
Social Inclusion Working Group

17th January 2007

Report of the Head of Performance Improvement

Applications for funding to support effective community involvement in the Social Inclusion Working Group.

Summary

1. The York Racial Equality Network (YREN) hosts a regular community forum that sends representatives to the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG). They have applied for financial support to help improve the effectiveness of the Black and Minority Ethnic community's involvement in the work of the SIWG. The application is outlined in appendix A.

Background

2. In July the Social Inclusion Working Group invited community forums to apply to the Group for financial support if this was needed to facilitate more effective involvement of the community in the Group's work. The Equalities team has a budget of £7,240 which the SIWG can recommend is spent on its identified priorities. These, as agreed at the July meeting, are:

A. Making meetings accessible and inclusive

The budget could be used to make meetings accessible and inclusive for the community representatives attending. This could be to pay for interpretation or to cover transport or child care expenses.

B. To support engagement with wider community

The budget could be used to help the community forums to inform the members of the community they represent of the work of the SIWG and to seek their views.

C. To facilitate forum meetings

Some forums have few if any resources and holding accessible and inclusive meetings can be difficult. The budget could be used to help pay for venue hire, publicity etc.

D. To support initiatives prioritised by the Group

The SIWG may wish to support wider community involvement initiatives, research the needs of particular groups or to facilitate the development of a new community project.

Options

3. The application from YREN for the BME Citizen's Open Forum participation in the SIWG, the Older People's Assembly (OPA) and the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Forum (LGBF) can be summarised as follows:

Amount Requested £	Purpose	Summary of what funding would pay for
480	A - Making meetings accessible and inclusive	Child care, transportation and interpretation costs
500	B - To support engagement with wider community	Research, development, design and hosting of website (one year)
Total	980	

Analysis

4. The applications for financial support meet the criteria established by the SIWG in July. If met in full the funding would leave over £2,000 in this financial year for other initiatives that the SIWG may wish to prioritise.
5. YREN have in their application outlined how they would intend to report back to the Social Inclusion Working Group on how they have spent any funding they are given by the Group and how effective this has been at improving engagement with the wider community.

Corporate Objectives

6. The emphasis of the SIWG is to improve the effectiveness of the organisation in meeting the diverse needs of its customers. The applications for funding from the community forums participating in the Group are designed to enhance the wider community's engagement. Hence the main corporate priority that this paper address are:
- Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services.

Implications

Financial Implications

7. If the funding application is supported by the SIWG then the total expenditure will be £980.

Equalities Implications

8. The funding applications, if met, will support the effective engagement of disadvantaged communities in the Council's decision making process.

Risk Management

9. There is a risk that money paid to the community forum is not spent in accordance with the purpose outlined in the application or the criteria established by the SIWG. Similarly there is a risk that the way the money is spent will not achieve the intended outcome. The Forum will however be asked to enter into an agreement with the Council to spend the money as intended, and to report back to this Group in a year's time on how the money has been spent. The Equalities Team will work closely with the forum concerned to provide advice and support as appropriate to ensure that the funding is effective.

Recommendations

10. Members are asked to:

Consider the funding application made by the York Racial Equality Network and to advise that it is met in full.

Reason: The funding application meets the criteria established by the SIWG and the budget to support this work for 2006/7 has sufficient resources to meet this expenditure.

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Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A - Application for financial support to facilitate effective community involvement – York Racial Equality Network