

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to	Amesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	27 January 2011
Title of Report	Performance Reward Grant Scheme
<p>Purpose of Report</p> <p>To ask Councillors to consider the details of one application for funding from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Larkhill Community Partnership is requesting a grant of £65,000 to assist with the costs of the Larkhill Play Parks Project. 	

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	Larkhill Community Partnership	To redevelop an existing play park in Larkhill to provide a safe and freely accessible play area for children. The proposed three main elements being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) New play equipment suitable for children from 3 – 12 years that encourages adventurous play, playing together, physical activity, imagination and traditional play (b) A safe trail area where children can ride their bikes (c) A seating area suitable for parents and children 	£65,000

- 3.1.1 It is recommended that the Area Board supports this application on the basis that it supports 5 out of the 8 ambitions of the Performance Reward Grant Scheme – building resilient communities, lives not services, safer communities,

protecting the environment and improving outcomes for children and young people.

- 3.1.2 The Larkhill Community Partnership is leading on this project for the local community, working collaboratively with the Ministry of Defence, Modern Housing Solutions, Defence Estates, Larkhill Primary School and UK Power (formerly EDF) – a confirmed corporate partner of this project that is committed to provide technical support and expertise. The total estimated cost of this project is £145,100 and the Partnership is seeking £65,000 as a contribution to the overall project costs. The project supports priorities in the Larkhill Community Partnership action plan.
- 3.1.3 Full details of the project are included in the attached application form and associated appendices.
- 3.1.4 The Area Board is recommended to support this application and forward it for approval by the central Performance Reward Grants panel on the basis that:
- (a) there is strong local support for the redeveloped play park, evidenced by qualitative and quantitative surveys carried out in spring and winter 2010 with local children and their families, by fundraising events, letters of support from the local MP, local businesses, the provision of procurement, banking and administrative support from Durrington Town Council, ongoing support from the local unitary councillor
 - (b) the Partnership's bid to Plain Action of £70,000 has been approved at the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage (with 28 out of 30 previous applications to this fund that had received approval at EOI going on to secure a final decision of approval)
 - (c) the Partnership has secured the backing of a corporate partner in UK Power (formerly EDF energy), committed to providing technical expertise and assistance to the project
 - (d) Larkhill Primary School have expressed a keen interest in being involved in the project and have already begun to work with form 3 (a group of 6-8 year olds) who will be involved in the design of the play park to make sure that it really does comprise of equipment and features suitable for children and young people
 - (e) 5 of the ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire are supported by this application:
 - (i) 'building resilient communities' – in addition to this project being led by the local community partnership, the play park project will be used to engage further with all in Durrington and Larkhill, including young families from the military and civilian population. Both in its design, but especially when complete, this play park is intended to bring military and civilian children and their families together regularly and to facilitate a stronger more resilient community through children's play, parents' meeting and socialising together
 - (ii) 'lives not services' – facilitating independent play, without intervention from a youth worker, therefore reducing dependence on the local authority. This initiative also supports the Personalisation agenda as

it will enable people to exercise choice about how and when they wish to play. The play park will provide improved means to facilitate less assisted/more independent play for children and young people with disabilities with equipment carefully selected for inclusivity

- (iii) 'safer communities' – this play park will be positioned at safer point in the community, away from the busy road network, where there are very recent examples of road traffic incidents involving young people. In addition, the redevelopment of this play park will encourage more children to play in a safer setting, rather than in busy roads or cycling on pavements. The community sense fostered by the new play park will enhance the sense of community spirit and community safety, where children will be seen to play together amicably and safely away from hazards such as traffic etc
- (iv) 'protecting the environment' – the new play park will reduce use of the car to travel out of the garrison. The visual impact of the park will be significantly improved. Existing equipment from the current park will be recycled where feasible. One of the criteria for the selection of new equipment will be that the manufacturing and supply process minimises the impact on the environment
- (v) 'improving outcomes for children and young people' – the new play park – both its design, implementation and usage helps to promote all of the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes, i.e. be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, economic wellbeing.

3.1.5 The costs incurred in the project are fully detailed in the application form and relate to project management fees, groundworks, play equipment and installation, furniture, safer surfacing, preliminary works. The estimated costs are based on examples of redeveloped play parks elsewhere, including at Bulford, Boscombe Down and Lyneham (see appendix I for full details).

3.1.6 Fundraising for the project includes local events, but also grant bids to Plain Action, SSAFA, the Army Benevolent Fund, Army Central Fund and to Wiltshire Council.

3.1.7 763 service families will directly benefit from the redeveloped play park and an additional 1,500 from the Durrington community.

3.1.8 There will be no unfunded commitments arising from this project, and the company Modern Housing Solutions will have the contractual responsibility for maintaining the equipment, a responsibility that may also be shared with Durrington Town Council.

Appendices:	1 grant application form and corresponding appendices
Report Author	Karen Linaker, Community Area Manager Tel: 01722 434697 E-mail: karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk