

Report to	Westbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	3 February 2011
Title of Report	Performance Reward Grant Scheme
Purpose of Report	
<p>To ask Councillors to consider the details of one application for funding from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme:</p> <p>1. The Laverton Institute Trust is requesting a grant of £44,379 to fund the refurbishment of the toilets and provision of a separate toilet for the disabled and a baby-changing facility.</p>	

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. 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	The Laverton Institute Trust	The Laverton Project sets out a phased approach to the total refurbishment of the Laverton Hall, Westbury. Phase I, which included provision of a lift for the disabled, has been completed and Phase II will commence shortly now that funding is available. Part of Phase II includes the refurbishment of the toilets and provision of a separate toilet for the disabled. Additionally a baby-changing facility is envisaged to be provided in the ladies toilet.	£38, 168.00 + £6211 for fees/building permission (Total £44,379)

3.1.1 This application supports 5 out of the 7 ambitions of the Performance Reward Grant Scheme – building resilient communities, lives not services, supporting economic growth, Action for Wiltshire - combating the recession, improving outcomes for children and young people.

3.1.2 To enable this project to proceed the Area Board is asked to support this bid for PRG funding