

Community Awards Policy

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To ask Members to consider and approve amendments to the "Community Area Awards" policy and procedures.
- 1.2. To ask Members to consider and approve policy and procedures for the "District-wide Awards".

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **To note and approve the suggested amendments from the Grants Working Group and adopt these criteria into the 2006/2007 Community Area Awards Policy**
- 2.2. **To note and adopt amendments to the criteria for 2006/2007 District-wide Awards**

3. Links to the Corporate Plan

- 3.1. Community Area and District-wide Awards can be linked to the Council's priority of Partnerships, Community and Involvement and in practise through community based projects can support the delivery of Community Plans and other Council Priorities including those associated with Equalities and Diversity and Healthy Lifestyles.

4. General Background Information

- 4.1. The Council has for a number of years been very successful in making Community Area Awards and District-wide Awards to groups and organisations to enable them to realise projects that benefit the community.
- 4.2. Community Area Awards are made by each of the five Area Committees towards area specific projects, the majority of which are linked to the delivery of the Community Plans.
- 4.3. District Wide Awards are made through delegated authority to the Community Partnerships Team Leader, together with the Lead Member for Partnerships. These awards benefit either more than one community area or the whole of north Wiltshire. Examples include organisations such as Samaritans, Charities Information Bureau, Cruse Bereavement and Relate.
- 4.4. Historically criteria for the District-wide Awards have been somewhat unstructured and lacked focus. Officers felt that there was an opportunity to revise both application criteria and forms.
- 4.5. In 2004/5 A Working Group was established with representatives from each of the Area Committees to review the 2005/06 Community Area Awards funding criteria. This proved a useful exercise and it was agreed that it should be repeated for 2006/07, taking into account the Council's commitment to the Compact and in particular its responsibilities in respect to the Funding and Procurement Code of Practice.

- 4.6. The Grants Working Group was invited to make suggestions for improvement in terms of criteria and presentation, to be incorporated for 2006/07. The following Members made up the Working Group:

Area 1 – Cllrs. Thomson and Sturgis
Area 2 – Cllrs. H Dixon and Greenaway
Area 3 - Cllrs Scott and Wood
Area 4 – Cllrs. Offord and Rousell
Area 5 – Cllrs. Evans and Bryant

- 4.7. In addition to re-visiting the criteria, there was an opportunity to look at the whole funding experience. All proposals were based upon improving the process to ensure it would be an effective, efficient, fair and an easy process for applicants, officers and Members.

5. Outcomes

- 5.1. The Community Area Award Grants Working Group met on 5th January 2006. The following Members made up the working group:

Area 2 – Cllrs. H Dixon and Greenaway
Area 3 - Cllr Wood
Area 4 – Cllrs. Offord and Rousell
Area 5 – Cllrs. Evans and Bryant

- 5.2. Members made no suggestions in respect to the District Wide Awards criteria, however, they did make a considerable number of changes to improve the wording and presentation of the criteria as well as the associated material that formed the application pack (see Appendix 1 attached). It was felt that the changes made would make the application process much more accessible.
- 5.3. Members did suggest that instead of Area Committee's identifying three priority areas for funding that they allocate at least 75% of their funding towards any projects demonstrating a link to their Community Plan. The remaining 25% could be allocated to other projects that might not feature in the Community Plan, but could demonstrate a community identified need.
- 5.4. While it was appreciated that there was a longer term desire to move towards the use of a common set of criteria and application forms for Community Area Awards and District-wide Awards, officers felt that this could not be achieved this year. Thus a separate application pack was produced together with application form (see Appendix 2).

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no direct financial implications related to this report. The report illustrates the improvements which have been made to the existing award schemes which should be taken forward and applied consistently across the District.
- 6.2. In previous years each Area Committee has received a revenue budget of £10,000 and a capital budget of £40,000, however budget allocations for 2006/07 have still to be approved.

- 6.3. Similarly in previous years a centrally held budget of £7,600 administered within Community & Environment, used to address cross boundary and District-wide applications. A budget for 2006/07 has still to be approved.

7. Community & Environmental Implications

- 7.1. This scheme is an excellent example of the Council helping to support community projects and activities. Awards made by both Area Committees and through delegated authority enable applicants to contribute to the continuance and/or the improvement of cultural, social and community activity and well being throughout North Wiltshire, the extent and specifics of which are dependent on the individual project.

7. Equal Opportunities Implications

- 7.1. There are no direct equal opportunities implications contained within this report.

Documents used in the preparation of this report

2004/2005 Community Area Award Funding Pack

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC MANAGER TO THE EXECUTIVE - 2nd FEBRUARY 2006

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