

Date: 16 March 2006

TO: All Members of the Abingdon Area
Committee
FOR ATTENDANCE

Please note the venue for this meeting

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, NORTHCOURT ROAD, ABINGDON** on **TUESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 2006 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

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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

To adopt and sign as correct records the Minutes of the Meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee held on 1 February 2006, (previously circulated with the Council Summons dated 22 February 2006).

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. Update on Grants

At the last meeting of the Committee held on 1 February 2006, an application was considered from Abingdon Concert Band towards the cost of purchasing a pair of timpanis and running a Play Day workshop.

The Committee resolved to underwrite the Play Day up to a maximum of £100 but deferred a decision on the timpanis pending further information on other outstanding grant applications.

Abingdon Concert Band has recently advised the Council that its application to Awards for All for the purchase of the timpanis was successful and as a result the Band will not be seeking a grant from the Vale for this purpose.

Recommendation

that the agenda report be noted.

8. Community Grants/ Budget Position/ Parish Cleansing Bids

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

(Pages 6 - 10)

The Committee is asked to receive and consider report 259/05 of the Strategic Director attached.

Introduction and Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out the current budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee for Community Grants and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant application received since the last meeting; and to consider and determine parish cleansing bids received for 2006/07.

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 remaining budget for 2005/06 is £12,755.48;*
- (b) *Members are asked to determine the grant award, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following application: -*

The NET, Abingdon, £4,500, towards the cost of running a Saturday evening session for young people, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (c) *Members are asked to note that three applications have been received for a grant of £500 or less and, in accordance with the Council's policy, these are being considered under delegated authority by the Head of Innovation & Enterprise in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, and that information on any grant awarded will be provided verbally at the meeting;*
- (d) *Members are asked to note that the budget for the Abingdon Area Committee for the next financial year, 2006/07, is £28,220 as determined by the Executive at its meeting on 3 March 2006, based on the percentage of the electorate in Abingdon at 1 January 2006; and*
- (e) *Members are asked to consider and determine the bids for parish cleansing in 2006/07 which comply with the criteria, noting that any grants awarded will be allocated from the 2006/07 budget.*

9. Targeting Grant for the Benefit of the Abingdon Area

(Pages 11 - 20)

At the first two meetings of the current financial year, the Committee had considered the idea of a prospectus setting out the Committee's priorities in providing support to the local community. A draft prospectus had been prepared and amendments had been discussed. The Amended draft prospectus is attached as an Appendix to this agenda.

At its meeting on 1 February the Committee had been invited to consider an amended draft prospectus. However, in view of the number of grant applications presented to the Committee at that meeting it was resolved to defer consideration of the amended prospectus until this meeting.

The amended draft prospectus now has an introduction which is designed to explain the role of the Area Committee in relation to the Vale Community Strategy and the Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement. The introduction also makes it clear that the Committee has a limited budget but may be able to offer a suitable project a small financial grant.

The prospectus can help the Area Committee to demonstrate its community leadership role by championing projects that promote community self help and are consistent with the priorities of the Vale Community Strategy.

The prospectus will act as guide for applicants by indicating the Committee's priorities for support. However, it will need to make clear that each application is determined on its individual merits and that the Committee is free to support project activity which is not mentioned in the prospectus.

Members are requested to determine the final content of the prospectus and to decide whether they wish to convene an Abingdon Area Forum meeting in order to facilitate public consultation on the content.

Recommendations

- (a) *Members are invited to consider the amended draft prospectus, attached as an Appendix to this Agenda setting out the Committee's priorities for support to the local community in 2006/07 and to determine the final content of the prospectus, and;*
- (b) *Members are requested to determine the need to convene an Abingdon Area Forum meeting to facilitate public consultation on the content of the prospectus.*

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

None.