

Date: 5 July 2005

TO: All Members of the Abingdon Area  
Committee  
FOR ATTENDANCE

TO: All Other Members of the Council  
FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE** to be held in the **GUILDHALL, ABINGDON** on **Wednesday, 13th July, 2005** at **7.00 pm**.

Yours faithfully

Terry Stock  
Chief Executive

Members are reminded of the provisions contained in Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct, and Standing Order 34 regarding the declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

## **A G E N D A**

### **Open to the Public including the Press**

A Large print version of this agenda and any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement with Carole Nicholl, Democratic Services Officer on telephone number (01235) 547631.

### **Map and Vision**

(Page 5)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting, together with a copy the Council Vision are attached.

#### **1. Election of Chair**

To elect a Chair of the Abingdon Area Committee for the 2005/06 Municipal Year.

#### **2. Election of Vice-Chair**

To elect a Vice-Chair of the Abingdon Area Committee for the 2005/06 Municipal Year.

#### **3. Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence.

4. **Minutes**

(Pages 6 - 11)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee held on 30 March 2005.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

In accordance with Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct and the provisions of Standing Order 34, any Member with a personal interest must disclose the existence and nature of that interest to the meeting prior to the matter being debated. Where that personal interest is also a prejudicial interest, then the Member must withdraw from the room in which the meeting is being held and not seek improperly to influence any decision about the matter unless he/she has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee.

6. **Urgent Business and Chair's Announcements**

To receive notification of any matters, which the Chair determines, should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances, which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the Chair.

7. **Statements and Petitions from the Public Under Standing Order 32**

Any statements and/or petitions from the public under Standing Order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

8. **Questions from the Public Under Standing Order 32**

Any questions from members of the public under Standing Order 32 will be asked at the meeting.

9. **Capital Funding**

(Pages 12 - 13)

At the last meeting of the South East Area Committee, Members had requested an update on the availability of capital funding if applicants could show that this would significantly increase their chances of lottery or environmental trust funding. The Strategic Director, Steve Bishop, has produced a briefing note which is being circulated to all Area Committees for information.

Recommendation

*that the agenda report be received.*

10. **Community Grants**

(Wards Affected: Abingdon Abbey and Barton; Abingdon Caldecott; Abingdon Dunmore; Abingdon Fitzharris; Abingdon Northcourt; Abingdon Ock Meadow; Abingdon Peachcroft; Drayton; Sutton Courtenay and Appleford; )

(Pages 14 - 26)

To receive and consider report 50/05 of the Head of Innovation and Enterprise.

Introduction and Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants for 2005/06 and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting.

The contact officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626).

Recommendations

- (a) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's approved budget total for 2005/06 is £38,849.12 (including £8,231.12 carried forward from 2004/05), which is apportioned as follows: -*

<i>Environmental Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£10,716.30</i>
<i>Social Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£10,716.30</i>
<i>Economic Agenda (10%)</i>	<i>£3,061.80</i>
<i>Discretionary (20%)</i>	<i>£6,123.60</i>
	<i>plus</i>
	<i>£8,231.12</i>

- (b) *Members are asked to note that grants totalling £3,000 are to be awarded to the following two twinning organisations in the Abingdon Area, as directed by the Executive on 6 August 2004, subject to the completion of a service level agreement: -*

<i>Abingdon Town Council</i>	<i>£2,500</i>
<i>Drayton Twinning Society</i>	<i>£500</i>

- (c) *Members are asked to: -*
- (i) *note the recommendations made by the Executive and the subsequent decision taken by the Council in respect of funding towards the cost of extending the Peachcroft Christian Centre, Abingdon; and*
  - (ii) *to consider the application again in the light of this and determine the grant award, Council agenda and priority.*
- (d) *Members are asked to determine the grant award, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following : -f*
- (i) *Abingdon Child Contact Centre - £1,500, towards running costs for the next five years, Social Agenda, Access priority;*
  - (ii) *Mr Kirby, Sympson Close, Abingdon - £641.60, towards the cost of crown reduction and deadwooding of a large chestnut tree and installation of a cable brace plus routine maintenance to a yew, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;*
  - (iii) *Abingdon Marathon - £750, towards the cost of organising a marathon, £750, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;*
  - (iv) *Abbey Sailing Club - £2,000, towards the cost of purchasing two boats to be available to beginners, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;*

- (v) *Historic Building Grant Scheme: Mr Bax, Pusey Cottage, Drayton - £1,250, towards the cost of re-thatching and restoration of a local historic feature, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;*
- (vi) *The NET Management Committee - £4,563, towards the cost of increasing holiday activities, Social Agenda, Access priority;*
- (vii) *The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Oxford) - £750, towards the cost of installing an electrically operated automatic door for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility, Social Agenda, Access priority.*

(e) *Members are asked to determine the following parish cleansing grant bids for 2005/06: -*

<i>Appleford-on-Thames</i>	<i>£250</i>
<i>Drayton</i>	<i>£402</i>

**11. Buildability Scheme of ABITS**

**(Pages 27 - 31)**

Attached is a Briefing Note for consideration, together with a timetable which Councillor Roz Smith, being the Executive Member assigned to the ABITS project will explain.

**12. Delivering the Community Strategy**

**(Pages 32 - 35)**

To consider delivering the Community Strategy having regard to the papers attached.

**13. Dates of Future Meetings**

Members are reminded that future meetings of the Committee have been schedule to take place on the following dates: -

Tuesday 11 October 2005  
Wednesday 1 February 2006  
Tuesday 28 March 2006

**Exempt Information Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972**

None.



