

AFM/15/09

Forum: Mid Essex Area Forum

Date: 12 November 2009

AREA FORUM BUDGET 2009/10

Report by: Councillor Joe Pike, Chairman, Mid Essex Area Forum

Contact: John Symonds, Area Co-ordinator Mid Essex -

Tel. No: (01245)430097 or **e-mail:** john.symonds@essex.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations for the allocation of the Area Forum's budget for 2009/10.

2. Background

The Area Forum has made grants available over the last four years for small, community projects across the three Mid Essex districts - **£72,000 in 2005, £50,000 in 2006 and in 2007, and £75,000 in 2008**. The grants awarded in 2008 were agreed by the Forum at its meeting on 23 April 2008 (**report AFM/04/08**) and earlier grants were summarised in a report to the Forum in November 2007 (**AFM/14/07**).

For 2009/10 the Area Forum has **£50,000** to allocate to appropriate community projects. Successful projects will achieve tangible improvements to people's lives within local communities and applications should demonstrate how the benefit to the community will be realised. Matched funding is desirable, but not essential, and the spending can be revenue or capital.

3. Options and Proposals

Fourteen bids have been received for Forum grants totalling to **£84,329** as follows. Full details of all the bids will be available at the Forum meeting.

Mid Essex Wide

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| (1.) Community Money Marketplace - this provides information and support on funding opportunities to community and voluntary organisations. We did support this last year and the event they are seeking funding for is planned for the Autumn of 2010. | £11,500 |
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Braintree

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| (2.) Community Transport afternoons out in December 2009 for 300 elderly, disabled and vulnerable people. | £2,475 |
| (3.) Heart and Sole healthy walks across the district - nearly 600 walkers a month. | £3,395 |
| (4.) SOUL training for voluntary and community groups to help them to identify soft outcomes for bids to potential funders - more likely to succeed with bids. | £5,460 |
| (5.) Gym Activator to encourage and help people to use outdoor gym equipment being funded by NHS Mid Essex. | £5,000 |
| (6.) Netball sessions in Halstead for young people in years 4, 5 and 6. | £2,941 |
| (7.) NACRO football - diversionary activity for young people creating a community street league across Braintree, Halstead and Witham. | £15,000 |

Chelmsford

- | | |
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| (8.) Chelmsford Theatre Workshop improvements to Old Court Theatre. | £2,360 |
| (9.) Diversionary activities for teenagers during school holidays, focussed on the more deprived areas of Chelmsford. | £5,000 |
| (10.) Review the existing three year plan for older people and develop a new three year strategy. Chelmsford Borough Council has also said they will put in £3,000. | £12,000 |
| (11.) Mobile sports cage for use with young people in deprived areas. They already have £6,659 promised, but will lose this in March 2010 if they do not secure the £7,950 as well. | £7,950 |

Maldon

- | | |
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| (12.) Senior Crew - an event with a range of information based interactive workshops for older people on safety issues. | £4,748 |
| (13.) North Fambridge - to provide 20 allotments for the village. | £6,500 |
| (14.) Althorne Parish Council - play equipment for teenagers and young adults - they have not specified an amount. | |

TOTAL

£84,329

4. Recommendations

Following discussions with colleagues, the Chairman recommends the following allocations which are in line with the Forum's usual approach.

Heart and Sole health walks	£3,300
Soul training	£5,400
Outdoor Gym Activator	£5,000
Football sessions	£10,000
Chelmsford Theatre Workshop	£2,300
Diversionary activities for young people	£5,000
Mobile sports cage	£7,900
Senior Crew	£4,700
North Fambridge Allotments	£6,500
TOTAL	£50,100