

|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Report to</b>       | <b>Malmesbury Area Board</b> |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | <b>9 May 2012</b>            |
| <b>Title of Report</b> | <b>Area Board Funding</b>    |

## **Purpose of Report**

To provide the area board with:

1. A review of area board funding allocated in 2011/2012
2. Information about the area board budget for 2012/2013 and the range of grant funding available.

## 1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing (4 April 2012). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2012/2013.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria and/or the officer's recommendation would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons for why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3. The emphasis in the Coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement and the nurturing of resilient communities. With this in mind Community Area Grants (CAGs) should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups. Likewise, Small Grants (new this year) should be awarded to similar groups, as well as un-constituted groups of people wanting to improve things near to where they live.
- 1.4. Malmesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of **£40,593** for community grants, small grants, community partnership core funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.6. Small Grants, new for this year will fund up to £350, where the total cost of the project does not exceed £350. This grant is aimed at enabling groups (including those not formally constituted) to implement projects, involving local people to make their community a better place to live.
- 1.7. Area boards will not consider Community Area Grant (CAG) applications from town and parish councils for purposes that relate to their statutory duties or powers that should be funded from the local town/parish precept. However this does not preclude bids from town/parish councils, encouraging community projects that provide new opportunities for local people or those functions that are not the sole responsibility of the town/parish council.
- 1.8. In addition to CAGs and Small Grants, councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle sticky community issues and/or community identified priorities. Cabinet have emphasised that they do not wish these to be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria or for filling

gaps where there are council service shortfalls. The application process and form has been updated to bring it in line with the other grants.

- 1.9. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their funding reports (except in the case of Area Board/Councillor led initiatives), although the decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.10. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.11. Applicants are encouraged to contact and seek funding help from Charities Information Bureau (CIB) who work on behalf of Wiltshire Council. CIB support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.12. Paper copies of funding applications no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce paper. They are however available on the Wiltshire Council web site with the area board agenda papers and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.13. The 2012/2013 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.14. A decision was been made in 2010/2011 that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.15. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the area board. This applies to all grants made by the area board.
- 1.16. On 10 November 2010, Malmesbury area board approved that the Community Area Manager be given delegated authority (made in consultation with area board members) of up to £500 per decision and that expenditure should be reported to the next area board. This will enable time critical matters to be dealt with, which on occasion may include Small Grants.

- 1.17. A budget ring-fenced of £4,059 to address youth projects will be made available in the coming year. The balance of the 2011/2012 is £870, resulting in a budget of **£4,929** for 2012/2013. How this budget will be allocated will be the decision of the area board and is separate from the grants.
- 1.18. The area board has a Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget; details of which will be found in the CATG report elsewhere on the agenda.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</b></p> | <p>Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13.<br/>Report and Appendices for delegated decision by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing</p> |
|---|--|

## **2. Main Considerations**

- 2.1. Malmesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of **£40,593** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Small Grants, Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives and core funding for Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership.
- 2.2. Councillors will need to ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.3. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in 2012/2013 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.4. There are 5 funding rounds remaining during 2012/13. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are as follows:
- 25 May 2012 for consideration on 4 July 2012
  - 20 July 2012 for consideration on 5 September 2012
  - 21 September 2012 for consideration on 7 November 2012
  - 25 November 2012 for consideration on 16 January 2013
  - 25 January 2013 for consideration on 6 March 2013
- 2.5. In 2011/12 area board grant funding was allocated to a wide range of community activities and projects; the detail of which is outlined in Appendix 1. In addition £5,130 was allocated to youth related projects.

### **3. Environmental & Community Implications**

- 3.1. Area Board Grants 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.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1. There are no financial implications related to this report, however all awards must fall within the budget allocated to the Malmesbury Area Board.

### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

### **6. HR Implications**

- 6.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

### **7. Equality and Inclusion Implications**

- 7.1. Community Area Grants and Small Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, town and parish council's equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes, where they meet the funding criteria.
- 7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications will be outlined in section 8, "Officer Recommendations" of the funding report.

### **8. Officer Recommendations**

- 8.1. To note the allocation of Malmesbury area board in 2011/2012
- 8.2. To note the information about the Malmesbury area board budget for 2012/2013 and the range of funding available.

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Appendices</b> | Appendix 1 Area Board Grant distribution 2011/12 (excluding youth budget ) |
|-------------------|--|

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Report Author</b> | Miranda Gilmour, Community Area Manager<br>Tel: 01672 515742<br>Mobile:07990 505882<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk">miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk</a> |
|----------------------|---|