## Ab.20

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT ABINGDON ON  
WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH 2005  
AT 7.00PM**

**Open to the Public, including the Press**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Councillors Julie Mayhew-Archer (Chair), Mike Badcock, Paul Bizzell, Mary de Vere, Tony de Vere, Gervase Duffield, Peter Green, Peter Jones, Janet Morgan, Alison Rooke and Roz Smith.

OFFICERS: L Edwards, C M Nicholl and T Warren.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 3

Ab.24 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Grahame Ash, Richard Gibson, Jim Halliday, Monica Lovatt and Laurel J Symons.

Ab.25 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee held on 12 January 2005 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

Ab.26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Peter Green, Peter Jones, Julie Mayhew-Archer and Alison Rooke each declared an interest in the grant application from Abingdon Band in so far as the Band frequently performed at events organised by the Town Council and they were Town Councillors (Minute Ab.30 refers).

Ab.27 **URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair reported that in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Standing Order 21(4) she had agreed to accept an item of urgent business regarding a grant application from Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. The Chair reported that she had agreed to accept this as an item of urgent business in view of the need for the Hall to be aware of the outcome of the grant application to allow them to proceed with the project, with a decision being required before the next meeting of the Committee, (Minute Ab.31 refers).

Ab.28 **OTHER FUNDING SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

The Committee received and considered an agenda item which advised that at its meeting on 4 March 2005, the Executive had considered report 234/04 of the Director of Social and Cultural Services which asked Members to note the report and requested that the report was placed on the agendas for the next meetings of the Area Committees.

The Executive had resolved the following: -

(a) that loans be made available to community groups, which on application, must satisfy the authority that it can cover any risks associated with the loan; and

(b) that the report be noted and be drawn to the attention of the Area Committees at their next meetings.

Particular reference was made to paragraph 6.4 of the report to the Executive which advised that in addition to community grants, the Council was able to provide a limited amount of capital funding if an applicant organisation could show that this support would significantly increase the chances of obtaining a larger amount from a National Lottery fund or an environmental trust fund.

In this regard, one Member referred to the outstanding grant application in respect of the Peachcroft Christian Centre, Abingdon and questioned whether it would be appropriate for the Committee to now clarify the amount of grant to be awarded. However, Members endorsed their previous decision that consideration of the application should be deferred until the first meeting of the Committee in the next financial year, although it was noted that the Executive was to consider alternative funding for the Centre at a special meeting in April.

*RESOLVED*

(a) *that the agenda report be received;*

(b) *that the Head of Innovation and Enterprise advise the Peachcroft Christian Centre of the current position.*

Ab.29 UPDATE ON GRANT ISSUES

The Committee received and considered an agenda item which advised that since the last meeting, the Director of Social and Cultural Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, had exercised delegated authority and had awarded a grant of £375 to the Abingdon Music Festival towards the cost of running the Composer's Workshop.

*RESOLVED*

*that the agenda report be received.*

Ab.30 COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Committee received and considered report 245/04 of the Director of Social and Cultural Services which set out the current budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants for 2004/05 and invited Members to consider and determine grant applications received since the last meeting.

The Committee consider the existing funding position and noted that likely for next year. It was noted that the overall grant budget for the Authority had been reduced and that it had been considered that grants should be targeted in the future and Members requested that a report in this regard be presented to the next meeting.

The Committee considered each of the applications in detail, having regard to the information set out in the report.

(1) Abingdon Vale Cricket Club

Some Members questioned the need for a bowling machine, although it was noted that for coaching purposes, such a machine provided consistent bowling. Reference was made to the level of grant which should be offered. It was considered that in view of

the benefit of the Club to young people a grant should be offered, but having regard to the Club's financial position this grant should be less than that sought.

(2) Abingdon Fairtrade Group

Members supported the application noting that the Group had links to the Community Strategy and that Abingdon being recognised as a Fairtrade town would increase its vitality to the benefit of local businesses.

It was noted that Abingdon Town Council had made a grant award of £250.

(3) Abingdon Child Contact Centre

Some members spoke in support of the application, commending the work of the Centre. However, other Members questioned whether the grant sought was for a one off project or for ongoing running costs. It was suggested that consideration of the application should be deferred to enable further information to be sought.

(4) Abingdon Band

(Councillors Peter Green, Peter Jones, Julie Mayhew-Archer and Alison Rooke had each declared a personal interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 they remained in the meeting during its consideration).

The Committee supported the application.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) *that the Committee's approved budget total for 2004/05 of £61,814, apportioned as follows be noted: -*

<i>Budget Brought Forward 2003/04</i>			<i>£34,254.00</i>
<i>Budget 2004/05</i>	<i>Split as follows: -</i>	<i>Total budget including c/f allocated as follows: -</i>	<i>£61,814.00</i>
<i>Environmental Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£21,635.00</i>	<i>£26,344.65</i>	
<i>Social Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£21,635.00</i>	<i>£43,220.85</i>	
<i>Economic Agenda (10%)</i>	<i>£6,181.00</i>	<i>£16,666.68</i>	
<i>Discretionary (20%)</i>	<i>£12,363.00</i>	<i>-</i>	
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£96,068.00</i>	<i>£86,232.18</i>	
<i>Balance Remaining</i>			<i>£9,835.82</i>

- (b) *that the grant applications be determined as follows: -*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Grant/Decision</u>
<i>Abingdon Vale Criscket Club</i>	<i>Contribution towards the cost of purchasing an electric bowling machine and matting</i>	<i>£900.00 with the Club being asked to report back on what benefit has been achieved from the grant award.</i>



