

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Westbury Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>6 February 2014</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Grants</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider funding applications to the community area grants fund scheme and councillor led project bids:

### **1. Applications seeking Community Area Grant Funding (appendix 1)**

- 1.1 Bratton Parish Council - is seeking £5,000 towards the reroofing of the Pavilion
- 1.2 Coulston Village Hall Committee – is seeking £5,000 towards the renovation of the village hall
- 1.3 Westbury Music and Arts festival – is seeking £500 for the purchase of display boards
- 1.4 Westbury Cricket Club – is seeking £1,754 for new site screens
- 1.5 Leigh Park Community Centre – is seeking £1500 towards the purchase of PA equipment
- 1.6 John of Gaunt school – is seeking £450 towards adventure equipment for pupils

### **2. Councillor led project bids**

- 2.1 Matravers outdoor learning project – £5,000
- 2.2 Westbury Junior School outdoor learning area and sensory garden - £4,500
- 2.3 Crosspoint counselling project £3,982

**TOTAL Funding Requests: £27.686**

## **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<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

Westbury Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of £49,091

- 1.4.** for community grants, digital literacy projects, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.5.** Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £500 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.6.** 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.
- 1.7.** In addition to CAGs, councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle 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.
- 1.8.** 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.
- 1.9.** Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.10.** Paper copies of funding applications no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce paper. They are however available on the Wiltshire Council web site with the area board agenda papers and hard copies available upon request.

- 1.11. The 2013/2014 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website  
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areboards/areboardscommunitygrantsscheme.htm>
- 1.12. 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.

<p><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Area Board Grant Guidance 2013/14 as presented for delegated decision</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">BA13 Community Area Plan</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Westbury Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</a></li> </ul>
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## 2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2013/14 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. This meeting is the last round of funding during 2013/2014:

## 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 Westbury Area Board. The Westbury grants fund currently stands at £32,010 of which £3,982 is revenue. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Westbury Area Board will have a balance of £4,324.
- 4.2. All awards are subject to the condition that no payment will be made until all other funding has been confirmed.

## 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 councils 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
8.1.0	Bratton Parish Council	Renovation of the Pavilion	£5,000

8.1.1 It is the officer's recommendation that this project is considered for approval.

8.1.2 This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.

8.1.3 The pavilion is centrally situated on the village green in Bratton and is well used by many community groups. Plans for the renovation of this popular village amenity have been shared with the village halls advisor at Community First. This application is match funded.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.0	<b>Coulston Village Hall Management Committee</b>	Renovation of village hall	£5,000

8.2.1 It is the officer's recommendation that this application is considered for approval.

8.2.2 This application meets grant criteria 2013/14

8.2.3 Coulston village hall was built in 1854. It is the only secular meeting place in the village for the community there being no shop or pub. This project aims to undertake essential repairs to the toilet/utility area to improve usability, storage and disabled access. This will extend the usable life of the hall as a community facility. Plans for this project have been shared with the village halls advisor at Community First. This application is match funded.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.0	Leigh Park Community Centre	PA system	£1,500

8.3.1 It is the officer's recommendation that this project is considered for approval.

8.3.2 This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.

8.3.3 Leigh Park community centre was opened just over a year ago and is a vibrant well used community facility catering for all ages and groups. In the aim to appeal to all sections of the community the centre has frequently been asked to provide PA facilities. Purchasing a system would give us another facility to be able to offer to potential hirers. This application is match funded.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.0	Westbury Music and Arts Festival	Display boards	£500

8.4.1 It is the officer's recommendation that this application is considered for approval.

8.4.2 This application meets grant criteria 2013/14

8.4.3 Westbury Music and Arts festival has been running as an annual event for six years and is growing each year. It offers a wide variety of events for all ages and interests. In order to attract more people, display boards are needed to promote activities. This application does not require match funding.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5.0	John of Gaunt School	Adventure equipment for use by pupils	£450

8.5.1 It is the officer's recommendation that this application is considered for approval by the area board but councillors are asked to consider the background information provided in 8.5.3 .

8.5.2 This application meets grant criteria 2013/14

8.5.3 Many of the students who can take advantage of this will be from the Westbury and Trowbridge area and will be students who are unable to afford to purchase their own equipment. This may include some students who come from difficult backgrounds or socially deprived areas and providing opportunities for these students is a local priority. Participants in the training for Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh develop leadership skills, resilience and independence. They also spend time in the countryside meeting members of the wider community, and improve their fitness and navigational skills. Several of the Duke of Edinburgh activities are based around Westbury and Bratton and the students will be meeting local people and being part of the community. It is estimated 10 – 20 pupils from the Westbury area could benefit from this project.  
 Many members of staff, friends of pupils and pupils' wider families live in Westbury. Many of our students are consistently active in Westbury, socially and through other areas such as school sports matches and such. Match funding is not required for this application.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6.0	Westbury Cricket Club	New site screens	£1,754

8.6.1 It is the officer's recommendation that this application is considered for approval.

8.6.2 This application meets grant criteria 2013/14

8.6.3 New league regulations, means site screens have to be provided at each end. This application is to help fund the purchase of replacements for those damaged in recent bad weather. The club provided an invaluable sporting facility for the community and recently formed an under 18s team to play. This application is match funded.

## 9.Councillor Led Applications

Ref	Submitted by	Project proposal	Funding requested
9.1	Cllr Gordon King	Matravers Outdoor Learning Project	£5,000

9.1.1 Councillor led projects should address or resolve 'sticky' community issues and/or projects and initiatives which have been identified by the community as priorities. It should not be used to fill gaps where there are service shortfalls or where it is possible for them to be resolved through use of the Area Grant funding scheme. Grants will not normally exceed £5,000. The Board will need to consider whether the application meets one or more of the following:

- Evidence of community need
- Clear links to the community plan
- Evidence that it addresses an on-going issue that has been logged via the Community Issues System

9.1.2 It is recommended the Area Board considers this project application to determine whether to allocate funding from the Area Board budget.

Ref	Submitted by	Project proposal	Funding requested
9.2	Cllr Russell Hawker	Crosspoint counselling service	£3,982

9.2.1 Councillor led projects should address or resolve 'sticky' community issues and/or projects and initiatives which have been identified by the community as priorities. It should not be used to fill gaps where there are service shortfalls or where it is possible for them to be resolved through use of the Area Grant funding scheme. Grants will not normally exceed £5,000. The Board will need to consider whether the application meets one or more of the following:

- Evidence of community need
- Clear links to the community plan
- Evidence that it addresses an on-going issue that has been logged via the Community Issues System

9.2.2 It is recommended the Area Board considers this project application to determine whether to allocate funding from the Area Board budget.

Ref	Submitted by	Project proposal	Funding requested
9.3	Cllr David Jenkins	Westbury Junior School learning area and sensory garden	£4,500

9.3.1 Councillor led projects should address or resolve ‘sticky’ community issues and/or projects and initiatives which have been identified by the community as priorities. It should not be used to fill gaps where there are service shortfalls or where it is possible for them to be resolved through use of the Area Grant funding scheme. Grants will not normally exceed £5,000. The Board will need to consider whether the application meets one or more of the following:

- Evidence of community need
- Clear links to the community plan
- Evidence that it addresses an on-going issue that has been logged via the Community Issues System

9.3.2 It is recommended the Area Board considers this project application to determine whether to allocate funding from the Area Board budget.

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