

Date: 3 October 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 **NORTHCOURT CENTRE, ABINGDON** on **TUESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 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 is available. Any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement. Contact Carole Nicholl, Democratic Services Officer, on telephone number (01235) 547631.

### **Map and Vision**

(Pages 5 - 6)

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

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence.

#### **2. Minutes**

(Pages 7 - 18)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee held on 13 July 2005 attached.

**3. 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.

**4. 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.

**5. 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.

**6. 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.

**7. Service Level Agreement with Abingdon Town Council**

(Wards Affected: Abingdon Abbey and Barton; Abingdon Caldecott; Abingdon Dunmore; Abingdon Fitzharris; Abingdon Northcourt; Abingdon Ock Meadow; Abingdon Peachcroft; Appleton and Cumnor; )

(Pages 19 - 20)

To receive and consider report 139/05 of the Head of Innovation and Enterprise attached.

Introduction & Report Summary

At its meeting on 13th July the Abingdon Area Committee resolved that it should receive a report on the proposed twinning service level agreement with Abingdon Town Council. Members wish to ensure that there is no overlap with the activities of the Abingdon & District Twin Town Society (ADTTS).

This report provides information about the proposed service level agreement.

The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Innovation and Enterprise (Tel: 01235 547695).

Recommendation

*that the report be received.*

**8. Targeting Grants for the Benefit of Abingdon**

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

**(Pages 21 - 31)**

To receive and consider report 140/05 of the Head of Innovation and Enterprise and prospectus attached.

Introduction & Report Summary

At its meeting on 13th July the Abingdon Area Committee resolved that it should further consider the idea of a prospectus setting out the Committee's priorities in giving support to the local community.

This report provides further information which will assist the Committee in developing the prospectus.

The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise (Tel: 01235 547695).

Recommendation

*that the report be received.*

**9. Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy – Progress Up-Date**

**(Pages 32 - 33)**

A Briefing Note is attached for information.

**10. Community Grants**

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

**(Pages 34 - 40)**

To receive and consider report 138/05 of the Strategic Director attached.

Introduction and Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out the current budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants 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 Head of Innovation and Enterprise has exercised officer delegation in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and awarded a grant of £27 to Mrs Packard of Rutherford Close, Abingdon, towards tree maintenance.*
- (b) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's current budget is £16,520.12.*
- (c) *Members are asked to determine the grant awards, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following: -*

- (i) *Mrs Robinson, The Thatched Cottage, Appleford, towards the cost of re-thatching (total cost £15,550), Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;*
  - (ii) *Gordon Hudson & Co. towards the cost of tree maintenance and tree safety work in Shelley Court (total cost £2,062.13), Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority; and*
  - (iii) *Abingdon Performance Arts Group (APAGE), £4,000, towards the cost of printing & distributing the brochure for the 2006 Abingdon Arts Festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority.*
- (d) *that an update on the current status of grants awarded by this Committee during 2004/05 and 2005/06, shown at Appendix B be received.*

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

None.



**Our Vision - To build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community**

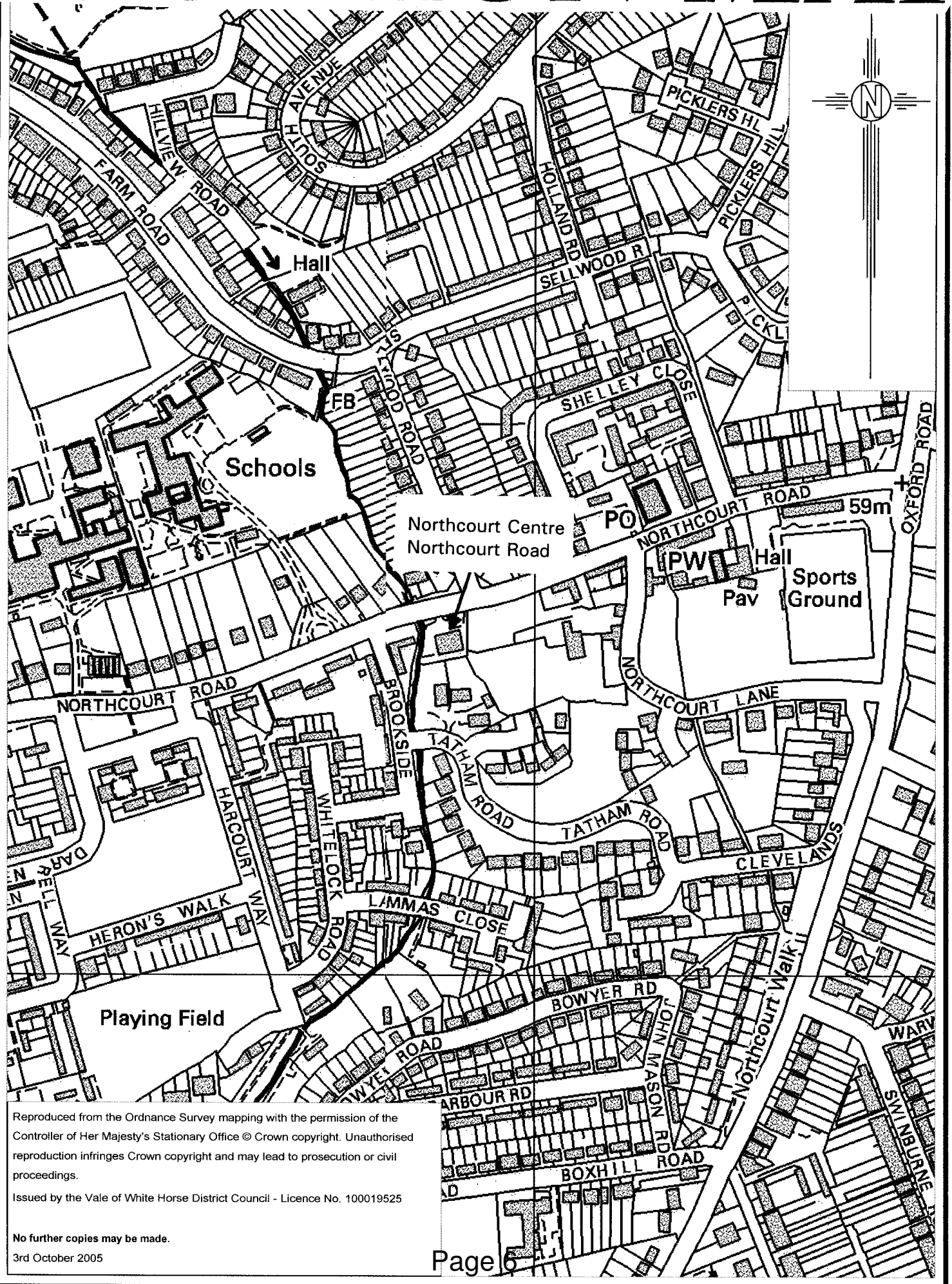
**Our Objectives –**

We aim to:

