

Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing – Cllr J Thomson

Libraries Heritage and Arts and Housing Management

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REFERENCE: ACCH-001-13

AREA BOARD FUNDING GUIDANCE 2013/14

Purpose of Report: To update and provide clarity to the 2013/14 Area Board funding process.

Consultation: Undertaken through joint Community Area Manager and Councillor Working Group.

Options Considered: Various including:

No change to a multi-option down loadable application process; which sometimes caused confusion for applicants or embrace digital access and formulate a single process for all applicants to ensure ease of use and greater clarity.

To retain the amount of un-matched funding available at £1,000 or to reduce it to £500 to ensure funding could be more widely spread across the community.

To retain a special small grants process awarding up to £350, which had not been fully utilised in 2012/13 or to ensure groups could access up to £500 unmatched funding from an area board.

Reason for Decision: To improve the application process for members of community, voluntary groups and councillors through adoption on a common on-line process and in so doing make council administrative efficiencies.

DECISION MADE

I approve that:

1. The emphasis in 2013/14 will be that the Area Board funding will support volunteering, community involvement and addressing community priorities.
2. In 2013/14 the Area Boards grant scheme will be restricted to capital projects that deliver enduring community infrastructure improvements – such as new equipment, facilities or environmental improvements. Guidance will be provided to applicants on eligibility.
3. Pursuant to the budget approved by the Council, the Area Boards will be provided with revenue and capital budget allocations as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.
4. Area boards should adhere to the 2013/14 funding criteria.
5. Area Boards will be encouraged to develop ways of linking grant funding to locally agreed priorities emerging from the Joint Strategic Assessment, the local community plan or other relevant local evidence
6. An on-line funding application process will be introduced for all applicants.
7. In 2013/14 up to £500 unmatched funding will be available to support small local projects. All applications for projects exceeding £500 will be expected to provide match funding (either in cash or in kind) to the value of 50% of the total requested - advice will be provided to applicants on the calculation of 'in kind' contributions.
8. In 2013/14 applications for village hall funding will come to the area board for consideration.
9. In 2013/14 applications specifically for Wiltshire Online will be considered, with an £1,500 being allocated to each area board and distributed through the community area grants process.
10. In support of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, in 2013/14 the Area Boards will particularly welcome applications that encourage young people and people with disabilities to become more actively involved in sports, outdoor activities, recreation, arts and volunteering.
11. Community Area Managers will provide area boards with officer recommendations in respect to all funding applications, with the exception of councillors led projects, where project information should be provided.
12. There will be no change to the guidance in respect to funding to parish/town councils or statutory service providers (including Council services). Area boards will not consider applications from town and parish councils or statutory service providers for purposes that relate to the normal duties, services or activities of such bodies.
13. The Area Board Projects/Councillor Led Initiatives process is used by councillors to enable them to tackle 'sticky' community issues and projects and initiatives which have been identified by the community as priorities. It should not be used to fill gaps where there are service shortfalls or where it is possible for them to be resolved through use of the Area Grant funding scheme.
14. The funding process and criteria for the distribution of area board funding outlined in Appendices 2- 3 of this report are approved.

This decision was published on 26th March, 2013 and will come into force on 5th April 2013.

The following supporting documents are attached:

REPORT AREA BOARD GRANT GUIDANCE 2013/14

Appendix 1: Area Board budget allocations 2013/14

Appendix 2: Community Area Grant Funding Criteria and Information 2013/14

Appendix 3: Area Board Projects and Councillor Led Initiatives - Funding Criteria 2013/14

The following supporting documents are available from the officer named above:

None

Date 25th March , 2013

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Cllr J Thomson
Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and
Housing