

WILTSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD – PRG Panel Meeting

18th November 2009

Present: Bill Dowling, Steve Richard, Paul Williams, John Thomson, supported by Sharon Britton, Niki Lewis and Karen Spence

THE PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT SCHEME

1. This scheme was set up for Area Boards to make bids for initiatives that have local support and will take forward ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire or will help combat the recession. This is one-off funding so it is important that the bids confirm that there are no under-funded financial commitments at the end of the project. It is also vital that the initiatives have a positive local impact and so successful bids must show how the impact would be measured and include baselines and targets for improvement.
2. In total the grant must be spent half on revenue and half on capital expenditure. This doesn't have to apply at the bid level but the Panel must keep this in mind when approving bids as we must ensure that overall the grant conditions are met.
3. The use of the grant will fall within the Area Boards' government arrangements and Boards will be expected to confirm that money has been spent in accordance with the bid and to report on progress against the performance targets.
4. A request had been made to set a limit of say £50,000 on single bids. This was discussed by the panel and the panel decided that no limit will be set but that guidance should be given that the level of improvement expected will be proportional to the value of the bid – the higher the bid the higher the improvement target.

ACTION: Niki Lewis to inform Area Managers and Area Boards and Karen Spence to amend the guidance on the website and in the bid pack.

5. The Panel wishes to ensure that its decisions are consistent and transparent and the minutes of each meeting will be published. The Panel will be clear about the reasons for its decisions. Each meeting will receive a report detailing how much grant has been allocated and what is remaining, and information about the geographical distribution of the approved bids.

ACTION: Karen Spence to produce a report for each panel meeting, inform Area Board managers of the decisions made and publish agreed minutes on the website.

6. At the moment bids are coming in throughout the quarter and this means that the Thematic Delivery Partnerships have to pick up bids on an ad-hoc basis. This is problematic for some partnerships. It was suggested that a deadline be set by which Area Boards would make any bids to be considered that quarter so that Thematic Delivery Partnerships would be clear about when to expect the bids. It is suggested that:
 - Area Boards be given a deadline of six weeks into the quarter to make bids for that quarter, and
 - Thematic Delivery Partnerships then be given two weeks to respond with comments or work with Area Board Managers on the bids.
 - The bids will then be taken to the Panel for consideration.

ACTION:

- **Karen Spence to draft a timetable showing the deadline for Area Boards to make bids and the deadline for information going to and coming back from Thematic Delivery Partnerships, and the dates of the panels.**
 - **Niki Lewis to take this proposal to Area Board Chairs and Managers for consideration, and**
 - **Karen Spence to take the proposal to the Co-ordinating Group.**
 - **If everyone agrees then a timetable will be adopted for future quarters.**
7. There was a question about how bids could be made that joined up issues across Area Boards. Initially people could speak to Niki Lewis or Steve Milton to feed this into a meeting of Area Board chairmen. If appropriate this could then be taken with briefing notes to Area Boards for consideration of whether a suitable bid should be made. The bid would still need to show commitment at individual Area Board level and engagement of local people as well as clear improvement targets to show the impact to be achieved.
8. It will be important to publicise approved PRG bids as this would help raise the profile of the scheme and hopefully help engagement in the initiatives themselves. Details of approvals will be fed into the communications arrangements.

ACTION: Karen Spence

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS

9. Four bids were provided to this meeting. An additional six are with Thematic Delivery Partnerships for comment. We are aware that further bids may be made by Area Boards before the end of the quarter. The decisions on the four bids are shown below:

<p>Salisbury Area Board bid – Taxi Marshalls for Christmas 2009</p>	<p>The panel would normally see taxi marshalls as something that should be funded locally, perhaps with Area Boards working with parish/town councils, Pubwatch and local businesses. However, although taxi marshalls have been seen as effective nationally, our local results have been more mixed. The Panel feels that it is important that local research is undertaken to see if taxi marshalls are effective in Wiltshire. The panel approves the bid subject to the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That this is run as a pilot to carry out local research to assess the effectiveness of taxi marshalls.2. That the Area Board shares the learning from this research with the rest of the county.3. That the evaluation of the success of the pilot includes public perception as well as the number of incidents. Baselines and targets should be set.4. That the Area Board approves the bid based on the understanding that it is being approved by the Panel as a pilot and that if they wished to do this next year it will need to be funded from local resources.
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<p>Countywide bid – Community Speedwatch</p>	<p>The Speedwatch scheme has been considered by all Area Boards and this bid is on behalf of all Area Boards. This was seen as a very important initiative that should help address issues around speeding that have been raised in Wiltshire's communities for some time. The panel approved the bid subject to the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the proposer provides baselines and targets for the measures shown in the bid. Some of these may be developed as Speedwatch is rolled out to community areas but there should be at least a couple set for the scheme before the grant is approved. The panel saw perception of speeding in communities as well as reduction of speeding as useful measures. 2. In addition, the Panel will require monitoring information on local engagement - the number of people in each community area involved in the scheme and information about how often the speed guns are used. 3. There must be a clear commitment from Area Boards to fund the ongoing costs after the end of the project. This is indicated in the bid but before the grant is approved there must be confirmation that these costs will be met. This confirmation of the commitment from individual Area Boards would also show which Area Boards the grant should be allocated against. Niki Lewis will write to the Area Boards about the funding issues to obtain commitment to fund the ongoing costs. <p>Once these grant conditions are met the panel is happy for Sharon Britton to release the grant.</p>
<p>Melksham Area Board – CCTV Melksham Town Centre</p>	<p>The bid is to provide CCTV equipment for Melksham Town Centre. This bid was not approved.</p> <p>This bid has highlighted a pressing need for a Wiltshire-wide strategy to improve the effectiveness of CCTV as its provision across the county is inconsistent. A review of CCTV provision has been requested and the Community Safety Partnership is to be asked to look at that review. Once a strategic approach has been agreed the Panel could consider whether bids for PRG for CCTV are appropriate. Melksham Area Board may wish to consider whether it wishes to make a further bid in the context of that strategy, when available.</p>
<p>Corsham Area Board – Corsham Area Transport Plan</p>	<p>This bid is for £30,000 to develop a Transport Plan for Corsham. This bid was not approved.</p> <p>The panel felt that Transport Planning is core business and needs to be looked at in a wider view. The bid did not make it clear how local people would be engaged in initiatives nor how the impact and improvement would be measured.</p>