- provide high quality public services which are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of people within the Vale **A**
  
- Strengthen local democracy and public involvement through freedom of information and accountability, so that everyone can take part in our community and contribute to the decisions which affect our lives **B**
  
- Oppose all prejudice and discrimination **C**
  
- Protect and improve our environment **D**
  
- Create a safer community **E**
  
- Encourage a strong and sustainable economy which is beneficial to all who live in, work in or visit the Vale **F**
  
- Improve the quality of life of all members of the community **G**

Adopted by Vale of White Horse District Council 18 October 1995

# LOCATION MAP



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3rd October 2005

# Ab.1

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

**HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, ABINGDON  
ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH JULY, 2005 AT  
7.00PM**

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

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Councillor Grahame Ash, Mike Badcock, Mary de-Vere, Tony de-Vere, Gervase Duffield, Peter Green, Jim Halliday, Peter Jones, Monica Lovatt, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Alison Rooke and Roz Smith

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lorna Edwards, Carole Nicholl and Toby Warren

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 2

Ab.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

*RESOLVED*

*that Councillor Julie Mayhew be elected Chair of the Abingdon Area Committee for the 2005/06 Municipal Year.*

Ab.2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

*RESOLVED*

*that Councillor Jim Halliday be elected Vice-Chair of the Abingdon Area Committee for the 2005/06 Municipal Year.*

Ab.3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were recorded from Councillors Paul Bizzell, Richard Gibson, Janet Morgan and Laurel Symons.

Ab.4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee held on 30 March 2005 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

Ab.5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were made as follows: -

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Type of Interest</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Minute Ref</u>
Mike Badcock	Personal and Prejudicial	Twinning Grant to Abingdon Town Council	Town Councillor	Ab.10(1)
Peter Green	Personal and Prejudicial	Twinning Grant to Abingdon Town Council	Town Councillor	Ab.10(1)
Peter Jones	Personal and Prejudicial	Twinning Grant to Abingdon Town Council	Town Councillor	Ab.10(1)

Monica Lovatt	Personal and Prejudicial	Twinning Grant to Abingdon Town Council	Town Councillor	Ab.10(1)
Julie Mayhew Archer	Personal and Prejudicial	Twinning Grant to Abingdon Town Council	Town Councillor	Ab.10(1)
Alison Rooke	Personal and Prejudicial	Twinning Grant to Abingdon Town Council	Town Councillor	Ab.10(1)
Alison Rooke	Personal	Peachcroft Christian Centre - grant application	Occasionally frequented the Church	Ab.10(2)
Tony de Vere	Personal	Peachcroft Christian Centre - grant application	All Saints Church was a trustee of the Centre and they were members of the Church.	Ab.10(2)
Mary de Vere	Personal	Peachcroft Christian Centre - grant application	All Saints Church was a trustee of the Centre and they were members of the Church.	Ab.10(2)
Roz Smith	Personal	Peachcroft Christian Centre - grant application	Mr Trinder the speaker was a personal friend.	Ab.10(2)
Julie Mayhew-Archer	Personal	Grant application – Mr Kirby	Acquainted with the applicant.	Ab.10(4)
Mike Badcock	Personal	Net Management – grant application.	County Councillor	Ab.10(8)
Roz Smith	Personal	Net Management –grant application.	County Councillor	Ab.10(8)
Peter Jones	Personal and Prejudicial	MS Centre – grant application	Sister in law used this centre	Ab.10(8)

Ab.6 URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Ab.7 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

It was noted that two members of the public had each given notice that they wished to make a statement at the meeting as follows: -



Mr Colin Trinder made a statement in support of a grant application from the Peachcroft Christian Centre. He explained that only £100,000 was needed to build the extension. He reported that with substantial grant assistance from the District Council it would be possible to secure a loan to complete the funds required and proceed with the work. He appreciated the financial position of the Council but emphasised the considerable benefit of the extension and hence improved facilities to all people in Abingdon. Finally, he advised that there was a family fun day on Saturday 16 July 2005, to which all Members were invited to attend.

Mr Allen made a statement in support of the grant application from the Child Contact Centre. He explained that the Contact Centre met in the Church Hall of the Baptist Church as this was a convenient place with suitable facilities. He explained the running of the Centre reporting that there were 24 volunteer helpers. The clients were various people from all cultures, usually where relationships had broken up. He commented on the safe, secure environment provided for children and outlined the operating arrangements in detail.

The Chair thanked Mr Trinder and Mr Allen for their statements.

Ab.8 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

None.

Ab.9 CAPITAL FUNDING

The Committee received and considered an agenda item which advised that 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. A briefing note prepared by the Strategic Director (Finance) was considered.

*RESOLVED*

*that the agenda report be received.*

Ab.10 COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Committee received and considered report 50/05 of the Head of Innovation and Enterprise which set out the budget position in respect of community grants for 2005/06 and invited Members to determine grant applications.

The Committee considered each of the applications in detail having regard to the statements made earlier in the meeting as appropriate.

In considering the applications, Members were mindful of the Committee's current budget, noting that there were less funds to allocate than had been the case previously. Furthermore, Members concluded that further guidance on appropriate levels of funding, including appropriate percentage levels together with advice of how other area committees allocated their grant funds would be helpful. To this end it was agreed that the concerns of this Committee should be flagged up to the Executive, with the Chair of the Informal Working Group reviewing the grants criteria being encouraged to complete the review as soon as possible.

(1) Twining Organisations in the Abingdon Area

(Councillors Mike Badcock, Peter Green, Peter Jones, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Monica Lovatt and Alison Rooke had each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in part

of this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 they withdrew from the meeting).

Councillor Jim Halliday, the Vice-Chair took the Chair for this part of the item.

Members queried the content of the Service Level Agreements (SLA). It was noted that the Officer had drafted the SLA which had been sent to the Drayton Twinning Association for consideration.

It was reported that having talked with the Abingdon and District Twin Town Society, the Officers needed to clarify both with the Town Council and the Society what their relationship would be and how they would work in partnership. Until the Officers were satisfied with any proposals, they would not be recommending that an SLA be entered into.

In response to a question raised it was noted that several parishes were involved in twinning and that the Abingdon and District Twin Town Society covered the whole of the Vale in respect of the Vale twin towns Colmar and St Niklaas.

(2) Peachcroft Christian Centre

(Councillors Alison Rooke, Mary de Vere, Tony de Vere and Roz Smith had each declared a personal interest in part of this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 they remained in the meeting during its consideration).

Members supported the awarded a grant in view of the valuable facilities that were offered to the community.

