

Report to	Amesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	2 September 2010
Title of Report	Performance Reward Grant Scheme
<p>Purpose of Report</p> <p>To ask Councillors to consider the details of an application for funding from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Melor Church, Amesbury is requesting a grant of £41,737 to assist with the capital costs of refurbishing the Wyndham Community Hall for use as a community centre for the town, parish and people of Amesbury. 	

1. Background

1.1 Wiltshire agreed a Local Public Service Agreement with government that ended in March 2008. This contained 12 'stretch' (difficult) targets that required a number of organisations to work together to achieve the improvement. Our performance against these targets earned Performance Reward Grant (PRG) of £5.4m. This is paid by government over two years; half in 2009 and half in 2010.

This presents a unique opportunity for us to put additional resources into our Local Agreement for Wiltshire (LAW) and to combat the recession in Wiltshire through the Action for Wiltshire programme. £1.6m of this grant will be reinvested in the target areas that earned the grant, to take forward Wiltshire's ambitions. Another £1m will support some countywide initiatives under Action for Wiltshire. The balance of £2.8m is available over two to three years for bids supported by Area Boards that propose initiatives that take forward those things in the LAW and Action for Wiltshire that are important to local people.

Ideally all community areas of Wiltshire will benefit from this scheme, and there will be a spread of initiatives across LAW ambitions and Action for Wiltshire. We understand that not all bids will be made at the same time, and that proposals will take time to develop. The timing of local initiatives will also vary. To help ensure that projects in all community areas have the opportunity to bid, the funding will be released in 3 month tranches of £250,000. We will keep this under review and if appropriate will vary the timing and amount of funding in each tranche. At the end of the tranche any unallocated money will go back into the pool for future bids. Any bids pending when all the money in that tranche has been allocated will be carried forward to the next tranche.

The government imposes a grant condition that the grant must be used half for capital and half for revenue expenditure. Guidance on what counts as 'capital' is given in the funding pack on the Wiltshire Council website. Experience so far

is that bids tend towards revenue expenditure, so it may be easier to get funding for 'capital' type initiatives.

Bids will initially be submitted as 'Expressions of Interest' to the local appropriate Area Board. The Area Board will make a decision as to which bids it supports. Lack of support from the Area Board does not rule out the bid going forward to the grant scheme.

Full details of the Scheme and a Funding Pack are available from the Wiltshire council website:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/.../localagreementforwiltshire/performanceawardgrantscheme.htm

2. Criteria for the Grant Scheme

2.1 Points to consider are:

- Funding under this scheme is for initiatives that have local support and will take forward ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire, or help combat the recession as part of the Action for Wiltshire programme. Information on this is provided in the grant pack.
- It is one-off funding, so should not be used for things that will result in an unfunded financial commitment after the end of the project. As part of the bid you will be asked to confirm that no unfunded commitments will result from your proposal.
- In total, Performance Reward Grant must be spent half on revenue and half on capital expenditure (guidance is given in the pack). Experience is that many initiatives are 'revenue', so there may be more money left available for 'capital' bids. We will need to account to government on the use of the grant, so will ask you for information on what the money will be used for.
- It is important that these initiatives have a positive local impact, and that we are able to show success. So you will be asked how you will measure that success – and we will ask you to let us know how well it worked.

The use of the grant will fall within the Area Board's usual good governance arrangements.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
3.1	The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary and St Melor Church, Amesbury	To refurbish the Wyndham Community Hall for use as a community centre for the town, parish and people of Amesbury. The new centre will provide a much needed facility in which people of all ages and backgrounds will join together to enjoy life, to give and receive support, and to work for the good of others.	£41,737

