

CABINET – 17 APRIL 2012

BIG SOCIETY FUND – ALLOCATION OF WAVE 4 FUNDING

Report by Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to enable Cabinet to make decisions on which bids to fund in the final 'wave' of the Big Society Fund.
2. In February 2011 Oxfordshire County Council launched the Big Society Fund. The Fund of £600,000 in 2011/12 is for communities to bid for start-up funding for community projects that would benefit their areas.
3. Cabinet has already allocated funding in the first three 'waves' of the Fund. £119,213 of the initial £600,000 Fund remains available for allocation, including an award of £16,550 from wave 2 that was not taken up. This is in addition to the £1m set aside for the Fund for 2012/14 by Cabinet in its recent budget.
4. In order to be considered for funding, bidders must 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

Wave 4 Bids to the Big Society Fund

5. Response to the Fund has been positive with 17 bids submitted in this fourth 'wave' of applications. 16 bids were specific to a locality; there was one countywide bid for a brokerage website for older/vulnerable people.
6. An assessment form has been completed for each application. These assessment forms include the project details, an assessment against fund criteria, service-specific officer views (where applicable), as well as the assessment from the Locality Review Groups of local councillors. Assessment forms for all bids are set out in Annexes 1-3.
7. In wave 2 Fringford was awarded £4,956 for setting up a village hall cinema. In this wave three bids for community cinemas have been received (for £5,000 / £7,106 / £8,921). The proposal is to offer a standard grant of £5,000 to each of the three new bids.
8. The assessment forms have been used to categorise bids as follows:

Annex 1 Bids that meet the assessment criteria

Six of bids are considered to have strong potential to contribute to our Big Society vision and meet the Fund criteria.

Annex 2 Bids that presently do not fully meet the assessment criteria, but may with further development

Four bids we have received shows potential to align with the criteria of the Big Society Fund and deliver positive outcomes in communities, but would benefit from further clarification and development.

Annex 3 Bids that do not meet the assessment criteria

Seven bids received do not meet the assessment criteria, do not address the fund criteria or did not have the support of local councillors.

Financial and Staff Implications

9. The total value of bids received in wave 4 is £770,364. One bid is for £600,000 and is for religious purposes; excluding this from the totals leaves 16 bids totalling £170,364.
10. There are no staff implications in these proposals.
11. A grant funding agreement will be in place for all successful projects which will set out financial requirements and monitoring arrangements.

Legal Implications

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

Equality and Inclusion implications

13. An equality impact assessment has been carried out on 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).
14. In line with the council's responsibilities for equality the grant funding agreement with successful bidders will set out requirements for equality policies to be in place.

Risk implications

15. There is a risk to the county council that projects are not sustainable and are not able to continue in the future due to a lack of resources. This would have an impact on the viability of a project in a community and may 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.

16. It is proposed that funding will only be paid to successful bidders with a robust business case in place.

RECOMMENDATION

17. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to**
- (a) Approve those bids which meet the assessment criteria;
and**
 - (b) Agree a standard award of £5,000 for each of the three
community cinema bids.**

**Sue Scane
Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer**

Background papers:

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January 2012

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Annex 1 Bids that meet the assessment criteria

Banbury Locality

Easington Sports and Social Football Club

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Improving Clubhouse Provisions
Project Aims: To provide equipment to enable wider use of the clubhouse
Amount: £1,700.00 – total cost
Project Location and Locality: Banbury
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Kieron Mallon

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) The project is to widen the use of the existing facility, allowing different usage by the sports club that currently use it and enabling other local groups to access it. Project incorporates new activities for the disabled and youth teams, dance group, film nights and OAP provision to meet wider community needs.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity This is an example of the creative use of a community space to accommodate and integrate other users from the community targeting the men's football teams, schools and local groups, including elderly and younger members of the community.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case The plans are for the equipment to help generate on-going income/funding.</p>
<p>Community Involvement The group are engaging with local schools, parents, dance school, another football team, film club and University of the Third age. Engagement with local OAPs is mentioned without further detail about specific groups contacted.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

