

Report to	Westbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	7 August
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

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 U3A is seeking £450 toward purchase of a projector
- 1.2 Bratton Silver Band is seeking £895 towards the purchase of a tuba
- 1.3 West Wiltshire Esprit Gymnastics Club is seeking £1000 towards the purchase of equipment for young people.
- 1.4 Westbury Music and Arts festival is seeking £902 for a ticket printer, laptop and lighting equipment.

Councillor led project – led by Councillor Gordon King

- 1.5 Domestic abuse awareness project at Matravers School - £660

TOTAL Funding Requests: £3,907

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. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2014/2015.
- 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 2014/2015 budget of £31,543.19 capital funding and £5,566 revenue funding for community grants, digital literacy projects, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.4.** Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.5.** 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.
- 1.6.** 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.
- 1.7.** 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.
- 1.8.** Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.9.** 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.

- 1.10. The 2014/2015 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areboards/areboardscommunitygrantsscheme.htm>
- 1.11. 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>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Grant Guidance 2014/15 as presented for delegated decision • BA13 Community Area Plan • Westbury Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2014/15 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. This meeting is the second round of funding during 2014/2015:

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 £24,400 (capital) and £1,075 (revenue).**
- 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. Community Grant Applications Summary

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.0	U3A	Purchase of a projector	£ 450

8.1.1 This application meets the grant criteria and will encourage community participation in arts, leisure and learning.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.0	Bratton Silver Band	Purchase of a tuba	£895

8.2.1 This application meets the grant criteria and will be of particular benefit to young people wishing to take up band membership.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.0	West Wiltshire Esprit Gymnastics Club	Purchase of equipment.	£1000

8.3.1 The application meets the grant criteria and will encourage young people to be involved in physical activity.

8.1.2 The applicant will contribute over 50% of other funding towards the project.

8.1.3 This is a joint application to 3 Area Boards (Westbury, Bradford and Trowbridge) with a higher amount requested from Trowbridge Area Board to reflect the percentage of users of the club.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.0	Westbury Music and Arts Festival	Purchase of a ticket printer, laptop and lighting equipment.	£902

8.4.1 This application meets the grant criteria and will help boost community participation in the arts and music – in the recent JSA the level of engagement in the arts was below the national average

8.4.2 The Area Board may wish to put a condition on any funding that the lights could be available to other community groups

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5.0	Area board led proposal (Councillor Gordon King)	Fund domestic abuse awareness presentations and discussion workshops at Matravers School.	£660

8.5.0 Application attached

9.Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the Area Board decides whether to allocate funding to these five applications.

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