# Ab.23

	<i>strips for nets</i>	<i>(Social Agenda and Town and Village Vitality Priority) Proposed by Councillor Paul Bizzell, seconded by Councillor Peter Jones and by 9 votes to nil with 2 abstentions.</i>
<i>Abingdon Fair Trade Group</i>	<i>Contribution towards the cost of achieving fair trade status for Abingdon</i>	<i>£444.83 subject to the letter and questionnaires produced including reference to the grant support from the Council and the Group being invited to report back on its progress.</i>  <i>(Economic Agenda and Town and Village Vitality Priority) Councillor Peter Jones proposed and Councillor Gervase Duffield seconded that a grant of £250.00 be approved. By way of an amendment Councillor Roz Smith proposed and Councillor Mary de Vere seconded the resolution which was agreed by 6 votes to 2 with 3 abstentions. The Substantive Motion was agreed nem con.</i>
<i>Abingdon Child Contact Centre</i>	<i>Contribution towards the cost of running the centre</i>	<i>that consideration of the application be deferred to the next meeting, pending the receipt of further information, including information on: - (i) whether the Centre would prefer regular financial support; (ii) how many families from the Abingdon Area are assisted; (iii) whether a representative from the Centre will make a brief presentation to the Committee; (iv) additional details of the Centre's balances.</i>  <i>Councillor Mike Badcock proposed and Councillor Alison Rooke seconded that a grant of £1000 be approved, with the Head of Innovation and Enterprise investigating the possibility of a Service Level Agreement for future years. By way of an amendment Councillor Roz Smith proposed and Councillor Paul Bizzell seconded the resolution which was agreed by 9 votes to 0 with 2 abstentions. The Substantive Motion was agreed by 10 votes to nil, with 1 abstention.</i>
<i>Abingdon Band</i>	<i>Contribution towards the cost of instrument maintenance, provision</i>	<i>£500.00, subject to the Council's financial support being mentioned in any publicity.</i>

# Ab.24

*of items for training and publicity to attract new members (Social and Town and Village Vitality and Access Priorities)*

*Proposed by Councillor Mary de Vere, seconded by Councillor Alison Rooke and agreed nem con).*

- (c) that the Executive be recommended that any underspend on the 2004/05 community grant budget for the Abingdon Area be carried forward to the next financial year;*
- (d) that the Head of Innovation and Enterprise be requested to present a report to the next meeting of the Committee setting out ways for targeting grants.*

## Ab.31 URGENT BUSINESS – COMMUNITY GRANT

### Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

The Committee considered an oral report of the Head of Innovation and Enterprise which advised that the Village Hall had previously been awarded a grant towards securing funding. The Village Hall Committee had advised that £240.13 of the sum allocated had not been needed for the original purpose and the Hall had now requested whether that amount could be spent on other funding requirements.

The Committee commended the honesty of the Village Hall Committee but considered that the grant had been awarded for a specific purpose which had been achieved and that it would be unreasonable and unfair to other applicants to agree this request.

By 6 votes to 4 with 1 abstention, it was

### *RESOLVED*

*that the request from the Sutton Courtenay Village Hall Committee for the remainder of a grant offer to be used for another purpose be refused and £240.13 previously allocated be returned to balances.*

## Ab.32 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee noted the dates for future meetings of the Committee as follows: -

Wednesday 13 July 2005  
Tuesday 11 October 2005  
Wednesday 1 February 2006  
Tuesday 28 March 2006

On consideration of this item, one Member suggested items which should be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

### *RESOLVED*

*that the following items be included on the agenda for the next meeting: -*

- (i) An update on AbITS;*

# Ab.25

(ii) *A report on the need to focus on delivering the Community Strategy.*

**(Exempt Information Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972).**

None.

The meeting rose at 8.22pm.

## BRIEFING NOTE - APRIL 2005

### Capital Grant Funding

#### Information provided by Steve Bishop - Strategic Director

#### Grant Funding Options - Community Grants

- 1 Ad hoc requests for Community Grant Funding are received by the relevant Area Committee or Executive. Each committee has its own grant budget for this purpose. As these are revenue budgets the recipient organisations are free to apply and use the money for revenue or capital purposes.
- 2 If a grant exceeds the Area Committee's unspent budget the Area Committee can refer the matter to the Executive for consideration. If the Executive has inadequate budget but wishes to support the grant, the Executive can agree a supplementary estimate which will transfer budget from Contingency to the budget cost centre. The Council has a very modest Contingency, so supplementary estimates need to be rare and for exceptional purposes.

#### Grant Funding Options - Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund

- 3 The Council's Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund is a central capital fund set up to provide matched funding for schemes that have received grant funding from another organisation but whose grant conditions require a proportion of the grant to be met by the applicant, or, separate grant aid from a third party (in this case the Council).
- 4 There are restrictions over the use of this Fund:
  - It is a source of funding, not a budget. In other words, it can be used at year-end to offset the cost of grant-funding so that the cost does not impact the Council Tax payer. But any grant payments during the year need to be charged to a capital cost centre, increase the actual capital expenditure and should ideally be budgeted for.
  - Any grants must be used for capital purposes rather than general running costs, repairs or maintenance
- 5 The Council maintains a modest balance on this Fund. If use of the Fund reduces the balance to zero during the year, additional 'top up' will be required from general capital receipts which will reduce the investment income generated from the receipts. This inevitably impacts on the Council Tax payer.

#### Grant Funding Options - Capital Programme

- 6 The Council could formally award a capital grant as a capital scheme within the Capital Programme. This has never been done.

#### Other 'Funding' Options

- 7 Previous reports have referred to Council loans. These are not sources of funding per se as the applicant has to repay the loan with interest. They do allow the applicant to spread the cost of their scheme over a longer period. The applicant would need a regular source of income (or parish precept). As previously agreed any loan application must satisfy the Council's risk-minimisation criteria, requiring a guarantor, bond or similar protection. As a result loans will not be available to many applicants.

