

# Performance Reward Grant Scheme

## APPLICATION FORM

To be returned to:

Karen Spence, Performance Manager, Performance Team

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Area Board	All Area Boards
<b>Form submitted by (contact for all queries)</b>	Cllr Chris Williams Portfolio Holder for communities Chairman Tidworth Area Board  (Contact: Mary Cullen, Area Boards Team)
<b>Name of initiative</b>	<b>Wiltshire Community Payback (WCP) – Engaging the Community</b>
<b>Brief Description of Initiative</b>	<p><b>This project has the following objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce the fear of crime and create a stronger more inclusive communities;</li> <li>2. Reduce re-offending through community engagement</li> <li>3. Increase resources directed at those key street scene issues that affect community wellbeing, such as: vandalism, graffiti, gum, litter, maintenance, etc;</li> <li>4. Involve the public, parishes and area boards more directly in the criminal justice system building public understanding and service responsiveness;</li> <li>5. Targeting resources at projects and priorities identified by the public, parishes and area boards through the Community Issues System; and</li> <li>6. Extend the availability of WCP resources into rural communities</li> </ol> <p>The scheme has the support of Wiltshire Probation Service, Wiltshire Council and the Area Boards.</p> <p>A report detailing the aims and objectives of the scheme was presented to a recent meeting of the Chairs of Area Boards</p>

where the initiative was well received and supported. The bid will go to all Area Boards in the next round for their support.

### **Background**

The Community Payback Scheme run by Wiltshire Probation Service enables offenders to repay their debt to society through the contribution of time and labour to help local communities tackle problems such as littering and graffiti.

In Wiltshire over 72,000 hours of Community Payback are completed every year by offenders on a community sentence. This equates to approximately £378,500 hours of free labour to local communities

The scheme provides the following services

- Litter removal
- Clearing undergrowth
- Environmental projects
- Repairing and redecorating community facilities
- Removing graffiti
- Related projects

Currently the scheme operates in the following way.. Anyone can nominate a project subject to it fitting the criteria set out below

- It must benefit the local community
- It must not take paid work away from others
- No one must profit from the work
- It must be challenging, demanding & occupy a group of offenders
- It must be worthwhile and constructive
- Offenders must be seen to be putting something back into the community

The Community Payback Team will assess projects for suitability and for health and safety implications.

Offenders usually work as part of a team, monitored by a supervisor and will work all day with short breaks. Due to the nature of the majority of Unpaid Work (i.e. visible outdoor work), groups usually have to travel some distance to access facilities and take comfort breaks etc. This is a particularly pertinent issue in rural locations, where the distance to access facilities, especially at weekends, can mean that the project is sometimes unable to run at all. Extension of the scheme and the provision

of utilities trucks will facilitate increased physical hours of Community Payback being undertaken. Furthermore it will enable those rural projects located at a significant distance from accessible facilities to be completed, which otherwise would not be possible.

In the last year the scheme has carried out over 54,000 group work hours on projects:-

- 7% of these were **directly** referred by members of the public
- 4 % were proposed by Parish Councils in the Wiltshire Area Board Region
- Less than 2% of these hours were completed on projects proposed from the Area Boards directly.

Wiltshire Community Payback (WCP) provide a supervisor and a group of offenders to undertake Unpaid Work. However, due to the nature of the work WCP have recently implemented a donation or charging scheme (£15 per session) towards the purchasing and maintenance of equipment to enable the projects to run. In the last year WCP received £1986.09 in donations. If this application is successful, the scheme will be amended to make any referrals made through the Area Boards exempt from all donation charges.

#### Project details

The money sought from the LPSA fund will be used to purchase three utilities trucks. These trucks have toilet, rest and refreshment areas to enable our teams to work in more rural areas and at sites where such facilities do not already exist. It will also enable the purchase of high pressure gum and graffiti removal equipment as well as additional mowers, strimmers and gardening tools to support our environmental and grounds maintenance activities. The bid also allows for some administrative support for the first year to get new processes and systems in place so the scheme links effectively with Wiltshire Council's Area Boards and involves local communities.

The investment requested will achieve the project aims and the following specific outcomes.

