

WILTSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD – PRG Panel Meeting

17th March 2010

Present: Bill Dowling, Steve Hedley, John Thomson; supported by Sharon Britton, Niki Lewis and Karen Spence

Apologies: Steve Richards

Notes of Last meeting and matters arising

1. The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising

2. It was raised that funds should be released as soon as possible for all the bids that have been accepted so far. Karen Spence confirmed that funds have been transferred to the Area Boards for all the approved bids where there is no information outstanding. The Area Boards will pay the funds out to the projects as soon as they have details of how payment is to be made, i.e. by cheque or direct into a BACS account.
3. Karen Spence tabled a paper on bids allocated to date. She outlined that there was more Capital than Revenue.

ACTION: The panel proposed that Karen keep this updated and keep them informed.

4. It was agreed by the Panel that any money remaining from a tranche should go straight into the next tranche, rather than putting it all into one pot at the end of the PRG grant roll out.
5. The amount of committed funds (which includes approved and pending bids) from the first tranche amounts to £175,559 which therefore leaves £74,000 to be added to the £250,000 for this tranche.

Update on previous bids

6. Karen gave updates on bids approved at previous meetings where additional information requested has now been received. The panel approved a change to the conditions for the **Community Speedwatch** bid:
 - previously the panel had asked that a request be tabled to all Area Boards for approval for a specific amount for maintenance of the equipment.
 - The Speedwatch team have now confirmed that the Police have agreed to undertake calibration of the equipment for the first three years. Any additional maintenance or repairs will be covered by insurance or individual bids to the Area Board concerned. The panel thanked Wiltshire Police for their contribution and confirmed that these arrangements meet with their approval.
7. **Taff café** - The Panel had previously approved the capital element of this bid but referred the revenue element (to fund four apprenticeships) to Future Jobs Fund. At the last panel meeting a letter from the project was tabled stating that Future Jobs Fund was not suitable as they wanted to target 16/17 year olds which is not the age group this scheme is targeted at. The panel requested that the Performance Team seek further information about why the scheme are focussed on 16/17 year olds and also to seek some advice on apprenticeships

from the Economic Development team at Wiltshire Council. Details of the response from the Taff Café project are at Annex A. The Economic Development Team gave advice that apprenticeships for 16/17 year olds are a priority for the government and training costs are already heavily subsidised as a result. The amount that Taff Café is bidding for is consistent with the amount of the annual salary that employers are expected to pay. They wouldn't encourage grant funding for the revenue element of this bid, and it was thought that this would almost certainly set a precedent for other employers to bid for grant funding for this. However, they would still consider any approach from Taff Café to Future Jobs Fund. The revenue element of this bid was therefore **not approved** by the panel.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS

8. Ten bids were submitted to this meeting and the decisions are shown below.

<p>Application Ref. No. 20 Chippenham Area Board Bid: £250,000 (estimate)</p>	<p><u>Chippenham Skate Park</u></p> <p>Brief Description of Initiative:</p> <p>To provide a purpose-built skate park in a suitable location in Chippenham.</p> <p>The emerging Youth Strategy for Chippenham looks to a dispersed model of provision for young people's activities in and around Chippenham, in order to provide the variety of provision required, within reach of all.</p> <p>This proposal aims to provide an excellent local active recreation facility for young people, who have to travel long distances to find high quality skate board parks.</p> <p>Panel Views:</p> <p>There were concerns about the fact that a location/site hadn't been found for this scheme. The project seems to be at very early stages and it is not yet clear whether there will be community support for the project and what the arrangements would be for supervision of the site. It was felt that these questions would need to be resolved before any bid could be considered.</p> <p>Decision: This bid was not approved.</p> <p>ACTION: Karen to feedback to the Area Board Manager</p>
<p>Application Ref. No. 21 Chippenham Area Board Bid: £100,000</p>	<p><u>Chippenham Riverside Improvement</u></p> <p>Brief Description of Initiative:</p> <p>Surveys and expert studies indicate Chippenham lacks a community identity; in particular Chippenham's River Avon is under-utilised and unappreciated.</p> <p>Following the successful 2009 Chippenham & Villages Area Partnership (and the many stakeholders they represent), now wish to implement measures to improve the enjoyment and appreciation of the river, for the benefit of the residents of the area and to be a source of community and civic pride.</p> <p>These comprise much improved facilities for recreational boating, walking, cycling, fishing and improvements to the appearance,</p>