8 The process of using the capital funding should be as follows:

- In order to ensure that legal requirements for capital expenditure are met, all applications must be technically vetted by the Head of Asset Management, including ensuring that the applicant has received separate grant funding which is conditional upon securing third party funding (i.e. the Council)
- All applications must be determined by the Executive, even if they are first referred to an area committee for recommending onto the Executive.
- Members should approve the recommended annual usage of the Fund as part of the Budget-setting.
- Any spend above the budgeted usage increases the capital expenditure. Provided this does not go above the total capital programme budget this poses no problem. Should the grant application seek to spend above the planned capital programme, this exceeds the Executive's authority and a recommendation to Council will need to be made.
- A de minimis level of say £5k would be useful given the administration caused by these grant applications and to make it more likely that they are capital. (The Council's own de minimis for capitalising expenditure is £10k)

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE  
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE  
13 JULY 2005

**Community Grants**

**1.0 Introduction and Report Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants for 2005/06 and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting.
- 1.2 The contact officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626).

**2.0 Recommendations**

- (a) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's approved budget total for 2005/06 is £38,849.12 (including £8,231.12 carried forward from 2004/05), which is apportioned as follows: -*

<i>Environmental Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£10,716.30</i>
<i>Social Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£10,716.30</i>
<i>Economic Agenda (10%)</i>	<i>£3,061.80</i>
<i>Discretionary (20%)</i>	<i>£6,123.60</i>
	<i>plus</i>
	<i>£8,231.12</i>

- (b) *Members are asked to note that grants totalling £3,000 are to be awarded to the following two twinning organisations in the Abingdon Area, as directed by the Executive on 6 August 2004, subject to the completion of a service level agreement: -*

<i>Abingdon Town Council</i>	<i>£2,500</i>
<i>Drayton Twinning Society</i>	<i>£500</i>

- (c) *Members are asked to: -*
- (i) *note the recommendations made by the Executive and the subsequent decision taken by the Council in respect of funding towards the cost of extending the Peachcroft Christian Centre, Abingdon; and*
  - (ii) *to consider the application again in the light of this and determine the grant award, Council agenda and priority.*
- (d) *Members are asked to determine the grant award, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following: -f*
- (i) *Abingdon Child Contact Centre - £1,500, towards running costs for the next five years, Social Agenda, Access priority;*
  - (ii) *Mr Kirby, Sympson Close, Abingdon - £641.60, towards the cost of crown reduction and deadwooding of a large chestnut tree and installation of a cable brace plus routine maintenance to a yew, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;*
  - (iii) *Abingdon Marathon - £750, towards the cost of organising a marathon, £750, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;*
  - (iv) *Abbey Sailing Club - £2,000, towards the cost of purchasing two boats to be available to beginners, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*

- (v) *Historic Building Grant Scheme: Mr Bax, Pusey Cottage, Drayton - £1,250, towards the cost of re-thatching and restoration of a local historic feature, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;*
- (vi) *The NET Management Committee - £4,563, towards the cost of increasing holiday activities, Social Agenda, Access priority;*
- (vii) *The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Oxford) - £750, towards the cost of installing an electrically operated automatic door for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility, Social Agenda, Access priority.*

(e) *Members are asked to determine the following parish cleansing grant bids for 2005/06: -*

<i>Appleford-on-Thames</i>	<i>£250</i>
<i>Drayton</i>	<i>£402</i>

### **3.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies**

3.1 This report supports the Council's Vision and Priorities. It also supports the Vale Community Strategy. It does not conflict with any Council strategy or any Council policy.

### **4.0 Budget**

4.1 The budget position for this Committee at the beginning of the year 2005/06 is as follows:

<b>Budget b/f 2004/05</b>	<b>Budget 2005/06</b>	<b>Total budget 2005/06</b>	<b>Environmental Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Social Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Economic Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Discretionary Proportion</b>
£8,231.12	£ 30,618	£38,849.12	£10,716.30	£10,716.30	£3,061.80	£6,123.60 + £8,231.12
	Allocated	£3,000	£0	£3,000	£0	£0
	Remaining	£35,849.12	£10,716.30	£7,716.30	£3,061.80	£14,354.72

### **5.0 Community Grants**

#### **5.1 Twinning Grants**

The Executive decided at its meeting on 6 August 2004 (Minute Ex 83) that twinning associations should be partners in service provision and be subject to service level agreements. It was resolved that funding, at the same level as in previous years, would come from Area Committee budgets. Last year the twinning associations confirmed that they would enter into a service level agreement with the Council.

5.2 The Committee is asked to note the grants to be awarded in the current financial year to the following two twinning organisations located in the Abingdon Area, subject to them signing a service level agreement with the Council:

Abingdon Town Council	£2,500
Drayton Twinning Society	£500

#### **5.3 Grant application from the Peachcroft Christian Centre**

At its meeting on 15 April, the Executive considered an application from the Peachcroft Christian Centre which had been referred from the Abingdon Area Committee. The application was for a grant of £50,000 towards the cost of extending the building. The Executive resolved that the Abingdon Area Committee be encouraged to provide financial support, such award to at least match the grant to be recommended to the Council, and to recommend to the Council the creation of a new capital scheme to award £10,000 to the Peachcroft Christian Centre subject to the Abingdon Area Committee providing equivalent revenue funding. The recommendation was adopted by the Council at its meeting on 18 May.