- Extend the provision of Community Payback into villages and rural locations.
- Extend the hours worked and the cost benefit of the scheme
- Extend the range of services offered through the scheme – through the provision of a greater range of equipment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Link the scheme to the Area Boards' Community Issue system</li> <li>■ Facilitate greater community/public engagement and encourage more projects to be nominated directly by the public through the Area Boards.</li> <li>■ Raise awareness of WCP in a manner that will increase its deterrent value</li> </ul>	
<b>Please put a cross against the ambition(s) that this initiative will support</b>	Building resilient communities	X
	Improving affordable housing	
	Lives not services	X
	Supporting economic growth	
	Safer communities	X
	Protecting the environment	X
	Action for Wiltshire – combating the recession	
<b>Amount of funding sought</b>	<b>£73,050</b>	

<b>What will this money be spent on? (please show split between capital and revenue. For capital expenditure guidance – see Appendix 1 in the Bid Pack)</b>	<b>Total Project Cost £73,050</b>		
	<b>Item</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
	Utilities Trucks @ £10,000 each plus VATx3	35250	
	Mowers @ £400 eachx4	1600	
	Strimmers@ £300 each x 4	1200	
	High pressure cleaners for removal of graffiti, chewing gum @ £6,000 each x2	12,000	
	Gardening equipment	3,000	
	Project Co-ordinator for one year part-time		15,000
	Promotion and marketing year one		5,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53,050</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Please describe how your initiative will support the ambition(s) indicated above, and summarise the action that will be taken</b>	<p>The Community Payback initiative will support the LAW ambition of Building Resilient Communities through enabling local communities to work together to identify and agree priority areas for environmental improvement such as the removal of graffiti or chewing gum, hedge clearing etc. It will allow for this work to be carried out quickly, effectively and to a good standard thus demonstrating responsiveness to local need and speedy resolution of local issues.</p> <p>Local people will identify projects which would benefit from the scheme and a range of project proposals in each community area will be considered and prioritised by Wiltshire council's area boards. Local people will participate in decision-making on schemes and elected members will be further developed in their community leadership roles.</p>		

	<p>This scheme will improve the way in which organisations in Wiltshire work together. It will require and enable close working relationships between Wiltshire Council’s area boards, town and parish councils, Wiltshire Police and probation services and local people to identify appropriate community projects, prioritise them and roll out schemes across Wiltshire.</p> <p>It will contribute to the development of stronger and more inclusive communities by highlighting the efforts of offenders to repay their debts to society and challenging negative stereotypes of offenders.</p> <p>The scheme will particularly benefit offenders, particularly young offenders, by enabling them to take part in positive activities, and to develop new skills which will enhance their future employability. This will contribute, in turn, to LAW ambitions to reducing re-offending rates.</p> <p>This scheme will also contribute to perceptions of safer communities by demonstrating that positive rehabilitation activities taking place which benefit everyone in the community and the work of probations services.</p> <p>Finally, the scheme will contribute to the development of cleaner/greener neighbourhoods and increasing people’s sense of wellbeing and satisfaction with their local area as a place to live (National Indicator)</p>
<p><b>What makes this initiative a local priority (e.g. evidence from research and local support)</b></p>	<p>Evidence from the issues reported to Area Boards across Wiltshire demonstrates that there are a range of issues impacting on local communities which would benefit from this scheme.</p> <p>Specific examples include ‘Graffiti on the Assizes court in Devizes’, ‘persistent litter problems around MacDonalds in Melksham’, ‘Overgrown undergrowth in Warminster’, ‘Chewing gum residue in Devizes’, and reports of overgrown footpaths in various areas.</p> <p>We anticipate further reporting of issues with the marketing and roll out of the Community Payback Scheme through Area Boards.</p> <p>The Community Payback Scheme is currently well used by Parish Council’s across Wiltshire for schemes including Lacock church and village grounds;, Durrington footpaths and Cemetery; Winterslow Church, footpaths and village hall; Market Lavington footpaths; Tilshead village hall and Yatesbury Pond (to name but a few) and there is increasing demand for the service (10 Parish councils have referred projects recently). There are currently 117 community issues in the system that could potentially benefit from the WCP scheme.</p>

