

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ITEM NO. 10a

Report to	Tidworth Area Board
Date of Meeting	16 November 2009
Title of Report	Performance Reward Grant Scheme
Purpose of Report To ask Councillors to consider their support for 2 applications seeking funding from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ludgershall Scout Hall seeking a grant of £23,500 for the replacement of the existing roof, soffits, gutters and downpipes and replacement of the existing fire door and rear and side doors.2. Collingbourne Ducis and Everleigh PCC – seeking a grant of £10,000 towards the cost of constructing a toilet with baby change and disabled facilities in a new build room attached to St Andrew's Church.	

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

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
3.1 Tid: 01/09	Ludgershall Scouts Hall	To replace the existing roof, soffits, gutters and downpipes and replace the existing fire door and rear and side doors.	£23,500

- 3.1.1 It is recommended that the Area Board supports this application from Ludgershall Scouts Hall for a grant of £23,500. This is 100% of the total cost for all the works necessary to keep the building waterproof and in sound condition externally. The hall has recently had other work carried out on it to improve the interior. This was funded by a grant from the Tidworth Area Board, Ludgershall Town Council and some funding from the hall's bank account. The hire fees are kept low to enable local people and organisations to be able to hire the hall and they do not have the capital necessary for these works.
- 3.1.2 The hall contributes to the Building Resilient Communities ambition of Wiltshire Council by providing a venue for the community groups, voluntary sector and statutory authorities to meet, hold events and work together. A large number of groups use the hall regularly including a young dance group, family group, Kennet Disabled Friends' Group, Ludgershall town Council, the local church, etc. It is available for local people and groups of all ages, interests and group sizes to hire at a reasonable cost to ensure that it remains available to all. Many of these groups are run by volunteers and this enables them to run their groups from an affordable venue and increase volunteering. Young people are enabled to take part in positive activities and older people have a place to meet in the various clubs that operate from the building.
- 3.1.3 This project to repair the outside of the hall by replacing the roof, soffits, gutters and down pipes and the fire door and rear and side doors, will ensure that the building is weatherproof and extend the life of a much used venue which is nearly 100 years old. The initiative is a priority because the work needs to be done to ensure the continued use of the hall by the 200 plus people who use it each week. To delay these repairs will allow further

deterioration to happen to the fabric, possibly resulting in the hall being closed until repairs have been carried out. As the hall is almost constantly booked, this would have a serious effect on the organisations which use it.

- 3.1.4 Following repair, the hall will be maintained by the Trustees through regular maintenance, funded by the money obtained from the hire charges.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
4.1 Tid: 02/09	Collingbourne and Everleigh Parochial Church Council	To construct a toilet with baby change and disabled facilities in a new build room attached to St Andrew's Church, Collingbourne Ducis.	£10,000

- 4.1.1 The Board is asked to consider supporting this application for a grant of £10,000 to the Performance Reward Grant Scheme. The project has also applied for a grant of £5,000 from the Community Grants scheme. Councillors will need to consider separately whether they will approve the grant of £5,000 requested support the application to the Performance Reward Grant Scheme, which is part of the overall funding package. The £10,000 requested in this application from the Performance Rewards Grant Scheme is to replace or repay the private loan of the same amount which is also a key part of the funding package. The applicant has checked with the officer administering the scheme and she has confirmed that applying to use the scheme's funds to clear a loan for this capital project would be permissible. Both amounts of funding are a necessary part of the funding package if the taking out of a loan is to be avoided.

- 4.1.2 The project involves the construction of a toilet with baby change and disabled facilities in a new build room with access from inside the building. St. Andrews is in the centre of Collingbourne Ducis, is listed Grade 2* and has never had toilet facilities since it was built in the 12th century. As policy, the Parochial Church Council wants to encourage community involvement across the generations and for the building to be familiar to, and used much more by, all sections of the community for anything for which it is suitable, be it a drop in chat session, meeting, exhibition, or concert, in order the building can realise its full potential. This aspiration is impossible without toilet facilities.

- 4.1.3 The project contributes mainly to the Building Resilient Communities ambition of Wiltshire Council. St Andrew's church is a Grade 2* listed building with very good acoustics which are commented on by performers when the building is used for dramatic or musical events and it is the only venue in the village with fixed seating for 150 people. The PCC wants the building to be familiar to and used much more by all sections of the community for any suitable use such as meetings, exhibitions, or concerts, etc. The building has no toilet but is served by drains and water. This limits its use very severely to short events of about an hour unless portable toilets are hired in, such as for a concert. Please see the attached application form for details of the many and various organisations which hold meetings, events, concerts, etc. in the

hall covering a wide spectrum of age groups and interests. All of these activities add to the fabric of the community and draw people together.

- 4.1.4 The project also contributes to the Safer Communities ambition as it provides an additional venue in the village for the various age groups. Recent community work has shown that anti-social behaviour has been substantially reduced by structured social and community involvement other than sport and a few clubs.
- 4.1.5 Following the build of the new toilet, this facility will be maintained by the church and kept in good order for all who use the building. There will be no unfunded commitments from this initiative.
- 4.1.6 The total project cost is £46,585, broken down as shown in the application form. £10,000 of the funding package is in the form of a private loan. To date confirmed funds have been raised of £31,357 including donations and a grant from the parish council. A loan of £10,000 has been guaranteed by a private benefactor so that work can begin at the end of 2009, subject other funding being in place, which the Parochial Church Council (PCC) believe it will be. When the running income for the church is taken from its income, it leaves a relatively small margin of income for the repayment of the loan. This is the greatest risk to the project and is the reason for the application and for the PCC asking the Area Board to support its application.

Appendices:	2 grant application forms
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