

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

CHIPPENHAM AREA BOARD

7 October, 2013

Chippenham & Villages Community Area Partnership (ChAP) Claim for Core Funding 2013/2014

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To seek the Board's approval for funding to ChAP covering the financial year 2013/14 to be agreed at this meeting, 7 October.

2. Background

- 2.1. Officers are required to provide recommendations in a report, however the decision to support the community area partnership and to what level, is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.
- 2.2. Chippenham Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of £112,590 for community grants, community partnership core funding, digital literacy and councillor led initiatives.
- 2.3. Community Area Partnerships throughout Wiltshire have been invited to apply for up to 20% of the community grants scheme budget. 20% of the Chippenham Area Board grants budget 2013/14 is £17,941.
- 2.4. If this grant for running costs is awarded in accordance with officer recommendations Chippenham Area Board will have a remaining balance of **£93,442** for 2013/14.

3. Main Considerations

- 3.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that core costs awarded in the 2013/14 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 3.2. ChAP was awarded £13,779.66 in 2012/2013. The balance of ChAP funds at the beginning of this financial year was £4,558.54. All of this balance is available to be rolled into 2013/14 to be spent. If this balance is fully spent, it would leave ChAP without any form of reserve or contingency.
- 3.3. Although ChAP has a number of successful working or action groups, in recent months it has struggled to attract membership of its Steering Group,

including a failure to recruit a new Chair. This makes the future of ChAP uncertain.

- 3.4. ChAP has not been awarded funding so far in 2013/14, even though the organisation's Co-ordinator has been working her normal number of hours per week during this time. It is therefore recommended that Chippenham Area Board award funding to sufficiently cover the period April – October 2013 in order to pay for the Co-ordinator's time thus far.
- 3.5. Wiltshire Council has signed the Wiltshire Compact for Voluntary & Community Sector organisations. As such, it is required to give a minimum of three months notice if it decides to withdraw funding from an organisation. It is therefore also recommended that Chippenham Area Board continue to fund ChAP's running costs for the period October - January 2014.
- 3.6. The work of the ChAP Co-ordinator during this time period will be agreed in advance with Chippenham Area Board and will, in part, be governed by the area board's own priorities for action in the community area.
- 3.7. Should Chippenham Area Board feel the work of the Co-ordinator to be beneficial to its priorities and actions, it may choose to continue to fund this work directly from January 2014.
- 3.8. Chippenham & Villages Community Area Partnership has submitted a claim for £1,461 costs for the period up until October 2013. This will cover the Co-ordinator's activities up until the time of this meeting. ChAP has submitted a further claim for £730 which will cover the three month period required by the Wiltshire Compact. This figure of £2,191 falls within the available maximum for 2013/14. Chippenham Area Board is able to award this amount in full at this meeting. One payment can be agreed at this meeting to be paid immediately.

4. Implications

4.1. Environmental Impact of the Proposals

- 4.1.2 The community partnership contributes to the continuance and improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon individual projects.

4.2. Financial Implications

- 4.2.1 Core costs awarded to the community partnership must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Chippenham Area Board.

4.3. Legal Implications

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

4.3.2 Whilst not a legal implication, Wiltshire Council is a signatory of the Wiltshire Compact. As such it is required to give a minimum of three months notice if it intends to withdraw an organisation's funding. At this meeting, Chippenham Area Board is giving ChAP that three months notice to withdraw funding.

4.4. HR Implications

4.4.1 There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

4.5. Equality and Diversity Implications

4.5.1 Community partnerships have agreed to the terms of the Community Area Partnership Agreement, which requires them to be fully inclusive. Membership of ChAP or its action groups is open to anyone with an interest in the community area.

5. Recommendation

The Partnership Development Officer recommends that the area board:

- approve the release of funding to cover ChAP's Co-ordinator's work for the period April – October 2013 immediately
- agree to the immediate release of further funding that will cover the three month notice period (October '13 – January '14) as required by the Wiltshire Compact.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 ChAP Financial Details April – December 2013

Appendix 2 ChAP Report 2012/13

Appendix 3 ChAP Report April – September 2013