

Report to	Chippenham Area Board
Date of Meeting	4 November 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to:

Revenue project applications

1. Creative Ecology Wiltshire – award £1,000 towards the Chippenham Now in Then: Contemporary Writing from History project, conditional upon 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.
- 1.5. The Chippenham Area Board has been allocated a 2013/14 capital budget of **£91,204** for community area grants and digital literacy grants, and a separate revenue budget of **£21,385** for community partnership core funding, area board initiatives, community area grants and area board operational funding.
- 1.6. In addition to CAGs and digital literacy grants councillors can submit an area board/councillor-led initiative applications. 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 Chippenham 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 (CAGs) 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 [blog-site](#). Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	<p><u>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</u></p> <p><u>Chippenham Community Area Plan</u></p> <p><u>Local Area Joint Strategic Assessment for Chippenham 2011</u></p>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Chippenham Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£112,590** made up of a capital budget and revenue budget (see para 1.5) that may be allocated through community area grants, digital literacy grants, area board/councillor-led projects and other local 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 now 3 funding rounds remaining during 2013/14. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are as follows:
 - Monday 23 September 2013 to be considered at the Chippenham Area Board meeting on 4 November 2013

- Monday 25 November 2013 to be considered at the Chippenham Area Board meeting on 6 January 2014
 - Monday 20 January 2014 to be considered at the Chippenham Area Board meeting on 3 March 2014
- 2.5. On 30 April 2012, Chippenham Area Board took the decision to delegate responsibility to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the Area Board Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, to approve expenditure of up to £1,000 between Area Board meetings.
- 2.6. The delegated power is only intended to be used for matters of urgency which cannot wait until the next meeting of the area board and would not be used as a matter of routine. The majority of decisions will continue to be taken at a public meeting.

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 board's budget allocated to the Chippenham Area Board.
- 4.2. At the additional area board meeting on 7 October 2013, the Chippenham area board awarded the Chippenham and Villages Area Partnership (ChAP) **£2191.46** from the revenue budget.
- 4.3. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations Chippenham Area Board will have a balance of **£92,442**.

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.	Creative Ecology Wiltshire	Chippenham Now in Then: Contemporary Writing from History	£1,000

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that £1,000 is awarded towards the Chippenham Now in Then: Contemporary Writing from History project, 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 **revenue** project.
- 8.1.3. This application meets the aspirations of the Community Area Plan: 2.5 lack of library/learning facilities in Monkton Park and 8.3 leisure and arts development.
- 8.1.4. This application meets the aspirations of the Local Area Agreement – 'building resilient communities': Help young people to succeed at school and take part in positive activities; and, 'lives not services': enable people to improve their long term health and well being.
- 8.1.5. This application meets the aspirations of the Joint Strategic Assessment for Chippenham - 'resilient communities: Chippenham Community Area is below the average when it comes to the percentage of people who say they feel they belong to their immediate neighbourhood and who say they can influence decisions in their area. It was also below the Wiltshire average for volunteering.
- 8.1.6. This project has been developed in response to community pressure to make better use of our assets and to develop cultural programmes that engage the local community.
- 8.1.7. Comments from the Team Leader of Arts and Heritage, Wiltshire Council include 'This project has the potential to develop a vibrant creative writing offer that extends over a protracted period of time and engages the community through a number of avenues, such as the educational route and community group and most importantly it has the potential to connect up with the regional offer and to attract additional resources. So, I believe this project does offer a substantial value to the local community.'
- 8.1.8. The History Centre is able to offer its facilities free of charge and to provide substantial value added support (archivist support, networking to other projects, partnership with literature works south west, linkages to publishers

and literature festivals, connection to schools and education projects) to ensure that the core project – as described in the application – is pushed forward.

- 8.1.9. This project sits outside of the area of operation of the History Centre and is focused upon providing a supportive and specialist framework for the many individuals who are interested in creative writing.
- 8.1.10. There does not appear to be a creative writing group in Chippenham but there are many people who are interested in historical fiction – this project aims to engage with those people to create a writing group, to foster the creation of a wider literature offer within the town and to provide the structure required to enable ‘unaffiliated researcher’ and the general public to make use of the History Centre resources for creative means.
- 8.1.11. Creative Ecology Wiltshire has delivered a number of similar projects in the past with great success. The recent evaluation reports from their participatory arts work have been very good, they have engaged local artists at the right level of practice to deliver high quality work and they have made sure that they always work closely with local community groups to get maximum impact for the community.
- 8.1.12. Creative Ecology Wiltshire has good networks to writers and dramatists and sound connections with the local creative community. The intention is to reach beyond those who would call themselves ‘writer’ and to work with the wider community who have an interest in creative writing, be that for a hobby or just to try something out.

Appendices	Appendix 1 – Creative Ecology Wiltshire
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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.

Report Author	Julia Densham, Community Area Manager Tel: 01249 706496 Mobile: 07766 603962 E-mail: julia.densham@wiltshire.gov.uk
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