- 5.4 Further details are to be found at Appendix A.
- 5.5 Members are asked to consider the application in the light of the recommendations made by the Executive and the subsequent decision taken by the Council and to determine the award, Council agenda and priority.
- 5.6 Applications have been received in respect of the following organisations and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix B to the report. Members are invited to consider and determine the grant awards, the Council agenda and priority for the applications received.
- (i) Abingdon Child Contact Centre, £1,500, towards running costs for the next five years, Social Agenda, Access priority
  - (ii) Mr Kirby, Sympson Close, Abingdon, £641.60, towards the cost of crown reduction and deadwooding of a large chestnut tree and installation of a cable brace plus routine maintenance to a yew, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
  - (iii) Abingdon Marathon, £750, towards the cost of organising a marathon, £750, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
  - (iv) Abbey Sailing Club, £2,000, towards the cost of purchasing two boats to be available to beginners, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
  - (v) Historic Building Grant Scheme: Mr Bax, Pusey Cottage, Drayton, £1,250, towards the cost of re-thatching and restoration of a local historic feature, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
  - (vi) The NET Management Committee, £4,563, towards the cost of increasing holiday activities, Social Agenda, Access priority
  - (vii) The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Oxford), £750, towards the cost of installing an electrically operated automatic door for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility, Social Agenda, Access priority

5.7 Parish Cleansing Grants

The following parish councils have submitted applications for grant aid towards supplementary parish cleansing in 2005/06. The grant applications represent 50% of the cost of the additional litter picking on relevant land not in the parish council's ownership. Members are invited to consider and determine the applications received.

Appleford-on-Thames	£250
Drayton	£402

TOBY WARREN  
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER  
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers: Applications



**Applicant: Peachcroft Christian Centre, Abingdon**

Background

At the Abingdon Area Committee meeting held on 12 January 2005, an application was heard from Peachcroft Christian Centre, Abingdon seeking a grant towards the cost of extending its existing centre in Lindsay Drive, North Abingdon. The Committee indicated that it was minded to support the application in the sum of £50,000 but noted that there were limited resources available. To this end it was considered that the application should be deferred to the next financial year for reconsideration by the Committee and that the application should be referred to the Executive, it being noted that the Executive could award capital grants or make loans.

On 4th March 2005 Executive considered report 234/04 and resolved 'that loans be made available to community groups, which on application, must satisfy the authority that it can cover any risks associated with the loan' The applicant has been advised of this resolution and the content of report 234/04. The applicant's response is that their preference would be for a grant rather than a loan towards the cost of their project because they are already funding a large part of the project with loans.

The application for £50,000 was considered by the Executive Grants Committee on 15 April. The Executive resolved that the Abingdon Area Committee be encouraged to provide financial support, such award to at least match the grant to be recommended to the Council, and to recommend to the Council the creation of a new capital scheme to award £10,000 to the Peachcroft Christian Centre subject to the Abingdon Area Committee providing equivalent revenue funding. The recommendation was adopted by the Council at its meeting on 18 May.

Outline of Project

Peachcroft Christian Centre (Centre) is seeking a grant towards the cost of extending its existing Centre in Lindsay Drive, North Abingdon. Since the Centre was built in 1987 the Peachcroft housing estate has grown to over 2,000 houses with approximately 6,000 people. The centre is currently a one-roomed building seating 60; hence it is far too small for the needs of the Peachcroft estate. Working with the marginalized, at risk youth of North Abingdon, the size of their current premises severely limits the effectiveness, scope and diversity of what can be achieved. The congregation of over 50 adults and 30 children and young people has also completely outgrown the capacity of the building. Limited floor space, storage space, toilet and kitchen facilities greatly restrict the use that can be made of the Centre by both the congregation and the community at large. The Centre is a focal point for many local community groups, including parent and toddler groups, over 55's club, holiday clubs, Women's Institute, Abingdon Music Centre and a youth café (run by the centre for local teenagers). In consultation with the community, the police, town and district Councillors and youth professionals, the Centre is playing a leading role in the development of work with the marginalized, at risk youth of North Abingdon.

They have surveyed 100 local households to ensure that their extension and the services which it will offer are needed and will be used by the local community. The proposed extension plans include a flexible large main hall to seat 150 (with overflow capacity) which could be divided into several smaller spaces if required. This will serve as a worship area for Sunday services, but will also be used for numerous community functions throughout the week. In addition there will be a crèche, improved office and kitchen areas, a larger toilet block and a separate quiet room, all totally accessible to people with a disability.

The land is owned by Radley College, leased to Peachcroft Christian Centre on a peppercorn lease for a period of 125 years from 1985. Radley College has given written consent to their extension project.

Planning permission has been granted by the District Council

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£572,016 including VAT
Balances	£12,771 at 31 August 2003
Running Costs	£37,407 for year ended 31 August 2003
Own Contribution	£263,000
<b>Grant Sought</b>	<b>£50,000</b>
Previous Awards	None in last 5 years
Parish Support	Abingdon Town Council awarded £500
Other Support	Waste Recycling Environment Limited (WREN) awarded £ 30,000 Applied to many other trusts (awaiting outcomes)

**(i) Applicant: Abingdon Child Contact Centre**

An application from the Abingdon Child Contact Centre was heard by the Committee at its meeting on 30 March and it was decided to defer consideration of the application to the next meeting, pending the receipt of further information including whether the Centre would prefer regular financial support. The information below has been amended to include the further information requested and the applicant has indicated that the Centre would be happy to receive regular financial support from the Council in the form of a service level agreement.

Brief outline of project

The Abingdon Child Contact Centre is seeking a grant towards the cost of supporting and securing the running of the Centre, which is based at the Baptist Church Hall in Ock Street, Abingdon. The purpose of the Centre is to provide a safe and secure meeting point for children of broken relationships to meet their non-residential parent. The majority of the families have been to court to secure these contact times.