<p>Good range of use for relatively small amount of grant funding. Suggest the group check suitability of equipment for the intended use and any missing costs in respect of insurance, licencing and advertising. Partnership working with schools would very much be encouraged.</p>
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Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

<p>Councillors supported the Easington Sports Clubhouse project.</p>
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North Newington Village Improvement Group

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Film For All – North Newington Village Improvement Group
Project Main Aims: To install an audio-visual system in North Newington's Bishop Carpenter school hall.
Amount bid for: £7,106.40 of £7,761.40
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Banbury
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr George Reynolds

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) Community need evidenced in parish plan although no numbers are given. The project will help the school develop its film-making offer to pupils and enable use of the hall for the local community.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity This is a new sustainable community cinema that will integrate different parts of the community. Using the school hall to house cinema equipment is an innovative way of extending use of the facility to local residents.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case Project will be self-sustaining through membership fees and box office, though annual income projected looks low at £96 for each film. Revenue will be spent on on-going costs and will be supplemented by fund raising.</p>
<p>Community Involvement The bid is from North Newington Village Improvement Group; the project will be based in school hall. The Headmaster and Governors of Bishop Carpenter school and parish councillors have been involved with the proposals.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

<p>Villages are often poorly equipped to provide activities for children, young people and their families. Encouragement should be given to provide access to positive opportunities without the need to travel. We would support this service development as it offers very local provision and is a good example of efficient use of building based resources.</p> <p>As the group have not developed a business plan, it is suggested they check costs and income to ensure best use of funds. Consideration could also be given to costs of storage / insurance for equipment, any advertising or administrative costs and confirmation if the Bishop Carpenter school hall can be used at no charge on a sustainable basis.</p>
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Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

Councillors supported the project for North Newington.
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Carterton - Burford Locality

Asthall Leigh Memorial Hall

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Film Nights - Asthall Leigh Memorial Hall
Project Aims: To enable monthly film nights in village hall, including shows for children.
Amount bid for: £5,000.00 of £6,386
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Carterton - Burford
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Jim Couchman

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) There are no community film group or commercial cinema facilities in any adjacent parish. Special afternoon shows to be provided for children.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity This is an innovative community project in Asthall Leigh providing new social events for villagers to meet.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case Costs are start-up for capital equipment, film hire and licence. Projected that group will break even provided 50% full, assuming an audience of approximately 23 for each of the ten films to be shown a year.</p>
<p>Community Involvement Trial first screening was 80% full, at a capacity of 45.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

<p>The target group is the whole village. No specific mention of older people and people with a disability. None the less this is a very rural part of the County and such provision will go a long way to complement services for older/vulnerable people.</p>

Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

<p>Members in the locality unanimously support the bid for film nights in Asthall Leigh. They note that the project would benefit several villages along the Windrush Valley with a positive community activity and are keen to support it.</p>

Kidlington Locality

Kirtlington Film Club

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Kirtlington Film Club
Project Main Aims: To install high quality audio visual equipment suitable for screening films in Village Hall.
Amount bid for: £8,921.20 of £10,921
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Kidlington
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Timothy Hallchurch

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) Equipment will be available to a wide range of local groups, such as youth club and seniors club. Test screenings and member recruitment (100) show broad community benefit.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity Using the village hall to house cinema equipment is an innovative way of maximising use of the facility, bringing a new service to local residents. A community cinema will help integrate members of the community.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case The bid is for capital equipment costs. Income through membership fees and box office should cover running costs, making the project self-sustaining.</p>
<p>Community Involvement Proven community need through village plan, with 38% of respondents to a village plan questionnaire published in September 2011 asking for a film society in the village. Nine community volunteers have helped with advertising and providing refreshments at the test screenings.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

<p>This is a very rural part of Oxfordshire and we would support local service provision that encourages alleviation of social isolation. Some older people may struggle to get to the venue; the group could offer local transport for them. We are supportive of this development.</p>
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Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

<p>Councillors supported this bid. The nearest cinema to Kirtlington is Oxford but there is no public transport to Oxford in the evenings that returns late. The film club pilot gets a full house and also provides food and drink. A worthwhile project for a small village that is also being supported by surrounding villages.</p>

