

Date of Meeting	31 st August 2006
Title of Report	District Wide and Community Area Award Schemes
Portfolio	Partnership Working
Link to Corporate Priorities	Partnership Working
Key Decision	NO
Executive Workplan Ref	B246
Public Report	YES

Summary of Report

This report brings forward recommendations made by the Chippenham Area (3) Committee regarding the Community Area Award and District-Wide Awards Schemes. The report sets out the implications of accepting these recommendations and provides alternative options.

Officer Recommendations

1. **A District –wide Awards Advisory Panel is established to guide the Lead Member, with a representative from each Area Committee being invited to join the Panel.**
2. **That any revenue funding remaining in the Area Committee Community Area Awards budget following the last dates publicised for funding distribution, should be vired to the District Wide Award Scheme for distribution.**
3. **To keep unchanged the Community Area Awards funding criteria which specifies that applicants may not apply for both capital and revenue funding for a the same project**
4. **That the Community Area Award funding criteria are re-visited by Members in January 2007, as part of the normal Member panel process which meets to review funding criteria.**
5. **To note that an options paper regarding the District-wide Award Scheme will form a future agenda item.**

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

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report considers establishing a Members District –wide Award Advisory Panel, the introduction of changes to the 2006/07 funding criteria for Community Area Awards. In addition it considers the virement of unallocated Community Area Award revenue funding to the District-wide Awards budget in order to meet anticipated demand.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 **Option 1:** A District –wide Awards Advisory Panel is established to guide the Lead Member, with a representative from each Area Committee being invited to join the Panel

The convening of an Advisory Panel would enable representatives from each Community Area consider funding applications received from more than one community area, or from across the whole of north Wiltshire.

Without the establishment of an Advisory Panel, District –wide Awards will continue to be distributed through delegation to the Team Leader, Community Partnerships, in consultation with the Lead Member for Partnerships.

- 2.2 **Option 2:** That any revenue funding remaining in the Area Committee Community Area Awards budget following the last dates publicised for funding distribution, should be vired to the District Wide Award Scheme for distribution

Virement of unallocated Area Committee Community Area Awards revenue budget could provide additional budget for distribution to District-wide Schemes.

Access to any additional revenue funding in February/March 2007, leaves only a short time in which funding could be allocated and used before the end of the 2006/07 financial year

Not approving the virement would limit allocation of awards to community schemes that benefit local people living in more than one community area or across the whole district.

Not approving the virement would enable any unallocated Area Committee Community Area Award budget to be used to offset any of the Council's possible 2006/07 overspend

- 2.3 **Option 3 :** To keep unchanged the Community Area Awards funding criteria which specifies that applicants may not apply for both capital and revenue funding for a the same project

There is an annual opportunity to review criteria. Changing the 2006/07 criteria at this stage could be confusing for applicants and costly and time consuming to chance publicity

There is a long held understanding that the Council does not offer revenue funding to schemes where provide capital. Offering both capital and revenue funding to the same scheme can lead to financial dependency of organisations on the Council

- 2.4 **Option 4:** That the Community Area Award funding criteria are re-visited by Members in January 2007, as part of the normal Member panel process which meets to review funding criteria

This provides an annual opportunity for Members from each of the Area Committees to agree Community Area Award 2007/08 funding criteria and for this to be subsequently approved by Executive

- 2.5 **Option 5:** To note that an options paper regarding the District-wide Award Scheme will form a future agenda item

Members will have an opportunity to debate whether they wish to retain this scheme.

3 **Background**

- 3.1 On 5th June 2006 members of Chippenham Area (3) Committee recommended the following to Executive

3.2 *That a District –wide Awards Advisory panel is established to guide the Lead Member, with a representative from each Area Committee being invited to join the Panel; and*

3.3 *They reconsider the Community Area awards funding criteria, in particular to investigate the possibility of:*

- *Virements between Community Area Awards budgets when another area has not spent all of its budget for that funding year; and*
- *Amending the criteria to enable organisations to apply for capital and revenue funding for a project within the same funding year.*

3.4 The District –wide Award Scheme is a centrally held revenue budget which provides funding for those projects which cover more than one Community Area or the whole of North Wiltshire. Awards given through this scheme have in the past supported a range of important and sometimes discreet local services that have an important role in supporting the community; while others have acted as a lever to bring funding into the district.

