

Wyre Forest District Council

AUDIT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 27TH MARCH 2007

External Funding

OPEN	
Community Strategy Plan:	Shared Prosperity
Corporate Plan Theme:	Promoting Economic Prosperity
Corporate Plan Key Priority:	Regeneration
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Stephen Clee
Head of Service:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
Contact Officer:	Delia Yapp Ext 2724
Appendices:	Appendix A External Funding Strategy Appendix B Quarter 3 External Funding Report

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To outline the external funding process adopted by Wyre Forest District Council and advice on the effectiveness of its application in line with Councils priorities.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee is asked to NOTE:

- 2.1 The External Funding processes in place continue to be implemented in line with the External Funding Strategy.**
- 2.2 The amount of External Funding being attracted to the district as attached in Appendix B.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The External Funding Strategy (Appendix A) was adopted in April 2005. The Strategy outlines the processes that Officers must undertake during the application for external resources.
- 3.2 The External Funding Working Group works to maintain the efficiencies of the external funding process and ensure divisions are reporting all external funding the authority is accruing.

- 3.3 The External Funding Officer completes an External Funding record on a quarterly basis to ensure that funding is reported and monitored on a regularly basis. This information is supplied to the Internal Audit Officer and the Chief Executive. It is also made available on the intranet.
- 3.4 An annual report is delivered to the Corporate Management Team detailing the levels of funding attracted in that financial year.

4. SUMMARY

- 4.1 Appendix B shows the quarter 3 External Funding Report completed in December 2006.
- 4.2 Successes this year include the Resource Efficiency Club operating on the Stourport Road Industrial Estate with the guidance of WFDC Environment division, the Heritage Lottery Fund award for £39,000 to contribute towards the Bewdley Town Trail and £33,000 from the Arts Council Liveability funding to contribute towards improved access and understanding and enjoyment in the districts natural environment, green spaces and countryside.
- 4.3 These reports continue to be updated on a quarterly basis by the External Funding Working Group to monitor funding that Wyre Forest District Council are directly and indirectly involved with accruing for the benefit of the district.

5. THE WAY FORWARD

- 5.1 That the External Funding Group continues to act as a link between the External Funding Officer and each division within the authority to ensure that monitoring of external funding is maintained.
- 5.2 The External Funding Officer continues to complete quarterly reviews of funding entering the authority and funding that that the authority is a partner to attracting.
- 5.3 External Funding continues to be a priority within Wyre Forest District Council.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is a financial implications section covered in the External Funding Strategy along with a VAT/ Accountable Body Framework that gives an overview of the questions WFDC should be addressing before accepting accountability for any funding delivery.

7. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 As part of the External Funding Strategy, Officers are asked to seek advice from the Legal and Democratic Division on individual projects before entering the authority into any External Funding agreement.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 The risks involved in a project are evaluated by Officers in consultation with Legal and Democratic services, prior to applications being accepted by Wyre Forest District Council.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 Provision of External funding continues to be an important part of Wyre Forest District Council delivering its priorities.

10. CONSULTEES

External Funding Working Group

11. Background Papers

WFDC Executive External Funding report, 22nd April 2004

External Funding Strategy, April 2005