

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**AUDIT COMMITTEE**
19TH NOVEMBER 2007**External Funding – Wyre Forest District Council**

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Prosperity
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Promoting Economic Prosperity
KEY PRIORITY:	Regeneration
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
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APPENDICES	Appendix A – External Funding Strategy Appendix B – Quarter to 07/08 External Funding Report

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Audit Committee on the external funding process adopted by Wyre Forest District Council and advise on the effectiveness of its application in line with Council priorities.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to NOTE the amount of External Funding being attracted to the District as attached in *Appendix B*.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The District Council's External Funding Strategy (*Appendix A*) was adopted in April 2005. The Strategy outlines the processes that Officers must undertake during the application process for external resources.
- 3.2 The External Funding Strategy exists to maintain the efficiencies of the external funding process and ensure Divisions are reporting all external funding that the Authority is accruing.
- 3.3 External funding obtained is recorded on a quarterly basis to ensure that funding is reported and monitored regularly. 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 levels of funding attracted in that financial year.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Appendix B is the External Funding report for Quarter 2, 2007/08 - completed in October 2007. Successes this year include funding for the River Severn Arts Festival, Animal Grazing Project, Bridge Street enhancement/Stourport Pride Project in Stourport on Severn and funding towards the Forestry Commission's 'Grow with Wyre' Project.
- 4.2 These reports continue to be updated on a quarterly basis to monitor funding at the District Council are directly and indirectly involved with accruing for the benefit of the District.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is a financial implication section covered in the External Funding Strategy along with a VAT/Council body framework that gives an overview of the questions the Council should be addressing before accepting accountability for any funding delivery.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As part of the External Funding Strategy, officers are asked to seek advice from the Legal and Democratic Services Division on individual projects before entering the Authority into any external funding agreements.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The risks involved in any project are evaluated by Officers in consultation with the Legal and Democratic Services Division prior to applications being accepted by the District Council.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Provision of external funding continued to be an important part of Wyre Forest District Council delivering its priorities.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 External Funding Working Group

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Wyre Forest District Council Executive External Funding Report 22nd April 2004.

31st October 2007