(3) Abingdon Child Contact Centre

One Member suggested that a Service Level Agreement (SLA) should be entered into with the Centre although this was not supported in view of the amount of grant awarded and the hidden costs of Officers' time in preparing an SLA.

In response to a question raised, the Officers explained the level of grant aid sought and confirmed that the centre provided a service for residents across the whole of the Vale and that it might be appropriate to refer the application to the Executive. However, this was not supported.

(4) Tree Preservation Grant - Mr Kirby, Sympson Close, Abingdon

(Councillor Julie Mayhew-Archer had declared a personal interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 she remained in the meeting during its consideration).

Further to the report, it was noted that a Tree Preservation Order was in place.

One Member referred to the benefit to the public in supporting this application compared to other applications and commented that the level of grant award should be less comparably. However, other Members considered that the level of grant should be higher.

(5) Abingdon Marathon

Further to the report it was noted that the Town Council had offered a grant of £300 and that any profits were donated to charity.

Some Members expressed concern that in effect some, or all, of the grant award from the Council was being routed through the marathon to a charity. However, it was reported that the organisers had substantial costs which they needed to cover and that any excess only was given to charity.

Members spoke in support of awarding a grant noting that the event encouraged people into the Town. It was suggested that further information was needed, but in view of the timing of the event it was not practicable to request this. It was thereupon suggested that a guarantee against any loss to a maximum amount could be offered and on being put to the vote this was supported by the majority of voting Members.

(6) Abbey Sailing Club

The Committee supported the application.

(7) Historic Building Grant - Pusey Cottage Drayton

Further to the report it was noted that the applicant had resided in the property for in excess of 3 years.

Members commented that some guidance on the level of grant which would be appropriate to award was needed. It was commented that in awarding a grant, the Council could stipulate the style of the thatch, ensuring that it was appropriate for the area. Whilst understanding the desire for thatching to be in keeping with the traditional style for this area, one Member highlighted that there were many historic buildings in the Town centre.

Again one Member compared the amount of grant being proposed for a single person compared to that offered to an organisation benefiting many people.

It was noted that the West Area Committee had decided that in view of the limited funding available it would not offer grant aid towards tree works or thatching.

One Member commented that the Committee should be consistent and that it would not be fair to give a big grant towards one building and not another. It was further suggested that the Committee could be setting a precedent for other such applications.

Reference was made to the suggested level of grant proposed in the report. It was noted that this had been put forward by the respective officers dealing with grant applications based on the existing criteria. Members considered that there should be no grant suggestions in future reports, it being considered that applicants might expect this amount.

The possibility of deferring the application pending a resolution on the criteria was discussed, but deferral was considered unfair to the applicant.

(8) Net Management Committee

(Councillors Mike Badcock and Roz Smith had each declared a personal interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 they remained in the meeting during its consideration).

In response to a question raised, the contributions from other organisations were highlighted. In addition the number of people benefiting from the service was outlined.

One Member compared the level of grant proposed to be awarded in this case, which would benefit many people and the grant awarded to an individual earlier in the meeting commenting that this was unfair. She emphasised that clearer guidelines of levels of award were needed.

One Member questioned whether there was an element of duplication with another organisation, although it was noted that there appeared to be two distinct schemes.

Furthermore, it was commented that in view of the number of young people with problems more than one scheme would be needed anyway.

The Committee supported the application, but welcomed a report back providing further information.

(9) Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Oxford)

(Councillor Peter Jones had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 he left the meeting during its consideration).

The Committee noted that the West Area Committee had not awarded a grant as Members had considered that the application from the Centre should be considered by the Executive as a Vale wide application. This Committee concurred with that view.

(10) Parish Cleansing Grant Bids

The Committee supported the bids noting that they equated to 50% of the overall cost.

**RESOLVED**

(a) *that it be noted 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) *that it be noted 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>

# Ab.7

- (c) *that this Committee reviews at its next meeting, the final service level agreements in respect of Abingdon Town Council and the Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society to ensure that they are compliant with each other and in accordance with previously agreed conditions; and*
- (d) *that following negotiation with Abingdon Town Council, the Head of Innovation and Enterprise report to the next meeting on whether there is any overlap in respect of twinning between the Abingdon Town Council and the Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society;*
- (e) *that 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 be noted and that the application be considered again in the light of this (see (d) below);*
- (f) *that the grant applications be determined as follows: -*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Grant/Decision</u>
Peachcroft Christian Centre	Contribution towards the cost of a community facility.	£15,000 –being £8,231 - carry forward budget and Access Priority and £7,639 - Social Agenda and Access Priority. (Proposed by Councillor Tony de Vere, seconded by Councillor Alison Rooke and agreed by 11 votes to nil, with 1 abstention).
Abingdon Child Contact Centre	Contribution towards running costs for the next five years.	£600 with the Centre being advised that the Committee will not consider any application for grant aid for 2 years - Social Agenda, Access Priority. (Amendment proposed by Councillor Jim Halliday, seconded by Councillor Tony de-Vere and agreed by 6 votes to 2 with 4 abstentions. On being put, the Substantive Motion was agreed by 7 votes to nil with 5 abstentions).  (It had been proposed by Councillor Grahame Ash that an SLA be entered into awarding a grant of £300 per year for the next 3 years. However, this was not seconded).  It had also been proposed by Councillor Gervase Duffield and seconded by Councillor Alison Rooke that a grant of £300 be offered, with the Committee noting that it should look sympathetically on any grant application next year).

# Ab.8

- Mr Kirby  
Sympson  
Close,  
Abingdon
- Contribution towards the cost of crown reduction and dead-wooding of a large chestnut tree and installation of a cable brace, plus routine maintenance to a yew tree.
- £160 - Environmental Agenda and Town and Village Vitality Priority. (Amendment proposed by Councillor Mike Badcock, seconded by Councillor Tony de Vere and agreed by 10 votes to 1, with 1 abstention. On being put, the Substantive Motion was agreed by 10 votes to nil with 2 abstentions).
- (It had been proposed by Councillor Roz Smith and seconded by Councillor Alison Rooke that a grant of £50 be awarded).
- Abingdon  
Marathon
- Guarantee against loss of organising a marathon.
- A guarantee against loss up to a maximum of £500 - Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality Priority. (Proposed by Councillor Jim Halliday, seconded by Councillor Mary de Vere and agreed by 9 votes to 2, with 1 abstention).
- By way of an amendment Councillor Mike Badcock had proposed and Councillor Grahame Ash had seconded that a grant of £750 be offered but this was lost by 5 votes to 6 with 1 abstention.
- Abbey  
Sailing Club
- Contribution towards the cost of purchasing two boats to be available to beginners.
- £250 - Social Agenda, Town and Village Vitality Priority. (Proposed by Councillor Mike Badcock, seconded by Councillor Roz Smith and agreed by 11 votes to nil with 1 abstention).
- Historic  
Building  
Grant  
Scheme -  
Mr Bax,  
Pusey  
Cottage,  
Drayton
- Contribution towards the cost of re-thatching and restoration of a local historic feature.
- £640 - Environmental Agenda and Town and Village Vitality Priority. (Amendment proposed by Councillor Jim Halliday, seconded by Councillor Mike Badcock and agreed by 7 votes to 6, with the Chair having exercised her second and casting vote. On being put the Substantive Motion was agreed by 7 votes to 6, with the Chair having exercised her second and casting vote).
- (It had been proposed by Councillor Peter Jones and seconded by Councillor Mike Badcock that a grant of £1,250 be offered. However, with the agreement of the Seconder, this Motion was subsequently withdrawn).

