

REPORT TO THE Chippenham Area (3) Committee

Report No. 10

Date of Meeting	4 th June 2007
Title of Report	Chippenham Area (3) Community Area Funding Distribution 2007/08
Link to Corporate Priorities	Community Area Awards can be linked to all 3 of the Council's priorities: Community, Environment and Customers, and in particular, "Make decisions based on the Community Strategy and five Community Plans" through community based projects.
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

To ask Members to consider 3 applications seeking 2007/08 Community Area Award Funding
To advise Members about the Community Area Award Funding criteria and budget for 2007/08.

Officer Recommendations

To agree funding distribution of Chippenham Area (3) Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2007/2008:

- **Kington St Michael Parish Council – Award £5,250 from the capital budget towards the levelling and re-development of the recreation field, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
- **Doorway – Award £493 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of musical instruments.**
- **Relate – Award £2,820 from the revenue budget towards the Healthy Relationship Pilot Programme at Hardenhuish School, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
Yes	None	Yes	None	Yes

Contact Officer	Victoria Welsh Community Partnership Officer 01249 706 446 vwelsh@northwiltshire.gov.uk
------------------------	--

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report considers 3 applications for 2007/08 Community Area Award funding; all of which relate to issues and priorities identified in the Chippenham and Villages Community Plan.
- 1.2 This report also draws Members attention to the new Funding Criteria and budget for 2007/08.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.1	Kington St Michael Parish Council See Appendix 4	The levelling and re-development of the recreation field.	Capital	£5250

2.1.1 Option 1: Award Kington St Michael Parish Council £5,250 from the capital budget towards the levelling and re-development of the recreation field, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

- 2.1.2 This application meets the 2007/08 funding criteria, and demonstrates a link to the Chippenham and Villages Community Plan. Culture and Leisure Item 8.1 "Play areas need to be recognised and maintained".
- 2.1.3 This application demonstrates direct links to the Kington St Michael Parish Plan. Recreation and Village Amenities "Lack of a level pitch for playing most organised sports".
- 2.1.4 The applicant is looking for match funding that will improve an existing amenity, which will be sustainable and has potential for future growth.
- 2.1.5 Supporting this application will enable the applicant to reduce the gradient of the recreation field by levelling the surface, making the space far more suitable for both organised sports and informal recreation.
- 2.1.6 Consultation for the Parish Plan highlighted the fact that local people value the recreation field as a significant resource for the village. Many positive responses were received in support of the Recreational Field Working Party's ongoing development of the space.
- 2.1.7 A decision not to fund this project would result in delayed upgrading of the recreation field. This might in turn result in less usage by individuals, clubs and organisations, which may impact upon revenue streams. It would also be a lost opportunity to support an issue identified in both the Community Plan and the Parish Plan.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.2	Doorway See Appendix 5	To purchase musical instruments	Revenue	£493

2.2.1 Option 2: Award Doorway £493 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of musical instruments.

- 2.2.2 This application meets the 2007/08 funding criteria, but does not demonstrate explicit links to the Chippenham Area Community Plan. It does however link with the North Wiltshire Partnership (NWP) Community Strategy Action Plan, Education, Skills and Learning “improved basic/life skills of vulnerable members of the community” and Crime and Community Safety “supporting implementation of crime, disorder and drugs misuse reduction”.
- 2.2.3 The guidance allows the Chippenham Area (3) Committee to award 25% of its funding to projects that fall outside those identified in the Community Plan, where they demonstrate a benefit to the community.
- 2.2.4 The applicant has already achieved success with previous projects offering arts and educational activities. A specific example of this; following music workshops held in 2006, one participant (a former drug addict) is now studying music at Chippenham College. This illustrates the point that the opportunity to learn new skills can be a first step towards moving on from homelessness.
- 2.2.5 Officers are aware that this type of project is instrumental in improving self confidence and self esteem, which is often the first stage in assisting socially excluded people to take control of their lives. The applicant anticipates that an average of 15 people will participate and benefit from this project.
- 2.2.6 The applicant is keen to build upon the success to date by extending the range of musical instruments available. This is currently limited to a drum kit and half a dozen guitars.
- 2.2.7 The wider community benefit is a reduction in begging and violent and drug related crime committed by some of the homeless individuals who use the Doorway Project based at the Salvation Army Hall. Information about the project will be publicised to continue the ongoing objective to inform and educate the community about the benefits of the scheme and the positive outcomes that can be achieved.
- 2.2.8 A decision not to fund this project will delay the purchase of instruments, and therefore the expansion of the music workshops.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.3	Relate See Appendix 6	Healthy Relationship Pilot Programme at Hardenhuish School	Revenue	£2,820

- 2.3.1 Option 3: Award Relate £2,820 from the revenue budget towards the Healthy Relationship Pilot Programme at Hardenhuish School, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.3.2 This application meets the 2007/08 funding criteria, and demonstrates indirect links with the Chippenham and Villages Community Plan. Crime and Community Safety section 3 item 2 “Anti-social Behaviour” and Health & social Care section 6 item 5 “Concerns over the general health of children and young people, especially in urban areas”.
- 2.3.3 This programme is for 11 - 14 year olds and will provide young people with the opportunity to learn about healthy relationships. It will also provide the opportunity for participants to gain life skills such as improving self-respect and self-esteem, consideration of others and valuing diversity.

