

Social Inclusion Working Group Project Budget Principles

Summary

1. The report outlines the principles which will guide the distribution of Social Inclusion Working Group project budgets in the future.
2. Members are requested to approve the principles.

Background

3. At its Development Day on 25 February 2008, the Group considered and approved the principles which will guide the way in which the budget of £5,100 available for Social Inclusion and Equality projects will be distributed in financial year 2008/9 and beyond.

Consultation

4. Community representatives and elected members jointly considered and arrived at the principles during the Group Development Day on 25 February 2008. Annex 2 outlines the key points of their discussions.

Options

5. Option 1: To approve the recommended principles
6. Option 2: Not to approve the recommended principles
7. Option 1 is recommended. Reason: The recommendations were arrived at following consensus after extensive discussion at Group Development Day on 25 February 2008 and contribute to Social Inclusion Working Group and Council Equality objectives.

Analysis

8. The total budget for the Social Inclusion Working Group in 2008/9 is £7,740, made up of £5,100 projects funding and £2,640 for group development. The development budget is ring-fenced.
9. 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
10. These factors will also be taken into account to prioritise projects when there are more project proposals than budget available.
11. Groups will present end-of-year reports outlining project outcomes and final costs.

Corporate Priorities

12. The recommended principles contribute to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities through encouraging joined up and innovative approaches to common issues.

Implications

13. These are as follows:
 - **Financial** - None
 - **Human Resources (HR)** - None

- **Equalities** – The recommended principles will contribute to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities and to Council Equalities aims and objectives.
- **Legal** - None
- **Crime and Disorder** - None
- **Information Technology (IT)** - None
- **Property** - None
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

14.N/A

Recommendations

15.To approve the principles agreed at the Development Day on 25 February 2008 as outlined in paragraphs 8 to 11 of this report.

Reason: To facilitate the business of the Group in 2008/9 and beyond.

Contact Details

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Director of People and Improvement

Report Approved

Date *3 March 2008*
 All

Wards Affected:

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers – None

Annexes- Annex 1 - SIWG Development Day 25.2.2008:Key points from Budget Principles session

Annex 1 - SIWG Development Day 25.2.2008:Key points from Budget Principles session

- The budget principles paper already circulated is agreed. It meets and supports SIWG objectives
- Move away from funding community groups running costs. These should be met from voluntary and community sector funding available from Council and other funders.
- Fund new, multi-strand, projects that are in line with the three SIWG objectives and annual work plans
- Council should provide support for community groups to work together and develop new projects
- Explore match-funding for projects (e.g. from Ward Committee funds)
- Explore the possibility of 3 year funding
- Concentrate on funding projects for "hard-to-reach", "need-to-reach" groups
- Commission community groups to do work that "fills in the gaps"
- Receive feedback of what happened with the project money regularly, including year end reporting