Oxford Locality

Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Re-opening of Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground – Summer Play Scheme
Project Main Aims: To fund a play scheme this summer for 80 8-13 year olds.
Amount bid for: £10,000.00 out of £25,000
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Oxford
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Richard Stevens

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) This project was considered to have potential to meet the criteria in wave 1 if the group clarified the service to be provided. This bid is now for a Summer Play Scheme in response to local demand, offering 80 young people activities such as den building, cycle repairing and Olympic themed activities. The Leys is a regeneration area and the project involves local volunteers training for qualifications.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity The project has been run in the past with paid workers sponsored by the City Council. The group now aim to work mostly with volunteers from the community; 12 are already training with Oxfordshire Play Association for a level 1 certificate in Play with more to train before the summer.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case Total projected year 1 costs of £26,040 include training, expenses for paid leaders and local volunteers as well as costs for refurbishing facilities previously used by this club but in poor condition, utilities, inspection costs and contingency. The majority of these are already secured from other funding sources and projected session fees; the group state that after school club provision is funded for year 1 but not the summer play scheme. The group acknowledge they will have to access significant funds (e.g. from the Lottery) to sustain the scheme in future years, in addition to local subscriptions and fundraising.</p>
<p>Community Involvement The committee of ten are made up mostly from the estates; a number of donations and offers of help have been received from local shops and firms. The Parish Council has contributed funding and the Leys News features articles about the project.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

The project would greatly benefit the children/young people of the area and not duplicate any provision by the Littlemore Early Intervention Hub. The Hub would be happy to join the management committee to ensure integrated working.

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The project is currently based at a property on land owned by the County Council. The City Council undertook to act as guarantor for the group's obligations under the original term of the contract (1983 - 1988) which still holds; they are understood to be reviewing their position which may affect the sustainability of the service delivered within the existing building. A visit by County Council staff last year suggested that the condition of the premises is poor and this was communicated to the group. If a Big Society grant is awarded, it is suggested that there will be an inspection of the premises to ensure the play scheme can be delivered safely this summer.

Further discussions about the longer term requirements are to take place with the group and City Council within the context of the wider regeneration of the Blackbird Leys area.

Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

Members at the locality review meeting supported the project, recognising strong local support and involvement by the community. They noted the element of training local volunteers, which increased project costs but made the service more sustainable for the future. They suggested the group could link with both universities to identify student volunteers. Members also noted the need for a sustainable site to continue providing the service.

Wantage Locality

Wantage Independent Advice Centre

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Day centre transportation project – Independent Advice Centre
Project Main Aims: To enable the Advice Centre to provide Day Centre access
Amount bid for: £1,990.00 of £10,490
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Wantage
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Jenny Hannaby

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) This project was considered to have potential to meet the criteria in wave 1 if the group clarified the demand for the service. Proposals are to provide regular access to two local day centres for 5-10 local vulnerable and older people each day. Scheme is to offer regular drivers who are able to build relationships; clients will receive best value by offering car sharing and scaled charges.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity This project is innovative in providing a community solution for a service was previously provided directly by the County Council.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case Costs relate to recruiting and setting up management of volunteer drivers for daily transport to day centres. Wantage Day Centre is also contributing £8,500 to help start up this service. On-going sustainability depends on a combination of the county council continuing to award an annual transport grant to the project, fares charged to clients and contributions from day centres.</p>
<p>Community Involvement Support for a secure and affordable scheme is recognised by all local Parish Councils, and Town, District and County Councillors are aware of the need. Synergy with the volunteer transport scheme for one-off journeys also run by the Advice Centre, with 40 local volunteers at present.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

<p>We have helped advise the Independent Advice Centre on their bid and their transport operation. This is exactly the type of Community Transport Scheme we wish to see develop around the County and should the bid succeed we would like to promote this to other advice centres as a good model.</p> <p>The bid is for funding the start up costs for this operation with close partnership work and other funding coming from the Wantage Day Centre. It is also planned, as stated in the bid, that this service will provide transport opportunities not only for day service users but for other requirements and</p>

covering a wider area than just Wantage itself.

Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

Councillors supported this resubmitted bid as there is now more detailed information. The project has requested the balance from Big Society Fund to help with the setting up of new voluntary transport scheme for our local Day Centres. This new service has been supported by user groups and local county councillors, Wantage Town Council, Grove Parish Council, and many Village parishes. The Advice Centre serves a wide area and is very much valued by the communities it serves. With transport to day centres an important issue at the moment, this will help the area. Wantage IAC gives good service to the wider community.

Annex 2 Bids that presently do not fully meet the assessment criteria, but may with further development

Countywide

Up2Us brokerage website

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Up2Us brokerage website
Project Main Aims: To fund an online partnership project by My Life My Choice providing older people/people with disabilities with a moderated and secure community network.
Amount bid for: £10,000 of £66,425
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): countywide
Sponsoring Councillor: None

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) The bid states that there are 3,000 disabled people in rural areas and 3,000 people of pensionable age living below the poverty line in Oxfordshire who would benefit from this resource. As a web based project it can be duplicated and tailored for use in different regions; an element of costs relates to developing the site to fit local needs.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity The issue Up2Us hope to address has arisen from the introduction of the Government's personalisation agenda. By presenting an online facility compiling approved providers, individuals will be able to make informed decisions over the allocation of their care budget. The site will also offer information on activities, events, classes and community activities by location and put service users in touch with each other.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case County Council has already provided £6,000. Large proportion of costs relate to project manager and all costs sought will be on-going. Group plan to generate substantial income from fees from service providers with additional grants required to make project sustainable.</p>
<p>Community Involvement My Life My Choice is a small Oxfordshire charity run by and for people with learning difficulties with experience in delivering successful services to benefit its clients.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

<p>This kind of initiative is of interest to the Department of Health with other councils looking to develop similar user-led models of information sharing about services. It fits well with the personalisation agenda and brings added value in connecting people; people with learning disabilities have limited social connections based mostly on family and people they share services</p>

with.

My Life My Choice have a good track record of bringing in funding for innovative projects and an improving track record of managing them well. It was awarded a Big Society Fund grant for its StingRadio project in a previous wave. For this project, there is concern about the projected provider income and would want to see some evidence on how this might be obtained (the site carrying adverts/ subscriptions), that is a business plan for this specific aspect. Evidence of intended beneficiaries successfully using the site would also be helpful.

Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

n/a (countywide)

Henley - Goring Locality

South Stoke Community Shop Ltd

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: South Stoke Community Shop
Project Main Aims: To start a community owned village shop
Amount bid for: £31,203.00 of £48,303
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Henley
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Dave Sexon

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) Particular beneficiaries are the young, elderly and other people without transport. The shop should generate regular and voluntary employment opportunities. In the Village Plan 88% of the community of about 470 residents identified a village shop as their top priority.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity The community shop is an entirely new project and will aim to support local businesses by supplying local products. There will also be a volunteer courier service two afternoons a week to deliver to housebound residents.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case This project was considered to have potential to meet the criteria in wave 3 if concerns about the sustainability of our project could be addressed. The group has added a five year trading projection, based on professional advice and benchmark data from three small village shops in operation. Total requested has been reduced, e.g. by scrutinizing capital expenditure. £17,100 has secured from the district and parish councils. The majority of costs are for fixed capital including porta-cabins and retail equipment. The South Stoke business plan has an exit strategy if the project were to fail, reinvesting funds into the community.</p>
<p>Community Involvement The shop will be staffed by a part time manager and offers volunteering opportunities for residents; 56 have pledged their time. The project has the support of the district council, local MP and specialist organisations advising community shops.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

<p>Villages and rural areas of Oxfordshire clearly suffer from low levels of accessibility (see Indices of Multiple Deprivation: access to services dimension). Although very prosperous the population of these areas is declining and ageing. The need for these older people will increase as their ability to drive declines but at the same time a) the spend of this older population will tend to decline as they get out less and b) the absolute population of the villages tends to decline. These factors, combined with the national trend towards internet shopping, could make the commercial business model of the village shop more challenging at the same time as it</p>
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CA8

makes the shop even more important as a social institution both to help overcome isolation and to provide a retail service that is coming more difficult for part of the population to access. To summarise therefore there is a need for this service, but it is a social and community need not a business need. This model of community social enterprise has proved itself valuable because that value is social as well as economic.

