

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Chippenham Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> January 2013</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Funding</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant Funding and 1 Area Board Project/Councillor led Initiative. Officer recommendations:

1. Chippenham Children's Parliament - Award £1,000 towards the Chippenham E-Safety project
2. Kington St Michael Parish Council - Award £2,000 towards the installation of a Community Shelter, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place
3. Wilts and Berks Canal Trust – Award £4,929 towards raising the towpath / cycleway, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place
4. Area Board Project – Award £1,000 to deliver a Job Fair for local young people

## 1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing (4<sup>th</sup> April 2012). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2012/2013.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria and/or the officer's recommendation would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons for why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3. The emphasis in the Coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement and the nurturing of resilient communities. With this in mind Community Area Grants (CAGs) should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups. Likewise, Small Grants (new this year) should be awarded to similar groups, as well as un-constituted groups of people wanting to improve things near to where they live.
- 1.4. Chippenham Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of **£68,917** for Community Area Grants, Small Grants, Community Partnership core funding and Area Board/Councillor Led initiatives.
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The Area Board will not normally award more than £5,000.
- 1.6. Small Grants, new for this year will fund up to £350, where the total cost of the project does not exceed £350. This grant is aimed at enabling groups (including those not formally constituted) to implement projects, involving local people to make their community a better place to live.
- 1.7. Area Boards will not consider Community Area Grant (CAG) applications from Town and Parish councils for purposes that relate to their statutory duties or powers that should be funded from the local Town/Parish precept. However this does not preclude bids from Town/Parish councils, encouraging community projects that provide new opportunities for local people or those functions that are not the sole responsibility of the Town/Parish council.
- 1.8. In addition to CAGs and Small Grants, Councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables Area Boards to tackle community issues and/or community identified priorities. Cabinet has emphasised that it does not wish these applications to be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria or for filling gaps where there are council service shortfalls. The application process and form has been updated to bring it in line with the other grants.

- 1.9. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their funding reports (except in the case of Area Board/Councillor led initiatives), although the decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.10. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.11. Applicants are encouraged to contact and seek funding help from Charities Information Bureau (CIB) who work on behalf of Wiltshire Council. CIB support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.12. The 2012/2013 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.13. A decision was been made in 2010/2011 that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.14. All recipients of Area Board funding are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the Area Board. This applies to all grants made by the Area Board.
- 1.15. On 30<sup>th</sup> April, Chippenham Area Board took the decision to delegate responsibility to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the Area Board Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, to approve expenditure of up to £1,000 between Area Board meetings.
- 1.16. The delegated power is only intended to be used for matters of urgency which cannot wait until the next meeting of the Area Board and would not be used as a matter of routine. The majority of decisions will continue to be taken at a public meeting.
- 1.17. A budget of £6,900 ring-fenced for the needs of young people has again been made available in 2012/2013. This will be allocated using the "Participatory Budgeting" method.
- 1.18. Chippenham Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) Highways Funding budget of £39,587 for 2012/13.
- 1.19. Funding awarded to date totals £38,091; this includes the £2,781 vired across to the Youth Budget on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Other expenditure has been £175 for the hire of Sheldon School Hall for the Public Consultation meeting on the Skatepark project. This leaves a balance of **£30,651** for 2012/13.

<p><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 as presented for delegated decision</li> <li>• Chippenham and Villages Community Area Plan</li> </ul>
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## **2. Main Considerations**

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2012/13 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be 6 rounds of funding during 2012/2013. The first took place on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012, the second on 9<sup>th</sup> July, the third on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the fourth on 5<sup>th</sup> November, the fifth is contained in this report and the final round will take place on **4<sup>th</sup> March 2013**, the **deadline for applications 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013**.
- 2.3. Chippenham Area Board was allocated a 2012/2013 budget of **£68,917** for Community Area Grants, Small Grants, Community Partnership core funding and Area Board/Councillor Led initiatives.

