

Report to	Salisbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	20 January, 2011
Title of Report	Performance Reward Grant Scheme
<p>Purpose of Report</p> <p>To ask Councillors to consider the details of two attached applications (with additional information contained in this report) for funding from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The new Wiltshire Infrastructure Support Service – GROW Enhancing Community Support has been delivered from 1 April, 2010. This includes a countywide Volunteer Service for Wiltshire for the first time. This PRG application for £55,694 if approved, would both build on the basic service and develop an accredited volunteer centre for Wiltshire. At present the nearest accredited centre is in Swindon. 2. East Harnham Community Association Limited is seeking £75,000 capital (in 2011-12) for an initiative which will lead to the creation of a new-build Community Centre in the area of East Harnham under the auspices of East Harnham Community Association. Please note the supplementary information in Section 4.1 of this report, referred to in the Performance Reward Grant Application. 	

1. Background

1.1 Wiltshire agreed a Local Public Service Agreement with government that ended in March 2008. This contained 12 'stretch' (difficult) targets that required a number of organisations to work together to achieve the improvement. Our performance against these targets earned Performance Reward Grant (PRG) of £5.4m. This is paid by government over two years; half in 2009 and half in 2010.

This presents a unique opportunity for us to put additional resources into our Local Agreement for Wiltshire (LAW) and to combat the recession in Wiltshire through the Action for Wiltshire programme. £1.6m of this grant will be reinvested in the target areas that earned the grant, to take forward Wiltshire's ambitions. Another £1m will support some countywide initiatives under Action for Wiltshire. The balance of £2.8m is available over two to three years for bids supported by Area Boards that propose initiatives that take forward those things in the LAW and Action for Wiltshire that are important to local people.

Ideally all community areas of Wiltshire will benefit from this scheme, and there will be a spread of initiatives across LAW ambitions and Action for Wiltshire. We understand that not all bids will be made at the same time, and that proposals will take time to develop. The timing of local initiatives will also vary. To help ensure that projects in all community areas have the opportunity to bid, the funding will be released in 3 month tranches of £250,000. We will keep this under review and if appropriate will vary the timing and amount of funding in

each tranche. At the end of the tranche any unallocated money will go back into the pool for future bids. Any bids pending when all the money in that tranche has been allocated will be carried forward to the next tranche.

The government imposes a grant condition that the grant must be used half for capital and half for revenue expenditure. Guidance on what counts as 'capital' is given in the funding pack on the Wiltshire Council website. Experience so far is that bids tend towards revenue expenditure, so it may be easier to get funding for 'capital' type initiatives.

Bids will initially be submitted as 'Expressions of Interest' to the local appropriate Area Board. The Area Board will make a decision as to which bids it supports. Lack of support from the Area Board does not rule out the bid going forward to the grant scheme.

Full details of the Scheme and a Funding Pack are available from the Wiltshire council website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/.../localagreementforwiltshire/performanceawardgrantscheme.htm

2. Criteria for the Grant Scheme

2.1 Points to consider are:

- Funding under this scheme is for initiatives that have local support and will take forward ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire, or help combat the recession as part of the Action for Wiltshire programme. Information on this is provided in the grant pack.
- It is one-off funding, so should not be used for things that will result in an unfunded financial commitment after the end of the project. As part of the bid you will be asked to confirm that no unfunded commitments will result from your proposal.
- In total, Performance Reward Grant must be spent half on revenue and half on capital expenditure (guidance is given in the pack). Experience is that many initiatives are 'revenue', so there may be more money left available for 'capital' bids. We will need to account to government on the use of the grant, so will ask you for information on what the money will be used for.
- It is important that these initiatives have a positive local impact, and that we are able to show success. So you will be asked how you will measure that success – and we will ask you to let us know how well it worked.

