

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ITEM 6

**SALISBURY AREA BOARD**  
**15 March, 2012**

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## **Applications for funding to support projects that engage with young people**

### **Purpose of the Report**

To ask Councillors to consider the details of four applications for funding from a separate Youth Funding budget of £7,825 allocated to the Board:

1. Splash are seeking £5,000 for a programme of activities for the school holidays designed for young people who are experiencing difficulties and challenges in life.
2. The Friary Transition Project is seeking £5,000 to extend and improve the project by continuing to offer a weekly transition youth club for vulnerable children living on The Friary.
3. The Salisbury Arts Centre are seeking £5,000 to put on a free, all day youth arts event curated and led by a group of young people in collaboration with Salisbury Arts Centre and Wiltshire.
4. SCET is seeking £5,000 towards the cost of a minibus to allow students the means to travel around the community for various aspects of their community work.

### **Background**

1. Area boards have been given extra funding to engage young people who are currently unable to access existing services (e.g. by providing transport to existing provision/delivering services in rural areas/delivering services that target specific groups.)
2. Salisbury Area Board has £7,825 allocated to these youth funding projects, which is in addition to the Community Area Grant budget.
3. It has been agreed that a Participatory Budgeting process can be used as a method of allocating Area Board's youth funding in accordance with the principles of local governance. The Participatory Budgeting Unit defines PB as: 'Participatory Budgeting is a method where local people decide how to allocate part of a public budget. It directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities for a defined public budget and aims to increase transparency, accountability, understanding and social inclusion in local government affairs.'

4. In 2009, Area Boards were piloted with the aim of testing aspects of local governance in readiness for the transition to a Unitary Authority. In this pilot phase, Salisbury Area Board successfully used the participatory budgeting (PB) process involving 50 young people engaging with disabilities and their peers to decide on funding for 6 projects. The project was one of 8 case studies which took part in a national evaluation of PB in England and a report was produced that was circulated widely putting Wiltshire, and consequently Salisbury, on the map as forerunners of PB. PB has now been rolled out via Area Boards to all community areas in Wiltshire.

### **Main Considerations**

5. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2011/12 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
6. The Funding for Youth Initiatives item will adopt the principles of participatory budgeting process with decisions made by those present in the room, that is, Board members and members of the public present on the day.
7. The process followed will be:
  - Each applicant/s present their pitch to the meeting, this might be a verbal or power point presentation, a video or other means of communicating the salient points of the project followed by
  - a question and answer session. Questions can come from Members of the Board or Members of the Public
  - Once all applicants have presented and answered any questions, voting will take place using voting handsets. Voters will be advised to bear in mind the following criteria when voting:
    - Does the project demonstrate value for money
    - Will the project leave a legacy for the city
    - Are there demonstrable benefits for young people
8. Success will be measured by votes cast with the highest number designated as the overall winner who will receive £5k with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of votes cast as runner up receiving £2,825.
9. Unsuccessful projects will be advised to discuss other means of funding their projects with the Community Area Manager.

## **Implications**

### 10. Environmental Impact of the Proposals

Youth 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.

### 11. Financial Implication

Awards must fall within the £7,825 budget allocated to the Salisbury Area Board.

### 12. Legal Implications

There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

### 13. HR Implications

There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

### 14. Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no specific Equality & Diversity implications related to this report.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Area Board:

- Adopt the participatory budgeting process as indicated in sections 4, 5 and 6 above as a method of distributing Salisbury's youth initiatives funding bearing in mind that there is a resource shortfall between our youth budget and the funding aspirations of projects submitted to this meeting.
- Agrees to support the enclosed applications for the participatory budgeting process, and allocates the budget of £7,825 to take forward the four applications selected through the process.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1: Youth Funding Proposal: Splash

Appendix 2: Youth Funding Proposal: The Friary Transitions Project

Appendix 3: Youth Funding Proposal: SAC: Hijack all day event

Appendix 4: Youth Funding Proposal: SCET - Minibus

FINAL VERSION