

**REPORT TO THE CALNE AREA (5) COMMITTEE**

**Report No. 5**

Date of Meeting	18th July 2007 (Special Meeting)
Title of Report	<b>Request for Calne Community Area 5 Funding from Calne Leisure Action Group (CLAG)</b>
Link to Corporate Priorities	To put customers at the heart of everything we do – Support Community Area Partnerships and Community Plans
Public Report	Yes

**Summary of Report**

This report has been prepared to present members of the Calne Area (5) Committee with recommendations relating to an application seeking funding from the 2007/2008 Community Area Award Scheme.

It illustrates links between this application and the Calne Community Area Plan where appropriate and sets out the implications of accepting these recommendations.

**Officer Recommendation**

**To agree funding distribution of the Area 5 Community Area Awards budget based upon the agreed criteria for 2007/2008.**

**Calne Leisure Action Group (CLAG), or other such body set up by the group – Award £75,000 from the capital budget towards the purchase of gym equipment for the Whitehorse Leisure Centre, conditional on the Executive agreeing to CLAG taking over the running of the centre and a variation to the Community Area Award Policy for this application only to enable funding from both Executive and Area 5 to be awarded.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES

Contact Officer	Jane Vaughan, Community Partnership Officer, 01249 706447 <a href="mailto:jvaughan@northwilts.gov.uk">jvaughan@northwilts.gov.uk</a> or Miranda Gilmour, Principal Community Partnership Officer, 01249 706380 <a href="mailto:mgilmour@northwilts.gov.uk">mgilmour@northwilts.gov.uk</a>

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report considers an application for 2007/2008 Community Area Award funding, which relates to issues and priorities identified in the Calne Community Area Plan.

## 2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 **Option 1: Calne Leisure Action Group (CLAG), or other such body set up by the group – Award £75,000 from the capital budget towards the purchase of gym equipment for the Whitehorse Leisure Centre, conditional on the Executive agreeing to CLAG taking over the running of the centre and a variation to the Community Area Award Policy for this application only to enable funding from both Executive and Area 5 to be awarded.**

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Calne Leisure Action Group (CLAG) Appendix 1	To purchase new gym equipment	Capital	£75,000

- 2.1.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application demonstrates specific links to the Calne Community Area Plan by increasing recreation land and facilities in the Calne Community Area. It addresses the overarching aims of the Community Plan and Community Partnership – ‘to encourage a vibrant community which involves all elements of the society’. In addition this project links to the Community Partnership vision to promote a sense of community cohesion and well being.
- 2.1.2 Members will note that this application contravenes the Community Area Award Policy, which was approved by the Executive on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007. Specifically with regard to criteria point no: 10 which relates to the applicant receiving any other North Wiltshire District Council funding within the same financial year towards the same project.
- 2.1.3 Due to the unique nature of this application and the considerable community support, officers suggest that this Committee request that Executive to grant an exception to the current funding policy to enable funding from Area 5 Committee in addition to that being offered by the Council’s Executive Committee.
- 2.1.4 The White Horse Leisure Centre was closed to the public on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 and since that time the dry side facilities have been managed by John Bentley School under licence for educational purposes only and the swimming pool closed and ‘warm mothballed’. The pool is due to be de-commissioned at the end of July as required by the Council’s insurers and it appears unlikely that they would be willing to extend the cover further.
- 2.1.5 District and Town Councillors Members will recall the presentation made on 19<sup>th</sup> June, outlining the business case supporting this application. It is understood that the Business Plan has been examined by the Council’s Section 151 Officer in preparation of the report to Executive. The figures provided appear robust; however, the success of the project will rely upon a multiplicity of factors.
- 2.1.6 CLAG is looking to form an Industrial Provident Society (IPS) in order to move forward this proposal. The emphasis will be upon providing a community facility with a Board, shareholders and user involvement.

- 2.1.7 Supporting this proposal will strengthen the Council's ability support the Local Area Agreement in respect to the Healthy Communities block, most especially in respect to improving recreation and sports facilities and access, in communities where levels of participation are low and deprivation high.
- 2.1.8 There is considerable community support for this proposal to reinstate local facilities, both from individuals, groups and the Calne Community Area Partnership.
- 2.1.9 Reinstatement of a leisure facility in Calne is likely to have a significant positive impact on the environment in terms of reducing travel to other market towns in North Wiltshire and surrounding areas to use leisure facilities. Ease of access also generally improves usage and will consequently benefit the local Calne and District community.
- 2.1.10 While the financial contribution requested is significant, this Committee has a considerable amount of capital carry forward from previous years available. While agreeing this award would only leave £7,779 remaining in their capital budget for the remaining of 2007/08, evidence shows that in 2006/07 this Committee spent less than three quarters of their capital budget and in 2005/06 it was less than half.

