

**Questions from the Public:
City Executive Board, Thursday 12 February 2015**

Question from Dr Shirley McCready, Trustee, Cutteslowe Community Association

Answer from Cllr Mike Rowley, Board Member for Leisure Contract and Community Partnership Grants

Regarding item 11: GRANT ALLOCATIONS TO COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2015/2016

Background: For 10 years, Cutteslowe Community Association (CCA) has provided a 3-week summer holiday play-scheme to ~55 local primary school children, age 5-11 years, 80% of whom are from families on benefits and including disabled children with support from Parasol. It is funded mostly from grants from charitable trusts, local churches, individual donations and support from the City. Year on year, funding is harder to raise and in 2014 the play-scheme was very close to being cancelled.

We applied for £10,000 from the City's Open Bidding scheme, which would cover half of the 2015 play-scheme's cost but were awarded only £2,500. The panel commented that, whilst the need was strongly evidenced, the cost of the play-scheme was excessive at £24 per child per day compared to £15 for the Council's holiday programme. They considered that the 4 trips, costing £4,000 in total, should be charged to the families involved, and not subsidised.

Questions:

Given the fact that the CCA is not subsidised and has to cover all costs, including its premises and admin, and considering the age group catered to, does the figure of £15 per child per day for other schemes compare like with like?

We are keen to work with the Cutteslowe Community Association to help make the play scheme sustainable. Unfortunately this is by far the most expensive play scheme in Oxford per head, and is therefore not benefitting nearly as many children as the other play schemes.

Would the panel be willing to reconsider the decision to fund only 25% of the sum requested?

What the CCA have asked for would be a 200% increase on the funding they received last year, and given the above considerations and the very tight financial situation, we unfortunately cannot justify this. However, Cutteslowe is an area of deprivation, which is why we will partially fund the play scheme. In addition, officers will work with the CCA to help develop future proposals.

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