## **3. Environmental & Community Implications**

- 3.1. Area Board Grants contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

## **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1. Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Chippenham Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Chippenham Area Board will have a balance of **£21,722**.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1. There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

## **6. HR Implications**

- 6.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

## **7. Equality and Inclusion Implications**

- 7.1. Community Area Grants and Small 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.

7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within section 8 – “Officer Recommendations”.

## 8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Chippenham Children’s Parliament	Chippenham E-Safety project	£1,000

8.1.1. Chippenham Children’s Parliament – Award £1,000 towards the Chippenham E-Safety project.

8.1.2. This application meets funding criteria 2012/13.

8.1.3. This application demonstrates links to the Community Plan “concerns over the general health of children and young people, especially within the urban areas” and “reducing the fear of crime”.

8.1.4. This application demonstrates links to Wiltshire Council’s priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire “help local communities develop their own priorities and improvements” and “provide the strong foundations for children and young people’s development”.

8.1.5. The Parliament receives a very modest budget of £500 per year from the Chippenham Partnership of Schools.

8.1.6. Cyber-bullying has been raised by children and young people as a key issue. This project will develop their responses to the inappropriate use of technology and also offer a group of students to gain experience developing and delivering a real product for the community. This project will also engage teachers and parents and raise awareness in monitoring children and young people’s use of the internet and mobile phones.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Kington St Michael Parish Council	Community Shelter	£2,000

8.2.1 Kington St Michael Parish Council – Award £2000 towards the purchase of a community shelter, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

8.2.2 This application meets funding criteria 2012/13.

8.2.3 This application demonstrates links to the Community Plan including “support for people to improve their own health, through increased exercise”, “insufficient play and recreation areas, for children up to the age of 16”, “insufficient outdoor sports

facilities and playing fields”, “a lack of facilities for teenagers” and “access for people with disabilities to all public facilities in the community area”.

8.2.4 This project demonstrates links to Wiltshire Councils priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire “enable people to improve their long term health and well being”, “support more people to have independent and fulfilling lives as part of their local community” and “provide the strong foundations for children and young people’s development”.

8.2.5 The shelter will be maintained and insured by Kington St Michael Parish Council using precept funds.

8.2.6 Officers are of the opinion that this shelter will increase the usage of the outdoor area and increase the health benefits for a wide range of the community.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	Towpath / Cycle-way raising at Pewsham	£4,929

8.3.1 Wilts & Berks Canal Trust – Award £4,929 towards raising the Towpath / Cycleway at Pewsham, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

8.3.2 This application meets funding criteria 2012/13.

8.3.3 This application demonstrates links to the Community Plan that highlights the “lack of green tourism”, “the concerns over the general health of children and young people, especially within the urban areas” and “the lack of transport facilities and cycle-ways.”

8.3.4 This application demonstrates links to Wiltshire Councils priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire by “enabling people to improve their long term health and well being”.

8.3.5 The project links to Wiltshire Council priorities around improving young people’s and adults participation in positive activities, encouraging healthy lifestyles, improving the local area, increasing the number of people involved in regular volunteering and improving local biodiversity.

8.3.6 Officers are of the opinion that raising the towpath will increase its use by a wide section of the community and will provide a multi-generational facility.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Area Board Project/Councillor Led Initiative	Job Fair	£1,000

- 8.4.1 Funding is sought to deliver a Job Fair for local young people.
- 8.4.2 The project demonstrates a link to the Community Plan “Access to basic skills & adult learning courses to increase the level of literacy”.
- 8.4.3 The Joint Strategic Assessment 2011 for Chippenham shows an increase in young people not in employment, education or training “NEET”.
- 8.4.4 Chippenham Area Board will be collaborating with other local stakeholders to deliver the event.
- 8.4.5 The aim of the project is to improve young people's capacity to compete for jobs including the development of skills and improving access to employment and training opportunities

<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 grant application – Chippenham Children’s Parliament Appendix 2 grant application – Kington St Michael Community Shelter Appendix 3 grant application – Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Appendix 4 – Area Board Project – Job Fair
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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