## **2.2 Option 2: Not to make an award to Calne Leisure Action Group**

- 2.2.1 A decision not to fund this project will result in the loss of any significant community leisure facilities in the Calne community area. Once lost it is unlikely that a replacement facility would be built most especially the swimming pool.
- 2.2.2 While modest facilities are currently provided at St Mary's and Springfield Schools, this is unlikely to meet the needs of a town, which is likely to grow significantly in the future.
- 2.2.3 Choosing not to fund this project would leave the Committee with a significant capital budget. There is, however, no evidence that there are any other major projects within the Calne Community Area seeking funding in this financial year.

## **3. Background Information**

- 3.1 In 2007/2008 Area 5 Committee have been allocated a capital budget of £40,000 and a revenue budget of £8,000 for distribution in the form of Community Area Awards.
- 3.2 As a result of Area 5 capital under-spends dating back to 2003/04, the sum of £45,610 was carried forward this year. This resulted in an initial total capital budget of £85,610 being available to Area 5 Committee during 2007/2008.
- 3.3 Following the funding recommendations made on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007, Area 5 Committee has a community capital balance of £82,779 and a revenue balance of £3,559
- 3.4 Funding Criteria for 2007/2008 were reviewed in January 2007, by a Working Party that included representatives of all five Area Committees. The Executive Committee subsequently approved the Community Area Award Policy on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007. Where Members wish to act in contravention of this policy, the matter must be referred to the Executive.
- 3.4.1 Key elements are outlined below:
- ◆ The funding criteria require that at least 75% of the Community Area Award budget is allocated to applications that demonstrate explicit links to the Calne

Community Area Plan. The remainder (being no more than 25%) is available for those schemes that fall outside of the Community Plan, but are important for local people and demonstrate that they meet a community-identified need.

- ◆ Applications requesting £500 or less will not require any matched funding, while those requesting more than £500 will not be awarded more than 50% of the total cost of their project. Where applications come from Parish and Town Councils, the Area 5 Committee will not award more than the amount contributed by the Town or Parish Council. The rationale for this decision is based on the ability of Town and Parishes to raise funding through the precept.
- ◆ Funding will be awarded according to demand over the three funding rounds and not divided equally between the three tranches.
- ◆ Planning permission will only need to have been investigated by the applicant at the time of submitting an application, although receipt of planning permission would form a condition of all Awards being made.
- ◆ No Award can be made to an applicant if it exceeds the sum requested on the formal application form. Should Members wish to award a greater sum, the item would need to be deferred until the next funding round and the applicant requested to submit a revised application.
- ◆ Capital and revenue cannot be awarded to the same scheme. The rationale for adopting this approach is to ensure that applicants have ensured that, before committing themselves to capital schemes, they have the means by which they can sustain their project.

3.5 Appendix 2 provides details of the 2007/08 distribution of awards across Area 5. This is provided to assist Members in considering the distribution of funding across the whole of the community area.

3.6 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that there are three funding rounds during 2007/08. The application contained in this report is being brought to Area 5 in advance of the programmed round of funding because of the imminent deadline to decommission the pool before the next scheduled funding round which will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

- ◆ The deadline for receipt of applications to be considered at the October Committee meeting is **31st August 2007**.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to Area 5 Committee as outlined in section 3 of this report.

4.2 If Members make awards in line with officer recommendations, Members will have a capital balance of £7,779 and a revenue balance of £3,559.

#### **5. Community and Environmental Implications**

5.1 This award can be directly linked to priority issues and visions identified in the Calne Community Area Plan. In addition the applicant can provide evidence that local consultation and investigation has taken place identifying a community need.

5.2 Awards made by Area Committee to successful applicants will contribute to the continuance and /or the improvement of cultural, social and community activity and

well-being in the Community Area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent on the individual project.

## 6. Equality & Diversity Implications

6.1 Community Area Awards give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment for the Community Area Awards has been undertaken and copies are available on the Council's website.

## 7. Risk Analysis

7.1 Failure to make this award would have a significant impact on the applicant and the associated project. The overall risk is considered high, as failure of Area 5 to fund at this stage is likely to lead to overall failure of the project and permanent closure of the pool if it is decommissioned as planned.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 1 – Calne Leisure Action Group Application</li> <li>• Appendix 2 - 2007/2008 geographical distribution of Community Area Awards</li> </ul>
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	Community Area Award Funding Criteria 2007/08 Community Area Awards Policy 2007/2008 Calne Community Area Plan 2004 Calne Community Area Plan 2006 update

### Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Community Area Awards Policy 2007/2008	Executive - 8 February 2007	E175