

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Corsham Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> September 2012</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Grants</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 1 application seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. Corsham rugby Football Club – Award £5,000 to purchase temporary floodlights to enable young people to train on a separate pitch. Total cost of project £12,000. Conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

## 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. Corsham Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of £43,772 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 - £5000 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. A budget ring-fenced for the needs of young people will again be made available in 2012/2013. How this will be allocated will be the decision of the area board.

<p><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 as presented for delegated decision</li> <li>• Corsham Community Area Plan</li> <li>• Corsham Joint Strategic Needs Document</li> </ul>
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## **2. Main Considerations**

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. There will be 3 further rounds of funding during 2012/2013. The first is contained in this report the remaining will take place on;
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012
  - 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013
  - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013

## **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. Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Corsham Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Corsham Area Board will have a balance of £30,726.

## **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 are outlined within section 8 – Officer Recommendations.

## 8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Corsham Rugby Football Club	To purchase temporary floodlights	£5,000

- 8.1.1. Award £5,000 to enable the club to purchase temporary floodlights to enable young people to train on a separate pitch. Conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2012/13.
- 8.1.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan.” Activities for young people”
- 8.1.4. This application also demonstrates a direct link to the JSA priorities identified at the February 2012 consultation and supported at the May 2012 Area Board.
- 8.1.5. This group, is a not for profit group. Their purpose is to support the development of healthy lifestyles using sport as the vehicle.
- 8.1.6. The senior section train on a Tuesday and Thursday and for child protection reasons and adhering to ‘good practice’ in sport, the club are not able to train in close proximity to any youngsters. They are currently unable to accommodate a number of age groups primarily the under 12’s to under 15’s. The new portable floodlights would allow the club to light an additional area of the field to allow youngsters in these age groups to train safely. Without such new floodlights the club runs the risk of having to cancel training in the dark evenings and the club could face the possibility of losing these teams due to players leaving to join clubs who offer such facilities.
- 8.1.7. The health benefits of sport are well documented. Without these portable lights the club is limited to what they can offer younger players in terms of training opportunities and development. The club feel that they need to meet the growing demands of the club by improving the training facilities such as providing these proposed new portable training floodlights.
- 8.1.8. If the Area Board makes a decision not to fund the project the project will be delayed until alternative funding can be found.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>Appendix 1 Grant application – Corsham rugby Football Club</b>
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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