

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Devizes Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> May 2014</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Grants</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 2 applications seeking 20014/15 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. **Devizes & District Association for the Disabled** are seeking £2,043 towards electrical works at Nursteed Centre
2. **Wiltshire Blind Association** are seeking £4,383 for equipment in their assistive technology resource centre

## 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<sup>th</sup> April 2013). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance.
- 1.2. In 2014/15 the officer is required to only ensure that the request meets the funding criteria but not to make any recommendations.
- 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. The allocation for Devizes Area Board in 2014/2015 has not been fully agreed but is likely to be similar to 2013/14. This is a capital only grants system
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £1000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1001 - £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 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areboards/areboardscommunitygrantsschem>

[e.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.

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Area Board Grant Guidance as presented for delegated decision</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Devizes Community Area Plan</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Devizes Joint Strategic Needs Document</a></li></ul>
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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. Councillors will need to decide whether the community benefit will warrant the request.
- 2.3. This is the first round of funding during 2014/2015.

## **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. 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	<b>Devizes and District Association for the Disabled</b>	Electrical installation at the Nursteed Centre	£2,043 towards a project costing £4,087

- a. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- b. The project is to carry out new works to the electrical system in order to bring to current standard and install new wall lights in Main Hall to improve ambience. The work will also provide new diffusers to ceiling lights in Main Hall and Kitchen and replace external floodlights with energy saving LED floodlights with PIR sensors.
- c. The Nursteed Centre, now called the Nursteed Community Centre, provides a safe, accessible, affordable place for disabled people in the area. The Centre is used by 16 groups of people with various disabilities with approximately 250 disabled people using the Centre on a regular basis. The Centre allows equality by providing a meeting place for all people irrespective of disabilities. This project will bring the electrical system to modern safe standard whilst reducing some energy cost and also providing improved lighting in the Main Hall
- d. The remaining funding is being found from private donations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9	<b>Wiltshire Blind Association</b>	Specialist equipment for the Assistive Technology Resource Centre	£4,383 towards a project costing £17.1072

- a. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- b. The funding is to purchase a range of specialist equipment to enable them to open an Assistive Technology Resource Centre and run Assistive Technology workshops and drop-in sessions for people with sight-loss in Devizes over a 12 month period. The service would be free of charge and run by a trained Sight Advisor, supported by Volunteers. The sessions would teach visually impaired people how to use computers and assistive technology to help them manage many aspects of their lives, which sighted people may take for granted, such as managing their finances, look for work/voluntary roles, write a C.V, use the internet, shop online and communicate with friends. The equipment will be based at their Head Office in Devizes
- c. The organisation does have considerable reserves but these are allocated to purchasing a dedicated centre.

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

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