# Ab.9

*It had also been proposed by Councillor Roz Smith and seconded by Councillor Peter Jones that a grant of £750 be offered. However, with the agreement of the Seconder, this Motion was subsequently withdrawn.*

*It had then been proposed by Councillor Jim Halliday and seconded by Councillor Gervase Duffield that a grant of £750 be offered, but this was lost by 6 votes to 4 with 2 abstentions.*

*On being put to the vote, deferral of consideration of the application was also lost by 5 votes to 7.*

*It had also then been proposed by Councillor Mary de Vere and seconded by Councillor Alison Rooke that no grant be offered, but this was lost by 5 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions.*

*It had then been proposed by Councillor Alison Rooke and seconded by Councillor Peter Green that a grant of £125 be offered.*

*An amendment had then been proposed by Councillor Gervase Duffield and seconded by Councillor Monica Lovatt that a grant of £500 be offered, but this was lost by 5 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions.*

*NET Contribution towards £1,500, subject to a report being  
Management the cost of increasing made to a future meeting of the  
Committee holiday activities. Committee providing more  
information (including an explanation  
of exactly what the Committee is  
doing and how it works with other  
organisations details of activities and  
details of the numbers of people  
involved - Social Agenda and Access  
Priority.*

*(Proposed by Councillor Roz Smith, seconded by Councillor Tony de Vere and agreed by 11 votes to nil with 1 abstention).*

# Ab.10

*The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Oxford)* Contribution towards the cost of installing an electrically operated automatic door for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility.

(i) *that the application be referred to the Executive as the service is considered to be District wide, with the Executive being invited to determine the application favourably it being noted that this Committee is supportive of awarding a grant; and*

(ii) *that should the Executive decline to make a grant award the application be resubmitted to this Committee for a further consideration.*

*(Proposed by Councillor Alison Rooke, seconded by Councillor Grahame Ash and agreed by 11 votes to nil with 1 of the voting Members not being present during consideration of this item).*

- (g) *that the Executive be advised of this Committee's concerns regarding levels of grant award noting that further guidance on appropriate levels of grant, including percentages, together with advice of how other area committees allocate their grant funds would be helpful; and*
- (h) *that the Chair of the Informal Working Group reviewing the grants criteria be encouraged to complete the review as soon as possible;*
- (i) *that pending the report from the Informal Working Group, the Officers be requested not to include any recommended grant offers;*
- (j) *that the parish cleansing grant bids for 2005/06 be determined as follows: -*

*Appleford-on-Thames* £250  
*(Proposed by Councillor Mike Badcock, seconded by Councillor Mary de Vere and agreed by 5 votes to nil with 7 abstentions)*

*Drayton* £402  
*(Proposed by Councillor Mike Badcock, seconded by Councillor Monica Lovatt and agreed by 7 votes to nil with 5 abstentions)*

## Ab.11 BUILDABILITY SCHEME OF ABITS

The Committee received and considered a Briefing Note together with a timetable prepared by the Head of Innovation and Enterprise and Councillor Roz Smith, being the Executive Member assigned to the AbITS project.

It was reported that works were due to start later this year and that the County Council had agreed to continue to fund the project.



# Ab.11

Reference was made to details in the Briefing Note regarding congestion and it was noted that this information needed updating. One Member suggested that as this was such an important project for Abingdon, an item should be included on the agenda for the next meeting it being noted that work would have started on the gateway projects.

It was proposed by Councillor Roz Smith and

*RESOLVED (nem com)*

*that an information report be included on the agenda for the next meeting.*

## Ab.12 DELIVERING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Committee received and considered a Briefing Note prepared by the Head of Innovation and Enterprise on targeting grants for the benefit of Abingdon. Also, the Committee was asked to consider whether it wished to pursue any of the issues previously discussed. It was suggested that these matters could be included in a prospectus shaped by the framework of the Community Strategy which was very broad. A possible format for such a prospectus was set out. It was commented that publishing a prospectus would be a help to the local community and would set out how support was to be given to the local community and organisations.

One Member commented that whilst this briefing note was a prompt to look at all of these things, he considered that the prospectus needed a further column containing a message back up to the partnership. He commented that it would be unwise of the Committee to take on everything and then only do the things that it was responsible for. He suggested that further work was needed with a view to adopting such a prospectus at a future date.

One Member referred to the former meetings of the Abingdon Forum, suggesting that the representatives on that forum should be invited a future meeting of the Committee to give advice on this matter. She suggested that support either financially or through Officer assistance could be offered to them.

However, other Members disagreed with the suggestion commenting that it could be seen as giving organisations false hope for support. Furthermore, it was considered that this Committee should prepare a prospectus in the first instance and that comments on that should then be sought. It was considered premature to effectively reactivate the Forum without the Committee knowing its own priorities and objectives.

One Member suggested that this matter should be included on the agenda for the next meeting, prior to the Community Grants item. She referred to her recollection of forums, commenting that more needed to be done for young people. She referred to the Community Strategy document, suggesting that the needs of young people were not emphasised enough. She suggested that the Committee needed to put its own "gloss" on that document for the Abingdon area. She advised that with a limited budget the Committee needed to target its money.

*RESOLVED*

*that this matter be included on the agenda for the next meeting.*

Ab.13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members were reminded of the dates for future meetings of the Committee. Members noted that the next meeting coincided with the Abingdon Fair. The Democratic Services Officer reported that she would endeavour to rearrange that meeting in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.

*RESOLVED*

*that the agenda report be received.*

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

None.

The meeting rose at 9.30pm.

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE  
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE  
11TH OCTOBER 2005

**Twinning Service Level Agreement with Abingdon Town Council**

**1.0 Introduction & Report Summary**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 13th July the Abingdon Area Committee resolved that it should receive a report on the proposed twinning service level agreement with Abingdon Town Council. Members wish to ensure that there is no overlap with the activities of the Abingdon & District Twin Town Society (ADTTS).
- 1.2 This report provides information about the proposed service level agreement.
- 1.3 The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise (Tel: 01235 547695).

