

**18 October 2012**

**Community Area Grants and Funding**

**Purpose of Report**

To ask councillors to consider applications seeking the following funding from 2012/13 Area Board Grants:

1. Westbury Town Council for £5,000 to part fund replacement and enhancement of CCTV system
2. Bratton Recreation Ground Skate Ramp – to install a skate ramp at the village recreation ground - £1233 requested
3. Healthy eating project – area board councillor led grant application - £1870 requested
4. Trowbridge Sea Cadet Unit – To purchase a minibus - £5,000 requested.
5. To agree £4,040 youth funding should be earmarked for the purchase of keep fit /activity equipment for teenagers. The funding to be transferred to Westbury Town Council to help fund this project.

**1. Background**

**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 unconstituted groups of people wanting to improve things near to where they live.

- 1.4. 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.
- 1.5. 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.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. 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.
- 1.8. 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.
- 1.9. Funding applications will be considered at every ordinary Area Board meeting.
- 1.10. 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.
- 1.11. 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.

- 1.12. The 2012/2013 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboard](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboard)) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.13. 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.
- 1.14. In 2012/13 the Westbury Area Board has been allocated a budget of £40,447. Following successful grant applications there is £27,694 remaining in this year's budget.

## **2. Main Considerations**

- 2.1 Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2012/13 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed before 31 March 2013.
- 2.2 Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting until 31 March 2013.

## **3. Environmental Impact of the Proposals**

- 3.1 Community Area 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.

## **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Westbury 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 give all local community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.
- 7.2 Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within section 8 – Officer recommendations.

## 8. Officer recommendations

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
<b>Westbury Town Council</b>	To replace, upgrade and improve the town's CCTV cameras.	£ 5,000

8.1.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2012/13 grant criteria.

8.1.2 The project demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition Building Resilient Communities and to the Westbury Community Area plan which lists community safety as a priority.

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
<b>Bratton Recreation Ground committee</b>	Funding for a skate ramp to be sited at the village recreation ground	£1,233

8.2.1 This project has been led by young people in the village. It aims to place a half pipe skate board ramp on the Recreation Ground to provide a safe place for children aged 10+ to play on their scooters, skateboards and BMX bikes. It will also encourage young adults and children to access the other amenities available in the field such as all weather gym equipment, football and basketball. Fundraising has already taken place. Officers are of the opinion this meets 2012/13 grant criteria.

8.2.3 This project demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition Building Resilient Communities and to the Westbury Community Area plan which lists the need for more facilities for young people and children.

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
<b>Extended Schools</b>	Funding for a range of healthy eating and cooking projects for local schools	£1,870

8.3.1 This is an area board led grant linking to the issues raised at Westbury Forward. See separate report.

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
<b>Trowbridge Sea Cadets</b>	Purchase of a minibus	£5,000

8.4.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application only partly meets the grant criteria for 2012/13. The application does demonstrate links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition Building Resilient Communities and to the Westbury Community Area plan which lists the need for more facilities for young people and children. However the area board members may like to consider how much benefit this application demonstrates for the Westbury community area and take into account the low number of young people from the Westbury community area who currently attend Sea Cadets – namely four. Trowbridge Area Board has awarded £5,000 towards this scheme.

Youth Funding allocation 2012/13		
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8.5.1 This relates to the £4,045 funding earmarked for youth projects. It is recommended this should help fund new activity equipment for older children. See separate report for details.

**SALLY HENDRY**  
**Westbury Community Area Manager**