The use of the grant will fall within the Area Board's usual good governance arrangements.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
3.1	Janice Fortune, Chief Executive Officer, DEVELOP Enhancing Community Support	The new Wiltshire Infrastructure Support Service – ‘GROW’ <i>Enhancing Community Support</i> includes a countywide Volunteer Service for Wiltshire for the first time. This application, if approved, would both build on the basic service and develop an accredited volunteer centre for Wiltshire. At present the nearest accredited centre is in Swindon.	£55,694

Summary:

The proposed service would offer the six core functions of a Volunteer Centre as prescribed by Volunteering England. The benefits to all community areas in Wiltshire will include better access to volunteering opportunities and support to individuals, Employer Volunteering scheme, specialised support, information and good practice services, access to draw down further funding via Volunteering England to support volunteering, and access to support and information as part of a national framework.

What the bid will fund:

- One part time Development Worker post to focus on achieving the six core functions of an accredited Volunteer Centre for Wiltshire, at the same time supporting the team to increase opportunities for volunteering and supporting organisations to attract volunteers.
- One half-time Development Worker post to develop an Employer Supported Volunteering scheme working with local employers to actively encourage and support staff to volunteer in their community. Promote opportunities and arrange local Community Challenge Events.
- Laptop computer with remote access; mobile phone; display boards; promotional materials; signage; accreditation fees

Outcomes to be delivered:

- Increased volunteering opportunities both formal and informal for potential volunteers
- Increased awareness of volunteering opportunities through promotion and marketing
- Knowledge of Employer Supported Volunteering scheme by local employers
- Successful Community Challenge Events

Beneficiaries:

- Voluntary Organisations who rely on volunteers to deliver their service
- Voluntary Organisations looking for Trustees
- Statutory organisations who use volunteers to enhance delivery of their service
- Community Areas undertaking community challenge and community projects
- Individuals who need help and support to access employment or return to work
- Young people seeking experience to get into employment
- Retired professional people wishing to ‘give something back’ to the community
- Mums returning to work and wishing to gain confidence
- Isolated and lonely people looking for social contact and a purpose in life
- Employers and staff

THE BOARD IS INVITED TO LEND ITS SUPPORT TO THIS BID AND RECOMMEND THAT THE PRG PANEL APPROVES THE WILTSHIRE VOLUNTEERS PROJECT

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
4.1	East Harnham Community Association Limited	This initiative will lead to the creation of a new-build Community Centre in the area of East Harnham under the auspices of East Harnham Community Association. Building will start in 2011-12.	£75,000 capital (in 2011-12)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO THE APPLICATION

1. EAST HARNHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

- 1.1. East Harnham Community Association is a company limited by guarantee and which has charitable status.
- 1.2. The Association enjoys strong local support and this was evidenced by the numbers of individuals and households who put themselves forward to support and help with the development of the Community Centre.
- 1.3. There is also strong local support from the Parish of Harnham for the establishment of this important amenity although clearly it will not be a specific religious centre.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Community Profile

- 2.1. East Harnham is situated on the south western boundaries of the city of Salisbury in southern Wiltshire. The community consists of some 1200 households.
- 2.2. The ward population at the time of the 2001 census was 3762 (all ages) and was structured as follows:

	Harnham East	Wiltshire County
• percentage of the population aged 15 years or under	20.89%	20.48%
• percentage of the population aged 65 years or over	14.84%	16.45%

- 2.3. The ward shared a population profile not dissimilar to Wiltshire as a whole although this has been changing as a result of a series of major housing developments that have spanned several years. These developments have led particularly to increased numbers of families with children and young people.

- 2.4. Although there are facilities and amenities in the neighbouring ward of Harnham West these are not easily accessible given that the two wards are separated by a major trunk road and the eastern and western boundaries are several miles apart.

Local Need and Support

- 2.5. East Harnham Community Association identified a need for accessible facilities in the form of a Community Centre in order to serve the growing population of the area.
- 2.6. An initial opportunity to construct a new purpose built Community Centre came as a result of an agreement by housing developers to contribute capital funding towards the development of the Centre.
- 2.7. East Harnham Community Association surveyed residents in the area and demonstrated high levels of support for a Centre that could offer a wide range of activities and meeting rooms.
- 2.8. The respondents to the survey both offered support and help for the project and identified a range of activities and facilities that they would wish to see operating within the centre. These aspirations have been reflected in the proposed content of the Community Centre.
- 2.9. Salisbury City Council and Wiltshire Council are both actively supporting the project both through advice and expertise as well as funding.

3. OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT

- 3.1. The Centre has been designed to offer:

- small and large meeting rooms;
- space for a range of activities;
- the potential for a designated area for Sure Start (*see paragraphs 3.4 to 3.7 below*).

- 3.2. The following offers a flavour of the types and range of activities which were identified by local people in the proportions shown through the household survey:

Educational	10.2%	Seniors Group	6.9%
Community Celebrations	9.8%	Youth Groups	4.1%
Meetings	9.8%	Drama	4.1%
Concerts	9.0%	Whist/Bridge	2.9%
Private Functions	9.0%	Parent/Toddler	2.7%
Dancing	8.4%	Table Tennis	2.7%
Keep Fit	8.2%	Martial Arts	2.4%

Exhibitions 7.8% Short Mat Bowls 2.2%

- 3.3. The architect for the Community Centre has been commissioned to create a building that will deliver maximum flexibility of usage which reflects the range of activities proposed.
- 3.4. Discussions with Wiltshire Council and others had led to a proposition to relocate Sure Start into a more “fit for purpose” centre. Sure Start is currently located in inadequate accommodation for which the lease is coming to an end.
- 3.5. The inclusion of accommodation for Sure Start would be significant in that the proposed East Harnham Community Centre would offer facilities through Sure Start that would benefit families from across the Salisbury area and not only in East Harnham.
- 3.6. Wiltshire Council is committed to the development, but it is not in position at present to meet its expressed wish to contribute the £100,000 capital for the additional cost over and above £500,000 that would have provided designated space for Sure Start.
- 3.7. However, East Harnham Community Association has ensured that the Centre has been designed so that the additional accommodation for Sure Start could be added as a later phase.
- 3.8. Plans have been submitted seeking formal planning permission for the Community Centre development and the intention is to commence building in 2011-12.

4. PROJECT COSTS AND FUNDING

- 4.1. The estimated capital cost of developing the Centre in an accessible location within the community is £500,000 (£600,000 if Sure Start accommodation is included).
- 4.2. £302,000 has already been committed to the development through funding made available from the housing developers.
- 4.3. East Harnham Community Association is actively seeking further capital funding from a range of sources within the limits offered by the grant givers
- 4.4. Other sources that are being pursued include:

Garfield Weston Foundation	Up to £75,000
Church and Community Funding	Up to £15,000
Wiltshire Community First [landfill communities fund]	Up to £25,000
Bernard Sunley charitable foundation	Up to £10,000

Reaching communities [Big Lottery]	<i>To be confirmed*</i>
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4.5. Fund raising by the local community will take place but this is likely to be modest and not regarded as essential to meeting the overall cost of developing the centre. It is more likely to be aimed at funding specific items of (say) equipment for use in the Centre.

5. SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CENTRE

- 5.1. East Harnham Community Association is concerned to ensure that the Centre will be viable and sustainable in the longer term.
- 5.2. To this end it has worked up an outline business plan and has undertaken a conservative calculation of the known and potential income (from hiring etc.) set against the estimated running costs of the Centre.
- 5.3. The calculation has shown that income will cover running costs and that even a slight surplus could be made in year one.
- 5.4. This work, together with the strong evidence of local need and support for the Centre, offers a high level of confidence in the sustainability of the Centre.

6. SUMMARY

6.1. East Harnham Community Association is seeking a capital grant of £75,000 that will contribute to the establishment of East Harnham Community Centre, offering a range of facilities for local groups and organisations.

To enable this initiative to proceed, the Area Board is asked to support this bid for PRG funding

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant Application Form – Wiltshire Volunteer Centre Appendix 2 Wiltshire Volunteers FAQ Appendix 3 Grant Application Form – East Harnham Community Association
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