**2.0 Recommendation**

*that the report be received.*

**3.0 The Twinning Activities of the Town Council and ADTTS**

- 3.1 Abingdon Town Council promotes civic, cultural, educational, social and business links between the community of Abingdon and the Abingdon twin towns; Argentan (France), Schongau (Germany) and Lucca (Italy).
- 3.2 ADTTS promotes cultural, educational and social links between the community of Abingdon and the Abingdon twin towns; Argentan (France), Schongau (Germany) and Lucca (Italy). The Mayor of Abingdon is the President of ADTTS and traditionally ADTTS has worked in partnership with the Town Council to promote twinning links.
- 3.3 Whilst the Town Council and ADTTS promote twinning with the same three towns ADTTS concentrates on the community aspects of twinning and have built up an active membership of local residents who enjoy visits to, and hosting visits from, the Abingdon twin towns.
- 3.4 In 2004/05 ADTTS was awarded a grant by Executive to manage community twinning across the Vale for the District Council's twin towns of Colmar (France) and Sint Niklaas (Belgium). A report is to be presented to Executive on 21st October 2005 recommending that ADTTS continues to perform this role in 2005/06 and 2006/07.

**4.0 Twinning Service Level Agreement**

- 4.1 The twinning service level agreement with the Town Council is designed to clarify the purpose of any grant from the District Council and to ensure that there is no duplication with the activities of ADTTS.
- 4.2 A two year service level agreement ending on 31st March 2007 has been drafted by officers and discussed with the Town Council. It has been made clear that a service level agreement is not a legally binding agreement.
- 4.3 The service level agreement specifies a grant of £ 2,500 to support Abingdon Town Council in its promotion of cultural, educational, social and business links between the community of

Abingdon and the Abingdon twin towns; Argentan (France), Schongau (Germany) and Lucca (Italy). Promotion of civic links is not included as one of the purposes of the grant.

- 4.4 The grant is not to be used towards travel costs for visiting the twin towns although an exception can be made where the visit involves children/young people in full-time education
- 4.5 The District Council's support must be acknowledged on all relevant publicity relating to the twinning activities of the Town Council.
- 4.6 Each year the Town Council must provide the District Council with details of its planned programme of twinning activities events and a report of the past year's activities.
- 4.7 The Town Council should consult and work in partnership with Abingdon & District Twin Towns Society and other local societies in order to develop community twinning and avoid duplication of activities.

5.0 **Conclusions**

- 5.1 The active involvement of Abingdon Town Council in promoting twinning helps to ensure that Abingdon's relationship with its twin towns is very strong. However it is important that the Town Council does not duplicate the activities of ADTTS. Confirming that there is no duplication will be an important reason for active monitoring of the proposed service level agreement.

TOBY WARREN  
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

Background Papers:  
None

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE  
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE  
11TH OCTOBER 2005

**Targeting Grants for the Benefit of Abingdon**

**1.0 Introduction & Report Summary**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 13th July the Abingdon Area Committee resolved that it should further consider the idea of a prospectus setting out the Committee's priorities in giving support to the local community.
- 1.2 This report provides further information which will assist the Committee in developing the prospectus.
- 1.3 The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise (Tel: 01235 547695).

**2.0 Recommendation**

*that the report be received.*

**3.0 Abingdon Area Profile**

- 3.1 At the time of Census 2001 (April 2001) the total population of the nine wards of Abingdon, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay and Appleford was 36,279. 33,544 people described themselves as White British. The largest minority ethnic groups were Indian (184 people) and Chinese (178 people).
- 3.2 11,149 people were aged under 25; 6,758 were aged over 60. 2,167 people described themselves as not in good health and 2,430 people provided unpaid care of up to 19 hours a week. 535 people provided unpaid care of more than 50 hours.
- 3.3 5,692 people aged 16 to 74 had no formal qualifications and of these 1,104 lived in Abingdon Caldecott ward.
- 3.4 In the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 part of Abingdon Caldecott ward is identified as within the 25% most deprived areas in England.
- 3.5 Also within the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 part of Sutton Courtenay and Appleford is the eight most deprived area in the Vale in relation to housing (difficulty of access to owner occupation) and services (road distance to GP surgery, shops, primary school). Part of Abingdon Abbey & Barton is ranked most deprived, in the Vale, in terms of living environment (poor housing, poor air quality, traffic accidents). Part of Abingdon Ock Meadow is ranked third most deprived in the Vale. Both of these areas are within the 50% most badly affected areas in England.

**4.0 Other Project Work**

- 4.1 The Council also supports a number of projects through the Abingdon Joint Economic Forum (JEF) and the Abingdon Joint Environmental Trust (JET). Area Committee members may feel that these projects are already receiving sufficient support or may consider that further support will add value to the projects.

- 4.2 JEF projects include a website and a town plan or health check. There has also been discussion about improving signage and a Business Improvement District for the town centre.
- 4.3 JET projects include signage improvements, car park improvements, tree planting, flower baskets and watering, removing fly posting and repairs to significant buildings and memorials.
- 4.4 The Council is currently working in partnership with the County Council and other Oxfordshire districts to produce a Local Area Agreement (LAA). The LAA will commence in April 2006 and its purpose is to encourage better partnership working in order to achieve local priorities. The focus is on county wide priorities but some of these will be very relevant to the Vale. Projects supporting these priorities stand a better chance of receiving matching support from the County Council and other public agencies:

Priorities include:

- Skills development through vocational training in schools and by supporting employees who want to train and develop
  - Helping those who are not economically active to move into employment
  - Tackling affordable housing needs
  - SMEs to take advantage of opportunities arising from new technologies including broadband
  - Encouraging tourism and in particular the need to persuade tourists to stay longer seeing more of the county
  - A strategy to improve the street scene and create a cleaner environment is planned. Action to improve the integration of waste management will also be addressed.
  - Targeted support for schools where educational achievement is a concern
  - Targeted support for vulnerable groups of children and young people
  - Divert young people away from any involvement in crime and drug misuse
  - reduce teenage pregnancy
  - Support parents to promote positive behaviour
  - Develop nurturing programmes;
  - Reduce the proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment, or training;
  - Increase the proportion of 19 year olds who achieve at least level 2;
  - Increase the take-up of childcare;
  - Increase the percentage of 3 and 4 year olds in early years settings.
  - Healthy Lifestyles – In addition to collaboration to encourage everyone to exercise we will give particular attention to initiatives to encourage the cessation of smoking, to address teenage pregnancy and tackle obesity.
  - Volunteering – We want to encourage more people to volunteer to support local organisations and communities. A number of the LAA partners have committed themselves to staff volunteering schemes to encourage staff to volunteer
- 4.5 In the past two years the Abingdon Area Committee has supported a wide range of projects including the Arts Festival, the Music Festival, the Museum, the Oxfordshire Motor Project, the Foyer, the Child Contact Centre, Abingdon Vale Cricket Club, Abingdon Rowing Club, Abingdon Marathon, North East Abingdon Community Association, Peachcroft Christian Centre and Sutton Courtenay Village Hall.
- 5.0 **The Prospectus**
- 5.1 The draft prospectus (which is an appendix to this report) starts to draw together the information in this report and the priorities of the Vale Community Strategy. The draft prospectus gives some reasons why the Committee wants to encourage certain types of projects.

