

Date of Meeting	6 June 2007
Title of Report	<b>Area 1 Community Area Awards Funding Distribution 2007/2008</b>
Link to Corporate Priorities	To put customers at the heart of everything we do – Support Community Area Partnerships and Community Plans
Public Report	YES

**Summary of Report**

This report seeks to familiarise members of Area 1 Committee with the Community Area Awards funding criteria and procedures for 2007/2008. It goes on to inform Members of the 2007/2008 budget available and presents recommendations relating to 2 applications seeking funding from the 2007/2008 Community Area Award Scheme. It links the applications to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan where appropriate and sets out the implications of accepting these recommendations.

**Officer Recommendations**

- 1. Members note their 2008/2009 budget allocation and funding criteria for the Community Area Award scheme.**

**To agree funding distribution of the Area 1 Community Area Awards budget, based on the agreed criteria for 2007/2008:**

- 2. Lea & Cleverton Parish Council – Award £125 from the revenue budget, towards the cost of providing new cricket netting on the Jubilee Playing Field, conditional on the Parish Council funding the balance.**
- 3. Sherston Arts Festival 2007 – Award £500 from the revenue budget, towards the cost of installing a new hanging system for the Art exhibition in the Church, conditional on the balance of the 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

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the budget available and funding criteria for the 2007/2008 Community Area Awards scheme, which were approved by Executive on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007. It considers 2 applications for 2007/2008 Community Area Award funding, both of which relate to issues and priorities identified in the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan.

## 2. Options and Options Appraisal

### 2.1 Option 1: **Members note their 2008/2009 budget allocation and funding criteria for Community Area Awards**

- 2.2 The budget allocation was approved by Council on 22 February 2007 and is not a matter of debate. Details are outlined in section 3 of this report.

- 2.3 The Community Area Award criteria for 2007/08 were reviewed by a Joint Community Area Funding Advisory Body in January 2007. The Executive subsequently approved the Community Area Award Policy on 8 February 2007. Details are outlined in section 3 of this report. Criteria are reviewed annually. Should Members wish to act in contravention of this policy, the matter must be referred to the Executive.

### 2.4 Option 3: **Award Lea & Cleverton Parish Council £125 from the revenue budget, towards the cost of providing new cricket netting on the Jubilee Playing Field, conditional on the Parish Council funding the balance.**

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Lea & Cleverton Parish Council App 1	Cricket netting for the cricket practice area on the Jubilee Playing Field	Revenue	£250

- 2.4.1 The application does not meet the 2007/2008 funding criteria as it states that “applications from Town or Parish Councils will not receive more funding than that contributed by the town or parish council”. The rationale behind this decision is that both Town and Parishes can raise funding for community projects through their precept.
- 2.4.2 There are specific links to this project and the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan, which clearly identify the need to, “maintain and improve the Jubilee playing field for the benefit of parishioners of all ages and abilities and to encourage active sports participation “(M&VCAP pp34).
- 2.4.3 Beneficiaries of this funding would primarily be the cricket team and other users of the playing field. The current population of the parish is approximately 800.
- 2.4.4 To comply with Members funding criteria any award would be conditional on the Parish Council contributing a minimum of 50% of the total cost of the cricket nets.
- 2.4.5 A decision not to fund this project is unlikely to deprive local people of replacement nets, since funding would probably be found either from the parish council or from

elsewhere. It does, however provide an opportunity to support issues identified in the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan.

- 2.5 Option 4: **Sherston Arts Festival 2007 – Award £500 from the revenue budget, towards the cost of installing a new hanging system for the Art exhibition in the Church, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place.**

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Sherston Arts Festival 2007 App 3	Installation of a new hanging system for the Art exhibition in the Church	Revenue	£500

- 2.5.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2007/2008 funding criteria. Start-up costs were awarded to the Sherston Festival in 2005/2006, and while the criteria look to fund new schemes, the applicant is in this case seeking funding towards a hanging system rather than running costs.
- 2.5.2 While there are no specific references to the Sherston Festival identified in the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan it does contain references to the need to promote culture and rural arts in the villages (M&VCAP pp 37).
- 2.5.3 Should Members of Area 1 Committee agree to contribute funding towards the new hanging system, they may wish to consider making the award conditional on the Festival Committee making it available for a moderate fee to other local groups.
- 2.5.4 A decision not to fund this project would possibly result in the 2006 display boards having to be used. These were considered both dangerous and time consuming to mount the exhibition.

