

Report to	All Area Boards
Date of Meeting	March - April
Title of Report	LPSA Funding Bid: Community Payback

Community Payback enables offenders to repay their debt to society through the contribution of time and labour to help local communities tackle a wide range of issues from graffiti and chewing gum removal to litter picking, ground clearance and other environmental improvement projects. Offenders work in the community as part of a fully supervised team. In Wiltshire over 72,000 hours of community payback time are completed every year by offenders, this equates to £378,500 of free labour to local communities.

This scheme can be of major benefit to Area Boards - offering fast and effective responses to issues of concern to local people. A wide range of works can be undertaken including litter, gum and graffiti removal, footpath clearance and repair, river clearing, decorating and maintenance of community facilities. Ideas for projects will be sought from the public, councillors and parishes through the issues system. These will be prioritised by Area Boards and the Community Payback team will develop programmes of work in response.

An investment of £73,000 is now sought from the LPSA fund to extend the scheme in terms of the range of services offered and also the reach of the scheme into more rural parts of the County. This latter will be achieved through the provision of 3 utilities trailers allowing teams access to hot water, toilets and refreshments during the day - enabling teams to be more self sufficient and able to undertake work in isolated rural areas. Investment will be used to purchase of high pressure cleaners for removal of graffiti and gum and additional equipment. This investment will be of direct and immediate benefit to the Area Boards and the local communities they serve.

The objectives of the project are

- To increase resources directed at key street scene issues that affect community wellbeing such as vandalism, graffiti, gum and littering
- To involve the public, parishes and area boards more directly in the criminal justice system building public awareness and service responsiveness and linking the scheme with the Area Boards' Community Issues system
- To target resources at projects and priorities identified by local communities
- To extend the reach of Wiltshire Community Payback into rural communities

The scheme supports objectives in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire around building more resilient and safer communities, protecting the environment, improving the way in which organisations in Wiltshire work together and supporting elected members in their community leadership roles. There are additional benefits for offenders, particularly young offenders, including the development of work skills and experience which increases future employability and contributes to reducing re-offending.

The support of the Area Board is now sought for this bid.