

Report to	Devizes Area Board
Date of Meeting	23rd September 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 1 application seeking 20013/14 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. **3rd Devizes Scout Group** are seeking £2,294 towards replacing tents and camping equipment

Recommended for consideration for approval

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 (5th April 2013). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2013/2014.
- 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.
- 1.4. Devizes Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of £83,375 for community grants, digital literacy projects, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £500 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. In addition to CAGs, councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle community identified priorities. Cabinet have emphasised that they do not wish these to be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria or for filling gaps where there are council service shortfalls.
- 1.8. 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.
- 1.9. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.10. Paper copies of funding applications no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce paper. They are however available on the Wiltshire Council web site with the area board agenda papers and hard copies available upon request.

- 1.11. The 2013/2014 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areboards/areboardscommunitygrantsscheme.htm>
- 1.12. 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.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Grant Guidance 2013/14 as presented for delegated decision • Devizes Community Area Plan • Devizes Joint Strategic Needs Document
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2013/14 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be 3 further rounds of funding during 2013/2014. The first is contained in this report. The remaining will take place on;
- 25th November 2013
 - 27th January 2014
 - 24th March 2014

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 Devizes Area

Board.

- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Devizes Area Board will have a balance of £52,642
- 4.3. All awards are subject to the condition that no payment will be made until all other funding has been confirmed.

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 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	3rd Devizes Scout Group	Provision of new tents and camping equipment	£2,294 towards a project costing £4,588

- 8.1.1. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £2,294k towards the cost of new equipment is considered for approval.
- 8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- 8.1.3. The Scout group helps young people to enjoy new adventures, to experience the outdoors, interact with others, gain confidence and have the opportunity to reach their full potential. They have a membership of over 60 young people between the ages of 6 and 14, supported by a team of 6 adult volunteer leaders.

- 8.1.4. The bad weather in June damaged a large number of tents as well as the marquee over the course of one weekend. These were already over 10 years old and nearing the end of their useable life. There are not enough reserves to replace all of the equipment damaged. As well as replacing 8 four person tents and the marquee, the group also wishes to purchase the following items:
- Camping refrigerator, camping gas oven, Billy can sets, rechargeable lanterns
 - Fire extinguishers, gopack tables, generator, heavy duty shelving for storage
- 8.1.5. The group are providing 50% of the funding through their own reserves, a legacy of £500 and fundraising. Most of the income is now confirmed. Any award made by the area board will be conditional upon all other funding being in place.
- 8.1.6. If the grant is not awarded, the scout group will find it very difficult to replace the equipment needed to operate and may not be able to keep going.
- 8.1.7. This group is a not for profit group.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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