

Report to	Additional Calne Area Board
Date of Meeting	19 March 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider the following officer recommendations:

1. Cherhill Village Hall Digital literacy grant – note the return of an award of £499 made to Cherhill Village Hall on 4th February 2014.
2. Cherhill Village Hall – award a community area grant of £400 to provide a projector screen.
3. Mobile CCTV unit – consider a Councillor led initiative contributing £10,000 towards a mobile CCTV resource in conjunction with Chippenham Area Board and Corsham Area Board.

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 (5 April 2013). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the [Area Board Grants Guidance 2013/2014](#).
- 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 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.
- 1.4. The area board may wish to link funding to local priorities, including those identified in their Community Plan, Local Area Joint Strategic Assessment and any other community based consultative work.

- 1.5. In 2013/14 Calne Area Board was allocated a budget of **£58,112** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.6. Following decisions made at the last meeting on 4th February 2014 the Calne Area Board has a balance of **£32,028**.
- 1.7. Following the return of a digital literacy grant awarded to Cherhill Village Hall on 4th February 2014 the Calne Area Board has a current balance of **£32,527**
- 1.8. In addition to CAGs and digital literacy 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.
- 1.9. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which do not require matched funding. Amounts of £501 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.10. A ring-fenced budget of £1,500 has been provided specifically for Digital Literacy Grants, although the area board may spend more. Up to £500 per project is available for capital projects.
- 1.11. New for 2013/14 is a single on-line application process for Community Area Grants (CAG) and Digital Literacy grants, introduced to provide an easy step by step application process. The application process and funding criteria can be found [here](#).
- 1.12. Area boards will not consider 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.
- 1.13. Officers provide recommendations, however the decision to support applications is made by Calne area board councillors.
- 1.14. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.15. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete an evaluation form as soon as the project has been completed and provide receipts if requested. Groups are encouraged to up-load information and photographs about their project on to the [calne.ourcommunitymatters blogsite](#) . Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</p>	<p>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</p> <p>Area Board Grants Scheme 2013/14 – information and criteria</p> <p>Digital Literacy Grants 2013/14</p> <p>Calne Community Area Plan 1999 - 2014</p> <p>Wiltshire Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment 2014</p>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.2. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in 2013/2014 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.3. This is the last funding round of the 2013/14 financial year.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1. Area Board Grants 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 Calne Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded and retained in accordance with officer recommendations Calne area board will have a balance **£22,127**

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 and Small Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, town and parish council's equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes, where they meet the funding criteria.
- 7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications will be outlined in section 8, "Officer Recommendations" of the funding report.

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding provided
8.1.	Cherhill Village Hall	Provision of a digital projector	£499

- 8.1.1. At the last meeting of the Calne Area Board Officers recommended, and it was agreed that Cherhill Village Hall be awarded a digital literacy grant of £499 towards the provision of a digital projector.
- 8.1.2. This application met grant criteria 2013/14.
- 8.1.3. The Area Board had ring fenced £1,500 for digital literacy projects in 2013/14 to help provide facilities, equipment and projects that would help to advance digital literacy in the community.
- 8.1.4. The management committee was planning to encourage a new digital literacy group to start in the Hall and this projector would be used to facilitate group sessions.
- 8.1.5. It would also be made available to other community groups and events, including the Children's film club.
- 8.1.6. The Community Area Manager has received correspondence from the group stating that, following receipt of the grant, a benefactor donated the equipment to the group and that the grant was therefore not needed for that purpose.
- 8.1.7. Members are asked to note that the sum of £499 has therefore been returned to the Calne Area Board digital literacy budget.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Cherhill Village Hall	Permanent Screen	£400

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that Cherhill Village Hall is awarded a grant of £400 towards the provision and fixing of a permanent screen.
- 8.2.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.
- 8.2.3. Cherhill Village Hall has returned its previous grant of £499 and hopes that the Area Board will consider replacing this with a grant for £400 to enable the next phase of their project to be completed.
- 8.2.4. This will enable the group to develop further the project outlined in 8.1.4.
- 8.2.5. Officers have put this application before the Area Board at this late stage in the 2013/14 scheme because it relates to the previous refunded grant and should be assessed alongside that.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Councillor Initiative	Mobile CCTV unit to serve Calne Chippenham and Corsham Area ('C' sector)	£10,000

- 8.3.1. Officers recommend that Councillors consider an initiative proposed by the Chairman of Calne Community Area Board to work alongside Chippenham and Corsham Area Boards to provide a mobile CCTV unit for deployment in those 3 Community Areas.
- 8.3.2. This project has been suggested by the Chippenham Area Board in partnership with the local police inspectors for Calne, Chippenham and Corsham.
- 8.3.3. The project links to the Calne Community Area Plan (2004-14) by addressing issues around reducing the levels and perceptions of crime, anti-social behaviour, vandalism and graffiti and also by providing more visible levels of policing.
- 8.3.4. The Calne Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment (2014) states that visible policing is having a positive impact in Calne Community Area and there is excellent CCTV in Calne town which has helped with the detection level of drugs in the area. However members may wish to note that the JSA also shows that, from August 2012 – July 2013, 876 ASB issues were recorded in the Calne Community Area, categorised as nuisance (524),

personal (308) and environmental (44). The peak months for ASB incidents were August (93), October (82) and July (84). In addition it shows that the Calne Community Area had the highest rate in Wiltshire of people being concerned about drug misuse in their area (43%).

- 8.3.5. CCTV is known to provide the public with reassurance and assists with general safety.
- 8.3.6. Calne Town Council has a successful static CCTV system and scheme operational in the town centre, manned by an excellent team of volunteers. It is important to ensure the introduction of a new scheme such as this would not, in any way, negate or do damage/reduce support of the current scheme.
- 8.3.7. A mobile resource could add value and flexibility to the existing town scheme and, in addition would extend the opportunities of CCTV to the villages and rural area, so providing access to a similar level of reassurance to everyone in the Community Area.
- 8.3.8. It is suggested that Calne Area Board contributes one third of the total cost of the project, the remainder being contributed equally by Chippenham Area Board and Corsham Area Board.
- 8.3.9. Chippenham Area Board has unanimously agreed to support the project conditional upon the support of Calne and Corsham.
- 8.3.10. Corsham Area Board has yet to consider the request; however it was identified as a priority for Community Safety at the recent Community Joint Strategic Assessment event.
- 8.3.11. It is disappointing that no capital contribution is available from Wiltshire Police/ PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner), however it should be noted that, if successful, the police will assume responsibility for future running costs and maintenance of the vehicle and all specialist equipment.
- 8.3.12. If Councillors choose to reject this proposal, it is unlikely that the project will continue in its current form, although it may continue as an initiative providing shared resource for Corsham and Chippenham.
- 8.3.13. Officers have not recommended a specific decision in this instance as it is felt that Councillors will want to debate the subject in detail.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

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