

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	5 November 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider 2 funding applications from:

1. ActivAcre who are seeking £5,000 capital funding towards the major development of Corston and Rodbourne play area.
2. Minety Pre-school are seeking £950 capital funding towards a sink and wet-play area for toddlers.

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Leader of the Council. Under the Scheme of Delegation area boards must adhere to the [area board funding criteria and guidance 2014/15](#).
- 1.2. Key aspects of the 2014/15 criteria include:
 - The decision to support a funding application and to what level will be the decision of the area board, with no officer recommendation.
 - Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding, however the area board will look more positively on applicants where they are able to contribute some funding towards their project.
 - Amounts of £1,001 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding.
 - The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
 - Malmesbury Area Board's Community Area Grants scheme will be for capital projects only.
 - The area board will prioritise funding to projects under the two JSA 2013 -2015 headings, *Health & Wellbeing* and *Leisure* (details of which can be found [here](#)), having identified them as top areas for community and area board attention during the coming year.

- 1.3. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons why this should justify an exception to the criteria which must be minuted.
- 1.4. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons why this should justify an exception to the criteria which must be minuted.
- 1.5. In addition to CAGs and digital literacy grants councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle sticky community issues and/or 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.
- 1.6. There will only be a single on-line application process for Community Area Grants (CAG) and Digital Literacy grants, introduced to provide an easy step by step application process. [The application process and funding criteria can be found here.](#)
- 1.7. Funding will be considered at every area board and these dates including the [deadline for receipt of applications can be found on the Malmesbury area board webpage.](#)
- 1.8. There is one funding round remaining in 2014/15. Deadline for receipt of funding applications is:
 - **24 January 2014 for consideration at 5 March 2014**
- 1.9. Within the capital budget, £1,500 capital is ring-fenced for digital literacy grants of up to £500 each.
- 1.10. Malmesbury Area Board was allocated a budget of £34,527.87 capital funding and £6,093 revenue in 2014/2015.
- 1.11. At the 9 July area board, councillors approved a capital only community grants scheme for 2014/15 and allocated:
 - £4,059 revenue to MVCAP
 - £5,000 capital to Brinkworth Heritage Society.
- 1.12. At the 10 September area board, councillors approved:
 - £1,368 capital to First Malmesbury (King Athelstan) Scout Group
 - Emergency Planning event refreshments, which totalled £82.95.
- 1.13. At 5 November area board, councillors approved:
 - £1,014.96 capital to Cross Hayes Pre-school.

1.14. The area board current balance is **£27,144.91 capital** and **£1,951.05 revenue**.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	Area Board Community Area Grant Scheme and Digital Literacy Grants – information and funding criteria 2014/15
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that funding awarded by the area board satisfy [2014/15 area board funding criteria](#) and financial regulations of the council and can proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. On 7 May, Malmesbury area board agreed to prioritise two themes from the 2013-15 Joint Strategic Assessment, which had been highlighted at the ‘What Matters to You’, event held in April. These were *Health & Wellbeing* and *Leisure*.

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 Malmesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded as outlined in this report, Malmesbury area board will have a capital balance of **£21,194.91** and a revenue balance of **£1,951.05**.

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 and Small 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 will be outlined in section 8 of the funding report.

8. Application for Consideration

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	ActivAcre	Corston and Rodbourne Play area	£5,000 capital

- 8.1.1. This application meets the grant criteria 2014/15. It does not directly link to any of the local Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) priorities for 2014/15. It does however relate to the desire to promote a healthy lifestyle through raising activity levels and providing a space for the community to socialise.
- 8.1.2. The applicant is seeking £5,000 towards a £36,000 project. The parish council has further agreed to match the contribution made by the area board which will bring the group very near to their goal.
- 8.1.3. Based on the respondents of a villages-wide questionnaire, ActivAcre is seeking to regenerate and rejuvenate Corston and Rodbourne playing field for local residents to enjoy and share as a community space. Whilst the equipment will specifically target 120 children and teenagers to aid physical activity and social interaction and play, the intention is that the whole space will appeal to all generations.
- 8.1.4. The applicant is planning to install new children's play equipment, two benches and a teenage covered seating area.
- 8.1.5. ActivAcre have been working on this project for 3 years and should be congratulated for their persistence and for having secured funding from The Lottery, a Health and Wellbeing grant, Malmesbury Carnival, the parish council and through local fundraising.
- 8.1.6. The play area was provided (many years ago) with equipment through funding from the village Reading Room. It now requires a complete overhaul as substantial parts are no longer fit for purpose.
- 8.1.7. The parish council currently undertake ROSPA checks and it is suggested that area board members might like to make any area board funding conditional on the parish council adopting responsibility for both the capital and revenue aspects of this playground on behalf of their parishioners in perpetuity.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Minety Pre-school	Sink and wet-play area for toddlers	£950 capital

- 8.2.1. This application meets the grant criteria 2014/15. It does not directly link to any of the local Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) priorities for 2014/15. It will however contribute towards a positive environment for early years learning.

- 8.2.2. The applicant is requesting financial support to provide a sink and wet play area (non-slip flooring) for the under 3 year olds at the pre-school.
- 8.2.3. Help to provide this facility will enable the younger children to explore paint, clay, and gardening inside while ensuring that they can wash hands as well as equipment used, without using the facilities used by the older children.
- 8.2.4. Some 45 children attend the pre-school with 12-18 under three year olds.
- 8.2.5. The applicant is seeking the full cost of this equipment.
- 8.2.6. The Pre-school is on the cusp of becoming a Community Interest Company which will enable then to undertake further fundraising.

Appendices	Appendix 1 ActivAcre Appendix 2 Minety pre-school
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

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