

## WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

## ITEM NO. 13(b)

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Amesbury Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>8 December 2009</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Performance Reward Grant Scheme</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b> To ask Councillors to consider the details of an application seeking funding from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Avon Valley College are requesting a grant of £1,500 for the purchase of equipment to facilitate and furnish a new Alternative Living and Applied Learning Centre.</li></ol>	

### 1. Background

1.1 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. Our 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.

This presents a unique opportunity for us to put additional resources into our Local Agreement for Wiltshire (LAW) and to 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 supported by Area Boards that propose initiatives that take forward those things in the LAW and Action for Wiltshire that are important to local people.

Ideally all community areas of Wiltshire will benefit from this scheme, and there will be a spread of initiatives across LAW ambitions and Action for Wiltshire. We understand that not all bids will be made at the same time, and that proposals will take time to develop. The timing of local initiatives will also vary. To help ensure that projects in all community areas 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. We 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.

The government imposes 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 funding pack on the Wiltshire Council website. Experience so far is that bids tend towards revenue expenditure, so it may be easier to get funding for 'capital' type initiatives.

Bids will initially be submitted as 'Expressions of Interest' to the local appropriate Area Board. The Area Board will make a decision as to which bids it supports. Lack of support from the Area Board does not rule out the bid going forward to the grant scheme.

Full details of the Scheme and a Funding Pack are available from the Wiltshire council website:

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/.../localagreementforwiltshire/performanceawardgrantscheme.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/.../localagreementforwiltshire/performanceawardgrantscheme.htm)

## 2. Criteria for the Grant Scheme

### 2.1 Points to consider are:

- Funding under this scheme is for initiatives that have local support and will take forward ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire, or help combat the recession as part of the Action for Wiltshire programme. Information on this is provided in the grant pack.
- It is one-off funding, so should not be used for things that will result in an unfunded financial commitment after the end of the project. As part of the bid you will be asked to confirm that no unfunded commitments will result from your proposal.
- In total, Performance Reward Grant must be spent half on revenue and half on capital expenditure (guidance is given in the pack). Experience is that many initiatives are 'revenue', so there may be more money left available for 'capital' bids. We will need to account to government on the use of the grant, so will ask you for information on what the money will be used for.
- It is important that these initiatives have a positive local impact, and that we are able to show success. So you will be asked how you will measure that success – and we will ask you to let us know how well it worked.

The use of the grant will fall within the Area Board's usual good governance arrangements.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
3.	Avon Valley College	To purchase equipment to facilitate and furnish a new Alternative Living and Applied Learning Centre.	£1,500

#### 3.1.1 It is recommended that the Area Board supports this application.

- 3.1.2 This funding will help to equip and furnish a new “Alternative Living and Applied Learning Centre” at Avon Valley College. The College is committed to community education, and this initiative will further strengthen its ability to provide educational and social programmes of learning for a wide range of people in Durrington and the surrounding villages. These programmes of community education will provide opportunities for people of all ages, people with disabilities, students from all schools in the area, and the general public. Students wishing to be involved in the care industry will help to run the centre as part of their college course work.
- 3.1.3 The activities to be facilitated by this project include craft lessons, social events, an ‘International Centre’, media suite, environmental and land based centre, courses in domestic science for students, the elderly and disabled, and a radio station to be broadcast over the internet. This project will also extend ICT facilities at the college for use by students and local community specifically for language and international work. Additionally the project will provide space and facilities for children and their families with English as a second language to learn English, and space for different nationalities to share and celebrate their culture.
- 3.1.4 The items of equipment to be purchased include desks, chairs, storage cabinets, shelves with pin board, carpets, lamps, curtains, settee, dining table and chairs.
- 3.1.5 The two main Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambitions that this initiative will support is ‘Building Resilient Communities’ and ‘Lives not Services’.
- 3.1.6 The approximate timetable of the project is to have the new centre up and running by September 2010.
- 3.1.7 The benefits of the project will be monitored by a set of curriculum targets and will be measured in conjunction with partners through the new diploma and apprenticeship schemes.
- 3.1.8 Any unfunded commitments arising from this project will be paid for by using available funding from an award of the college’s second specialism.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1 grant application form</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Karen Linaker, Community Area Manager Tel: 07917 751 728 E-mail: karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk