

Worthing's The Money Tree 2015

Report by the Director for Communities

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 After the success of the last two years The Money Tree project, this report seeks member's opinions on a further revamp of the process and a release of top-up funds.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Since 2012 Worthing have run two participatory budgeting events. The events have given young people the opportunity to decide where approximately £30,000 has been spent in the borough.
- 2.2 Though the process has allocated money to some excellent projects delivered by and for the young people of Worthing it was thought that the process needed to be reviewed in 2014/15.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 After a meeting of officers, members and Youth Council representatives on 3rd June 2014 it is proposed that essentially the process remain the same with a few small tweak to the application and scoring criteria.
- Schools can only apply if the project is for a community project based in a school and accessible to all.
 - Ensure that groups applying are totally non-profit making.
 - Focus on benefits to 'areas' rather than wards.
 - That applications can come from young people or community groups working for young people aged under 25 rather than 11-25.
- 3.2 That Youth Council members visit and report back on the projects that have been allocated funding by the end of the funding year.
- 3.3 That £15,000 be released from Capacity Reserves to top up the remaining £5,000 from the 2013/14 process.
- 3.4 That £1000 is released from the capacity reserves to fund the process. This will be used for advertising, promotional materials and the event.

3.5 Proposed Timetable –

January 2015	Coming soon trailer on Social Media sites. (Seek Community Freepaper for ads)
February 2015	Start Herald advertising and distribution of leaflets to community facilities / groups
March 2015 (actual date Monday 2 nd March)	Applications formally open
May 2015 (actual date Tuesday 5 th May)	Applications close
May 2015 (week commencing 18th May)	Short listing panel to sit
July 2015 (actual date 2 nd July)	Voting event takes place (Council Chamber booked)
July 2015 to July 2016	Youth Councillors to visit and review projects.

4.0 Legal

- 4.1 Under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has a general power of competence to do anything that individuals may do provided that the activity is not specifically prohibited by legislation. There is no relevant legislation that would prevent the Council undertaking the actions outlined in the recommendations.
- 4.2 Section 151 Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.
- 4.3 Section 111 Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Council shall have the power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or in conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their function.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 Members are asked to release £16,000 from the Capacity Issues Reserve to enable the exercise to go ahead for 2015/16 and to provide flexibility in considering which of the bids should be accepted.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Joint Strategic Committee:
- i) approve that all the £16,000 be released from Capacity reserves
 - £15,000 to top up the grants pot
 - £1,000 to put on the event
 - ii) Agree the proposed timetable

**Local Government Act 1972
Background Papers:**

N/A

Contact Officer:

Sarah Stride
Consultation Officer
Room 37 Town Hall
01903 221109
sarah.stride@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Schedule of Other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

- 1.1 To Protect and Improve Priority Services: Listen to our Community. We also have a strategic corporate document, Catching the Wave in which Cultivating Enterprising Communities is one of the key priorities.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

- 2.1 None identified – Formally on the Community Action Plan

3.0 Sustainability Issues

- 3.1 No issues identified

4.0 Equality Issues

- 4.1 One of the process aims is to inject funds into some of our deprived wards.

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

- 5.1 The current scoring matrix includes a deduction of points for any project that could have any crime and disorder or health and safety issues related to it.

6.0 Human Rights Issues

- 6.1 No issues identified

7.0 Reputation

- 7.1 Over the past 5 events it is deemed that the process has had a positive impact on the reputation of the council

8.0 Consultations

- 8.1 No issues identified

9.0 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 No issues identified

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

- 10.1 No issues identified

11.0 Procurement Strategy

- 11.1 No issues identified

12.0 Partnership Working

- 12.1 No issues identified