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## Individual Cabinet Member Delegated Decision

Leader of Wiltshire Council- Cllr Richard Clewer

Service -Communities

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Reference: L-01-21

### Area Board Funding – Online Meetings

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#### Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out funding decisions requested from Area Boards between 14 - 25 June 2021.

Area Board meetings have been held online and have been accessible to the public via Microsoft Teams for those wishing to take part and contribute to discussions on grant funding. In addition, meeting recordings could be viewed through a link provided on the agenda and meeting page from the council website (published 5 clear days in advance).

This report seeks a decision from the Leader of the Council to confirm funding decisions, following the discussions and recommendations at the Area Board meetings. It is not possible for the Area Boards to formally make the decisions at this time as they are unable to meet in person on public-health advice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. Area Board grants promote the development of stronger and more resilient communities through collaboration with public, voluntary and private sector partners locally to meet the aspirations of local people. Three types of grants are available to support community need: Youth grant funding, Health and Wellbeing Grant Funding and Community Area Grant funding. The grant system is designed to address identified local need. Further information about the grant system can be found [here](#) . In addition to these three funding types, the Area Board also considered and determines Community Area Transport Group funding.

#### Background

3. The Area Boards operate under the Council's Executive Arrangements and powers delegated from the Leader under the Council's [Constitution](#) . Area Boards ensure local influence in decision-making and one of their functions is the determination on grant applications which support community need.

4. As the Council takes precautions for the safety of its residents and councillors during the coronavirus situation, Area Board meetings will continue to be held online until social distancing restrictions are lifted (19 July at the earliest). Funding applications will be considered at the online area board meetings with funding reports being available for consultation, 5 clear days ahead of the meeting. Any public feedback received prior to the online area board meetings will be presented at the meeting for consideration by board members and members of the public. Recommendations formed by the Area Board will then be considered and the decision formally made by the Leader of the Council to ensure local communities continue to be supported.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

5. To enable the Leader to determine the Area Board funding decisions, each Area Board will first need to be satisfied that funding applications have met the relevant funding criteria, identify a community need and are able to proceed within a year of funding being awarded, before awarding any funding.
6. The Leader will consider the recorded representations from local Area Board members and members of the public, which will be recorded in the minutes and provided online for each Area Board meeting.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Engagement**

7. As is usual practice for Area Board decisions, no Overview and Scrutiny Engagement has taken place in the content of this decision as the decision-making for Area Boards is driven by local need.

### **Safeguarding Implications**

8. In recommending grant awards, Area Boards should be satisfied the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

### **Public Health Implications**

9. In recommending grant awards, Area Boards should be satisfied the project would not have detrimental public health implications.
10. Promoting Health and Wellbeing is a priority for all community areas and applications may specifically be presented to support public health.

### **Procurement Implications**

11. Grant recipients will be required to provide quotes for work upon request, as required in the grants criteria.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

12. Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Council's equal opportunity to receive funding towards community-based projects and schemes, where they meet the funding criteria.

13. Area Board members must be satisfied that for grants they recommend, the projects meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

### **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

14. Grant Funding will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken**

15. Community projects will go unfunded and may not succeed, these projects have been identified as of need in the communities affected.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks**

16. Projects will be managed by the grant applicants locally and are not the responsibility of Wiltshire Council.

### **Financial Implications**

17. In recommending any grant awards, Area Boards should be confident financial awards can be made within their existing local budget allocations.

### **Legal Implications**

18. The process to advertise these decision meets the legal requirements for the advertisement of executive decisions.

### **Workforce Implications**

19. There are no known implications.

### **Options Considered**

20. Since formal (in-person) Area Board meetings are not taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic it is considered that determination by the Leader (following recommendation from the Area Board) ensures timely and transparent decision-making with local area input.
21. An alternative option would be for the Leader to make the funding decisions following recommendation from the local members, however the proposed process is preferred as it also allows for discussion with the public about grant applications at online meetings.
22. Each Area Board's funding decisions will be considered on its merits and in light of representations received from Area Board members and the public during the 5 days consultation period ahead of the meeting, and any raised during the meeting.

## **Proposal**

23. The Leader determine Area Board funding for those Area Boards meeting online between 14 – 25 June 2021 as follows:

[Chippenham & Villages Area Board – 14 June 2021](#)

[Marlborough Area Board – 15 June 2021](#)

[Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board – 16 June 2021](#)

[Salisbury Area Board – 17 June 2021](#)

[Devizes Area Board – 21 June 2021](#)

[Melksham Area Board – 23 June 2021](#)

[Warminster Area Board – 24 June 2021](#)

## **Reason for Proposal**

24. To ensure community priorities are met by the projects identified.

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## **Appendices**

Area Board agendas are available via the individual links above.