

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

BRADFORD ON AVON AREA BOARD

11 January 2012

Bradford on Avon Community Area Network (BOACAN) Claim for Tranche 2 Core Funding in 2011/2012

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To seek the Board's approval to the release of the 2nd and final tranche of core funding to BOACAN for the financial year 2011/12.

2. Background

- 2.1. Bradford on Avon Area Board has been allocated a 2011/2012 budget of £47,075 for community grants, Community Area Partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. Partnerships have been invited to apply for up to 20% of their area board budget to assist participative democracy across Wiltshire. The Bradford on Avon Area Board holds a budget of £ 9, 415 in 2011/12 for this purpose.

3. Main Considerations

- 3.1. All Partnerships funded by Area Boards are required to sign a Community Area Partnership Agreement (CAPA), which will be countersigned by the Chair of the Area Board. Both parties representing the Bradford on Avon community area have signed this agreement.
- 3.2. In order to show how the Community Area Partnership aims to meet the commitments set out in the CAPA, BOACAN is required to complete a workplan which is reviewed and endorsed by Wiltshire Council's Community Partnership Development Officer as a workable document.
- 3.3. BOACAN submitted a claim for £9,403 of total core costs and 50% of this was awarded and paid in July 2011. The Area Board is asked to award the balance of up to £4,701 at this meeting.

4. Implications

- 4.1. Environmental Impact of the Proposals

4.1.2 BOACAN contributes to the continuance and improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon individual projects.

4.2. Financial Implications

4.2.1 Core costs awarded to BOACAN must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Bradford on Avon Area Board.

4.3. Legal Implications

4.3.1 There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

4.4. HR Implications

4.4.1 There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

4.5. Equality and Diversity Implications

4.5.1 BOACAN has agreed to the terms of the Community Area Partnership Agreement, which requires the organisation to be fully inclusive. Membership of BOACAN is open to anyone with an interest in the community area.

5. Evidence against Workplan commitments

Applicant	Condition set at 20 July, 2011 Area Board meeting	Final tranche Funding requested
Bradford on Avon Community Area Network (BOACAN)	Decision: “agree to the release of the 2 nd tranche in early 2012 as long as conditions set by the Partnership Development Officer and agreed by the Board have been met.”	£4,701

5.1. BOACAN has provided evidence of their work so far in 2011/12 and what has been achieved against the monitoring criteria:

- **Details of progress towards recruitment of the 12 Theme Champions, either individuals or organisations**

BOACAN has and maintains direct and indirect contacts with major projects and/or organisations which are active within 8 of the 12 theme areas - namely Sport; Tourism; Traffic & Transport; The Local Economy; Community Safety; Culture & Creativity; Heritage & the Built Environment; and The Natural Environment. There is or has been *some* involvement in each of the other theme areas - of Housing;

Education and Skills; Health & Wellbeing; and Social Care & Welfare – and this is being developed further.

Theme Champions have been appointed to lead in a number of these areas.

- **Details of work undertaken to identify gaps in the current “coverage” of local groups and organisations in BoA**

Examples of activities in this category are:

- Sports Festival: adding organisational, project management and treasurer skills
- Broadband and Austerity Survey: setting up the on-line survey and processing the outcomes
- Town Benchmarking Exercise: providing appropriate manpower to complete the project
- The Creative Economy: acting on behalf of the community to investigate research potential
- Newsletter: creating regular newsletter or the equivalent to report and celebrate local projects

- **To have held an AGM to formally agree and launch BOACAN’s new structure**

The AGM, proposed for Summer 2011, was postponed in order to re-brand and re-launch and BOACAN was finally launched on 10 December 2011. Following this successful event the intention is to develop the Steering Group and build capacity organically and on sound foundations. Notice has been given that a formal AGM to elect officers etc. will be held in June 2012 after the Sports / Torch / Jubilee events.

