

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Devizes Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Grants</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 2 applications seeking 20011/12 Community Area Grant Funding

- 1. Wiltshire Heritage Museum** – Funding towards the replacement of the boiler. They are seeking £5,000. **Recommended for consideration for approval with the condition that the application for landfill tax is also granted or alternative funding can be provided**
- 2. Association of Kennet Passengers** – Funding to produce professional bus route map. They are seeking £2,800. **The recommendation is that the application does not meet the criteria and would normally be refused. However, it is requested that Councillors consider whether the community benefit is sufficient for the grant to still be awarded.**

## 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](http://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. Up to 20% of the budget can be applied for by Devizes Community Area Partnership for

running costs. 50% of this was agreed at the July meeting (£5,819)

- 1.11. £4,474 has been awarded so far this year. Should the Board approve the applications before it at this meeting, a balance of £40,213 will remain or £34,394 assuming DCAP are awarded their full running costs
- 1.12. It was agreed that £5000 of this funding would be ring fenced to support smaller festivals and carnivals. Additionally a Member initiative is being considered at this meeting which will also ring fence £6,000 to support Silver Jubilee Celebrations

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12</li><li>• Devizes Community Area Plan</li></ul>
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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 £40,213 or £34,394 assuming DCAP are awarded their full running costs

## **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)	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Funding to replace the boiler	£5,000 towards a project costing £28,206

- 8.1.1. Officer recommendation is that this application be considered for approval on the condition that the application for landfill tax is also successful or alternative funding can be provided.
- 8.1.2. The Wiltshire Heritage Museum is strategically important to both tourism and heritage in the area with over 20,000 people visiting the museum each year
- 8.1.3. The museum is dependent upon both grants and volunteers to supplement the income it can generate. The museum provides educational work and hosts community exhibitions and events
- 8.1.4. The existing boiler was installed in the 1970's and was declared as not fit for purpose during the last inspection. If the boiler is not replaced then the Museum would be very limited in when it could open and what it could provide.
- 8.1.5. The museum has some accumulated funds but these are already being used to subsidize the running costs. The Museum therefore requires additional grant funding to continue as it is
- 8.1.6. £18,206 is being provided by the Museum's own reserves or fundraising. An application has been made for £5,000 for Landfill Tax Credits. If this is not successful then the Museum will need to provide the additional funding in order that they can receive the Area Board grant (if approved)
- 8.1.7. The application meets grant criteria 2011/12.
- 8.1.8. The application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan (Tourism and Culture) as well as providing volunteer opportunities.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2 (Grant Register ref no)	Association of Kennet Passengers	Funding to provide a professional map of bus routes in and out of Devizes	£2,800 for a project costing £3,850

- 8.2.1. Officer recommendation is that this application does not meet the criteria as 50% match funding can't be provided. However it is being brought to the Councillors for consideration as in the officer's view there may be sufficient community benefit for the grant to still be awarded. (See section 1.2 of this report)
- 8.2.2. The funding is required so that a clear, high quality professional map can be produced that will allow people to easily find out information on bus routes in and out of Devizes. The map will be electronic and can therefore be used on Websites or printed out. An initial requirement is for 5 large waterproof maps to be provided around the Market place.
- 8.2.3. With the loss of the Devizes Tourism Information Centre, there is an important need to provide information and assistance by alternative means where possible. The Association of Kennet Passengers are working closely with partner organisations including Wiltshire Council and Devizes Town Council to provide information on bus routes, a service that is particularly used by young people and those who have poor sight. Up to now, the Tourist Information Centre has provided face to face help for thousands of people each year and also hand out about 20 timetables each day. This project will enable a move to an easy self help information system for bus routes.
- 8.2.4. The Association of Kennet Passengers have very little funding of their own to put into the project. They have though contributed over £1,000 which includes volunteers time. The group has also contacted the Charities Information Bureau for help and Devizes Town Council will be providing financial assistance with the next phase of the project.
- 8.2.5. The project demonstrates a link to the community plan as it addresses access issues. It also promotes public transport as an alternative to using the car which helps address the concerns in Devizes around air quality.
- 8.2.6. As the Association can't provide 50% match funding, the criteria for grant applications has not been met. However the criteria offers Councillors an opportunity to still award the grant if they feel that the community benefit will be great enough. Given the unique circumstances, it is recommended that Councillors consider if they would like to do this.

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