COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÃTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

 Report of Social and Community Strategic Policy Committee

Held on the 17h November, 2015

In the Community Services Conference Room

**Attendance:**

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| Members | Officials |
| Cllr. D. Looney | B. Coman Director |
| Cllr. C. O’Connor | A.Byrne Administrative Officer |
| Grainne Ní Mhuirí | P. McAlerney Senior Community Officer |
| Cllr. K. Egan | A. Silke Sports Office |
| L. Kelly PPN |  |
| Cllr. V. Casserly |  |

**Apologies:**

**Minutes of September 2015 Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September, 2015 which had been circulated were approved.

**Community Initiative Fund**

Paul McAlerney gave an update to the SPC and reported that a total of 118 Application were received with a cumulative total request for funding of just over €1.3 Million. Funding amounts requested ranged from the minimum amount of €1,000 up to the maximum amount of €50,000.

Following independent evaluation, 21 applications received funding. Unsuccessful applicants were directed towards other funding streams as appropriate. A photoshoot with the Mayor took place in the Council chamber which was attended by most of the successful groups. €250,000 has been included in the 2016 budget for this fund. An internal assessment will take place and it is expected that the fund will be advertised and awards made in the first half of 2016.

A discussion followed and it was agreed that it might be useful to have a general funding workshop in the New Year to assist groups in preparing applications and providing information on different funding streams in advance of another round of CIF. The involvement of the SPC was appreciated in the development of the fund and the SPC will be advised of the findings of the internal review.

**Sportivate**

Alison Silke gave an update on the new Sportivate Programme which is run from Brookfield. 19 participants have begun training and is now at a steady 17, The participants are learning many aspects and requirements of the sports industry and will develop the necessary practical skills to enable to secure employment in the industry or enhance their prospects of going onto further education. This is a partnership between the DSP, DDL Education and Training Board and South Dublin County Council. It was agreed to have a small launch/photoshoot of this project.

**Endeavour Awards**

The Awards were advertised starting the week of 19th of October with a closing deadline of Friday 13th of November. There were 12 categories and 140 applications received. The awards will be made at a ceremony on Friday the 11th of December in Moran's Red Cow Hotel. All SPC members are invited.

Following discussion the members agreed with the Trophies and to look at certificates in future schemes. All groups who sent in applications and nomination will be invited to the awards ceremony.

**Healthy Ireland Nomination**

Cllr. Charlie O’Connor was nominated by Cllr. Dermot Looney and seconded by Cllr. Vicky Casserly and was selected by the Committee as the nominee to the Health County Project. Cllr. O’Connor agreed to report back regularly to the SPC.

**Hospitality Initiative**

Billy Coman reported on the development of this initiative. Meetings are ongoing with the IT Tallaght and the Education and Training Board. Issues to be ironed out include: fetac level, location, kitchen space, lecture rooms, timing of project etc. It is hoped to have this initiative running by the spring. Money has been provided by the Council in the 2016 budget to support this initiative. A report will be given to the next SPC meeting.

**Community Centre Capacity**

Paul McAlerney give a presentation highlighting the range of Community Facility Infrastructure in the County. A discussion was held on the usage rates and availability of space in community centres throughout the County. It was acknowledged that there are differences in the centres layout, size, finances, management, staffing and usage. This is due to a wide variety of reasons such as local history, community groups active in the areas, current local demand, age of building etc. The new buildings are much more flexible to change of use which is due to learning acquired over the years. The use of the major leisure centres was also discussed and reported on. Community usage has changed also in line with current demands. It was reported that the Community Centre Network is being redeveloped to support centre management. The availability of space throughout the county in suitable vacant buildings will also be looked at where there is specific demand as will the use of modular buildings to deliver space.

The provision in the budget for additional community space was discussed and will be reported on at the next SPC meeting.

**Any other business**

**Education Bursaries**

The Education bursaries which the SPC revamped earlier in the year will be awarded to students on 24th November and all members are welcome.

**Tallaght Person of the Year**

It was agreed that the timing of the Tallaght Person of the Year and the Endeavour Awards are close and confusing and may result in fewer applications. It was noted that the Sports Partnership and SDCC support this event. This will be looked at next year.

**Timing of meetings**

It was agreed to begin the meetings in future at **6 p.m.**

The meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.

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