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| Report to | Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board |
| Date of Meeting | Wednesday 28 November 2012 |
| Title of Report | Area Board Grants |

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect of 2 applications seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant Funding:

1. Thames Pre School – award £395 for the provision of 6 outdoor waterproof coats for staff.
2. Cricklade United Church/Community Hall – award £600 towards the provision of fixed emergency lighting for the hall.

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 2012/13.
- 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. Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has been allocated a 2012/13 budget of **£51,680** 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. The 2012/13 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.13. A decision was been made in 2010/11 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.
- 1.14. 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.
- 1.15. On 6 July 2011 the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board took the decision to delegate responsibility to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Area Board, to approve expenditure of up to £250 between meetings of the Area Board for the purpose of booking public meeting rooms for Area Board purposes. Any expenditure incurred under this delegation will be reported back to the Area Board at the next public meeting.
- 1.16. A budget of £8,894 ring-fenced for the needs of young people will again be made available in 2012/13. How this will be allocated will be the decision of the area board.
- 1.17. Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget of £10,000 for 2012/13.
- 1.18. Funding awarded to date during 2012/13 totals £3,870. This leaves a balance of £47,810.

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| Background documents used in the preparation of this Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 as presented for delegated decision• The Northern Community Area 'Our Community Plan 2005-2015' |
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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 within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be 5 rounds of funding during 2012/13. The first took place on 30 May 2012, the second on 25 July, the third on 26 September, the fourth is contained in this report and the final round for funding will take place on:
 - 23 January 2013 – deadline for applications will be 12 December 2012

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 Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board will have a balance of £46,815.

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 |
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| 8.1 | Thames Pre School | Provision of 6 outdoor waterproof coats for staff | £395 |

- 8.1.1. The officer recommendation is to award the sum of £395 to Thames Pre School for the provision of outdoor waterproof coats for staff.
- 8.1.2. The application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria 2012/13.
- 8.1.3. The application demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan “Support the vitality of village schools”, and partial links to “Lack of youth facilities throughout the Northern Community Area” and “Lack of recreational facilities and playgrounds throughout the Community Area”.
- 8.1.4. Thames Pre School is a not for profit, thriving, community preschool in Cricklade. The aim of Thames Pre School is to provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment in which children can learn and develop.
- 8.1.5. Thames Pre School actively encourages children to play outside in all weathers, and already provides quality waterproof suits for each child in order to facilitate this. The provision of similar, waterproof protection for the preschool staff will enable the staff to be suitably clothed to encourage the children’s play during wet weather.
- 8.1.6. The applicant does not currently hold any reserves and the accounts currently show a small deficit for the year. The applicant has provided reassurance that a small deficit is expected at this time of year and the Pre School has been in existence for some 27 years so is considered well established.
- 8.1.7. If the Area Board decided not to fund the project, the provision of the coats would not be possible at this stage without some form of fundraising.

| Ref | Applicant | Project proposal | Funding requested |
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| 8.2 | Cricklade United Church/Community Hall | Health and safety upgrade – fixed emergency lighting | £600 |

- 8.2.1. The officer recommendation is to award the sum of £600 to Cricklade United Church/Community Hall towards the cost of emergency lighting for the hall.
- 8.2.2. The application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria 2012/13.

- 8.2.3. The application demonstrates a commitment to the priorities stated in the Northern Community Area Plan by adhering to statutory safety requirements in order to enable the continued provision of social, education and lifelong learning opportunities, plus support to vulnerable people, and also by addressing the “Lack of youth facilities” through the provision of clubs and activities aimed specifically at young people.
- 8.2.4. Cricklade United Church is widely used by the local community and a range of local clubs and groups for non-religious purposes, including the Embroidery Group, Association for the Blind, Brownies, yoga and youth drama clubs to name a few.
- 8.2.5. The installation of fixed emergency lighting will bring the hall up to date on health and safety responsibilities, ensuring compliance with health and safety requirements and providing a safe environment for hall users.
- 8.2.6. The Church Building Committee is currently raising money to repair the roof of the building and to replace the large gas fires, and so current funds are already committed to these works, hence the request for support from the Area Board to help fund the installation of fixed emergency lighting.

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| Appendices: | Appendix 1 - Grants Pack |
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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