

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL
AMESBURY AREA BOARD
13TH OCTOBER 2009**

ITEM NO. 10(b)

PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT SCHEME - SUMMARY

1. Wiltshire agreed a Local Public Service Agreement with government that ended in March 2008. This contained 12 'stretch' (difficult) targets that required a number of organisations to work together to achieve the improvement. The council's performance against these targets earned Performance Reward Grant (PRG) of £5.4m. This is paid by government over two years; half in 2009 and half in 2010.
2. This presents a unique opportunity for the council to put additional resources into its Local Agreement for Wiltshire (LAW) and to help combat the recession in Wiltshire through the Action for Wiltshire programme. £1.6m of this grant will be reinvested in the target areas that earned the grant, to take forward Wiltshire's ambitions. Another £1m will support some countywide initiatives under Action for Wiltshire. The balance of £2.8m is available over two to three years for bids from Area Boards that propose initiatives that take forward those things in the LAW and Action for Wiltshire that are important to local people.
3. A guidance pack (see [Appendix 1](#)) to explain how to bid for this funding has been produced, and an application form has also been designed (see [Appendix 2](#)). These documents are also available electronically at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/wiltshirefamilyofpartnershipsworkingtogether/localagreementforwiltshire/performanceawardgrantscheme.htm>. The steps Area Boards are requested to follow in making applications are as follow:

(a)	work with your local community, including community area partnerships where these exist, to identify suitable initiatives.
(b)	<p>read the notes within the guidance pack and make sure that your project meets the requirements – in summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• there is local support to take the action;• it supports ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire or helps combat the recession as part of the Action for Wiltshire programme;• there are no continuing unfunded costs at the end of the project.

(c)	if you would like advice please contact any of the named people given on the contact list within the guidance pack.
(d)	once the application has been approved by the chairman of the area board please email it to: wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk
(e)	the Performance Team will check that the bid requirements are met, that measures have been given for the likely impact and that the application confirms that no unfunded financial commitment will result from the project.
(f)	the application will be passed to the appropriate County Partnership representative so that they can check how this fits with any similar initiatives (they may be able to help you make contact) and whether the impact improvement suggested appears realistic. We aim to do this as quickly as possible, but there may be questions we need to ask so please allow for this time when making your bid.
(g)	the person named as the Area Board contact on the application may be contacted by a representative of a County Partnership to talk about the bid and its intended impact. Following this conversation you may want to amend your bid to take advantage of new information. If you agree any changes with the County Partnership representative we won't have to repeat this part of the process.
(h)	the Area Board will be notified by the Performance Team that either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your grant application has been successful, or • your amended grant application (see g above) has been successful, or • we or the County Partnership representative would like a conversation to better understand the bid before a decision can be made, or • your bid is unsuccessful. If that happens we will contact the Community Area Manager to explain the reason.

4. Ideally, Area Boards for all areas of Wiltshire will benefit from this scheme, and there will be a spread of initiatives across LAW ambitions and Action for Wiltshire. Inevitably not all Area Boards will want to make bids at the same time, and proposals will take time to develop. The timing of local initiatives will also vary. To help ensure that all Area Boards have the opportunity to bid the funding will be released in 3 month tranches of £250,000. The first tranche will run from October to December 2009.

5. The Council's Performance Team will keep this under review and if appropriate will vary the timing and amount of funding in each tranche. At the end of the tranche any unallocated money will go back into the pool for future bids. Any bids pending when all the money in that tranche has been allocated will be carried forward to the next tranche.
 6. The government has imposed a grant condition that the grant must be used half for capital and half for revenue expenditure. Guidance on what counts as 'capital' is given in the pack. Experience so far is that bids tend towards revenue expenditure, so it may be easier to get funding for 'capital' type initiatives.
 7. Karen Linaker, the Amesbury Community Area Manager will assist in the development of local bids and provide support to the board in submitting bids to the council's Performance Team.
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Karen Linaker

Amesbury Community Area Manager (07917 751728)

13th October 2009