- **Give details of BOACAN’s use of the community website www.bradfordonavon.com as a communication tool, including any surveys, polls or consultation activities it is used for**
- **To continue providing reports showing the usage of the community website that hopefully indicate increasing activity on the site and increasing numbers of hits**

The community website is becoming more popular and useful, especially for publicising and reporting on local events and activities. It has been used by BOACAN for on-line Austerity and Broadband Surveys as well as for event notices, but has not been exploited as fully as possible.

There are issues about whether BOACAN funding should be the sole support for the Community Web Site and about the level of cost which, although relatively high to us, are a concessionary rate for the developers who service it. While in their care, monthly summaries are produced and it is kept up-to-date. The situation is to be reconsidered in the New Year and notice has been given that the current funding will cease or change at the end of December 2011. Ownership of the domain name is in process of being transferred to BOACAN.

Following initial set-up and trial the www.boacan.co.uk website, linked to “Stay In The Loop”, seems the effective way ahead. The intention is to direct funds to support

a shared platform which will serve BOACAN's requirements more fully. We are already starting to benefit from the support of Mark Samouelle, a Graphic Designer, who is working with us to help improve our profile and general marketing drive. We plan to discuss with Kim Samouelle her interest in the role of Operations Co-ordinator. We expect the outcomes of these actions to be better value for money and a considerable improvement in our online and offline competence.

A new Sports web site www.boasport.co.uk is being separately developed to host the Sports Directory and information on all local sporting activities.

- **Provide details of how the 'Austerity Survey' has been re-marketed and the information it provides has been used**

This has been trialled and has been completed by a small sample which has provided helpful feedback particularly through some of the added, qualitative comments. The Survey was "rested" during part of this year, but now Jonathan Sullivan from the Sociology Dept at Goldsmith's College, has volunteered to refine its structure and make it more user-friendly before re-launching it.

- **Give evidence of how BoACAN has worked alongside the BOA2026 project and contributed to it**
- **To identify community priorities as a way of developing and / or building a new form of community plan or delivery of BOA2026 action plan, if this is agreed as the mechanism for coordinated action in the town itself**

The final version of the Report of the BOA2026 Project is awaited, presumably to be circulated and approved before further action takes place. The next stage of BOA2026 is assumed to be the initiation of the Momentum Group, chaired by the Mayor. There are questions about the Momentum Group, such as where the actual work is done, but BOACAN will make whatever contribution possible to the Momentum Group's progress.

We will take a full part in the planning, organisation and hosting of the Community Planning Event on 23 February at St Laurence School when JSA data for the Community Area is launched. It is hoped that the event will stimulate a wealth of information on community requirements, needs and aspirations which can contribute towards an updated community area plan. As part of efforts to be an evidence-based network, we are looking at various ways to complete an economic profile which will provide details of the Creative Economy in Bradford on Avon.

5.2. Further information has been received looking at other future work by BOACAN, as follows:

BOACAN is taking a joint lead with the Town Council in the planning and organisation of the 2012 Community Sports Festival, which now incorporates the Olympic Torch Relay through the town on 22nd May. We are engaged in a programme of visits to Parish Councils to engage them in these events and to promote BOACAN's role and services to them.

A periodic joint newsletter with the Area Board will be instituted to publicise BOACAN and its achievements as well as to celebrate other community initiatives, projects and events.

Following the Town Centre Benchmarking Exercise, the Report from Action For Market Towns is expected towards the end of January 2012 and will give us an opportunity to engage with the Chamber of Commerce, town centre businesses and the Economic Development Working Group of the Town Council.

It is hoped that planned celebrations in 2012 will bring the community together in a way which has not been possible in recent times and that BOACAN can support this capacity building and networking as best it can.

- 5.3. Officers have checked the above activities and found that the grant monitoring criteria have, to a greater or lesser extent, been successfully achieved by BOACAN in the year to date.

6. Recommendation

- It is recommended that the Area Board agrees to the release of the balance of core funding to BOACAN of £4,701, so long as Board Members are satisfied that the workplan commitments as detailed in this report are being met

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 BOACAN Income / Expenditure statement, December 2011