

PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT SCHEME BIDS

1. Purpose of the Report

To ask the Devizes Area Board to consider whether it wishes to support four bids for funding from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme.

2. Background

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 help combat the recession in Wiltshire through the Action for Wiltshire programme. £1.6m of this grant is being reinvested in the target areas that earned the grant, to take forward Wiltshire's ambitions. Another £1m is supporting some countywide initiatives under Action for Wiltshire. The balance of £2.8m is available over two to three years for bids from Area Boards that propose initiatives that take forward those things in the LAW and Action for Wiltshire that are important to local people.

The Public Service Board is responsible for deciding which bids should be accepted and taken forward and it was decided to set up a small panel to meet on a regular basis and make these decisions

3. Main Considerations

Bids should have local support and should be designed to either help combat the recession or address one of the ambitions detailed in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire, which are:

- Building resilient communities
- Improving affordable housing
- Lives not services
- Safer communities
- Supporting economic growth
- Protecting the environment

4. Summary of Applications

There are four bids to consider today:

1. Community Payback Scheme. This is a countywide bid to all 18 Area Boards seeking funding for additional equipment to allow the Community Payback Scheme operated by the Probation Service to expand its operations within the county, and to be able to do more work in rural areas.
2. Devizes Hospital and Community Radio. This application is seeking funding for a feasibility exercise looking towards evolving into a community radio station to serve a wider audience.
3. Devizes Carnival Committee. This application is seeking funding for a professional event management resource and to provide workshops to encourage wider community involvement in Carnival and other events.
4. Devizes Town Council. Seeking funding for a “Changing Places” toilet facility within the soon to be refurbished Hillworth Park, to provide toilet and changing facilities for all disabled needs, including adult changing facilities.

The applications are appended to the report in full.

5. Timetable

It is worth noting that should any of the bids above receive the support of the Board, that applicants have an opportunity to work further on improving the bids before they are submitted to the Public Service Board.

The timetable that will be followed is:

21 May – deadline for bids to the Public Service Board

28th May – 18th June – Thematic Delivery Partnerships consider bids and work with Community Area Managers to develop/resolve queries as necessary

7th July – Panel will meet to make decisions

6. Recommendation

The Board are requested to consider supporting the four applications summarised above for submission to the Public Service Board for determination.

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