

## Item 14a

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Salisbury Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>20 January, 2011</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Project: Street Survival Packs</b>

### **Purpose of Report**

To ask the Board to approve the attached application, submitted by the Fire & Rescue Service and considered by Members to be an initiative worthy of supporting as an 'Area Board project' as it sits outside of the criteria of the Community Area Grant Scheme.

- The Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service are seeking £800.00 to supply 20 x street survival packs @ £40 to support homeless people in Salisbury.

## 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 Community Services (27 February 2010). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 1.2. In addition to the Community Area Grant Scheme, Area Boards are able to use a proportion of their funding for projects which fall outside the criteria of the Community Area Grant Scheme. These projects would be initiated by Area Board members for consideration and approval by the Area Board.
- 1.3. Any project initiated by a Councillor outside of the Community Grants system must have the approval of the Area Board and should clearly set out one or more of the following:
  - Evidence of community need
  - Clear links to the community plan
  - Evidence that it addresses an on-going issue that has been logged via the Community Issues System
- 1.4. The Area Board may wish to agree to limit the amount of money used for Area Board projects in order to retain a viable grants pot. This might be a set sum or a percentage of the whole budget.
- 1.5. In considering requests the Area Board will need to bear in mind the impact this will have on the amount of funding available to support applications from local community groups and organizations
- 1.6. The 2010/2011 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2010/11 (specifically in relation to Area Board Project Guidance Notes)</li></ul>
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## 2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2010/11 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be 6 rounds of funding during 2010/11. The fifth is contained in this report the remaining will take place on;

- 17 March, 2011

### **3. Environmental & Community Implications**

Community Area Grants will 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 Salisbury Area Board.
- 4.2. Salisbury Area Board has been allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £78,247 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget is £0.00. This leaves a total budget of £78,247 for the 2010/2011 budget.
- 4.3. To date, the Area Board has funded a total of £43,534.00 covering 11 community grants and community partnership core funding. This leaves £34,713.00 available in the budget up to March, 2011.
- 4.4. If this Area Board project application is approved at the 20 January, 2011 meeting, the Board will have a balance of £33,913.00.

### **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 give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

### **8. Area Board Project Application**

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Services (WFRS)	To provide 'Street Survival Packs' to 'street homeless' people in the Salisbury Community Area	£800.00

- 8.1.1. The Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Services has requested a community grant of £800 to provide Street Survival Packs to street homeless people in the Salisbury Community Area.
- 8.1.2. This application does not meet the Community Area Grant criteria as it comes from a statutory body (WFRS) who would normally be expected to fund this through its core services. As the attached application states, the street survival packs were originally funded jointly by the West Wiltshire District Council (WWDC) and the WFRS's local commander's Community safety budget. With the demise of the WWDC, the WFRS no longer has a budget to cover the cost of the street survival packs.
- 8.1.3. The original funding allowed the WFRS to set up the project, working with Alabare Christian Care Homes to provide and distribute street survival packs to street homeless in Trowbridge in response to incidents of accidental and deliberate fires in void buildings where street homeless people were seeking shelter and trying to keep warm. There was also evidence of a death of a homeless person who had died of hypothermia. A need for these packs was also identified in Chippenham and Salisbury with requests coming from organisations who had direct contact with street homeless, such as the Police, Probation Services and Alabare.
- 8.1.4. As this project did not meet our community grant criteria, a submission to the Performance Reward Grant Scheme was considered, however, due to the length of time between submission of an application and a decision by the PRG panel on 28 March, 2011 and the need for these packs to be distributed this winter, councillors agreed that if the project met the Area Board project criteria, 'evidence of need' this should proceed as an Area Board project.
- 8.1.5. Evidence has been sought of numbers of homeless/rough sleepers in the Salisbury area from two sources, Wiltshire Council's Chair of the Rough Sleepers Forum (RSF) and Alabare, Christian Care Homes. The Chair of the RSF confirms that an estimated street count undertaken on night of 9 November 2010 recorded two rough sleepers in Salisbury on that night and figures forwarded to the government show an estimated count figure of 13 rough sleepers for the whole of the Wiltshire Council area. Alabare, who were responsible for previous distribution of approximately 20 packs in Salisbury estimate that this varies from a low figure of 1 or 2 or can be as high as 12 – 20. Alabare estimates there is now a need for an additional 20 packs for Salisbury.
- 8.1.6. Note was made of the Sleep Out event in the Cloisters in 2010 to highlight the plight of rough sleepers, however, although a couple of former rough sleepers came along, there were none on the night and consequently no packs were issued. The Sleep Out will be repeated on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011.
- 8.1.7. The WFRS will be working with Alabare who will be responsible for distributing the packs and if the application is successful, distribution of the packs will happen by the end of February, 2011
- 8.1.8. The Chair of the RSF advised that if the Board decides to fund the street survival

packs, that these should be issued by the local authority in partnership with the FRS who are invited to attend the forum, to ensure they were distributed to those who were generally street homeless.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>Appendix 1 Area Board Project Application: Street Survival Packs</b> <b>Appendix 2 Street Survival Packs: Breakdown of Costs</b>
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