- 3.1.1 It is recommended that the Area Board supports this application on the basis that it supports 4 out of the 7 ambitions of the Performance Reward Grant Scheme – building resilient communities, lives not services, safer communities and protecting the environment.
- 3.1.2 St Mary and St Melor PCC have set up a team to deliver this project, which will refurbish the Wyndham Community Hall and replace the current church hall (Melor Hall), which is too small for parish use and reaching the end of its economic life. The total cost of this project is over £440,000 and the PCC is seeking £41,737 from the performance reward grant scheme to contribute to the internal refurbishment costs to be incurred in phase 2 of the project. The Area Board is asked to support this grant request which will fund the :

stripping out of the interior	5,639
provision of walls	5,378
provision of doors and panels etc	16,502
refurbishment of ceilings	7,262
VAT	6,956

- 3.1.3 Full details of the project are included in the Business Case agreed by the PCC, and summarised in the attached application form.
- 3.1.4 The Area Board is recommended to support this application and forward it for approval by the central grants panel on the basis that:
- (a) the local support for the project as evidenced by a number of means, including consultation with community leaders, community groups, parishioners and other community hall projects in the town
 - (b) the need for a new community centre to complement the offer of other halls in Amesbury, to serve the town’s growing population
 - (c) it supports the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambitions to ‘build resilient communities’, ‘lives not services’ and ‘safer communities’ by facilitating a better quality of life, companionship, self-esteem, confidence, care, support, health, skills, information and community cohesion, particularly for those with above average needs and those who are disadvantaged. Amesbury has above average welfare needs and an above average elderly and retired population. It lies at the heart of a military community that at this time is under some stress. Voluntary and welfare groups are a vital part of the town’s wellbeing and they need an additional community centre in which to meet and undertake their various activities, i.e.:
 - (i) the local youth group will benefit from a new dedicated high quality clubroom open Mon-Fri and some weekends, facilitating more ambitious activities, education (e.g. drug misuse) and interaction with other community groups
 - (ii) 6 community groups (over 130 people who are mostly older, single, vulnerable and disabled) will benefit from larger better facilities in which to hold more exciting and beneficial social and care programmes

- (iii) the parish community will benefit from improved facilities in which to hold social, charitable, training and educational events, and in turn this should help to attract new members. The PCC want the new hall to help it enhance its contribution to the community in terms of pastoral care and support for vulnerable people, charitable work, combating social exclusion and contributing positively to people's personal improvement and self esteem
 - (iv) 8 groups that provide support to the elderly, those with a stroke condition, Alzheimer's, Myasthenia Gravis, learning disabilities, young parents, and those wishing to improve their general wellbeing and fitness levels will benefit from improved facilities in which to meet, plan and operate
 - (v) the design and purpose of the new hall will enable all these groups to interact on a regular basis, which will assist in boosting the general sense of community cohesiveness. The hall will also be offered as a facility for wedding receptions, business events, concerts, and other public events.
- (d) it also supports the 'protecting the environment' ambition of the Local Agreement for Wiltshire as the refurbishment will incorporate improved insulation, a new high efficiency gas heating system, low energy lighting, additional and larger windows to increase natural lighting and new double glazed windows.

3.1.5 Fundraising for this project commenced in 2006 and £58,000 has so far been raised through community events such as raffles, coffee mornings, social events etc. A separate team exists within the project team dedicated to securing grants for the project. The total project costs will be covered through the sale of the Melor Hall, donations from members of the parish / local community including businesses, fundraising activities and grants from other organisations. The sale of Melor Hall should be complete by January 2011.

3.1.6 The project team is committed to delivering, measuring and monitoring the benefits from the new hall, by regularly assessing the number and types of groups using it, community surveys to check satisfaction levels. It has set itself targets of increasing the number of groups using the hall, including a 50% increase in youth club membership, a 25% increase in the elderly attending functions, a 15% increase in use by the parish community, and a year on year increase of 25% usage by the wider (including business) community

3.1.7 There will be no unfunded commitments arising from this project, and income from community, parish, other user groups and private hiring of the hall will be used to cover the hall's running costs.

Appendices:	1 grant application form
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