

**From:** Devizes Community Area Partnership (DCAP)  
**To:** Devizes Area Board  
**Item for:** Decision  
**Author:** Chairman



## **APPLICATION FOR SECOND TRANCHE FUNDING**

### **Purpose of report**

- 1 To provide a mid-term performance update to the Board as a condition of the DCAP funding agreement, **recommending** that Members release £5819.00 funding for the continued operation of DCAP core functions.

### **Background**

- 2 DCAP is funded for its core costs by the Area Board, which releases those funds on being satisfied that planned activity will follow agreed programmes within the Community Plan (for the first tranche), and that the planned activity as delivered is achieving demonstrable outcomes for the community (second tranche). This report is for the second tranche in year 2012/13:

### **Overview**

- 3 In the last financial year the Partnership attained its first goal of completing a Community Plan, which was agreed with the Area Board. This year it has begun work to ensure that the aims of that plan are achieved.
- 4 On the administration side we have welcomed Peter Baxter to replace Beth Hutton who did sterling work for us. Peter has been appointed the Partnership Manager and is using his considerable experience of management in the public sector to ensure the Partnership has a strong platform for future activities. We now have a Constitution and we have introduced robust financial regulations and effective budgetary and accounting processes.
- 5 The Partnership is working with an expanding range of many other organisations and networks within our area as well as very many concerned individuals who support us. Our contact lists currently have over 240 entries.

### **Interest groups**

- 6 The number of Interest Groups and their scope has been increased. The Countryside and Environment Group has been split into two, one concerned with the Countryside and all aspects of rural life and the other embracing the Sustainable Devizes Network as our Environment Group. We have also brought the Devizes Tourism Partnership into our Economy Interest Group.
- 7 Our Community Plan calls for a greater emphasis on sustainable transport and that group has worked particularly hard to enable this to happen. We have identified new safe cycling routes and have worked closely with the Community Area Traffic Group to bring these plans to fruition. Our Cycle Devizes! Day raised the profile of cycling considerably and has brought together an appreciable number of cyclists who are now working to increase cycling within our Community Area, holding a further planning event on 24 February. We were also heavily involved in formulating Wiltshire Council's Devizes Transport Strategy and are continuing to engage the community in dialogue over its proposals. The poor air quality experienced along the A361 in Devizes is the direct result of traffic congestion. The Partnership has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Wiltshire's Public Health Directorate and has been instrumental in the establishment of a Devizes Air Quality Steering Group on which it is well represented.

- 8 Our Economy Interest Group has expanded its work in setting up and managing a Mentoring Scheme designed to give school-leavers real experience of the workplace environment by spending time in local businesses. An initial pilot scheme at Devizes School was very successful and with the enthusiastic support of the Headteacher is being expanded, which we deem to be of great importance given the present bleak outlook for school-leavers. This Group has also given strong support to the proposal of a central coach drop off and pick up point in the West Central Car Park.
- 9 The Culture and Leisure Group is continuing its work to promote and support our heritage, refurbishing or augmenting important signage about the town, directing tourists to points of interest, and for which the Area Board has provided a separate grant of £2098.00.
- 10 Our Crime and Community Safety Group continues to listen to the community's concerns and, working with Wiltshire Police has been able to respond positively. It has just agreed to seek wider membership, with invitations to a number of voluntary and public sector organisations supporting victims of crime, public protection, road safety, vulnerable people and young people across the Area. A Safe Places scheme is being developed and consideration given to establishing Street Pastors, which have been so successful elsewhere.
- 11 Our Housing Group has done a great deal of work to understand the real housing need in the Community Area and is examining ways in which more affordable homes can be provided, including partnership work with Wiltshire Council. It is currently investigating the self-build concept. Working with our Environment Group it is also pressing to ensure new developments are energy efficient and at the very least have effective rainwater harvesting systems.
- 12 The Health & Wellbeing Group enjoyed a good relationship with NHS Wiltshire and is anxious to establish a similarly strong link with the new Clinical Commissioning Group, but so far without success. Its aim is to ensure that, as a minimum, Devizes does not lose any of the medical services it enjoys today and preferably to add to them, reducing the need for patients to have to travel for their medical care. On the wellbeing front, it is active in promoting "Outdoor Gyms" within our villages.
- 13 Our new Environment Group, SDN, ran a Low Energy Conference and Exhibition in the Corn Exchange which was well attended and achieved its aim of allowing people to understand what options were available to them to achieve the double benefit of reducing energy use and cutting fuel bills.

### **Communications**

- 14 A major achievement for the Partnership has been the launch of its new web site ([www.dcap.org.uk](http://www.dcap.org.uk)). This has been designed in response to the increasing use of the internet and social networks as the primary means of obtaining and communicating information. It is intelligent and automatically adjusts so it can be viewed easily on tablets and smartphones as well as conventional computers. It holds a comprehensive directory of over 400 activities available within the Community Area, compiled by the Partnership's Administrator over the last twelve months. The site also incorporates a powerful survey tool which will be increasingly used to harvest public opinion on community issues. Its first use is to seek views on the Devizes Transport Strategy.
- 15 The latter is particularly important because of the problems experienced during our joint Exhibition event with the Council to consult the public over this strategy. The Partnership has responded to this challenge, funding a complete set of display panels and held a discussion session in its quarterly meeting. It will publish the results of its consultation at an early date in order that it can inform the implementation of the Strategy.

### **Forward look**

- 16 Plans are being drawn up for an active programme for the next financial year as the Partnership seeks to fulfil its responsibilities in on going consultation and in expediting the fulfilment of the Community Plan.

17 Finally, the Partnership's relationship with Wiltshire Council is strong as it must be if the Partnership is to achieve its goals and we are particularly grateful to the commitment of Area Board Councillors, many of whom are active within our Groups.

### Financial implications

18 The Partnership has reviewed all its financial management arrangements, with operations now structured around an April/March financial year. From 1 April 2012 to 7 December 2012 the Partnership had spent £15,416.26, the biggest item being the Partnership's new web site (for which some funds were carried over from last year). A summary account is at Appendix A.

19 Our administration costs have been higher than expected due to the need to provide the Partnership with the necessary Constitution, robust financial controls and the necessary statutory policies and Governance as we move from a consultative only body to one also sponsoring events.

20 Work continues with the Interest Groups to plan ongoing commitments.

### Conclusion

The Partnership is thriving and is looking forward to the future with confidence. We respectfully request the release of our second tranche of funding for this financial year.

### Recommendation

The Board is invited to **agree** release of the second tranche of agreed funding of £5819.00 to the Devizes Community Area Partnership.

### Authors:

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### APPENDIX A

<b>DEVIZES COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP</b>			
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2012/13 AS AT 7 DEC 2012</b>			
	Opening Bank 1 April 2012		15410.01
	<b>Income</b>		
	Area Board first tranche grant	5819.00	
	Area Board signage grant (Culture & Leisure)	2098.00	
	Area Board cycle event grant	1250.00	
	NHS cycle event grant	1250.00	
	Event Donations	150.00	
			10567.00
			25977.01
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
	Professional fees, admin, additional insurances	3541.89	
	Room hire	708.00	
	Printing, posters, displays	1887.37	
	Websites - DCAP, Cycle Devizes	7384.00	
	Events	1895.00	
			15416.26
			10560.75
	Unpresented chqs		793.00
	Closing Bank 5 December 2012		11353.75