6.0 **Conclusion**

- 6.1 The Area Committee can demonstrate its community leadership role by championing projects that have community support and are consistent with the priorities of the Vale Community Strategy.
- 6.2 The prospectus will act as guide for applicants as it will indicate the Committee's priorities for support. However when the prospectus is published it should be made clear that each application is determined on its individual merits and the Committee is free to support project activity which is not mentioned in the prospectus.

Background Papers: Draft prospectus

**ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE GRANT PROSPECTUS FOR 2006/07**

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON IN 2006/07 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>The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</b>	WHY THESE PRIORITIES?
<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>	<p>Better access from outlying parts of Abingdon and the villages to town centre shops and services</p> <p>Encouraging cycling and walking to reduce congestion and promote healthy lifestyles</p>



VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON IN 2006/07 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>The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</b>	WHY THESE PRIORITIES?
<p><b>Access to Services</b></p>	<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>	<p>Finding out (rather than assuming) what young people really want</p>

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON IN 2006/07 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>The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</b>	WHY THESE PRIORITIES?
<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>	More things for young people to do and things that encourage a healthy lifestyle

<b>VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS</b>	<b>WHAT WE WILL SUPPORT</b>	<b>PRIORITIES IN 2006/07 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>The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</b>	<b>WHY THESE PRIORITIES?</b>
<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>	<p>Reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse</p> <p>Reducing the isolation of older people</p>

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON IN 2006/07 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>The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</b>	WHY THESE PRIORITIES?
<p><b>Town and Village Vitality</b></p>	<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>	<p>Identifying local priorities and linking them to county, regional and national priorities</p> <p>Maintaining an interesting, attractive and lively town centre</p>

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON IN 2006/07 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>The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</b>	WHY THESE PRIORITIES?
<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>	Improving the quality of the local environment

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	WHAT WE WILL SUPPORT	PRIORITIES IN 2006/07 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>The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</b>	WHY THESE PRIORITIES?
<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>	Reducing the risk of criminality and abuse
<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>	Encouraging uptake of the many courses that are already available  Bridging the 'digital divide'

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON IN 2006/07 <b>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>The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</b>	WHY THESE PRIORITIES?
<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>	Giving children a good start in life

## **Briefing Note to the Abingdon Area Committee** **11th October 2005**

### **Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy – Progress Up-Date**

The contact officer for this note is Gordon Willcox, Principal Engineer, Planning (Tel: 01235 520202 Ext: 390).

#### **Town Centre (Phase 1)**

Phase 1 of the town centre scheme is the works which will create the new traffic management for the main routes. The works include:

- Two way traffic in Stratton Way
- New Junction arrangement and traffic signals at:
  - Ock Street
  - Vineyard
  - Bridge Street
- New bus stops in Stratton Way
- New layout at the exit of the multi-storey car park

Phase two of the scheme, scheduled for 2006/07 provides the environmental work which will include such things the widening of the footpaths, new crossing points, street furniture, etc.

Preparatory works started on the 24 September which the road adjacent to Coxeters was closed to enable the base for the new CCTV column to be constructed. The current programme of works shows the construction of the new Ock Street junction prior to Christmas (avoiding Abingdon Fair), with the remainder of the phase 1 works starting after Christmas and being completed before the end of March 2006

Discussions regarding the design layout in Bridge Street have not yet been finalised and Councillors are particularly concerned about the potential loss of parking. Before a final decision is made, a trial will take place which will provide traffic lights on Abingdon Bridge to hold back incoming traffic only; with the existing pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Old Gaol remaining in place.

#### **Marcham Road Phase 2**

The duelling works undertaken in Marcham Road last year (adjacent to the Tesco roundabout) have proved very successful. The County council are currently carrying out traffic monitoring work (post phase 1) so that consideration can be given on what works may be required to the section of Marcham Road between the Tescos and McDonalds roundabouts.

#### **Village Works**

A scheme for the installation of “gateway” features at the following villages has been approved: Shppon, Sunningwell, Dry Sandford, Marcham, Radley, Wootton, Cothill and Gozzards Ford. (Villages to the south of Abingdon are being dealt with under the Didcot ITS) The gateway designs have been produced in consultation with Parish Councils, and work is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2006

#### **Other Issues**

There are a number of issues which are being considered by Councillors, as part of the ABITS strategy, which have not yet been sufficiently developed, in order to definitively report. These include:

- Drayton Road/Spring Road/Ock Street junction
- Oxford Road/Northcourt Road junction
- St Helens Wharf



## **Cycle/Footpath improvements**

A number of cycleway improvement schemes have already been completed and further schemes are scheduled for this current financial year at:

- Radey Road
- Oxford Road
- Wootton Road
- Faringdon Road
- Mattock Way
- Peachcroft Road
- South Abingdon (Caldecott area)

Background Papers:

None

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR  
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE  
11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005

**Community Grants**

**1.0 Introduction and Report Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the current budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants 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 Head of Innovation & Enterprise has exercised officer delegation in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and awarded a grant of £27 to Mrs Packard of Rutherford Close, Abingdon, towards tree maintenance*
- (b) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's current budget is £16,520.12*
- (c) *Members are asked to determine the grant award, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following:*
- (i) ***Mrs Robinson, The Thatched Cottage, Appleford, towards the cost of re-thatching (total cost £15,550), Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority***
- (ii) ***Gordon Hudson & Co. towards the cost of tree maintenance and tree safety work in Shelley Court (total cost £2,062.13), Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority***
- (iii) ***Abingdon Performance Arts Group (APAGE), £4,000, towards the cost of printing & distributing the brochure for the 2006 Abingdon Arts Festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority***
- (d) *Members are invited to receive an update on the current status of grants awarded by this Committee during 2004/05 and 2005/06, shown at Appendix B.*

**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 current budget position for this Committee for the year 2005/06 is as follows:

<b>Budget b/f from 2004/05</b>	<b>Budget 2005/06</b>	<b>Total budget 2005/06</b>	<b>Environment al Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Social Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Economic Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Discretionar y 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	£22,329	£1,479	£10,716.30 (+ £1,902.58 from Discretionary)	£0	£10,133.70
	Remaining	£16,520.12	£9,237.30	£0	£3,061.80	£4,221.02

## 5.0 Community Grants

5.1 An application for a grant towards essential maintenance on a large silver maple tree covered by a Tree Preservation Order was considered by the Head of Innovation & Enterprise, under delegated authority and in consultation with the Chair, after the last Committee meeting. A grant of 10% of the total cost of the work was awarded, in keeping with the percentage which had been used by the Committee to determine the level of grant awarded to an applicant for grant aid towards tree maintenance.

