

Report to	South West Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	5 June 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider applications in respect to:

1. Bowerchalke Parish Council - award £5,000 towards Bowerchalke Village Playground, conditional on 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 (5 April 2013). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the [Area Board Grants Guidance 2013/2014](#).
- 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 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.
- 1.4. The area board may want to link funding to local priorities, including those identified in their Community Plan, Local Area Joint Strategic Assessment and any other community based consultative work. An update on South West Wiltshire Area Board's priorities can be [viewed here](#).
- 1.5. South West Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£96,467** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. In 2013/14 only capital funding is available for community area and digital literacy grants.
- 1.6. In addition to CAGs and digital literacy 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.
- 1.7. In support of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, in 2013/14 the South West Wiltshire Area Board invites applications that encourage young people and people with disabilities to become more actively involved in sports, outdoor activities, recreation, arts and volunteering.
- 1.8. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £501 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000. Grants of up to £500 are available for Digital Literacy projects.

- 1.9. New for 2013/14 is a single on-line application process for Community Area Grants (CAG) and Digital Literacy grants, introduced to provide an easy step by step application process. The application process and funding criteria can be found [here](#).
- 1.10. Area boards will not consider 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.
- 1.11. 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.
- 1.12. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.13. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete an evaluation form as soon as the project has been completed and provide receipts if requested. Groups are encouraged to up-load information and photographs about their project on to their [area board blogsite](#). Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</p>	<p>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</p> <p>South West Wiltshire Area Board Priorities Action Log</p> <p>Mere Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</p> <p>Tisbury Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</p> <p>Wilton Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</p>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. South West Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£96,467** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants and Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives.

- 2.2. Councillors will need to ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.3. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in 2013/2014 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.4. There are 5 funding rounds planned for 2013/14. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are:
 - 19 June for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 17 July 2013.
 - 18 September for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 16 October 2013.
 - 13 November for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 11 December 2013.
 - 8 January 2014 for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 5 February 2014.

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 South West Wiltshire Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations South West Wiltshire Area Board will have a balance of **£91,467**.

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 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 will be outlined in section 8, “Officer Recommendations” of the funding report.

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Bowerchalke Parish Council	Bowerchalke Village Playground	£5,000

8.1.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.

8.1.3. This project is to purchase playground equipment and install it at a proposed site in the parish. It will provide a much needed facility for the children to play and socialise. It will also provide a social outlet for the parents of young children and in turn enhance the community spirit.

8.1.4. The Parish Council reports that they conducted a survey to evaluate the need for the playground. Their results found 32 children were under six, 35 between six and eleven and 12 over eleven. A third of the village responded to the questionnaire and all were in favour bar one.

8.1.5. Leisure Services (Wiltshire Council) support this application, and would strongly suggest that the Parish Council acquaint itself with the need to regularly inspect (weekly) the play equipment by a qualified individual and the need to have a once yearly equipment check by an independent organisation therefore bringing it in line with most insurance providers.

Appendices:	Grant application 1 - Bowerchalke Parish Council – online application
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

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