In terms of the service view, some concerns remain about turnover projections relative to the size of the village. One service that the shop should seek to provide on a paying basis is the receipt of items bought over the internet that working families find difficult to have delivered because they are not at home at the time of the delivery. If the internet is generally undermining the high street perhaps it can also create a new market opportunity.

Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

All four councillors for this locality support this bid.

Oxford Locality

SEAP: Older People Community Link

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Older People Community Link - SEAP
Project Main Aims: To provide an advocacy initiative to help older people with severe and enduring mental health problems in care homes in Oxford.
Amount bid for: £7,447.40 (total cost)
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Oxford
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Val Smith

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) The project is targeted at a specific group, older people with severe and enduring mental health problems in care homes. It will be delivered by training 5 new volunteers, targeting 75 residents in 30 care homes within a 5 mile radius of Oxford.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity Advocacy service and training already exist; the group suggest there is an unmet need for advocacy in these care homes. The proposed service goes beyond support around care and treatment to advocacy for every aspect of an older person's life with a focus on reconnecting people with their community.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case Funding sought includes training and organisational overheads. Future sustainability depends on care homes to be approached to fund the project. Organisation already under contract to Oxfordshire PCT to deliver advocacy to qualifying patients.</p>
<p>Community Involvement Community involvement limited to volunteers.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

<p>The bid does not include a description of any of the other existing work on advocacy, such as through dignity champions, which indicates a lack of local knowledge. The project requires clarification in terms of how it relates to the core commissioned service and its proposed future sustainability. A local advocacy partner is already contracted to deliver services in this sector, as required under provisions in the Mental Health Act and Mental Capacity Act. Assurance would have to be sought from this provider that they could effectively partner with a new provider and that the new proposal would not divert efforts away from, or add in confusion to, current contracted provision.</p>
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Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

<p>Members at the locality review agreed that residents in care homes with mental health problems may have their basic needs met but still be isolated.</p>

CA8

This could be a good project. Members queried how the target group would be chosen and whether it would be more appropriate to start in a few homes; any confusion with existing providers of this kind of service should be avoided.

Wallingford - Benson - Berinsfield

Coffee Plus and Lunch Plus

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Coffee Plus and Lunch Plus - Stadhampton
Project Main Aims: To support socially isolated and potentially vulnerable people in the village by adapting the church facility.
Amount bid for: £50,000.00 of £325,000 (of which £63,423 relates to provision of services for older people and children)
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Wallingford - Benson - Berinsfield
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) There are no services for the 132 people over the age of 65 within the village. The only existing support for parents of the 77 children between the ages of 0-4 years is the monthly visit of the Mobile Children's Library. Bid proposes introducing weekly Lunch Plus sessions for 10-20 older people and Coffee Plus for 10-15 parents with young children.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity This is a new initiative to provide for isolated residents of the community, turning the church facility into a community centre. By adding a kitchen, toilet facilities and utilities the facility will also be able to provide new and specific services for elderly people and young children.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case The bid is for capital funding for installation of a kitchen to support the transition of the facility from a church to a functioning community centre. £80,000 funding secured to date. Once up and running, the project seems sustainable based on revenue from hire charges.</p>
<p>Community Involvement Questionnaires, interviews and meetings have been conducted to include the wider community in the development of this plan. Eight volunteers are committed to this project.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

<p>We would support the project in terms of service provision as it is a good example of intergenerational project and will complement our day opportunity services for older/vulnerable people. Good needs analysis submitted. However, usage/scope of benefit appears low compared to size of bid, raising the question if this is good value for money.</p>
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Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

<p>The county councillor for the area supports the bid and no comments have been received from the locality group.</p>
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Annex 3 Bids that do not meet the criteria

Abingdon Locality

Appleton with Eaton Parish Council

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Appleton Community Park - Appleton with Eaton Parish Council
Project Aims: To create a new community park for all ages with a play area and other shared spaces.
Amount bid for: £12,452.00 of £123,650.72
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Abingdon
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Anthony Gearing