5.2 Applications have been received in respect of the following organisations and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix A to the report. Members are invited to consider and determine the grant awards, the Council agenda and priority for the applications listed below. In accordance with Members' wishes, no officer recommendation has been provided for the re-thatching and tree maintenance work. However, details of the level of grant awarded in the past for such grants is included in the attached narratives.

- (i) **Mrs Robinson, The Thatched Cottage, Appleford**, towards the cost of re-thatching (total cost £15,550), Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **Gordon Hudson & Co.** towards the cost of tree maintenance and tree safety work in Shelley Court (total cost £2,062.13), Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iii) **Abingdon Performance Arts Group (APAGE), £4,000**, towards the cost of printing & distributing the brochure for the 2006 Abingdon Arts Festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

6.0 Details of grants awarded by this Committee during the year 2004/05 and this year to date are listed at Appendix B to provide an overview of the range of projects, services or events supported in the community.

TOBY WARREN  
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER  
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background papers: grant applications and grant update

**(i) Historic Building Grant Application: Mrs Robinson, The Thatched Cottage, Appleford****Details of grant scheme**

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 enables local authorities to grant aid the restoration of the historic fabric of listed buildings. The District Council has for a number of years operated a Historic Building Grant Scheme to assist owners in carrying out work that helps maintain the historic features of their properties. The properties are on public display at all times, many occupying prominent locations at the heart of their village or Conservation Area. These historic buildings contribute to the local distinct character of many of the Vales villages, and are one of the reasons why people visit the District each year.

When compared to modern buildings and techniques, works appropriate for historic buildings are often more expensive due to the specialisation involved. The District Council have a statutory obligation to ensure that historic buildings are maintained in good condition and this grant scheme is one way the Council can encourage owners to maintain their properties. Works eligible for grant aid include major structural repairs, major re-pointing, restoration of windows and re-roofing/re-thatching.

**Outline of project**

The owner of The Thatched Cottage, Mrs Robinson, is seeking a grant towards the re-thatching of the property. The work is required to maintain the roof in a watertight condition for the considerable future, and hence preserve the Grade II listed cottage. The cottage was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and has an attached cob wall which is also Grade II listed.

**Financial Information**

The total cost of the work has been estimated at £15,550 excluding VAT.

Under the Historic Building Grant Scheme grants were awarded on the basis of 25% of the cost of eligible works up to a maximum of £1,250.

**Officer Comment (Alison Blyth, Principal Planning Officer [Environmental Policy]):**

This application fulfils the criteria adopted by the District Council for the operation of its Historic Building Grant Scheme: The building is listed, readily visible from the street, and the owner has lived there for 33 years. The work will also allow the restoration of a local historic feature found in the district.

Any grant offered should be subject to the normal conditions plus the ridge being flush-finished with no decorative features.

**(ii) Tree Preservation Grant**

**Applicant: Gordon Hudson & Co, Friars Entry, Oxford**

**Location: Shelley Court, Abingdon**

**Details of grant scheme**

Trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) are generally large, significant trees of public amenity value which are located on private land. A TPO does not mean that the owner is not allowed to carry out any work on the tree, on the contrary, some people think the name should be changed to a Tree Management Order, so that the trees are well-maintained.

Some years ago the District Council agreed to help towards the maintenance of these important trees by giving grant aid to approved works to trees which were the subject of a TPO. This has been an excellent incentive to have the trees maintained and for the work to be carried out to the proper British Standards.

When an application is received it is evaluated by the Council's Arboricultural Officer to establish its suitability. Up to 40% grant aid is offered on approved tree surgery work that is carried out to BS 3998. The completed work is inspected by the Arboricultural Officer to ensure it meets the standard before a grant request is submitted to the Area Committee.

**Outline of work**

The owners of Shelley Court, Abingdon are seeking a grant towards carrying out works to various trees located around the Court which are covered by Tree Preservation Orders.

**Financial Information:**

Total cost of work: £2,062.13

Under the Tree Preservation Grant Scheme grants were awarded on the basis of up to 40% of the cost of eligible works.

**Officer Comment (George Reade, Arboriculture Officer):**

This group of trees forms a valuable public amenity around Shelley Court. The cedar tree requires quite a lot of safety works.

### **(iii) Applicant: Abingdon Performance Arts Group (APAGE)**

The Abingdon Performance Arts Group is seeking funding towards the production and distribution of the Abingdon Arts Festival 2006 programme of events. The brochure is delivered to every household in Abingdon and the surrounding villages; it is also available to other parts of the Vale and Oxford City from central distribution points. The estimated cost for a print-run of 24,000 is £3,500 for design and printing and £1,500 for delivery.

APAGE is an umbrella organisation for arts groups in Abingdon which organises the Abingdon Arts Festival by co-ordinating and publicising the individual events, sponsoring specific events such as the opening and closing events, and introducing new, speculative events.

The 2005 Festival comprised over 40 events ranging from the visual arts (art, photographic and sketchbook exhibitions), film, literature (storytimes and poetry sharing), music (brassband, jazz, classical, choral, popular) and theatre.

The purpose of the brochure is to attract participants and audiences who would otherwise not be aware that the festival is for them. The continued wish of organisations to take part in the Festival and the success of events in attracting audiences shows that the Festival is meeting its aim of enhancing the cultural life of Abingdon and surrounding villages. The festival continues to grow and promotes a positive image of the district. The organisers are guided by the Vale Arts Development Officer to ensure that the festival reflects the cultural ambition of the Vale.

In January 2005, the Committee awarded APAGE a grant of £4,000 towards the production and distribution of the brochure for the 2005 festival and a grant of up to £2,410 as a guarantee against loss on a series of five jazz and popular music evenings. The treasurer has just reported that APAGE does not need to take up the second grant of £2,410 as losses on the evenings were covered from the overall income of the festival. Since this grant was allocated in the previous financial year and brought forward as a commitment into the current financial year it is not possible to re-allocate the £2,410 to another organisation, although it can be awarded to APAGE as part or all of a grant for 2005/06.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy:  
Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Education and Lifelong Learning and Town & Village Vitality.

