

Report to	Salisbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	20 May 2010
Title of Report	Performance Reward Grant Scheme
Purpose of Report To ask Councillors to consider the details of 5 applications for funding from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The Wiltshire Alternative Youth Sport partnership (WAYS) is seeking £150,000 to develop and deliver 3 new alternative 'hub' centres of activities in Calne, Salisbury and Trowbridge alongside the existing hubs in Tidworth and Pewsey.2) St Michael's Community Centre 'Warm-up' project is seeking £40,000 to improve facilities in the community centre.3) Bemerton Heath Community Centre are seeking £130,600, a capital expenditure proposal to fund the building of an extension to the rear of the Centre.4) Salisbury Arts Centre is seeking a total of £31,881.58 to update Salisbury Art's Centre media suite5) Firestarter Arts are seeking £40,000 over 2 years for its project The Unit to further develop and support creative/cultural opportunities for young people.	

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