

Report to	Devizes Area Board
Date of Meeting	23rd May 2011
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider an application seeking 2011/12 Community Area Grant Funding

- 1. Devizes Carnival** – Funding to expand the work of the project to embrace new groups not previously involved. They are seeking £3,500. **Recommended for consideration for approval**

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Community Services (15 April 2011). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria and/or the officer's recommendation would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons for why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Area Board Grants Guidance officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, however, the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.
- 1.4. The emphasis in the coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement. With this in mind Community Area Grants should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups.
- 1.5. Area boards will not consider applications from Town and Parish Councils for purposes that relate to their statutory duties or powers that should be funded from the local town/parish precept. However this does not preclude bids from Town and Parish Councils, encouraging community projects that provide new opportunities for local people or those functions that are not the sole responsibility of the Town/Parish Council.
- 1.6. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting (providing there is money available).
- 1.7. All applicants are encouraged to contact Charities Information Bureau who is working on behalf of Wiltshire Council to support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.8. Paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies are available upon request
- 1.9. The 2011/12 funding criteria and application forms are available on the Council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) or paper versions are available from the Community Area manager
- 1.10. Devizes Area Board has been allocated a 2011/12 budget of £58,192 (plus £114 carried forward from 2010/2011) making a total of £58,306 to use for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. No grants have been approved so far this financial year. Up to 20% of the budget can be

applied for by Devizes Community Area Partnership for running costs.

- 1.11. Should the Board approve the application before it at this meeting, a balance of £54,806 will remain.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12• Devizes Community Area Plan
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2011/12 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There are six rounds of funding during 2011/12.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

Community Area Grants will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Devizes Area Board.
- 4.2. Should the applications in this agenda be awarded, Devizes Area Board will have a balance of £54,806

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

6. HR Implications

- 6.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

- 7.1. Community Area Grants give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within section 8 – “Officer Recommendations”.

8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1 (Grant Register ref no)	Devizes Carnival	Funding to expand the Carnival’s activities further	£3,500

8.1.1. Officer recommendation is that this application be considered for approval.

8.1.2. The Devizes Carnival is a reoccurring event and the request could be seen as providing for running costs. However, if awarded, this funding will be used to add value to what is already provided by attempting to attract more participation from the villages around Devizes. This would include more opportunities for communities to benefit from events such as artist led workshops.

8.1.3. The project is now also looking at targeting those culturally and socially disadvantaged communities

8.1.4. There are economic benefits to all within the area of having successful large scale events such as this.

8.1.5. The application meets grant criteria 2011/12

8.1.6. The application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan (Encourage community involvement and supporting the voluntary sector).

8.1.7. Match funding is being provided from the Town Council, business sponsorship and the group’s own fundraising.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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