The grant would be used to offset the hire of the hall, insurance for children and volunteers, and renewal of equipment.

The total number of families and the total number of children assisted from the Vale in the calendar year 2004 was sixteen and nineteen respectively. These children and families made one hundred and thirty four visits in total during the year. The number of the children and families from the Abingdon Area for this period was twelve of each.

The centre is run by volunteers who have given up their time to train for this service. They feel that the nature of their work prevents them from raising funds themselves. The parents that use the services of the Centre are, in the main, in financial difficulties so are unable to contribute to the service costs.

There are other centres in Didcot, Oxford and Swindon.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£1,073 for calendar year 2005; £5,500 approx for five calendar years 2005 – 2009
Balances	£3,151.93 at 31.12.04
Running Costs	£683 at 31.12.04 but rent was artificially low due to inconvenience caused by building work.
Own Contribution	Balance after grants and donations; also volunteers give their time
Grant Sought	£1,500 for a period of five calendar years
Previous Awards (Vale)	£1,000 in 2001/02
Town Council Support	£500 Abingdon Town Council 2004/05
Other Support	Applied to Diocesan Board of Social Responsibility (outcome awaited) Abingdon Deanery Synod (outcome awaited)

Officer comment (Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise):

The work of the Centre contributes to the Health & Well Being strand of the Vale Community Strategy.

**(ii) Tree Preservation Grant: Applicant: Mr Kirby, Sympson Close, Abingdon**

The owners of 6 Sympson Close are seeking a grant towards crown reduction and dead wooding of a large chestnut tree plus the installation of a cable brace. Additional routine maintenance work is also required to a yew tree.

Financial Information:

Total cost of work: £1,603.88

Grant sought: £ 641.60

Officer Comment: (George Reade, Arboriculture Officer)

The reduction, dead wooding, and cable brace fitting for the Chestnut tree are required on safety grounds.

### **(iii) Applicant: Abingdon Marathon**

The Abingdon Marathon Committee is seeking financial assistance to organise its annual race. The grant would help to pay for police cover, the arrangement of road closures and the provision of full support and assistance to the participants. The costs associated with the road closures and police cover have increased significantly over the last two years.

The race starts and finishes at Tilsley Park, passing through Abingdon, Drayton, Milton, and Sutton Courtenay. It is the only race held in this part of the country, and was rated amongst Britain's top ten marathons in a survey conducted by Runner' World Magazine. The race attracts around 900 competitors and is always oversubscribed. There is an entry charge of £18 per runner.

The hosting and organisation of the Abingdon Marathon does much to benefit both the running community and the community at large in the Vale. Local hotels, pubs, restaurants and shops also benefit from the large number of runners and their supporters attracted to the area as a result of the marathon.

This application supports the following strands of the Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality, Health & Wellbeing, Environment.

#### Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£15,500 incl VAT; £13,500 excl VAT
Balances	£3,852 at 31.12.04
Running Costs	£12,465 for year 01.01.04 – 31.12.04
Own Contribution	Balances after entry fees, sponsorship, grants and sales
Grant Sought	£ 750
Previous Awards (Vale)	£ 350 (2004/05) £ 250 (2003/04)
Town Council Support	Have applied to Abingdon Town Council (outcome awaited)
Parish Precept	Abingdon Town Council: £706,402.00 (Band 'D' £57.87)
Other Support	An entry fee of £18 is charged per runner; in 2004 £1,100 in sponsorship was obtained.

#### **(iv) Applicant: Abbey Sailing Club**

Abbey Sailing Club is seeking grant aid towards the purchase of two new sail boats to enable young people and their families to take part in the sport of sailing. At present all of the boats at the club are privately owned, this means that any novice sailor has to find a boat owner willing to take them out or they have to buy their own boat which can be very expensive.

The purchase of two new boats would encourage new members to the club, and make sailing accessible to all.

The Club is well-established, having been in existence for seventy years, and has a mix of male and female, sailing and non-sailing members, ranging in age from 6 – 80+ years who come from all over the Vale. The membership stands at around 90 people and the annual membership costs are as follows: adults £30, £45 family (children under 18) and £10 for juniors. There are approximately 20+ junior members at the club.

The Club has received a number of enquiries over the last couple of years from young people who wish to learn to sail and recently with Great Britain's Olympic successes, many more people have shown an interest.

Abbey Sailing Club has carried out extensive research into the most appropriate kind of boat to purchase based on reliability, price and flexibility. The Club has organised fundraising events to help reach the target of £4,056 required to buy the two boats.

This application supports the following strands of the Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Health & Wellbeing, Safe and Supportive Communities, Town & Village Vitality.

#### Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£4,056 incl VAT; £3,452 excl VAT
Balances	£5,845.40 at 31.12.04
Running Costs	£10,154.03 for year 01.01.04 – 31.12.04
Own Contribution	£1,500 from fundraising
Grant Sought	£2,000
Previous Awards (Vale)	None
Town Council Support	Applied to Abingdon Town Council (outcome awaited)
Parish Precept	Abingdon Town Council: £706,402.00 (Band 'D' £57.87)
Other Support	Have investigated Awards for All but see this as a next stage; when they have their own boats they intend to investigate being more accessible to people with disabilities and base a bid to Awards for All on this.

#### **(v) Historic Building Grant Application: Pusey Cottage, Drayton**

Mr Bax is seeking a grant towards the re-thatching of the rear elevation of his property. Pusey Cottage was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and is Grade II listed. Its roof is described in its listing as “thatch, half hipped to left, with some areas of old plain tile; brick ridge stack to centre”. It is prominently situated along a public road and is within the Drayton Conservation Area.