#### **Financial Information:**

Total Project Cost	£5,000 excl VAT (VAT not payable) for production and distribution of brochure only
Balances	£3,326.93 at 31.12.04
Running Costs	£8,700 estimate for putting on 2006 Festival including producing brochure
Own Contribution	In-kind support valued at £900
<b>Grant Sought</b>	<b>£4,000</b>
Previous Awards (Vale)	1998 £3,000, thereafter £4,000 each year; 2004/05 £4,000 for 2005 festival brochure production and distribution plus up to £2,410 guarantee against loss for musical evenings
Town Council Support	Applied to Abingdon Town Council for £500, awaiting decision
Town Precept	£706,402 (Band 'D': £57.87)
Other Support	Participating organisations: £600 approx towards brochure.

Donations £1,000 anticipated towards events  
A number of grant awarding bodies have been approached but none has been willing to fund the production of the brochure. Some have given positive responses to supporting individual events and applications have been or are being submitted to them, namely Awards for All (application for £1,700 for events) and The Co-op (application for £500 towards anniversary calendar).

**Officer Comment (Abigail Brown, Arts Development Officer):**

Abingdon Arts Festival delivers a valuable service to the arts and cultural groups in Abingdon by co-ordinating an annual programme of events and publicising it to nearly every resident in the town and surrounding area. This festival complements the arts programme with work that the Council doesn't have the capacity to deliver itself and fits in well with the Council's main aims and priorities of Town Centre and Village Vitality as well as the social and Economic Agenda. The Arts Development aims of encouraging the voluntary arts community and encouraging access to a diverse range of arts activities.

They have an excellent track record of organising the festival for the past 6 years. It is run by volunteers who have proved to be more than capable of organising events, managing budgets and publicising the festival.

# APPENDIX B

Abingdon Area Committee grants 2004/2005									
Organisation	Project, Event, Service	Grant requested	Grant awarded 2004/05	Date Granted	Amount paid 2004/05 or 2005/06	Comments			
Appleford PC	Parish cleansing	£249.60	£249.60	27.5.04	£249.60				
Drayton PC	Parish cleansing	£402.00	£402.00	27.5.04	£402.00				
NE Abingdon Community Association	Extension to building	£100,000.00	£50,000.00	27.5.04					
Sutton Courtenay Village Hall	Refurbishments	£5,000.00	£4,759.87	27.5.04	£4,759.87	£3059.87 to WREN, £1,700 to SCV/HMC			
Appleford PC	Safety surface & fencing	£3,554.38	£3,554.38	27.5.04	£2,200.00	£2,200 to WREN - rest not required			
22 Healey Close, Abingdon	Tree maintenance	£180.00	£180.00	27.5.04	£180.00				
South Abingdon Youth Club	Start up costs	£500.00	£500.00	27.5.04	£500.00				
Abingdon Drama Club	External repairs to clubhouse	£500.00	£500.00	27.5.04	£500.00				
St Nicolas Church, Abingdon	Bell bearing repairs	£400	£400.00	27.5.04	£400.00				
Abingdon Bridge Club	Bridge tables	£500.00	£250.00	19.10.04 + 27.5.04	£250.00				
Manor Farm, Appleford	Cob wall repairs	£780	£780.00	27.5.04	£780.00				
Abingdon Town Council	Twinning	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	Exec. 6.8.04	£2,500.00				
Drayton Twinning Society	Twinning	£500.00	£500.00	Exec. 6.8.04	£500.00				
2 River Terrace, Abingdon	Tree maintenance	£77.60	£77.60	11.8.04	£77.60				
3 Lower Radley, Abingdon	Tree maintenance	£105.60	£105.60	11.8.04	£105.60				
Abingdon Anglo German Club	Equipment & programme	£200.00	£200.00	Delegated 24.8.04	£200.00				
Abingdon Marathon	Organisational costs	£350.00	£350.00	Delegated 14.9.04	£350.00				
The Oxfordshire Motor Project	"On the road" project	£5,102.00	£5,102.00	19.10.04	£5,102.00				
Lady Place Management Company	Tree maintenance	£690.00	£690.00	19.10.04	£690.00				
Abingdon District Scout Council	Roofing repairs	£500.00	£500.00	Delegated 28.10.04	£500.00				
Abbey Brass	Brochure & calendar production	£8,350.00	£4,000.00	Delegated 23.11.04	£500.00				
Abingdon Arts Festival (APAGE)	Guarantee against loss	£2,410.00	£2,410.00	12.01.05	£4,000.00				
Abingdon Arts Festival (APAGE)	Tree maintenance	£66.00	£66.00	12.01.05	£0.00	Not required			
St Burgess Close, Abingdon	Personal development courses	£1,550	£1,050.00	12.01.05	£66.00				
The Foyer	Professional advice	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	12.01.05					
Abingdon Town Council (Museum)	CCTV	£2,000.00	£1,000.00	12.01.05					
Abingdon Town Council (Museum)	Workshops	£375.00	£375.00	Delegated 28.02.05	£375.00				
Abingdon Music Festival	Bowling machine & matting strips	£2,000.00	£900.00	30.03.05	£900.00				
Abingdon Vale Cricket Club	Fairtrade survey	£444.83	£444.83	30.03.05					
Abingdon Fairtrade	Instrument maintenance & new music	£500.00	£500.00	30.03.05	£500.00				
Abingdon Band									
Abingdon Area Committee Grants 2005/2006									
Organisation	Project, Event, Service	Grant requested	Grant awarded	Date Granted	Amount paid 2005/06	Comments			
Drayton Parish Council	Parish cleansing	£402.00	£402.00	13/07/05	£402.00				
Appleford Parish Council	Parish cleansing	£250.00	£250.00	13/07/05	£250.00				
Abingdon Town Council	Twinning	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	13/07/05					
Drayton Twinning Society	Twinning	£500.00	£500.00	13/07/05					
Peachcroft Christian Centre	Building community facility	£50,000.00	£15,000.00	13/07/05					
Abingdon Child Contact Centre	Running costs	£1,500.00	£600.00	13/07/05	£600.00				
Mr Kirby, Simpson Close, Abingdon	Tree maintenance	£641.60	£160.00	13/07/05	£160.00				
Abingdon Marathon	Organising costs	£750.00	£500.00	13/07/05					
Abbey Sailing Club	Boat purchase	£2,000.00	£250.00	13/07/05					
Mr Bax, Pusey Cottage, Drayton	Re-thatching	£1,250.00	£640.00	13/07/05	£640.00				
The NET Management Committee	Holiday activities for 13-19s	£4,563.00	£1,500.00	13/07/05					
The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre	Disabled access	£750.00	£0.00	13/07/05		Advised to apply to Executive			
Mrs Packard, Rutherford Close, Abingdon	Tree maintenance	£108.00	£27.00	Delegated 13/07/05	£27.00				