<p><b>How will you know you have been successful?</b></p>	<p>We will know we have been successful when we are able to increase the number of hours of community payback time delivered in local communities across Wiltshire, which have been proposed by the public through the Area Boards. With the purchase of utilities trucks powered by generators, offering tea making facilities, toilets and hot water we will be able to become more self sufficient and be able to extend the Community Payback service into more rural parts of the county thus benefiting more people and local communities. We will also know we have been successful when we have changed/altered public perceptions concerning offenders and have evidence to show that local people are supportive of and value the scheme.</p>																				
<p><b>How will you measure the impact? (may have more than one measure)</b></p>	<p>We will measure the number of hours of Community Payback time delivered in response to issues raised by local communities through Area Boards and would anticipate seeing an increase in hours delivered from 6,480 to 23,760 hours over the next 3 years.</p> <p>We will also measure success through perception surveys at Area Board meetings both before and after community payback schemes have been delivered locally. We will know we have been successful when there is a percentage increase in the number of people who believe that community payback is a worthwhile scheme delivering benefits both to local communities and offenders.</p> <p>We will measure the number of issues referred and timescales for their resolution. We will set targets around this. We would hope that in a wider context that this scheme will have a positive impact upon wider confidence scores, which are measured in relation to Community Safety and Criminal Justice Board activities.</p>																				
<p><b>• What is your improvement target (s), and when do you expect to achieve this/these?</b></p>	<p>The improvements targets are to achieve a four fold increase in the completion of group work hours, which have been proposed by the Public through the area Boards by 2013, as follows.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="486 1451 1441 1601"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>WCP Referrals</b></th> <th><b>2009/10</b></th> <th><b>2010/11</b></th> <th><b>2011/12</b></th> <th><b>2012/13</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Direct public</td> <td>7%</td> <td>9%</td> <td>11%</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish council</td> <td>4%</td> <td>6%</td> <td>8%</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area Board</td> <td>7%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>14%</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Over the period shown, the WCP hours linked to community referrals will increase from 6,480 (value £34,020) in 2010, to 23,760 hours (value £124,740) in 2012 and 2013. This represents a very significant realignment of public service around community priorities.</p> <p>To achieve a percentage increase in positive public perception of Community Payback. This will be measured by before and after perception surveys being administered at a number of Area Board meetings.</p>	<b>WCP Referrals</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	Direct public	7%	9%	11%	11%	Parish council	4%	6%	8%	8%	Area Board	7%	10%	14%	14%
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<p>• <b>How will you ensure that the improvement continues after the end of the initiative?</b></p>	<p>Once the processes and procedures to roll the scheme out through area boards have been agreed and put into place, the improvements will continue into the future. There is an existing infrastructure in place to support the development and management of the scheme. Quality Assurance Managers and supervisors are already in place and a link Worker will work with Community Area Managers and Area Boards to manage referrals, prioritise and schedule works</p>
<p><b>Who will benefit from this initiative?</b></p>	<p>Through the Community Payback – Engaging the Community Scheme, communities right across Wiltshire will benefit from improved quality of life and cleaner/safer environments.</p> <p>Offenders will particularly benefit from the scheme as outlined above and reoffending will be reduced.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council and partners will benefit from enhanced reputation for delivering on local priorities, delivering safer and cleaner environments and engaging local communities in identifying their own problems and working out solutions.</p>
<p><b>Confirm no unfunded commitments from this initiative</b></p>	<p>I confirm that there will be no unfunded financial commitments arising from this initiative. The intention is for this scheme to provide equipment which has a long life span and to pump prime the initiative so at this point in time there is no anticipation that further application for funding will be necessary to maintain the benefits of this scheme.</p>
<p><b>What are the key risks to success and how will these be managed?</b></p>	<p><b>Lack of take up</b> This risk will be managed through promotion and publicity about the scheme. This risk is unlikely to materialise however as there is an existing and increasing demand for responses to environmental issues across the county, with 18 area boards and over 250 parish councils to service.</p> <p><b>Excessively high level of demand</b> This will be managed through development of a prioritised list of areas for assistance which will be developed by our Area Boards. There are existing procedures and processes in place within Community Payback for scheduling works and managing demand.</p>
<p><b>Who will manage the initiative</b></p>	<p>Community Payback – Engaging the Community scheme will be one of the vehicles from which Unpaid Work Requirements ordered by the Courts are implemented</p> <p>The initiative will be managed by Wiltshire Probation service building on the existing scheme and infrastructure which includes management, reporting and quality assurance frameworks. Regular reporting will take place to Wiltshire Probation Board, Area Boards, Wiltshire Council and ultimately to the local community</p>

Signed:

***Cllr Chris Williams, Wiltshire Council Portfolio Holder for Communities (on behalf of All Area Boards)***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Hazeltine', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Mike Hazeltine, Assistant Chief Officer (Interventions)  
Wiltshire Probation Service**

Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010