#### Financial Information

The level of grant offered under the Historic Building Grant Scheme is normally 25% of the cost of eligible works up to a maximum of £1,250.

The work has been estimated at £12,800 excluding VAT.

#### Officer Comment (Alison Blyth, Principal Planning Officer)

The application fulfils the criteria adopted by the District Council for the operation of its Historic Building Grant Scheme: The building is listed, within a Conservation Area, readily visible from the street and the owner has lived there for over 3 years. The re-thatching work also includes the restoration of a local historic feature found in the district.

#### Recommendations

*Mr Bax be offered the maximum grant of £1,250 towards the cost of re-thatching subject to the normal Historic Building Grant conditions plus the ridge being flush finished with no decorative features.*

**(vi) Applicant: The NET Management Committee**

Brief outline of the project

The Net Management Committee is seeking a grant towards the cost of expanding the current summer holiday scheme run at The NET. The project is currently aimed at 'at risk' sixteen year olds from the South of Abingdon. The Committee is seeking to make the holiday activities available to a wider age range, namely 13-19 years. The young people to be targeted fall into the category of the most deprived young people in Abingdon, who are concentrated in the south of the town.

The summer holiday period means that these young people are particularly susceptible to risks from crime, drug and alcohol abuse, parental neglect, emotional and physical abuse. The project would be a diversionary project but would also provide support and practical advice. Those needing additional support from specialist agencies will be signposted and supported appropriately. By attending the project the young people will not be congregating on the streets or in places where the elderly and other residents feel intimidated by their presence. Attendance will also reduce the opportunity for crime.

A minimal charge of £1.00 is payable for each course and activities include: sports and arts courses, educational visits and also residential courses, which can enhance team building and life skills.

To ensure the scheme is sustainable, the workers at the centre often use the relationships they have built with the young people to engage with the families and their support networks, long after the scheme has ended.

This application supports the following strands of the Community Strategy: Safe & Supportive Communities, Health & Wellbeing, Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Access to Services, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning.

Note to the figures below: In costing the project, the applicant has found it difficult to separate out VAT for each item as VAT can only be claimed back through Oxfordshire County Council if the applicant is invoiced for purchases, which for most purchases does not happen; also some items do not attract VAT. The applicant has deducted the £8,000 received from the County Council towards the project and estimated the VAT on the applicable proportion of the remaining £5,000 at £437 to arrive at the grant requested of £4,563.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£13,000 (see note above)
Balances	£14,007.29 at 31.03.05 for all projects including this one
Running Costs	£13,000 for this project
Grant Sought	£4,563
Own contribution	£3030.50
Previous Awards (Vale)	None
Town Council Support	Applying to Town Council
Parish Precept	£706,402 (£57.87 as per Band D)
Other Support	£8,000 Oxfordshire County Council Community Safety Department

Officer comment (Liz Hayden, Drug & Alcohol Misuse Co-ordinator):

The Community Safety Partnership supports this funding bid:



In terms of ranking across Oxfordshire, Abingdon Caldecott is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> most deprived out of 137 super output areas. During the summer months many young people engage in drinking and smoking drugs on the streets. Detached youth workers have worked hard over the course of the last year to build up positive relationships with these young people. The aim is to continue working with the young people and enable them to engage in more positive activities during the summer holidays. Referrals will be made to other agencies such as the Youth mentoring scheme and Face to Face (youth counselling service) as necessary. There is no doubt that the character building activities suggested can have a profound effect on the development of individuals. The developmental courses will offer the young people an opportunity to experience new interests. In addition they will provide an opportunity for self confidence and motivation building through out door pursuits provided in a safe and stimulating environment.

## (vii) Applicant: The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Oxford)

### Background

An application from the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre for £2,000 towards the cost of replacing the front door of the centre was considered at the South East Area Committee at its meeting on 10 March 2005 and a grant of £1,000 was awarded. The Committee recommended that the Centre approach the Vale's West and Abingdon Area Committees for additional funding (as well as South Oxfordshire District Council) since the users of the centre come from Faringdon and Abingdon (and Didcot) in addition to Wantage.

### Brief outline of project

The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing the existing front door of the Centre with an electrically operated automatic door to make it safer for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility. The door replacement would serve to enhance an extension scheme which has now been completed. No funds had been allocated for the replacement of the door under the extension project.

The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre is a small local charity, established in 1984, and is principally a self-help group for people suffering with multiple sclerosis for which there is no cure. The Centre provides friendship, understanding and a positive outlook on life as well as a range of therapies.

Thirty to fifty people regularly use the Centre and they come from Wantage, Faringdon and Abingdon.

The Centre is funded solely by voluntary contributions, donations and fundraising events. It owns the building but not the land on which it stands. The landlord supports the charity and provides the land rent-free.

### Financial information

Total Project Cost	£3,000
Balances	£17,863 + £30,000 capital reserves as at 31/12/03 (the accounts show that this was identified at the end of 2003 to be used to finance the expansion in 2004, referred to above)*
Running Costs	£30,699 as at 31/12/03*
Own Contribution	£1,000
Grant Sought	£750
Previous Awards (Vale)	£2,000 in 2000 for waiting room chairs and other furniture <b>£1,000 in 2004/05 (S E Area Committee) towards replacement front door</b>
Parish Council Support	£50 Milton Parish Council
Other Support	The landowner provides the land rent-free.

\* to be updated verbally at the meeting

## Targeting Grants for the Benefit of Abingdon

### Introduction

1. The Abingdon Area Committee resolved at its meeting on 30th March that it should receive a report setting out ways for targeting grants and focusing on delivering the Community Strategy.