	<p>experience and environment of the riverside.</p> <p>Panel Views:</p> <p>The panel were generally supportive of the concept, but concern was expressed about whether the project could show a significant enough level of impact to justify the amount bid for. It was felt that the bid did not show enough evidence of current levels of use or projected future use once complete. In addition concern was expressed about whether the river was actually wide enough in places for many boats, and that there was potential that the landing bay would be unsuitably used as a diving board by young people.</p> <p>It was suggested that these improvements could be funded from Section 106 monies or other potential sources and that these should be investigated.</p> <p>Decision: This bid was not approved.</p> <p>ACTION: Karen to feedback to the Area Board Manager</p>
<p>Application Ref. No. 22</p> <p>Warminster Area Board</p> <p>Bid: £45,015</p>	<p><u>Warminster Athenaeum Restoration Project (Phase IV)</u></p> <p>Brief Description of Initiative:</p> <p>To install a new lift which will enable the disabled and infirm visitors to enjoy the use of the First Floor Bar and Function Room.</p> <p>Panel Views:</p> <p>This is a well used facility in Warminster (which is owned by the Council) and it was felt that it will be of huge benefits to the community, now and in the future.</p> <p>Decision: This bid was approved.</p> <p>ACTION: Karen to feedback to the Area Board Manager</p>
<p>Application Ref. No. 23</p> <p>Corsham Area Board</p> <p>Bid: £10,500</p>	<p><u>C151 Colerne Footpath</u></p> <p>Brief Description of Initiative:</p> <p>To extend the pavement along the C151 from Silver Street to the Recreation Ground entrance in order to provide a safe access to the Recreation Ground and the doctor's surgery. And to allow direct pedestrian route from the First to the Primary School.</p> <p>The Transport team at Wiltshire Council had provided additional information which indicates that an up to date costing for the provision of this pavement would be considerably higher than the £17,500 this bid is based on. Additionally there was concern that the verge was too narrow in places for a 2 metre wide path (the standard now required). Construction of the path would be likely to necessitate the removal of some of the existing hedgerow which would require the approval of up to 25 property owners in the vicinity.</p> <p>Panel Views:</p> <p>The panel felt that there was little evidence of consultation with the community to establish the level of support for this project and it was not clear from the bid whether the 25 property owners had been</p>

	<p>contacted.</p> <p>It was felt that Corsham Area Board should do conduct a feasibility study for this initiative in the first instance.</p> <p>Decision: This bid was not approved.</p> <p>ACTION: Karen to feedback to the Area Board Manager</p>
<p>Application Ref. No. 24 Melksham Area Board Bid: £29,700</p>	<p><u>SPLASH</u></p> <p>Brief Description of Initiative:</p> <p>SPLASH aims to improve the quality of life for vulnerable young people aged 9-16 by providing safe positive activities during school holidays to divert them away from anti-social and negative behaviour. The aim is to help keep young people safe and healthy, and increase opportunities to enjoy, achieve and make a positive contribution in society.</p> <p>SPLASH is in its 20th year, is well recognised as a quality project, regularly delivering outcomes in support of the Children’s Plan and Every Child Matters.</p> <p>Panel Views:</p> <p>This bid had the full support of the Panel. It would be useful to know what other communities and Area Boards think about Splash. Some concern was expressed about the long-term sustainability of the project and it was suggested that it would be useful for the project and Area Boards to work with the Wiltshire Council VCS team to help secure its future.</p> <p>Decision: This bid was approved.</p> <p>ACTION: Karen Spence to feedback to the Area Board Manager, the approval letter is to include the suggestion relating to the VCS team.</p>
<p>Application Ref. No. 25 All Area Boards Bid: £73,050 (£53,050 Capital, £20,000 Revenue)</p>	<p><u>Wiltshire Community Payback</u></p> <p>Brief Description of Initiative:</p> <p>This is an extension to the existing Wiltshire Community Payback scheme run through the probation service. The bid is to provide 2 utilities trucks and equipment to help the team to extend their service to more rural areas and improve its ability to operate efficiently. It will also enable them to respond to more requests for community payback work from Area Boards.</p> <p>This bid is a county-wide initiative and at the time of the panel still had to be presented to approximately half of the Area Boards for approval. Also to provide salary for a co-ordinator.</p> <p>Panel Views:</p> <p>Although this bid has support from almost all Area Boards, there were some concerns expressed by the Panel. It was felt that it should not be forgotten that Community Payback is a punishment to offenders and that, given that many employees of both Wiltshire Council and its partners regularly work in rural areas without the benefits of such</p>

