

Report to	Devizes Area Board
Date of Meeting	24th March 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 20013/14 Community Area Grant Funding.

- 1. Urchfont Village Hall** are seeking £5k towards their kitchen extension
Recommended for consideration for approval
- 2. Devizes School** are seeking £4k for furniture and equipment for an extended services drop in centre
Recommended for consideration for approval
- 3. Drews Pond Wood Project** are seeking £500 towards repairs to Drews Pond Wood nature trail
Recommended for consideration for approval

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 (5th 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 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.
- 1.4. Devizes Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of £83,375 for community grants, digital literacy projects, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £501 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 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, councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle 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.
- 1.8. 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 whilst there is money available.
- 1.10. 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.

- 1.11. The 2013/2014 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/areaboardscommunitygrantsscheme.htm>
- 1.12. 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.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Grant Guidance 2013/14 as presented for delegated decision • Devizes Community Area Plan • Devizes Joint Strategic Needs Document
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2013/14 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. This will be the final round of funding during 2013/2014.

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 Devizes Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Devizes Area Board will

have a balance of £6,997

- 4.3. All awards are subject to the condition that no payment will be made until all other match funding has been confirmed.

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 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 are outlined within section 8 – Officer Recommendations.

8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8	Urchfont Village Hall	Urchfont Village Hall Kitchen Extension	£5k towards a project costing £30k

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £5k towards the cost of extending the village hall to provide a new kitchen be considered for approval.
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- c. The project is to extend the village hall kitchen to give room for a fridge, dishwasher and extra cooking facilities. These facilities are being increasingly requested by their regular users. The management committee are receiving many requests from organisations who want to hold events where people want to cook on the premises rather than just heat up pre-prepared food, which is all that can currently be carried out in the existing kitchen
- d. The cexisting kitchen is too small and is 20 years old. There is no space for facilities

that groups expect to be provided such as a fridge and dishwasher. The extra provision should not only benefit existing organisations that use the hall but attract others to make use of it.

- e. The remaining funding is being found from existing reserves and a Urchfont Scarecrow festival grant

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9	Devizes School	Furniture and equipment for an extended services drop in centre	£4k towards a project costing £48k

- a. It is the officer’s recommendation that an award of £4k towards the cost of furniture and equipment for an extended services drop in centre should be considered for approval.
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- c. Within the school catchment area there are three defined pockets of deprivation with vulnerable families where parents have low literacy skills or who abuse alcohol; this is significantly more common than the Wiltshire average. Young people from an area of deprivation are more prone to a higher incidence of smoking, offending and teenage pregnancy. The health profile of Devizes School indicates that 13.6% of children live in poverty (Wiltshire figure 11.6%) and 10.5% of students are eligible for free school meals (Wiltshire average 6.4%). Academically the number of students starting Devizes School in Year 7 who have not achieved Level 4 (expectation for end of Key Stage 2) in English & Maths is increasing; the current Year 7 has 31% of students below Level 4. Students have said, through consultation, that they will benefit because it gives access to services on the school site which are either not available or are difficult for them to access elsewhere in the immediate area. They are less likely to use local services embedded in their rural communities because such services are less likely to be anonymous so confidence in privacy may be reduced. By providing services in school they believe students will be more likely to access them and the level of confidence in such services will increase. This means that the services will be better used and have more impact. External agencies will benefit from this provision because they will have a suitable environment in which to carry out their work and they can be confident that security and confidentiality will be maintained. The agencies will have more ready access to young people and potentially families that may be considered ‘hard to reach’. Finally, pastoral support services within the school will benefit because there will be a bespoke area available to deliver advice and assistance to young people. If young people have help in dealing with problems they are more likely to achieve academically and develop into good citizens, so the whole of the community will benefit.
- d. The grant application is to meet start up costs only. All running costs will be met by the school.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
10	Drews Pond Wood Project	Repair to Drews Pond Wood nature trail	£500

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £500 towards the repair of Drews Pond Wood nature trail should be considered for approval
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project.
- c. Following recent storms a large number of trees have come down within the wood destroying large parts of the nature trail and making it unsafe for users. Various parts of the trail need total refurbishment.
- d. The total estimated cost is @£4k. The group is seeking funding to complete the work but can undertake different parts as money comes in.
- e. The amount being requested is not more than £500 and therefore does not require any match funding.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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