

ITEM NO. 11

Report to the Warminster Area Board – 14th January 2009 Report from the Community Area Manager

Proposal to work with Warminster Community Radio to record the voices of those unable to attend the area board

Background:

Area boards are committed to giving local people the opportunity to influence local decisions and to contribute to discussions at the area board. It is recognised that not everyone is able to attend meetings and that the area board should endeavour to seek the views of the wider community, rather than focussing solely on those at the meetings.

During the development phase of the area boards various methods of engaging local people. One of the most successful was to record (audio or video) the opinions of local people to be played at the area board meeting.

Although this approach has proved successful in other areas, it is important to test the idea locally.

Area boards have the authority to allocate their delegated funds in accordance with the guidance contained within the Area Board Handbook (see page 31). This may include allocating funding to projects that support the aims and objectives of the area board.

Requirements of Warminster Area Board:

Warminster area board needs to hear from groups and individuals who are not willing or able to attend the meetings. This could include members of the public (street polling), people using day centres, people with disabilities, people living in sheltered accommodation, young people (at school/youth club/in public).

The area board may want to gather comments on specific agenda items. There may also be an opportunity to work with Warminster and Villages Community Partnership (WVCP) to update the community plan using this approach.

Initial investigation has identified that Warminster Community Radio (WCR) has the capacity to provide edited recordings, lasting approximately ten minutes, to be played at each area board meeting.

Financial Implications:

If all community area grant applications to the 14 January 2010 meeting are agreed, the area board will have a remaining budget of £2065.

It is proposed that the project should start with the 4th March 2010 meeting and each subsequent meeting in 2010/11.

Cost of the proposal (working with WCR):

Interviewer/technician £25

Studio hire £35

Master CD £10

Total per meeting £70

Total for year (6 meetings) £420 (including 4 March = £490)

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the area board allocates £490 to commission WCR to provide the service outlined above.

During this time, the method can be developed and evaluated. If the project proves successful, it is recommended that Warminster and Villages Community Partnership include the revenue cost within their application for core funding. This should include any additional cost relating to the ongoing development of the community plan.

Background Reading:

Area Board Handbook <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshires-area-boards-the-handbook.pdf>

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