### The Vale Community Strategy

2. The nine strands are:
  - Transport
  - Access to Services
  - Recreation, Culture and Leisure
  - Safe and Supportive Communities
  - Town and Village Vitality
  - Environment
  - Housing
  - Education and Lifelong Learning
  - Health and Wellbeing

### Targeting Support

3. The Community Strategy strands are fairly broad which provides an opportunity for the Area Committee to select the strands that are important for Abingdon and then to publish a 'prospectus' so that the voluntary and community sector are aware of the types of projects that are a priority for support by the Area Committee.
4. Priorities can be identified by looking at existing project provision in Abingdon and the surrounding wards and mapping it against need to see if there are gaps in provision (e.g. Is there sufficient provision of appropriate ICT training for older people?).
5. When the Vale Community Strategy was being prepared there was extensive public consultation which identified a number of community priorities in the Abingdon area.
6. Final agreement on the priorities will be a matter for members of the Area Committee although the Committee may wish to obtain further information from community groups before making a decision. Parish planning work been undertaken in Drayton will be a valuable source of information. The Committee may also wish to speak to other grant funders such as the Big Lottery. Whilst projects should be need driven rather than funding driven, projects that are consistent with the priorities of several funders will have more chance of success.

### Conclusion

7. The Area Committee can demonstrate its community leadership role by championing projects that have community support and are consistent with the priorities of relevant members of the Vale Strategic Partnership. If Partnership members are unwilling to support relevant projects the Area Committee could request an explanation of the lack of support and/or suggestions on alternative community led projects that would receive support.
8. Developing a prospectus that is effective takes time so it is suggest that the Area Committee drafts a 'working prospectus' for 2005/06 and then consults on it during 2005/06 with the aim of having a widely supported prospectus in place in readiness for 2006/07. A draft example is attached as an appendix to this report.

<b>ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE GRANT PROSPECTUS FOR 2006/07</b>		
<b>VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS</b>	<b>WHAT WE WILL SUPPORT</b>	<b>PRIORITIES IN 2005/06 ARE</b> <i>Projects that have been identified as a priority by local people &amp; are feasible in that they will be supported by the statutory sector as they will help to achieve targets set by government.</i>
<b>Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus services and linkages with community transport services</li> <li>• Reduced traffic congestion</li> <li>• Improved and expanded cycle tracks</li> <li>• Improved road maintenance</li> <li>• Greater consultation to ensure a more systematic and co-ordinated transport system</li> <li>• Improved parking provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community bus service for Abingdon and the surrounding area</li> <li>• Information to encourage more cycling and walking</li> </ul>
<b>Access to Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved, reliable and relevant current information about services, events etc.</li> <li>• Enhanced communication</li> <li>• More extensive consultation</li> <li>• Increased access to and use of new technology</li> <li>• Greater and better networking opportunities</li> <li>• More local access points (eg, shops and local facilities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation on services for young people - do they meet the needs of young people?</li> </ul>
<b>Recreation, Culture and Leisure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded range of facilities/affordable venues</li> <li>• Support for better networking among local associations</li> <li>• Greater use of development control opportunities to secure open spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New affordable entertainment &amp; sports activities/venues in Abingdon</li> </ul>

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	WHAT WE WILL SUPPORT	PRIORITIES IN 2005/06 ARE <i>Projects that have been identified as a priority by local people &amp; are feasible in that they will be supported by the statutory sector as they will help to achieve targets set by government.</i>
<b>Safe and Supportive Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better information to allay the fear of crime</li> <li>• Additional measures to tackle anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• More visible policing</li> <li>• Better enforcement of traffic regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects to positively develop young people's energy and creativity</li> <li>• Projects to allay the fear of crime for older people</li> </ul>
<b>Town and Village Vitality</b>	<p><b>Economic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for economic vitality across all sectors including small rural businesses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce a sense of isolation and alienation amongst older people</li> <li>• Promote and support volunteering</li> <li>• Foster a spirit of community by developing infrastructure and breaking down barriers between different groups</li> <li>• Encourage local issues groups</li> <li>• Take account of village plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village action plans for the hinterland surrounding Abingdon</li> <li>• Projects that encourage town centre shopping</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce litter both in streets and fly tips</li> <li>• Increase recycling facilities</li> <li>• Greater engagement and education of communities on environmental issues</li> <li>• Ensure services are provided in a sustainable manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects that encourage large companies and organisations to save energy and recycle</li> </ul>

<b>VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS</b>	<b>WHAT WE WILL SUPPORT</b>	<b>PRIORITIES IN 2005/06 ARE</b> <i>Projects that have been identified as a priority by local people &amp; are feasible in that they will be supported by the statutory sector as they will help to achieve targets set by government.</i>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more genuinely affordable housing, particularly for key workers, young families and local people</li> <li>• Ensure balanced housing developments</li> <li>• Identify more exception sites</li> <li>• Provide more and better facilities for homeless people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects that reduce the risk of homelessness; particularly among young people</li> </ul>
<b>Education and Lifelong Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage greater co-ordination between learning institutions</li> <li>• Promote the social/community/individual benefits of learning</li> <li>• Support parents and guardians</li> <li>• Promote learning opportunities for older people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A database of local learning opportunities</li> <li>• Promote learning opportunities (particularly ICT) for older people</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase support for older people to avoid isolation</li> <li>• Maximise opportunities for older people to exercise</li> <li>• Greater support for young parents</li> <li>• Improve education generally</li> <li>• Increase use of local facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects that support young parents</li> </ul>