

Performance Reward Grant Scheme

Wiltshire agreed a Local Public Service Agreement with central 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 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.

A guidance pack to explain how to bid for this funding has been produced. A printed copy is available from the Community Area Manager and it is available electronically at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/wiltshirefamilyofpartnershipsworkingtogether/localagreementforwiltshire/performanceawardgrantscheme.htm>

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. We understand that not all Area Boards will want to make bids at the same time, and that 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.

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 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.

The deadline for the first tranche is not until the end of December as set out in the bid pack, however decisions will be made on an ongoing basis.

The Public Service Board will set up a panel to review/make decisions on the bids and the dates for these are in the process of being set.

If you have any queries, please refer to the bid pack and guidance in the first instance or:

For advice about developing local bids:

Community Area Manager: Richard Munro

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For general advice:

Karen Spence: Performance Manager, Performance Team

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