

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

CABINET (SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES) : 5 DECEMBER 2002

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING BIDSTON, CLAUGHTON AND OXTON AREA FORUM ASSESSMENT PANEL

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the proposals received from voluntary and community groups operating within the Birkenhead One Area Forum boundaries (covering the wards of Bidston, Claughton and Oxtton) for funding from the Community Initiatives Fund. Cabinet is asked to consider the recommendations of the Area Forum assessment panel and agree to fund the proposals at the levels identified within the report.

1. Background – Community Initiatives Fund – criteria and assessment process

- 1.1 Cabinet is reminded that the three area forums (West Wirral, East Wallasey and Upton and Prenton) established during last financial year were allocated £5,000 from the Council's Community Initiative Fund and that a further £10,000 has been allocated to the eight area forums in this financial year. The terms and conditions, general eligibility criteria and the assessment process (refer to Appendix 1) were approved by Cabinet in May 2001.
- 1.2 All bids have been assessed by a panel (membership decided and approved by the individual area forums) against agreed and publicised criteria. Full copies of all bids were distributed to members of the assessment panel, and in making their decisions, the panel referred to the priorities of the forum, and the degree to which bids met the terms and conditions of funding.

2. Bids to Bidston, Claughton and Oxtton Forum

- 2.1 The inaugural meeting of the Birkenhead One Area Forum was held on 9th July 2002. The forum has since met a further two times during which time it has, amongst other things, determined the membership of the assessment panel, identified priorities for action and received a number of presentations from external agencies and the Youth and Community Service.

2.2 Following widespread publicity – open advertisement in the Wirral Globe and publicity leaflets displayed at information points such as leisure centres, One Stop Shops and libraries across the wards affected – a total of 12 bids were submitted to the Area Forum for funding. Of these, the panel considered that 6 did not fully meet the criteria for funding.

2.3 The assessment panel met to consider the applications on 24th October 2002, and the panel was comprised of:

Councillor Roberts(Chair)	Claughton ward Councillor
Councillor Davies	Claughton ward Councillor
Councillor Smith	Bidston ward Councillor
Councillor Anderson	Oxton ward Councillor
Alison Moulder	Community representative
Patrick Lansborough	Community representative
Gary Morris	Voluntary Sector Liaison Officer (Advisory role)
Lauren Elliott	Area Co-ordinator Birkenhead One

Apologies	
Councillor Stuart Kelly	Oxton Ward Councillor – Cllr Anderson attending in his place
Mary Young	Community Representative

2.4 The following sections give further details in relation to the view of the Bidston, Claughton and Oxton assessment panel on those proposals that best met the funding criteria and priorities established by the forum.

3. North Birkenhead Neighbourhood Forum

3.1 The view of the Assessment Panel was that this was a good proposal from a strong local community group, which is targeted at a client group highlighted as a priority for funding. However, there was some concern regarding whether the proposal met all of the terms and conditions attached to the funding. The Assessment Panel requested that N.B.N.F write to the Area Co-ordinator to clarify the exact purpose of the funding, which the organisation subsequently submitted. It was agreed that this bid be recommended for funding requested of £500.

4. Claughton Community Group

4.1 The view of the Assessment Panel was that this was a good proposal from a strong local community group, it was agreed that the proposal would bring benefits to all of the local community and residents at a relatively

small cost. It was agreed that this bid be recommended for funding, as requested of £1500.

5. Air Training Corps Air Cadets

- 5.1 The view of the Assessment Panel was that this was a good proposal from a strong local community group. Which was targeted at a client group that had been highlighted as a priority for funding. The recommendation of the assessment panel is to support this application for funding of £500.

6. Oxton and Noctorum Credit Union

- 6.1 The view of the Assessment Panel was that this was a good proposal, from an organisation with a good reputation in the local area. It was agreed that the proposal would bring benefits to all sections of the local community and residents at a relatively small cost. The recommendation of the Assessment Panel is to support this application for funding of £1000.

7. Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm

- 7.1 The view of the Assessment Panel was that this was a good proposal, from a local organisation, which was targeted at a client group that had been highlighted as a priority for funding. The recommendation of the Assessment Panel is to support this application for funding for £390.

8. Noctorum Residents Association

- 8.1 The view of the Assessment Panel was that this was a good proposal, from a local organisation. However the Assessment Panel noted that the proposal would, as submitted, appear to benefit a restricted client group. The Assessment Panel requested that the Residents Association be asked to confirm that the equipment purchased would be made available for use by all sectors of the local community as a condition of funding. This being confirmed the Assessment Panel would recommend the proposal for funding for £1100.

9. Financial and Staffing Implications

- 9.1 The total amount of funding available to voluntary and community organisations, agreed by Cabinet for the year 2002/03 from the Community Initiatives Fund is £10,000. The remaining balance will be re-advertised in the new year.

10. Equal Opportunities Implications

- 10.1 The Community Initiatives Fund benefits all sections of the community, including people with disabilities, older people and people from an ethnic minority.

11. Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 There are no human rights implications arising directly from this report.

12. Local Agenda 21 Implications

- 12.1 Useful Lives and Empowerment – All sections of the community will benefit from the range of services provided by Community and Voluntary organisations in receipt of funding from the Council.

13. Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 There are no community safety implications arising directly from this report

14. Planning Implications

- 14.1 None.

15. Local Member Support Implications

- 15.1 None.

16. Background Papers

- 16.1 Community Initiatives Fund and Voluntary Sector Matched Funding Economic Regeneration Committee 22 May 2000.
- 16.2 Community Initiatives Fund and Voluntary Sector Matched Funding – Recommendations for Funding – 2000/01 Economic Development Panel December 2000.

17. Recommendations

- 17.1 That the report and proposed allocation of funding be agreed:

North Birkenhead Neighbourhood Forum - £500

Claughton Community Group - £1500

Air Training Corps - £500

Oxton and Noctorum Credit Union - £1000

Tam O'Shanter - £390

Noctorum Residents Association - £1100

Kevin Miller
Director of Social Services

22/11/02