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| Report to | Southern Wiltshire Area Board |
| Date of Meeting | 14 October 2010 |
| Title of Report | Community Area Grants |

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 1 application seeking 2010/11 Community Area Grant Funding

1. Coombe Bissett & Homington Village Hall Management Committee, Insulation and Glazing of Village Hall, £4,471

To ask Councillors to consider 1 application for endorsement for the Performance Reward Grants scheme

1. Wiltshire Voices – £56,000 for the county-wide project (£3,000 for area based work)

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 Community Services (27 February 2010). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any recommendation of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Area Board Grants Guidance officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, however, the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.
- 1.4. We can signpost groups to the Charities Information Bureau (CIB) for support to seek funding from elsewhere. CIB work on behalf of Wiltshire Council to support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.5. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.6. Southern Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £41,087 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget is £628. This leaves a total budget of £41,715 for the 2010/2011 budget. The amount spent so far this year is £22,326 leaving £18,761 up to March 2011.
- 1.7. A decision has been made that in 2010/2011 and thereafter paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.8. The 2010/2011 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

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| Background documents used in the preparation of this Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11• Southern Area Community Plan 2004 - 09 |
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2. Main Considerations

2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2010/11 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.

2.2. There will be at least 4 more rounds of funding during 2010/11, including this meeting. The first is contained in this report the remaining will take place on;

- 16 December 2010
- 3 February 2011

The deadline for submitting applications to the Community Area Manager is about 4 weeks prior to the meeting. For the actual date see:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/southernwiltshireareaboard

3. Environmental & Community Implications

Community Area Grants will 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 Southern Wiltshire Area Board. Grant applications totalling **£4,471** have been received for this meeting. If all were to be approved there would be **£14,290** remaining.

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 give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

8. Grants

| Ref | Applicant | Project proposal | Funding requested |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| SW025/10 | Coombe Bissett & Homington Village Hall Management Committee | Insulation and Glazing of Village Hall | £4,471 |

8.1.1. **Officer recommendation: Refusal**

8.1.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.1.3. Application does not demonstrate a direct link to the Community Plan 2004 – 09, although it does improve the service available at the village hall.

8.1.4. This project is to insulate the village hall roof and complete the double glazing. It will improve the village hall making it more insulated and therefore reduce heating bills for its users and also benefit the environment.

Matters to consider:

- That the Board has already awarded funding to Coombe Bissett Parish Council at its last meeting (£4,711) for the resurfacing of Shutts Lane which was to benefit those accessing the village hall.
- How much community benefit will this project deliver?

8.1.5. If the Board does not fund this project, the Coombe Bissett and Homington Village Hall Management Committee will continue to fundraise.

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| Report to | All Area Boards |
| Date of Meeting | August - October |
| Title of Report | LPSA Funding Bid: Wiltshire Voices |

What is Wiltshire Voices?

Wiltshire Voices is a project to encourage broader participation in civic life. It is designed to ensure that the needs of all local people are properly understood and addressed.

Background

A recent review of the Area Boards revealed concern that some sections of the community are not fully engaged. These groups are often absent from meetings and events and their needs are not well understood. The Boards were criticised for focusing too heavily on the needs of the 'usual suspects.'

Responding to the challenge

Wiltshire Council's Cabinet considered this issue carefully. It has challenged the Area Boards to respond positively at local level. The Cabinet encouraged the submission of a funding bid to support this work and the Performance Reward Grant (PRG) Panel has given 'in-principle' support subject to approval by the Boards.

A focus on positive local action

Wiltshire Voices is about changing lives – not glossy reports. We want information in the form of personal stories, articles and recordings that will challenge, question and prompt responses. The information will be tailored to meet the needs of different people – such as service professionals, community groups, schools, parish councils and the media. The aim is to generate discussion, learning, ideas and - most importantly - *action*.

A lasting legacy

Wiltshire Voices is about making a lasting

difference. New ways of involving people will be developed and this will become the way we do business not an optional add-on. With help from localised public services, communities will be finding and delivering solutions to local challenges and issues. Grants and funding will be better targeted to support projects that really make a difference. Priorities and plans will be more clearly focused on the needs of local people and our work will centre around improving lives not services. Over time these things will help make Wiltshire a better place for everyone.

Capacity and resources to deliver

Instead of each Board trying to engage many groups it is proposed that each Board works intensively with one priority group in its locality. Across Wiltshire this will mean that the needs of 18 different community groups will be addressed. The bid proposes that each Board is allocated a sum of £3,000 to complete its own local project. The work will be coordinated by the Community Area Manager and involve councillors, service providers and community groups – *but most importantly local people*. Each project will take around 8 months and Wiltshire Voices will be complete by Summer 2012 at the latest.

The full bid is available to view at tinyurl.com/32xqeyo

To enable Wiltshire Voices to proceed, the Area Board is asked to support this bid for PRG funding.

- What?** To make sure a wider range voices are heard by:
- engaging a broader cross section of the community in the work of the Area Boards - ‘not just the usual suspects.’
 - ensuring that the loudest voices do not always dominate
 - better understanding the needs of those who cannot or do not speak up for themselves
 - creating new ways for people to participate
 - encouraging more community based inclusion projects
 - developing community plans that focus on the needs of the whole community

Why? A survey conducted in Spring 2010 revealed serious concerns about the lack of involvement of ‘everyday people’ and harder to reach groups. In response, Wiltshire Council issued a challenge to the Area Boards to broaden community engagement.

- Who?**
- The project will focus on and involve those whose needs are less well understood.
 - The 18 Community Area Mangers will facilitate the work across Wiltshire
 - Partner agencies, frontline service officers, support workers, carers, voluntary services and councillors will be involved
 - A small project team will lead the work in each area.

- How?**
- Project team of key people to plan and manage the project
 - Desk research and information gathering
 - Face to face engagement with target group
 - Recording, documenting and presenting
 - Publishing and promoting
 - Action planning

When? Commencing in Autumn 2010 and concluding by early Summer 2012

Progress? Area Boards across Wiltshire have been looking to identify target groups. So far, the following provisional programme has been established.

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| • Amesbury | <i>(Council tenants and leaseholders)^</i> |
| • Bradford on Avon | <i>(Boaters)^</i> |
| • Calne | <i>(People with mobility issues)^</i> |
| • Chippenham | <i>(Disability allowance claimants)*</i> |
| • Corsham | <i>(NEETS)^</i> |
| • Devizes | <i>(Victims of domestic violence)*</i> |
| • Malmesbury | <i>(Rural isolation and access)^</i> |
| • Marlborough | <i>(Recently retired)^</i> |
| • Melksham | <i>(Everyday people who currently do not participate)^</i> |
| • Pewsey | <i>(Rural families on low incomes)*</i> |
| • Salisbury | <i>(Drug users)^</i> |
| • Southern Wiltshire | <i>(Gypsies and travellers)*</i> |
| • South West Wiltshire | <i>(Young people in rural areas)^</i> |
| • Tidworth | <i>(Army dependents)^</i> |
| • Trowbridge | <i>(Teenage parents)^</i> |
| • Warminster | <i>(Older people in residential care)^</i> |
| • Westbury | <i>(Elderly people living at home)^</i> |
| • Wootton Bassett & Cricklade | <i>(Stroke sufferers)*</i> |

^ provisionally agreed

* subject to confirmation