

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR – 10 SEPTEMBER 2012

BIG SOCIETY FUND - FINAL BID RECEIVED UNDER SINGLE POT ARRANGEMENTS

Report by Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Big Society Fund to determine a final bid submitted to the Fund under the previous administrative arrangements before the Fund changed to individual Councillor Community Budgets in July 2012.

Background

2. The Big Society Fund was launched in February 2011, with bids considered in four waves during 2011/2012. The way that the Fund is allocated changed to individual Councillor Community Budgets in July 2012.
3. A single bid under the previous arrangements was received in June. The bid for Adderbury Alive - Expanding Community Facilities has been assessed in line with previous arrangements in order to honour any outstanding bids under the 2011/12 arrangements.
4. In order to be considered for funding, bidders had to demonstrate that they meet the following criteria;
 - the project is innovative and creative
 - the project meets a recognised community need
 - the project has a sustainable business case
 - the local community is involved in the project.

Bid summary

5. The aim of the Adderbury Alive project is to reconfigure a community-owned and managed building to enable further and improved services to be provided by and for the community. This includes a local lunch club for older people, after school sessions for parents with young children, intergenerational and educational work. The changes to the space will allow these activities to take place while supporting the part-time library service run by Oxfordshire Library Services in this shared community facility.

6. An assessment form has been completed for the bid, as set out in Annex 1. The bid is considered to have strong potential to contribute to our Big Society vision and meet the fund criteria.

Financial and Staff Implications

7. The total value of this bid is £24,000. A grant funding agreement will be in place for any successful project and will set out financial requirements and monitoring arrangements.
8. There are no staff implications in these proposals.

Legal Implications

9. The grant funding agreement outlined above will set out all legal requirements including health and safety and safeguarding policy requirements.

Equality and Inclusion implications

10. There is an equality impact assessment for the Big Society Fund. Potential impacts on equality groups have been considered (the [impact assessment](#) was part of the paper to Cabinet in July 2011).
11. In line with the council's responsibilities for equalities the grant funding agreement with successful bidders will set out requirements for equality policies to be in place.

Risk implications

12. There is a small risk to the county council that the project is not sustainable and unable to continue in the future due to a lack of resources which could lead to further requests for funding from the county council. To mitigate this, the application form for the Fund requires a business case and on-going costs information and the funding agreement makes clear that funding is on a one-off basis.
13. Funding will only be paid to bidders with a robust business case.

RECOMMENDATION

14. **The Cabinet Member for Children & the Voluntary Sector is RECOMMENDED to approve the bid for Adderbury Alive - Expanding Community Facilities which meets the assessment criteria**

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Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Contact Officer: Alexandra Bailey, Senior Delivery Manager

August 2012

Bids that meet the assessment criteria

Banbury Locality:

Adderbury Alive - Expanding Community Facilities

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Adderbury Alive: Expanding Community Facilities – Adderbury PCC, Church House.
Project Aims: To reconfigure Church House to better meet the needs of the village community in three broad areas: supporting the community library, provision for the elderly, and catering for parents and young children.
Amount bid for: £24,000 (total cost £28,776)
Project Location and Locality: Bloxham
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Keith Mitchell

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need)</p> <p>The project will enable three types of community service provision initially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the community library – making stock more accessible, including outside regular library opening hours • Provision for the elderly – luncheon club (15-30 people) and coffee shop • Catering for parents and young children – after school meetings including weekly communal cooking / meal and coffee shop (av. 20-30 people). <p>Without the coffee shop the village has nowhere for people of all ages to meet and socialise outside specific clubs or societies. There are few services for older people locally and changes to Dial-a-ride will affect those currently attending lunch clubs in Deddington and Bloxham.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity</p> <p>The project is innovative in enabling increased and wider usage of the building hosting the community library and other village activities. Potential work strands for the second phase of new and joined-up service provision by the community are at scoping stage, including projects with local schools, intergenerational projects and extended services for the elderly working with a range of service providers.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case</p> <p>The group have paid for architect's fees and raised the remaining funds needed; funds for external capital works required have also been set aside. The coffee shop will generate on-going income for Church House and FOCAL (Friends of Adderbury Library). Additional income is planned from being able to hire out part of the premises following reconfiguration of the building.</p>
<p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Local community engagement, surveys and trials have taken place showing services are needed and will be taken up. Friends of Adderbury Library, local groups such as the WI, Village Coffee and the church support the bid.</p>

Volunteers have been identified for the Luncheon Club, library, coffee shop and the get together for parents and young children after school (approx. 20).

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

The Library Service shares use of this community-owned facility with other groups. The service strongly supports the bid.

Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

Councillor Keith Mitchell is very happy to support the bid, as it fits well with the County Council's aspirations for development of the library service.