

Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To ask Members to consider two applications seeking Executive Capital Partnership Funding.

2. Recommendations

It is **RECOMMENDED** that Members:

2.1. Approve £20,000 funding towards the Jubilee Lake project conditional on:

- Y The funds being drawn down within 2 years from the award being made
- Y The balance of funding being in place
- Y Appropriate recognition of NWDC as a major funding partner
- Y Agreement by the applicant to undertake appropriate evaluation of the project.

2.2. Refuse the decision on funding towards Box Pavilion.

3. Links to the Corporate Plan

- 3.1. The Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme has clear links to the Council's priority of partnerships and in practice through community based projects could support the delivery of other Council Priorities including Equalities and Diversity.

4. Background

- 4.1. Members agreed that at least 75% of the Executive Capital Partnership Fund would be allocated to applications
- 4.2. Following the recommendation made on 13th October 2005 the Executive Capital Partnership Fund has a Capital balance of £116,477 of which an annual sum of £10,000 has already been ring-fenced (Executive 19/7/05) to provide contributions to awards made from the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme.
- 4.3. Members agreed that the distribution of funding from the Executive Capital Partnership Scheme be based on the funding criteria approved by the Executive on 19th July 2005. See Appendix 1.

5. Discussion

Ref	Applicant	Proposal	Funding Requested
5.1	Jubilee Lake Project	Refurbishment of Jubilee Lake	£20,000

- 5.1 The Jubilee Lake project is responding to the needs identified in the Community Plan in particular addressing issues associated with a lack of recreational facilities throughout the community area. The project also will meet issues identified through

the Council's open space strategy and the site is to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve. See Appendix 2.

- 5.2 The project is being supported by a management plan compiled by the Cotswold Water Park that deals with both the ecological aspect of the site and the recreations and improvements to be made. This includes the re-surfacing of the pathways, the development of new footpaths with handrails and resurfacing of the car park. There is also a footbridge, picnic tables, signage and tree and shrub planting programme to be undertaken as well.
- 5.3 Area 2 Committee has awarded the project £20,000 from their Capital Budget and has referred it to Executive to be considered for the Executive Capital Partnership fund. The project application meets the criteria for the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme.
- 5.4 Wootton Bassett Town Council is a major funder of the project and has recognised the significant benefit it will bring to the area. The Town Council has committed £53,245 towards the project and an application has been submitted to the Viradoor Landfill Tax Scheme.
- 5.5 Should the Executive agree to support this application, an award of £20,000 will ensure that the Council does not exceed awarding 50% of the total project cost.
- 5.6 Officers are of the opinion that in making this award, Members will not only be responding to community needs, but through funding will become a key partner to enabling the project to begin.
- 5.7 **Officer Recommendation** – Award 20,000 from the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme conditional on:
 - Y The funds being drawn down within 2 years from the award being made
 - Y The balance of funding being in place
 - Y Appropriate recognition of NWDC as a major funding partner
 - Y Agreement by the applicant to undertake appropriate evaluation of the project.

Ref	Applicant	Proposal	Funding Requested
5.2	Box Parish Council	Box Pavilion	£24,500

- 5.8 The Box Pavilion project (see Appendix 3) meets the needs identified through the Community Plan in particular: "Lack of places for young people to meet" and "Lack of facilities for young people from the Villages." The project also address issues raised within the Corporate Plan around "Healthy Lifestyles." The project aims to engage a range of partners and will become a multi sport facility.
- 5.9 A project group is managing the scheme with Box Parish Council agreeing to underwrite any shortfall in running costs. There is a full Business Plan in place and planning permission for the pavilion has been granted. Members must be aware that the applicant wishes to make some amendments to the original specifications and thus far the Planning Officer has only given verbal agreement.

- 5.10 Area 4 Committee awarded the project £30,000 on the 17th January 2006. This award has been made on the condition that the applicant does not rescind the award in the future and that all other funding be in place. Following the agreement to make the award the Area Committee has referred the project to the Executive to be considered for the Executive Capital Partnership Fund.
- 5.11 Should the Executive agree to fund the project the Council must not exceed 50% of the total project cost.
- 5.12 The project is very ambitious and has been in development for the last two years with the total project cost being estimated at £346,000. The majority of funding is currently not in place and officers are of the opinion that a decision is premature.
- 5.13 **Officer Recommendation** – Refuse the decision on funding towards Box Pavilion.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. If Members approve these awards in line with officer recommendations, the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme will have a balance of £96,477 remaining in the 2005/2006 financial year
- 6.2. Members should note that this budget is a one-off and non-recurring.

7. Community & Environmental Implications

- 7.1. This scheme is an excellent example of the Council helping to support partnership projects and activities. Awards made by the Executive will enable applicants to contribute to the continuance and/or the improvement of cultural, social and community activity and well being across North Wiltshire, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent on the individual project.

8. Equal Opportunities Implications

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

Documents used in the preparation of Report

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC MANAGER TO THE EXECUTIVE – 9TH MARCH 2006

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