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## **Social Inclusion Working Group**

*22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006*

Report of the Head of Performance Improvement

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

#### **Summary**

1. Two community forums that send representatives to the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG) have applied for financial support to help improve the effectiveness of their community's involvement in the work of the SIWG. These applications are outlined in appendices A and B.

#### **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. Two forums participating in the SIWG, the Older People's Assembly (OPA) and the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Forum (LGBF), have submitted applications for funding. These applications are detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B but can be summarised as follows:

<b>Forum</b>	<b>Amount Requested £</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Summary of what funding would pay for</b>
OPA	1,130	B - To support engagement with wider community	Newsletter printing and postage. Development of website.
LGBF	1,750	B - To support engagement with wider community	Newsletter production, printing and postage. Improving ease of contact by LGB people with forum representatives.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,880</b>		

## Analysis

4. Both of the applications for financial support meet the criteria established by the SIWG in July. In total they add up to £2,880 which would leave over £3,000 in this financial year for other initiatives that the SIWG may wish to prioritise. Some other forums may also make requests for funding at the January meeting for example (however this is the last possible date that any application can be made from this year's budget).
5. The forums have in their applications 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 both funding applications are supported by the SIWG then the total expenditure will be £2,880.

### 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. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report. This would support the Council's work to implement the Equality Standard for Local Government and the embedding of the Council's Equality Strategy - "Pride in our Communities".

## Recommendations

10. Members are asked to:
  - 1) Consider the funding application made by the Older People's Assembly 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.

- 2) Consider the funding application made by the Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Forum 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.

## Contact Details

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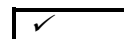
Report Approved



Date 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2006

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

All



**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** *List information for all*  
*Implication ie Financial*                      *Implication ie Legal*  
*Name*    *Name*  
*Title*    *Title*  
*Tel No.*    *Tel No.*

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## **Annexes**

Annex A - Application for financial support to facilitate effective community involvement – Older People’s Assembly

Annex B - Application for financial support to facilitate effective community involvement – Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Forum