	<p>mobile facilities, other options should be considered.</p> <p>It was suggested that possibly a trailer and equipment such as a toilet tent and 'portaloo' may be able to solve the issues experience by the scheme at a more reasonable cost.</p> <p>The panel was minded to support the bid for the equipment, but questioned whether some of the items could be sourced at a cheaper cost (in particular the pressure cleaners).</p> <p>More information about the post of the Project Co-ordinator is required.</p> <p>Decision: Await decision from remaining Area Boards and in the meantime more information should be obtained via the Area Board manager about the points raised above. This bid is not approved at this time.</p> <p>ACTION: Karen to feedback to the Area Board Manager</p>
<p>Application Ref. No. 26</p> <p>Malmesbury Area Board</p> <p>Bid: £92,250</p>	<p><u>Malmesbury Extension Skate Park</u></p> <p>Brief Description of Initiative:</p> <p>To provide a safe and organised activity area for young people, by way of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ A safe, supervised skate and skateboard area with ramps both fixed and mobile ▫ A safe and supervised area for basic car and bike maintenance ▫ A safe area for young people to play badminton, football/basket and netball ▫ A large space for performing arts and social events. <p>The community have already raised £63,000 to put towards the project and this is currently held on their behalf by Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>There is a huge amount of community support, and considerable research has been undertaken into the sighting of this facility.</p> <p>Cllr John Thompson declared that he had an interest in this bid. After giving a brief background, he left the room for the remaining panel members to discuss the bid and come to a decision.</p> <p>Panel Views:</p> <p>The Panel felt that this bid was very well developed and clearly shows the anticipated benefits for both the young people who will use it and the wider community. The facility is also flexible as the skate park equipment can be moved to make room for other events. Panel members felt that this was something which was needed in Malmesbury as there was currently very little for young people to do. Steve Hedley confirmed that Malmesbury has suffered a number of significant problems relating to young persons and anti social behaviour which this facility could help to address. There is evidence in the bid that young people have been very involved in the development of the ideas for this. The panel made it clear that they would expect future bids for similar facilities to be consistent with the</p>

	<p>level of background research, consultation and development provided by this project.</p> <p>Decision: This bid was approved.</p> <p>ACTION: Karen to feedback to Area Board Manager</p>
<p>Application Ref. No. 27 Amesbury Area Board Bid: £7,495</p>	<p><u>Larkhill Rejuvenation and Road Safety Project</u></p> <p>Brief Description of Initiative:</p> <p>To increase the feeling of wellbeing and community cohesion within Larkhill and specifically to address concerns over the increase in speed/danger on the main through road. This includes the implementation of 30 mph speed limit, provision of road signs and improvements to street furniture/shop fronts.</p> <p>The Transport team at Wiltshire Council have advised that a speed limit assessment has already been carried out and that a 30 mph limit would be appropriate on this stretch of road.</p> <p>Panel Views:</p> <p>It was felt that that this bid was underdeveloped and lacked clarity on some aspects and that as a result the project might be missing an opportunity. Concern was expressed regarding the requested improvements to shop frontages as these units are privately owned.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Area Manager should work with the Area Board and Larkhill to reconsider the bid and submit something that more effectively captures the impact this could have on the community. There are other possibilities which could be considered alongside the speed limit such as flashing warning signs which have been effective elsewhere.</p> <p>In the meantime, sufficient evidence has been shown of the need to implement the 30 mph speed limit as soon as possible and the panel were supportive of this element of the bid.</p> <p>Decision: The element of this bid relating to implementation of the speed limit was approved (£3500). The remainder was not approved.</p> <p>ACTION: Karen to feedback to the Area Board Manager. Nicky Lewis to request that the Area manager works with the project team to develop a more suitable bid.</p>
<p>Application Ref. No. 28 Amesbury Area Board Bid: £20,000</p>	<p><u>International Media Centre</u></p> <p>Brief Description of Initiative:</p> <p>A purpose led Media Centre to provide facilities to aid and enhance the college and surrounding communities. Provision for international communication with friends and families in global locations. The IMC will offer a studio for community and college use the media production and editing facilities. An auditorium will be included for college and community use.</p> <p>Panel Views:</p> <p>It was felt that this scheme was of value and could provide benefit for</p>