3.5 In 2006/07 the District-wide Awards budget allocation was £7,900. After funding has been allocated to SLA commitments and groups previously awarded tapered funding, a budget of £3,600 remains for distribution.

3.6 Although the budget is small, it provides crucial funding opportunities to local groups requiring revenue funding and forms an important part of the Council's grant funding programme.

3.7 During the 2006/07 budget round it was hoped that the capacity of the District-wide Award Scheme would be increased to better cope with the demand on this scheme, but this was not the case. Subsequently each of the five Area Committees were invited to make a virement of £1,000 from their 2006/07 Community Area Award revenue budget (historically rarely fully allocated). Not every Committee agreed to this request and as such the budget remains at £3,600.

- 3.8 Community Area Award funding criteria are reviewed annually in January by a Panel, including representatives of each Area Committee. The Executive subsequently approves the revised policy and procedures. Should Members of the Area Committees wish to act in contravention of this policy, the matter needs to be referred to the Executive.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 It is suggested that despite the Area Committees deciding not to contribute towards the 2006/07 District –wide Award Scheme an Advisory Panel should be established. This would be valuable since it would enable Area Committee representatives to have greater insight into the range of schemes funded, including those that cover more than one community area or the whole of the district.
- 4.2 The closing date for applications to the District-wide Award scheme is 29th September 2006 and it is anticipated that allocation of funding will take place during the first half of October.
- 4.3 Since the indications are that 2006/07 District-wide Award is unlikely to meet the demand from applicants, it is suggested that following the last Area Committee round of Community Area Award funding distribution meetings that any remaining revenue budget be vired to the District-wide award Scheme for distribution.
- 4.4 Such an arrangement would ensure that not only would Area Committees remain in full control of the distribution of their budget, but that any unallocated revenue budget would be vired for distribution to schemes which fulfil the criteria for the District –wide Awards Scheme.
- 4.5 The last funding rounds of Area Committees take place on:
- Area 1 -24 January 2007
 - Area 2 -28 February 2007
 - Area 3 -5 February 2007
 - Area 4 -16 January 2007
 - Area -5 27 February 2007

This would enable distribution of any remaining budget early in March.

- 4.6 In the longer term, consideration will need to be made as to how Members wish to fund the District Wide Award Scheme and this will form the subject of a future report.
- 4.7 It has long been the case that this Council does not revenue fund schemes which have previously received capital funding. This should not differ in the case of a Community Area Award.
- 4.8 The rationale for adopting such an approach is based upon the long held Council's desire to promote sustainability of funded projects. Without such an approach there is a risk that applicants give insufficient attention to the running costs of capital funded schemes, run into problems to operate them and subsequently look to the Council to help them out.
- 4.9 The annual review of the Community Area Award funding criteria in January 2007 will enable Members to revisit this and any other issues. Any such amendments would subsequently be considered and approved by Executive.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Should Members approve the virement of unallocated Community Area Award revenue budget to the District –wide Award Scheme, they would forfeit this sum coming back centrally to offset any of the Council’s possible overspend.
- 5.2 If Members agree that applicants of Community Area Awards should be able to apply for both capital and revenue funding towards the same scheme, this could have a considerable long-term impact on the Council’s revenue budget.

6. Community and Environmental Implications

- 6.1 Community Area Awards and District-wide Awards contribute to the continuance and or improvement of cultural, economic social and community activity and well-being in the Community Area.

7. Equality & Diversity Implications

- 7.1 A proportion of the projects and services funded under the District wide-Award Scheme promote community well-being and support the Council’s agenda for social inclusion.
- 7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment for the District wide-Award Scheme has not been completed.

8. Risk Analysis

- 8.1 Should the virement of any unallocated Area Committee Community Area Awards Budget to the District – wide Scheme be approved, there may be a risk that it could not be allocated and utilised before the end of the 2006/07 financial year. This would have a moderate (2) impact on would be recipients, is very likely (4) and should be ranked as medium risk.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Area 3 Committee 5 June 2006

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Community Area Revenue Funding 2006/2007	Area 2 Committee 08-02-06	CR41
	Area 4 Committee 21-03-06	CO32
	Area 1 Committee 29-03-06	M62
	Area 3 Committee 03-04-06	CH41
	Area 5 Committee 11-04-06	CA55