

## Westbury Area Board – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### Agenda Item 15 – Urgent Item

1. Councillor Gordon King, Vice-Chairman of the Area Board and in the absence of Councillor David Jenkins, Chairman, has asked that the Area Board consider the following as a matter of urgent business, so that good governance is retained within the Area Board decision making process.
2. The Area Board, at its meeting held on 10 December 2015, considered a scheme of delegation for the determination of youth projects between meetings of the Area Board. The following decision was made at the meeting:

**DECISION:**

**That in respect of urgent matters that may arise, the Community Youth Officer, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Area Board, may authorise expenditure to support youth projects from the youth budget of up to £5,000 in total between meetings of an Area Board. The decision and reasons why it was considered urgent will be reported to the next meeting of the Area Board.**

3. The Area Board, at its next meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016, considered this matter further and following minute was agreed:

The Chairman reminded the meeting that at the last meeting initial consideration was given to the following delegation:

*That in respect of urgent matters that may arise, the Community Engagement Manager, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Area Board, may authorise expenditure to support community projects from the delegated budget of up to £5,000 in total between meetings of an Area Board. The decision and reasons why it was considered urgent will be reported to the next meeting of the Area Board.*

Whilst Members had some support for the proposal, some felt that the Community Engagement Manager should consult with all four members of the Westbury Area Board rather than just the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman.

The Area Board had agreed to defer consideration of this proposal until the next meeting to allow further discussion and consultation to take place.

After some discussion,

**Resolved:**

**That in respect of urgent matters that may arise, the Community Engagement Manager, following consultation with the four Members of the Area Board, may authorise expenditure to support community projects from the delegated budget of up to £5,000 in total between meetings of an Area Board. The decision and reasons why it was considered urgent will be reported to the next meeting of the Area Board.**

4. An Age UK community event has been arranged by Sandie Lewis, the Older People's Champion for the Westbury Community Area, and funding came from Westbury Health and Wellbeing group from unspent funding during 2017/18. The funding was allocated under delegated powers to the Champion in order to fund the event and work to produce the local directory of services.
5. The applications referred to above account for the remaining budget from last year. The applications read as follows:

**To improve the health and well-being of adult residents in Westbury Community Area particularly those people who live alone and who feel lonely or isolated from their community. The project will provide information on what is available to people in their community and how to access it as well as responding to need by the development of new facilities. The project will include liaison with a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector groups and organisations and will identify gaps as well as current provision. Age UK Wiltshire and Healthwatch Wiltshire have offered to support this project. The costs detailed below are for a year 1 set up development provision. Future provision would be for maintenance and expansion of services to tackle loneliness and social isolation**

**As the identified voluntary Health and Wellbeing Champion for Westbury Community Area I am leading this project with the aim to benefit all those adults who feel lonely or isolated and who need information and potentially support in order to access those facilities and services that would make them feel less isolated and more included. The plan is to build on an existing pilot scheme in the village of Edington which is auditing available facilities and ensuring appropriate information about them is available along with access for those people in need of them. Generally, and increasingly this will include older people who either live alone or spend long periods alone or feel socially isolated. It would also include people who are carers for family members friends or neighbours and adults who feel isolated through physical or mental health problems or learning difficulties. One of the outcomes of the project following a facilities audit will be the production of an online and hard copy brochure of how and where to seek support and social opportunities. There will also be at least two events within the Community Area as well as a supported lunch club developed with input from those local people who would attend.**

Councillor King has suggested that the Area Board give consideration to the following:

1. The Area Board support the grant application by the Health & Wellbeing Group approved under delegated powers, to cover the cost of the older people's event on a date to be announced.

Reason: all costs / expenditure must be approved by the AB in public.