	<p>a community which currently lacks any facilities of this kind. However concern was expressed about why schools capital funding was not being used to fund this facility. The panel have requested further information from the school about how much they currently have in their capital reserves before they make a decision on this bid.</p> <p>Decision: This bid was not approved at this time.</p> <p>ACTION: Karen to feedback to the Area Board Manager</p>
<p>Application Ref. No. 29 Salisbury Area Board Bid: £59,415 (3 year initiative)</p>	<p><u>'Money Talk'</u></p> <p>Brief Description of Initiative:</p> <p>'Money Talk' is a free service available to anyone experiencing financial difficulties in the Salisbury Area. It has been piloted since May 2009 and has supported clients with a variety of complex 'money' problems. Although agencies such as the CAB provide advice, they are unable to offer the ongoing intensive support on a 1:1 basis that many clients need. Trained volunteers help clients look at their finances and prepare an effective household budget, supporting clients to make informed choices. The bid is to provide a dedicated co-ordinator for 3 years to enable the scheme to expand and become self-supporting</p> <p>Panel Views:</p> <p>This bid was received by the performance team after the deadline for this tranche had already passed, but had been approved by the Area Board at the end of January. The Panel would like to thank all of the Thematic Delivery Partnerships for giving their feedback so promptly to enable consideration of this bid. There was general support from the Thematic Delivery Partnership about the value of this kind of service, however concerns were expressed about whether this duplicated services provided through other agencies.</p> <p>The panel felt that if a gap does exist for 1:1 support then this is something that should be provided county-wide not just in one area. We are already providing additional funding to Citizens Advice Bureaux to expand their helpline and it was felt that if we were to consider any additional funding, this should be provided through these channels and others that provide help with money worries and debt, such as Credit Unions, etc.</p> <p>Decision: This bid was not approved.</p> <p>ACTION: Karen to feedback to the Area Board Manager</p>

Any other issues

Karen Spence will bring all necessary bids to the next PRG Panel meeting to discuss any outstanding issues on **Tuesday 27th April at 11.00 a.m. in the Avon Room.**

Annex A

Additional Information – Bid 009 Trowbridge Taff Cafe

The January panel approved the release of the capital element of funding following provision of additional information by the TAFF treasurer. However, further information was requested about why the scheme wished to target 16 year olds as well as some technical advice on apprenticeships from the Wiltshire Council Economic Development team.

The project has provided the following additional information about why they want to concentrate on the 16-18 age group:

As Trowbridge Town Council has obtained funding through Future Jobs Fund direct, we are aware of the guide lines they require for its use which is why the TAFF application was submitted for this funding as being more appropriate.

We want to target young people under the age of 18, already engaged in youth work or already working with youth organizations or volunteering, which FJF does not allow for. This will allow us to obtain additional training opportunities for these young people and provide 'New' opportunities to existing volunteers which in turn will allow them future progression in this type of career. We want to offer the Apprenticeship in Activity Leadership following a separate successful bid for a climbing wall to be built at the Youth Café and having secured a partnership agreement with 'Streets United' an International Extreme Sports, Socially Responsible Company who will provide training by World Class sport people.

The FJ Funding must be spent within 6 months and as the young people we will be targeting may not have the academic levels required to pass their course in this time frame it is essential that we provide this opportunity.

Through your funding we can provide a minimum of 12 months employment for 4 young people with very real opportunities for sustainability beyond this period.

The following advice has been received from the Economic Development team with regard to apprenticeships generally:

The Govt are currently targeting 16-18 year olds for apprenticeships so prospective employers who want to target this age group will be in a strong position to receive 100% funding for the training and qualification from the Government. The employer still has to 'employ' the individual though and pay them a weekly wage of £95 as a minimum (approx £10,000 per trainee per year). The views of the team are that they would not encourage the panel to award funding for this salary element of the apprenticeship. They feel it would set a precedent for other employers to bid similarly and these apprenticeships are already heavily subsidised by Government anyway. Their reasons for targeting 16/17 year olds are laudable, but the team feel that they could utilise Future jobs fund initially with a view to perhaps taking one Future jobs and one apprentice. Trowbridge Town Council is one of the major employers under the Future Jobs fund.