

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