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| <b>Report to</b>       | <b>Calne Area Board</b>   |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | <b>15 October 2013</b>    |
| <b>Title of Report</b> | <b>Area Board Funding</b> |

## Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider the following officer recommendations:

1. Goatacre Village Hall Committee – award £3,500 towards the refurbishment of the village hall, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. To note that Area Board Councillors have agreed to the extension of the Splash project which received funding from the Area Board in February 2013.
3. To note that a £300 shortfall in the budget for 2012/13 will be made up from the 2013/14 budget.
4. To encourage applications for Community Area Grants.

## 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 wish 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.
- 1.5. In 2013/14 Calne Area Board was allocated a budget of **£58,112** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core funding, area

board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.

- 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. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which do 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.
- 1.8. A ring-fenced budget of £1,500 has been provided specifically for Digital Literacy Grants, although the area board may spend more. Up to £500 per project is available for capital 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 provide recommendations, however the decision to support applications is made by Calne area board councillors.
- 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 the [calne.ourcommunitymatters blogsite](#) . Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

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| <p><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</b></p> | <p><a href="#">Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</a></p> <p><a href="#">Area Board Grants Scheme 2013/14 – information and criteria</a></p> <p><a href="#">Digital Literacy Grants 2013/14</a></p> <p>Calne Community Area Plan 1999 - 2014</p> |
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## 2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. A Councillor initiative from 2012/13 relating to the purchase of signs to advertise the Campus project was awarded £300. An error in recording this initiative, alongside the suppliers untimely provision of an invoice for work, resulted in an over spend arising. It should be noted that this figure has been made up from the 2013/14 budget.
- 2.2. At its meeting on the 3 July 2013 the Calne area board allocated £8,865 revenue funding to the Calne Community Area Partnership leaving a balance of **£48,947** to be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants and Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives.
- 2.3. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.4. 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.
- 2.5. There are 2 funding rounds remaining in 2013/14. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are as follows:
  - **28 October 2013 for consideration on 10 December 2013**
  - 23 December 2013 for consideration on 4 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 Calne Area Board.

4.2. If grants are awarded and retained in accordance with officer recommendations Calne area board will have a balance **£45,447**

## 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 will be outlined in section 8, "Officer Recommendations" of the funding report.

## 8. Officer Recommendations

| Ref  | Applicant                       | Project proposal           | Funding requested |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 8.1. | Goatacre Village Hall Committee | Village Hall refurbishment | £3,500            |

8.1.1. Officers recommend that Goatacre Village Hall is awarded a grant of £3,500 towards the refurbishment of the village hall with specific regard to the installation of Velux windows and new flooring. This award should be made conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.

8.1.3. The applicant is contributing 50% of the cost of this project from their own funds and community contributions

8.1.4. Goatacre Village Hall is a community resource used by the local community and from further beyond, due to its links with Goatacre Cricket Club. The Cricket Club has recently secured a grant from Sport England which has funded an extension to the current building. The village hall is used by many community groups including four cricket teams, 70 junior cricketers, skittles and darts teams in addition to 100 members from the parish. Goatacre nursing home uses the facilities regularly and on an ad hoc basis there are art lessons, computer clubs and dancing practice. In addition to this activity the village hall is hired for private parties and functions from parishioners and the surrounding community, which helps to fund ongoing running costs. The grant from Sport England has allowed the village hall to match its usage and many

local businesses and individuals have donated time and skills to enable the build to take place.

- 8.1.5. The original village hall needs to be refurbished, any funds granted would be used to refurbish the hall floor and install two new velux windows. The community and the village hall committee recognise how important this is and have been fundraising across the year themselves. During the 2012 cricket season a number of cake sales and bbq's were held raising around towards the project this will go towards paying for redecoration and refurbishment of soft furnishings.
  - 8.1.6. The Village Hall and Community Buildings Advisor has reported that this is a community resource used by the parish of Goatacre and its environs. It appears that they support a lot of community groups including those involved with health and wellbeing and green issues They seem to be an inclusive hall, supporting various groups which help deliver the council's goal of stronger and more resilient communities. In addition It appears that the hall committee has been busy fundraising for this project and it is encouraging to note they have been successful in attaining an award from Sport England.
  - 8.1.7. The village hall has been a community owned facility for many years, the building and surrounding land was conveyed in 1962, with the Parish Council acting as custodial trustees.
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- 8.2. In February 2013, Calne Area Board allocated £4,600 towards 'Calne ... Get Out There' a project run by Splash, offering sports, outdoor and residential activities for young people living in the Calne Community Area.
  - 8.2.1. Splash has reported that the project has been a success and has so far involved Calne's young people in multi-sports days, canoeing/water sports activities, fishing trips and overnight survival skills. These took place in the May half-term and during the summer holiday. Similar activities are also organised to take place in October half-term and next February half-term.
  - 8.2.2. The project has been successful in stretching its budget to the limit and in drawing down unexpected free venue hires, equipment loans etc. As a result Splash has requested Area Board approval to extend the project into next year by providing a further survival skills session at Easter.
  - 8.2.3. Officers have discussed the girl/boy ratio take up of the project and Splash reported that the Survival sessions were virtually a 50/50 split, however the other activities attracted far more boys than girls. They talked about the possibility of creating additional activities that will be more attractive to girls. Splash has already been talking to John Bentley School about this and they believe they have 2 further sessions that could be relatively easily arranged within the budget to provide a Street Dance session in February and also a 'Girls Day in' that will focus on specific issues that officers are already aware of relating to self esteem and self awareness amongst some of the young women at JBS.

8.2.4. Splash believe that this can all be delivered within the original budget and it should be noted that all of the Calne Area Board Councillors agree that this valuable addition to the, already successful project should go ahead.

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8.3. Community groups are encouraged to make funding applications to the area board for support. The Community Area Manager, Jane Vaughan, is happy to help potential applicants.

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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