### 3. Background Information

- 3.1 In 2007/2008 Area 1 Committee have been allocated a capital budget of £40,000 and a revenue budget of £8,000 for distribution in the form of Community Area Awards.
- 3.1.1 A copy of the 2007/2008 Community Area Awards Funding Pack can be found in Appendix 3. This contains information relating to funding criteria, sources of advice and funding available other than from the District Council, an application form and a chart outlining the process by which their application will be dealt with.
- 3.1.2 Applications can be made electronically via the Council's website, ([www.northwilts.gov.uk](http://www.northwilts.gov.uk)) or via a paper version.
- 3.2 Funding Criteria
- 3.2.1 Key elements and changes to the funding criteria are outlined below:
- ◆ The funding criteria require that at least 75% of the Community Area Award budget be allocated to applications that demonstrate explicit links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Plan. The remaining 25% would be available for those schemes that fell outside the Community Plan, but remained important for local people and were able to demonstrate that they meet a community-identified need.

- ◆ Applications 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. Where those applications come from Parish and Town Councils, the Area 1 Committee would not award more than the amount contributed by the Town or Parish Council. The rationale for this decision is based on the ability of Town and Parishes to raise funding through the precept.
- ◆ That funding would be awarded according to demand over the three funding rounds and not divided equally between the three tranches.
- ◆ Planning permission would need only to have been investigated by the applicant at the time of submitting an application, although receipt of planning permission would form a condition of all Awards being made.
- ◆ No Award could 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.
- ◆ Capital and revenue could not to be awarded to the same scheme. The rationale for adopting this approach was to ensure that applicants ensured that before committing themselves to capital schemes, they have the means by which they could sustain their project.

3.2.2 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that there will be three funding rounds during 2006/07. The first is contained in this report, and the other two will take place on:

- ◆ 26 September 2007
- ◆ 23 January 2008

3.2.3 The deadline for receipt of applications to be considered at the September Committee meeting is 17 August 2007.

### 3.3 Budget

3.3.1 The rules on capital have remained unchanged, resulting in the Area 1 capital underspend of £5,435 being carried forward. The total capital available to this Committee during 2007/2008 is therefore £45,435.

3.3.2 Appendix 4 provides details of the Area 1 capital and revenue balance for 2007/2008. Appendix 5 details the 2006/2007 distribution of awards across Area 1, in an attempt to assist Members when distributing funding across the whole of the community area.

### 3.4 Feedback from Recipients of Funding

3.4.1 All recipients of funding are requested to complete an evaluation sheet, following completion of their project. Provision of this information is a condition of funding and failure to do so precludes them from future funding from the Committee.

3.4.2 Member of this Committee agreed during 2006/2007 representatives from groups in receipt of Community Area Awards would be invited to attend the Committee to explain how their Award was used and the impact it had on the community.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to Area 1 Committee as outlined in section 3 of this report.
- 4.2 A capital award of less than £1,000 may only be made where it can be shown to generate external funding.
- 4.3 If Members make awards in line with officer recommendations, Members will have a capital balance of £45,4350 and a revenue balance of £7,375.

#### **5. Community and Environmental Implications**

- 5.1 The majority of the awards can be directly linked to priority themes and aspirations laid out in the Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Plan. Where this is not the case the applicant can provide evidence that either local consultation or pilot projects to identify a community need have been undertaken.
- 5.2 Awards made by Area Committee to successful applicants will contribute to the continuance and /or the 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.

#### **6. Equality & Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 Community Area Awards give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.
- 6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment for the Community Area Awards has been undertaken and copies are available on the Council's website.

#### **7. Risk Analysis**

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

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appendix 1 Application – Lea &amp; Cleverton Parish Council</li><li>• Appendix 2 Application – Sherston Arts Festival 2007</li><li>• Appendix 3 Community Area Awards Funding Pack.</li><li>• Appendix 4 Area 1 2007/2008 Community Area Award Budget</li><li>• Appendix 5 Area 1 2006/2007 geographical distribution of Community Area Awards</li></ul>
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	Community Area Award Funding Criteria 2007/08 Community Area Awards Policy 2007/2008

#### Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Community Area Awards Policy 2007/2008	Executive - 8 February 2007	E175

