

Agenda Item 9

Community Initiatives
Salisbury District Council
PO Box 2117
Salisbury
Wiltshire, SP2 2DF

officer to contact: Robin Townsend
direct line: 01722 434666
email: rtownsend@salisbury.gov.uk
web: www.salisbury.gov.uk

Report

Subject : Funding criteria for the General Community Fund
Report to : The Cabinet
Date : Wednesday 26 March 2008
Author : Robin Townsend, Head of Community Initiatives
Deputy Leader of the Cabinet : Councillor S Fear

1. Report Summary:

This report seeks approval of the criteria to be used to distribute the £130,000 General Community Fund that has been included in the 08/9 Revenue Budget.

2. Background:

- 2.1 The District Council invests in excess of £600K per year into the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). The Council recognises that funding to the VCS is not a statutory obligation, it does however acknowledge the value and benefit that the work of the sector brings to the community and local area, work that supports the council's corporate and community strategies and builds social capital. It has also enabled the active involvement of the sector in partnership development such as the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance, the development of the Wiltshire Compact, creation of services such as the Funding Advice Service and Training Partnership
- 2.2 The Council currently administers two grants schemes that are available to the local voluntary and community sector:
 - South Wiltshire Area Grants (SWAG) are geographically specific grants allocated by the Area Committees.
 - Salisbury District Community Grants which is used to develop and strengthen a number of key infrastructure organisations.
- 2.3 The District Council last reviewed its grants policy in 2006 and made a number of recommendations. These included the explicit use of the Community District Grants to develop and strengthen a number of key voluntary Sector infrastructure organisations by increasing and where relevant and appropriate their funding through either existing or new service agreements.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



- 2.4 The Cabinet, having given consideration to the review referred to above has agreed a revised approach to the allocation of grant monies for the 08/09 financial year. As well as increasing the SWAG funding by £20,000 for each Area Committee and establishing a £40,000 fund to support projects that will support the council's political priorities, a new General Community Fund totaling £130K has been created to provide members with flexibility during the 08/09 financial year to support community projects that benefit the well being of the people of South Wiltshire.
- 2.5 The Cabinet recognises the benefit that the work of the voluntary and community sector brings to the local community and has identified the need to establish a General Community fund to support local groups and organisations deliver district wide projects and work that supports the councils corporate and political priorities.
- 2.6 Cabinet recognises that there is a need to establish a grant criteria to underpin this new grant stream and it is proposed that the criteria outlined in annex A is approved. Once approved an application form will be developed to accompany the criteria.

3. The Process:

- 3.1 It is suggested that the Cabinet may wish to determine applications in two tranches to give members flexibility to consider applications that are received throughout the year. Timescales associated with this proposal would lend itself to consider grants applications in June and November 2008
- 3.2 It is suggested that the grant applications are assessed by a grants panel consisting of Councillors, compilation to be determined

4. Wiltshire Compact:

- 4.1 Salisbury District council continues to work towards full compliance with the Wiltshire Compact Board's Code of Good Practice on Funding and Procurement.
- 4.2 The Code of Practice on Funding and Procurement is one of four codes that describe how the Compact will work in practice. It is based on a national Code that was developed by Central Government together with the voluntary and community sector.
- 4.3 In terms of funding and procurement code there is a requirement to develop and sustain effective procedures that result in sound funding decisions to support well delivered services. Funders will also commit to ensuring that all funding streams are transparent, consistent and fair.

5. Recommendation:

Cabinet is requested to approve the grant criteria outlined in Annex A

6. Background Papers:

Review of the Council's Community Grants and South Wiltshire Area Grants Policy – 06
September 2006
Wiltshire Compact

7. Implications:

- **Financial** : None
- **Legal** : None at this stage
- **Human Rights** : None at this Stage
- **Personnel (POD)** : None at this stage
- **Community Safety** : None at this stage
- **Environmental** : None at this stage
- **ICT** :
- **Equality and Diversity** :
- **Council's Core Values** : All
- **Wards Affected** : All

General Community Fund Policy

Salisbury District Council's General Community Fund supports community led projects that improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the residents of South Wiltshire

The council will consider applications for funding that:

- Support the Council's corporate objectives, key strategies and policies
- Assist in delivering the Council's Core Values
- Support the delivery of parish, town, ward and community plan priorities
- Support the voluntary and community sector improve the quality of life for the residents of South Wiltshire
- Make a significant contribution to the role of the voluntary and community sector
- Encourage partnership working within the local community
- Represent value for money
- Contributes to developing the values of equality and diversity, supporting disadvantaged and socially excluded groups in South Wiltshire

Groups can apply if they:

- are set up for charitable purposes or considered to be not for profit organisations that work for the benefit of local people
- have aims and objectives that are clear and well defined and are of real benefit to the community
- are properly constituted or have a Memorandum of Association or rules
- have a bank account or building society account with at least two joint signatures
- have annual accounts or statements of income and expenditure
- have an equal opportunities policy

When assessing an application the council will:

- Only consider one application per project
- Expect applicants to demonstrate financial need and as a guide the council would expect applicants to have no more than six months reserves. However consideration will be given the Government guidelines on Full Cost recovery that states that Funding bodies must recognise that it is legitimate for third sector organisations to recover the appropriate level of overhead costs associated with the provision of a particular Service
- Permit applications for community purposes from religious organisations, but will not fund religious or political groups or activities
- Require applicants to be suitable and have a track record consistent with the level of funding being applied for
- Only approve one application per organisation
- Consider applications from core funded organisations who apply for funding support for projects not included in the service agreements

The council will not:

- support applications that are deemed to be the role of other public funded bodies (e.g. WCC, Parish and Town Councils, PCT).
- accept applications from other precepting or public-funded bodies
- accept applications that would be for the benefit of an individual
- accept applications from businesses, commercial or profit making organisations
- consider projects already receiving funding from the council
- consider projects where construction work, the event, or the project itself have already commenced ie grants will not be awarded retrospectively

- consider applications from organisations whose principal area of activity is outside the District
- Consider applications that are relevant to another district council grant scheme
- support applications to cover general revenue costs or capital costs of building, such as:
 - Rents or insurance
 - Rates, council tax and utilities
 - Endowments
 - Loan payments
 - Professional fundraisers

How much is available

- The total grant fund is £130,000
- Minimum grant award will be £5,000
- There will be no maximum grant award
- At least 10% of the project costs must be raised locally by the applicant

Additional Information that will be required

Accounts for the past two years (new organisations with less than two years accounts will be expected to provide an estimate of income and expenditure for the first year).