

Proposal for future funding of Community Led Projects from Melksham Area Board

Community Area Partnership

Grant to Community Area Partnership for administrative costs and room bookings etc. to reduce over the remaining period of this Council (funding conditional on Wiltshire Council continuing to provide the Area Board with suitable revenue funding to pass on).

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
£2,500,00	£2,000.00	£1,500.00

Community Projects Support Officer

Ring-fenced funding for payment to 'Community Project Support Officer' (CPSO) to be contracted on a self-employed basis with resulting hours becoming available for local groups (including the Community Area Partnership) to bid for to support community led projects. It should be noted that this is the ring fenced funding for this purpose and it is possible that for specific projects, and subject to available revenue funding, the Board may agree to fund additional hours.

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
£9,000,00	£9,000,00	£9,000,00

These values have been based on the CPSO being contracted an average of 15 hours per week for 48 weeks per year at an hourly rate of £12.50. It is recognised that the actual time spent per week would vary at different times according to work load but the average should be maintained over any 3 month period.

Whilst the overall spend reduces over the three year period it is anticipated that this will be in line with other pressures the Board will face on its spending.

The CPSO hours will be a resource that any local group will be able to bid for alongside bids for grant funding. All bids would have to clearly demonstrate how they were contributing towards fulfilling that stated aims of the Area Board - principally (but not necessarily exclusively) based on the priorities identified in the Community JSA. There would be no limit on the number of projects a group could apply for support on, but consideration could reasonably be given to the number of previous projects supported when considering new applications, especially if there was a shortage of available time as a result of a high number of applications.

Decisions over the allocation of the CPSO time would be made exclusively by the Area Board members, usually at a public Area Board meeting and the CPSO would be responsible to the Chair of the Area Board, or the Vice-Chair in their absence. Where appropriate the Chair could delegate certain parts of this role to the Community Area Manager for expediency. In exception, the Board could allocate limited amounts of time to projects, by means of a Chair's Action, where it is not practicable to wait for the next scheduled Area Board. In any such case the Chair would need to report to the next Area Board details of any such decisions made.

The CPSO would be expected to prepare a regular report of their activities and Outcomes achieved for presentation at the Area Board.

It should be noted that the financial figures identified on the report are subject to change according to the amount of revenue funding available to the Board.

Community Network Groups

There will be a number of Community Network Groups established (or where possible and appropriate expanded from those already in existence) so that each area covered by the Area Board Champions will have a Network Group to which all relevant organisations in the Community would be invited.

As an example, should the Area Board decide that a priority of the Board was working with Children and Young People then a Children and Young Persons Network Group would be established.

All relevant groups working with Children and Young People in the Community Area would be invited to send representation to this group which would include representation from the Area Board in the form of the designated champion.

The Network Group would be supported by the Community Area Manager and Projects Officer (although the CAM and CPSO would not both necessarily be expected to attend every meeting of the group).

The role of the Network Group would be to share details of current and planned projects taking place in the Community Area, to share examples of best practice and advice and guidance of issues such as a professional and financial support available.

In addition, the Network Group may want to submit specific bids to the Area Board for funding or time from the CPSO to implement projects of their own.

Area Board Champions would be expected to report back at Area Board meetings about their respective Network Groups. This would ensure a significantly closer relationship between these groups and the decision making process of the Area Board.