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**Delegation to Community Engagement Manager**

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**Summary**

Wiltshire Area Boards have previously delegated authority to officers to grant funding from their delegated community, youth, health and wellbeing budgets in respect of urgent matters that may arise between meetings of the Area Board. It is proposed this delegation is updated for the new council term and extended to cover Community Area Transport Group recommendations.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and due to Area Board engagements increasingly taking place outside of formal meetings, it is recognized that Area Boards now conduct their businesses with increased flexibility and according to community need. The proposed delegation will allow essential decision-making business to continue under such circumstances.

Under the proposed delegation, consultation will take place with the Chairman of the Area Board (or in their absence, the Vice-Chairman) by the Community Engagement Manager to determine urgent matters. It is recognized in urgent situations all members may not be contactable in the timescales required (for instance due to time off or sickness), however, where possible the views of all members should be sought.

**Proposal**

To consider passing the following resolution:

*In order to expedite the work of the Area Board and to deal with urgent matters that may arise between meetings, the Community Engagement Manager, following consultation with the Chairman (or in their absence, the Vice-Chairman) of the Area Board, may authorise expenditure to support community projects (including youth, health and wellbeing and community area transport) from the delegated budget of up to £5,000 per application between meetings of the Area Board. The Community Engagement Manager should seek the views of all Area Board members to obtain a majority in support, prior to the expenditure being agreed.*

*Decisions taken between meetings will be reported in the funding report to the next meeting of the Area Board explaining why the matter was considered urgent or necessary to expedite the work of the Board. Where a significant number of urgent matters arise between meetings, a special meeting may be called, following consultation with the Chairman to determine such matters.*

**Reason for Proposal**

In order to expedite the work of the Area Board and to deal with urgent matters that may arise between meetings.

**Lisa Moore**  
**Democratic Services Officer**  
[lisa.moore@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.moore@wiltshire.gov.uk)