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) To develop a play area for over 260 children was identified as a top priority in the community plan by 83% of residents, including young people.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity Creating a play area is not innovative. The bid mentions activities to be run by local groups, such as gardening workshops, outdoor summer performances, parent run after school sports clubs, nature walks, family barbecues, team sports, but lacks detail.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case Majority of costs relate to professional fees outside the scope of the Fund. Majority of funding required in place; Parish Council will cover insurance and maintenance to be undertaken by volunteers.</p>
<p>Community Involvement Community involvement in developing this bid includes local acting group, Brownies/Beavers, Woodland Group, Gardening Club and a Preschool/toddler group.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

There is no doubt that effective outdoor 'play' provision is essential for children's development. However, funding play facilities is not the within the scope of the Fund.
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Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

Councillors supported this Big Society Fund project for Appleton. It has been well organised with a large team, in a community that does come together to get things done (look at its Community Plan). It would also serve a village that suffers somewhat from being isolated - the local children cannot very easily go to neighbouring areas.

Banbury Locality

GYFTID - Global Youth for Talent in Diversity

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Making a Difference in the Community - Global Youth For Talent In Diversity (GYFTID)
Project Main Aims: To lease/purchase a building owned by NHS Ambulance Trust and for training, equipment and on-going costs (inc. salaries, utilities).
Amount bid for: £600,000.00 of £743,000
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Banbury
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Alyas Ahmed

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) This bid is aimed at the African Caribbean community in Banbury. It does not provide evidence of actual need, numbers of intended beneficiaries or how needs will be met by this project.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity This project is not sufficiently detailed to enable assessment of services to be provided from the building.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case Bid is to purchase the ambulance station but appears premature as there does not seem to be any commitment from the NHS (Ambulance Trust) to sell it to GYFTID. No purchase price is stated in the bid. Bid also includes on-going costs and professional fees which are outside the remit of the fund. No detail provided about source of grants of £140,000 in year 1, including the status of any applications. Sustainability for future years unclear with very significant funding shortfalls forecast for years 2/3. No information provided as to how this will be sustained.</p>
<p>Community Involvement This bid is explicitly for religious purposes and does therefore not fit within the criteria of the fund.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

<p>It is not clear what works GYFTID wish to do to the building; therefore it is not possible to comment on how appropriate a sum of £400k for purchase/ repairs might be. On-going property and maintenance costs (other than utilities) for future years are not explicitly set out in the cost breakdown for future years. We are also concerned about the wording in this proposal, suggesting that young people should fear god in order to behave appropriately.</p>
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Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

Members expressed some support for the project.

Let's Play Banbury

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Let's Play Youth Workers
Project Main Aims: To fund 10 Disability awareness training days for volunteer youth workers at New Futures Hub and Let's Play Project.
Amount bid for: £6,249.00 of £7,186.00
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Banbury
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Ann Bonner, Cllr Alyas Ahmed

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) The project is to train 20 volunteers to support youth work with 20+ young disabled people in Banbury. Group bidding canvassed parents/carers at their AGM, who stated a need for help with provision for 11+ young people and support for the whole family. The bid refers to discussions with Banbury Early Intervention Hub to support development work with young disabled adults.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity The bid is to train volunteers, which is not a new activity as the group specialises in providing trained play workers to work with disabled young people accessing play and leisure opportunities.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case Funding sought for training including organisational overheads. Reliance on a "local trust fund" for on-going support in year 2 and 3. The group is receiving county council funding for holiday provision and tendering for other services.</p>
<p>Community Involvement Community involvement is focused on young people and volunteers working with them.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

<p>There are other providers of similar services in the area, for example Mencap and Banbury PHAB/ Gateway. Banbury Young Homeless Project can support around mental health and substance abuse issues. Hanwell Fields Youth Club is inclusive, and riding for the Disabled is available locally. Clubs and open access sessions at Banbury Early Intervention Hub are inclusive. There are alternative possibilities to train volunteers and the Banbury Hub would be happy to consider partnership working in this regard.</p>
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Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

Members supported the project.

