

Report to	Trowbridge Area Board
Date of Meeting	12 July 2012
Title of Report	Community Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider:

1. One application seeking Community Area Grant Funding: (Appendix 1)
 - i. Sukosta Theatre Company – to run a cultural community project “How we Move” - £3,850 requested

Total Amount requested = £3,850

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 Adult Care, Communities and Housing (4 April 2012). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2012/2013.
- 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. The emphasis in the Coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement and the nurturing of resilient communities. With this in mind Community Area Grants (CAGs) should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups. Likewise, Small Grants (new this year) should be awarded to similar groups, as well as un-constituted groups of people wanting to improve things near to where they live.
- 1.4. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.5. Small Grants, new for this year, will fund up to £350 where the total cost of the project does not exceed £350. This grant is aimed at enabling groups (including those not formally constituted) to implement projects, involving local people to make their community a better place to live.
- 1.6. Area boards will not consider Community Area Grant (CAG) 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/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.
- 1.7. In addition to CAGs and Small Grants, Councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle sticky community issues and/or community identified priorities. Cabinet have emphasised that they do not wish these to be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria or for filling gaps where there are council service shortfalls. The application process and form has been updated to bring it in line with the other grants.
- 1.8. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their funding reports (except in the case of Area Board/Councillor led initiatives), although the decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.9. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.

- 1.10. Applicants are encouraged to contact and seek funding help from Charities Information Bureau (CIB) who work on behalf of Wiltshire Council. CIB 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.
- 1.11. Paper copies of funding applications no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce paper. They are however available on the Wiltshire Council web site with the area board agenda papers and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.12. The 2012/2013 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.13. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the area board. This applies to all grants made by the area board.
- 1.14. Trowbridge Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of £77,781 for community grants, small grants, community partnership core funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. Community Area Board grants and Area Board projects totalling £ have been allocated so far in 2012/13:
- Wiltshire Mind – £1,816 for a pilot six month art therapy course
 - World Evangelism Bible Church – £5,000 for a project to help address post traumatic disorders relating to the terminally ill
 - Friends of Southwick Country Park – £899 for free activities in Southwick Country Park
 - Cllr Peter Fuller Area Board bid - £2,220 for Trowbridge Area Campus consultation
- 1.15. **This gives a current remaining total of £67,846 available to allocate**

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report

- Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 as presented for delegated decision
- Trowbridge Community Area Plan
- Technical Officers reports

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2012/13 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.

3. Environmental Impact of the Proposals

- 3.1. 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 budget allocated to the Trowbridge Area Board.
- 4.2. If community area grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Trowbridge Area Board will have a balance of £67.846

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 Diversity Implications

- 7.1. Community Area Grants give local community and voluntary groups, 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 where appropriate.

8. Community Area Grant Applications

The full applications are available at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards

Applicant 8.1	Project summary	Funding requested
Sukosta Theatre Company	To run an theatre/ movment arts project	£3,850

- 8.1.1 The applicant meets the grant criteria. However whilst the applicant states that this is a unique community project bringing diverse groups of the Trowbridge Community area together, a virtually identical project was submitted to Bradford on Avon Area Board this financial year. The applicant did not apply as a joint project covering 2 community areas therefore they may be some duplication in the project costs.
- 8.1.2 The applicant demonstrates links to the Trowbridge Community Area Plan Theme 4 Culture
- 8.1.3 The applicant states they have support from a range of businesses and schools/ colleges yet there is no income shown from these organisations to take part in the project.
- 8.1.4 **It is recommended that a grant of £3,850 is refused as the applicant should**

be seeking income from those businesses and organisations who will benefit from the project.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the Area Board agrees to the recommendation for the Community Area Grant application contained within paragraph 8.1.4 of this report.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Community Area Grant application
Unpublished Documents	The following unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report: Technical Officers Report
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