

Community Initiatives Budget

Criteria – April 2006

Background

1. The Community Initiatives Budget is an annual sum of (currently) £1.34 million which is made available from Hull City Council core funds.
 - 1.1 The rules which allow Hull City Council to make funding available for the Community Initiatives Budget are contained within Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (the “Wellbeing Power”). This provision gives local authorities the power to do anything to promote the social, environmental and economic well being of their area provided that it is not expressly prohibited by law.
 - 1.2 The budget is sub-divided into allocations for each of the seven Area Committees based upon a centrally agreed formula which defines a Ward by Ward budget.
 - 1.3 Decisions regarding the use of the Community Initiatives Budget are made by the Area Committee based upon the submission of formal applications. The application process is administered on behalf of the Area Committee by the relevant Area Co-ordination Team. Area Committees may establish a scheme of delegation for the use Community Initiatives Budget to be agreed by Elected Members for small projects within individual Wards.
 - 1.4 Applications for financial support from the Community Initiatives Budget can be made from internal Council Departments and from external public, voluntary or community bodies provided they are properly constituted and are able to satisfy the appropriate rules of grant.

Eligibility Criteria

2. The Community Initiatives Budget has been specifically established to enable Area Committees to support local projects for the benefit of its local community. The criteria aim to provide Elected Members with flexibility in the deployment of CIB under the powers of well being outlined above.

- 2.1 Each Area Committee will identify its priorities for local action annually. Applications for Community Initiatives Budget should be able to demonstrate that they contribute to the agreed priorities for the area for that year. Agreed priorities may, therefore, differ from area to area. Elected Members have the power to approve projects if, in their opinion, the project addresses an issue of local need.
- 2.2 It is acknowledged that local initiatives may not always be confined to the geography of a single Area Committee and may, accordingly, involve communities from adjoining Area Committee areas.
- 2.3 Once a project proposal extends beyond three Area Committee boundaries it ceases to be regarded as a “local initiative” and, accordingly, ceases to be eligible for consideration for Community Initiatives Budget support.
- 2.4 Notwithstanding this, initiatives that do span two or three Area Committees will need to make two/three separate applications and each Area Committee is empowered to make an independent decision on support (or otherwise) based upon its agreed priorities. Support from one Area Committee does not automatically imply support or commitment from the second.
- 2.5 Applications are not eligible if received from individuals or from profit making enterprise(s) and neither are applications eligible that are demonstrably for the benefit of an individual or private enterprise. An exception to this rule may be made, at the discretion of the Area Committee, where the project is in specific response to an issue of Community Safety subject to advice from the council’s Legal Services and a specific supporting report from Humberside Police, The Fire and Rescue Service or the council’s Community Safety Manager.
- 2.6 The Community Initiatives Budget can be utilised for either Capital or Revenue expenditure but should not be used to create a reliance on year-on-year support. Accordingly, CIB funding support is only eligible for individual projects for a maximum of one financial year.
- 2.7 As outlined earlier in this policy statement, the Community Initiatives Budget is provided from Council core resources. Approved projects, therefore, must not be contrary to agreed Council policy and must not be used to fund the active opposition to (or campaigning against) agreed Council policy. Any proposals which aim to do this will be ineligible for funding support.

- 2.8 All initiatives supported by the Community Initiatives Budget must publicise this fact and prominently display Hull City Council's logo in recognition of this support.
- 2.9 The Community Initiatives Budget is a finite resource. Area Committee has the right, therefore, to refuse applications on the grounds of insufficient available resources or on the grounds that more pressing agreed priorities exist for action within the area (as evidenced by published priorities).
- 2.10 Area Committee (or local Ward Elected Members in the case of delegated decisions) have the right to refuse applications if they feel that there is insufficient evidence of consultation and/or support from the relevant community/beneficiary group.
- 2.11 Applicants who are in receipt of a refusal for funding have the right to submit their application for reconsideration if they feel that additional relevant information can be made available.