- 2.3.4 The programme will target approximately 600 pupils, but will of course have an impact on the wider community. Benefits will include: Young people will gain a better understanding of parental relationships and family breakdowns, promoting dialogue in an independent and non-judgemental way, and endorsing the schools policies on anti-bullying and diversity.
- 2.3.5 Hardenhuish School has been selected for the pilot programme because in addition to the existing counselling service provided by Relate, the school also has a sound pastoral support system. The programme will also compliment the schools Pastoral, Social and Healthcare curriculum.
- 2.3.6 A decision not to support this application will significantly restrict the scope of the project, and will prevent the applicant from delivering the full programme as planned.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 In 2007/08 Chippenham Area (3) Committee has been given a capital budget of £40,000 and a revenue budget of £8,000 for distribution in the form of Community Area Awards.
- 3.2 Following the funding awards made in 2006/07 Chippenham Area (3) had a £9,664 balance of capital funding, and £912 revenue funding remaining. The rules on carry forward remain unchanged resulting in a carry forward of £9,664 capital funding. The remaining revenue balance was not carried forward.
- 3.3 With the carry forward capital funding added to the current allocation, the total capital budget for 2007/08 is £49,664, and the total revenue budget for 2007/08 is £8,000.
- 3.4 Funding criteria for 2007/08 were reviewed by a Working Party, which included representatives of all five Area Committees. The Executive Committee subsequently approved the revised policy and procedures, on 8th February 2007 (see Appendix 1). Should Members wish to act in contravention of this policy; the matter will need to be referred to the Executive.
- 3.5 Key amendments included:
 - 3.5.1 That the, 'Guide to Funding' make clear that funding would be awarded according to demand over the three funding rounds rather than the budget being divided equally between the three tranches.
 - 3.5.2 A number of minor alterations were made to the 'Funding Criteria' section, including cross-referencing information to the 'Local Funding & Advice' section.
 - 3.5.3 The 'Local Funding & Advice' sheet would, in addition to details about external sources of funding, also include information about the Council's Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme.
 - 3.5.4 In future planning permission would only need to be investigated by the applicant when submitting their application, although the receipt of planning permission would form a condition of an Award being made.
 - 3.5.5 Minor changes were made to the application form to make it more user-friendly while maintaining the necessary rigour and responsibilities required when distributing public money.

- 3.5.6 No award would be made to an applicant that exceeded the sum requested on the formal application form. Should Members wish to award a greater sum, the item would need to be deferred until the next funding round and the applicant requested to submit a revised application.
- 3.5.7 Capital and revenue will continue not to be awarded for the same scheme. The rationale for this approach is to ensure that applicants ensure that before committing themselves to capital schemes that they have the means by which they can sustain their project and have funding for running costs.
- 3.5.8 The provision of plaques for larger projects that acknowledged the Council's involvement was considered. These would have a cost that would have to be found from the Area Committee's budget. Details are currently being investigated.
- 3.5.9 A capital award of less than £1,000 may only be made where it can be shown to generate external funding.
- 3.6 The funding criteria require that at least 75% of the Community Area Award budget would be allocated to applications that demonstrate explicit links to the Corsham Area Community Plan. The remaining 25% would be available for those schemes that fall outside the Community Plan, but remain important for local people and are able to demonstrate that they meet a community-identified need.
- 3.7 Members are reminded that all applications in 2007/08 will be considered under the same Community Area Award criteria. Those schemes requesting £500 or less will not require any matched funding, while those requesting more than £500 will not be awarded more than 50% of the total cost of their project.
- 3.8 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that there will be three funding rounds during 2007/08. The first is contained in this report, and the other two will take place on:
- 8th October 2007
 - 4th February 2008
- 3.9 The deadline for receipt of applications to be considered at the October Committee meeting is 31st August 2007.
- 3.10 Appendix 2 provides details of the 2006/2007 distribution of awards across Chippenham Area (3), to assist Members when distributing funding across the whole of the community area in 2007/08.
- 3.11 Appendix 3 provides details of the Chippenham Area (3) 2007/08 capital and revenue balances.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

- 4.1.1 Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to the Chippenham Area (3) Committee as outlined in section 3.1 of this report.
- 4.1.2 If Members make awards in line with Officer recommendations, Members will have a capital balance of £54,414 and a revenue balance of £4,687.
- 4.1.3 Consideration needs to be made to ensure a balance of funding across towns, villages and hamlets within the Community Area.

4.2 Community & Environmental Implications

4.2.1 Awards made by Area Committee to successful applicants will contribute to the continuance and /or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and well-being in the Community Area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent on the individual project.

4.3 Equality & Diversity Implications

4.3.1 Community Area Awards give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

4.3.2 The Community Funding Award Criteria does not discriminate against any member of the community on the grounds of age, gender, disability, ethnicity/culture, religion/belief, sexual orientation.

4.3.3 All documents relating to the Community Funding Awards are available in hard copy, large print, or via the North Wiltshire District Council website.

4.3.4 Officers offer support to applicants through the application process.

4.3.5 Expert funding advice is available via the Charities Information Bureau.

5 Risk Analysis

5.1 Failure to make awards would have a moderate impact on applicants and their associated projects. Since this is considered unlikely, the overall risk is considered low.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 – Funding Criteria• Appendix 2 – Financial Summary 2006/07• Appendix 3 – Financial Summary 2007/08• Appendix 4 – Funding Application from Kington St Michael Parish Council• Appendix 5 – Funding Application from Doorway• Appendix 6– Funding Application from Relate
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Plan• Community Area Award Criteria 2007/08• Community Area Awards Policy 2007/08

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Chippenham Area (3) Community Area Funding Distribution 2006/07	Chippenham Area (3) Committee 5 th February 2007	CH54
Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Community Area Awards Policy 2007/08	Executive 8 th February 2007	E175