Bicester Locality

Bicester Widows Club

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Improvement to Lives - Bicester Widows Club
Project Main Aims: To subsidise outings, lunches, speakers.
Amount bid for: £500.00 – total cost
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Bicester
Sponsoring Councillor: none contacted

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment*

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) Funding requested so the Club does not have to increase annual fees for its 39 members. There is no clear wider community benefit.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity Seeking funding not for a new but on-going set of activities for existing group.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case Reliant on continued grant funding for activities in future years. The Fund is not intended to cover on-going costs and in previous rounds similar bids have not been recommended. No fundraising or other funding is identified.</p>
<p>Community Involvement Involvement is limited to club membership.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

There is very little support for widows. Issues such as depression and illness post bereavement are well known. While we support this service development, a grant would help to provide unspecified activities effectively subsidising the cost to 39 members.

Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

No member comments received.

Oxford Locality

Studio 47

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Chowder Bar – Studio 47
Project Main Aims: To deliver a prototype 'pop up' kitchen on a bicycle trailer.
Amount bid for: £500.00 of £787.60
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Oxford
Sponsoring Councillor: None

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) The bid does not include a business plan or outline of which communities will be targeted, numbers of beneficiaries expected or clearer outcomes.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity The plan is to encourage communities to interact with one another through eating and occupying unconventional spaces. Similar projects have been successful in parts of Oxford in the past.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case The first 'pop up' kitchen has already been held and it is uncertain if a start-up grant is still required.</p>
<p>Community Involvement There is no clear evidence of wider community support for this project.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

There is potential for this to benefit communities in the City. However greater clarity about the proposals is required before benefits can be assessed.
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Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

Members felt that a pop-up kitchen could be a good project but further details would need to be provided.

Thame - Wheatley - Chalgrove - Watlington Locality

Cuddesdon and Denton Parish Council

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Play Area Surface Upgrade - Cuddesdon and Denton Parish Council
Project Main Aims: Capital project to replace an old play area surface.
Amount bid for: £14,295.00 of £15,295
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Thame - Wheatley - Chalgrove - Watlington
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr David Turner

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) Replacement of old surface with a new type that requires less maintenance will significantly reduce the maintenance burden on the Parish Council. Parish plan shows majority of young people using the play equipment.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity This bid is for the continuation of an existing activity. In previous rounds, playground improvements have not been funded as the BSF is not intended to fund facilities in their own right.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case Bid suggest that the new equipment will remove future maintenance and that there will be no on-going costs. The Parish Council is contributing £1,000.</p>
<p>Community Involvement The Parish Council is fully supportive and a Parish Plan survey suggests that the wider community is behind the project. No evidence of community fundraising.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

There is no doubt that effective outdoor 'play' provision is essential for children's development. However, funding play facilities is not the within the scope of the Fund.
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Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

The local member supports the project.
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Witney Locality

Standlake Parish Council

Section 1 – Project Overview

From the Website submission

Project Name: Windy Way Play Area
Project Main Aims: Creation of a safe play area in Windrush Way, Standlake
Amount bid for: £3,000.00 of £35,523
Project Location and Locality (<i>could be countywide</i>): Witney-Eynsham
Sponsoring Councillor: Cllr Charles Mathew

Section 2 – BID Criteria Assessment

Qualitative assessment

<p>Community Benefits (meets identified need) 30-40 young children in the area would benefit from the project.</p>
<p>Innovation and Creativity Setting up a play area is not innovative and similar bids have not been approved previously.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Case The majority of funding required has been allocated from other sources. Parish Council are undertaking to maintain the play area in future.</p>
<p>Community Involvement The project was established through a community survey of local residents. It has support from the Parish Council, Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association, District Council, the Community Police and the Housing Association leasing an old car park.</p>

Section 3 – Service Officer View

Where applicable

There is no doubt that effective outdoor 'play' provision is essential for children's development. However, funding play facilities is not the within the scope of the Fund.

Section 4 – Locality Review Group Assessment

Councillors supported this bid for funds for the Windy Way Playground and believed that other funding should be forthcoming to finance the majority. This playground will service the locality, where there are a predominance of young families at the NW of and over a mile from the centre of Standlake and the main village recreation area.