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.

AGENDA

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

(Page 5)

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. <u>Declarations of Interest</u>

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. <u>Urgent Business and Chair's Announcements</u>

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.





OUR VISION AND AIMS

Our Vision is to build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community

The Vale of White Horse District Council aims to:

access to information, consultation, and devolution of power so that everyone can take part in our community and contribute to Strengthen local democracy and public involvement through the decisions which affect our lives

> Northcourt Centre Northcourt Road

Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents Encourage a strong and sustainable economy which benefits all who live in, work in or visit the Vale Help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential Provide and support high quality public services which are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of people within

Protect and improve our built and natural environment

ued by the Vale of White Horse District Council - Licence No. 100019525

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Report No: 259/05
Wards affected – All wards in the Abingdon Area

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE 28 MARCH 2006

Community Grants/ Budget Position/ Parish Cleansing Bids

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 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.
- 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 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:
- (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.

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:

Budget b/f from 2004/05	Budget 2005/06	Total budget 2005/06	Environmenta I Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionar y Proportion
£8,231.12	£ 30,618	£38,849.12	£10,716.30	£10,716.30	£3,061.80	£14,354.72
	Allocated	£26,093.64	£2,023.64	£10,716.30 (+ £3,532.58 from discretionary)	£1,000	£8,821.12 + £3,532.58 to Social
	Remaining	£12,755.48	£8,692.66	£0	£2,061.80	£2,001.02

5.0 Community Grants

5.1 An application has been received in respect of the following organisation and there is a narrative providing additional details in the **Appendix** to this report.

The NET, Abingdon, £4,500, towards the cost of running a Saturday evening session for young people, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

Members are invited to consider and determine the grant award, the Council agenda and priority for the application.

6.0 Parish cleansing bids for 2006/07

- 6.1 For some years, a number of parish councils have opted to carry out street cleansing activities in addition to the service provided by the district council's contractor. The District Council has, for some time, provided discretionary grants towards the cost of additional street cleansing carried out by parish councils on relevant land, that is, land for which the responsibility for cleansing rests with the District Council.
- 6.2 In past years some of the area committees have been concerned that the application process has obliged them to award cleansing grants of 50%.
- 6.3 This year parish councils have been requested to submit their applications before the beginning of the financial year and it has been made clear that the Council wishes to continue to support additional parish cleansing on relevant land but that determination of a grant will be at the discretion of the Area Committee concerned and will depend on the individual merits of the application and the budget available.
- 6.4 Two bids have been received for the Abingdon Area Committee and these are shown in the table below.

Parish	Areas	Frequ- ency	Hours	Rate	Total Amount	Amount Request- ed	Officer comment
Drayton	Village	Not stated	380	£7.50	£2,850	£500	Total is for all caretaking duties. PC requests contribution of £500 towards litter clearance element
Appleford	Pavement at the Knapp	Monthly (Nov, Dec, Jan)	6	£7.50	£45	£45	Seasonal leaf clearance from pavement

6.5 Members are asked to consider and determine the bids, both of which comply with the criteria, noting that any grants awarded will be allocated from the 2006/07 budget.

TOBY WARREN HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background papers: grant applications and grant update

Report 259/05

Applicant: The NET, Abingdon

The NET is a youth club in the heart of Abingdon, offering help and advice to young people as well as a number of regular and special events. It is part of the Oxfordshire County Youth Service and is run by a formal management committee with local council representation.

Following a motion to the Council on 22 February 2006 concerning the provision of support to young people in Abingdon and surrounding areas, it was resolved to invite The NET to apply to the Abingdon Area Committee for a one-off grant of up to £4,500 towards opening on Saturday evenings with activities for young people. The Council further resolved to urge Oxfordshire County Council to provide funding for Saturday evening opening of the NET that would at least match any other funding the NET might obtain.

This application is in response to the invitation.

The NET is proposing to build upon the existing youth provision in Abingdon by offering a service at the weekend which is considered to be the time when vulnerable young people are most at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour. The NET is proposing to run an evening session on Saturdays from 4 pm – 8pm offering a choice of a film show, sporting activity, project and/or a space to chill out.

A number of research projects have been carried out in Abingdon, including consultation on the Old Gaol, which identified gaps in existing youth provision. Young people have indicated that they would like somewhere to go on a Saturday evening and are particularly keen to have access to a cinema or films. As a result this will form the main focus of weekend youth provision at The NET. A nominal charge of 50p per session will be made which will give full membership rights to the youth service, as well as providing an income to cover the cost of film rental.

The project is based on a model used during the last school summer holidays where young people were targeted who were previously unknown to the youth service. The NET is seeking to repeat some of the same successes of the summer project, namely to successfully challenge negative stereotypes of what the youth service offers, to increase community involvement and volunteering, as well as reducing criminal activity and the fear of crime.

At the same time it is expected that the young people will achieve a number of successes in personal development including increased confidence and self awareness, the ability to work as a team and the ability to recognise and manage conflict.

The NET is seeking a grant towards capital costs which include a projector and screen, chairs and chair storage container, optic-kinetic trilights and a pool table for the Saturday evening sessions.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Access to Services; Safe and Supportive Communities; Education & Lifelong Learning; Recreation, Culture & Leisure.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost

£13,826 excl VAT, £15,243 incl VAT (VAT can be reclaimed), broken down as:

capital costs - £6,683 excl VAT, £8,100 incl VAT

running costs (one session per week, 52 weeks p.a.) - £7,143

(VAT exempt)

Running Costs of this project £7,143 over 12 months

Own Contribution None because budget provided for current level of core service

only

Grant Sought £4,500

Previous Awards (Vale) £1,500 for extended holiday activities 2005/06

Parish Precept £706,402 £57.87 (as per band D)

Parish Council Support Applications have been submitted to Abingdon Town Council

(£5,000) and Oxfordshire County Council (outcome to be

reported verbally at meeting)

Prospectus front sheet APPENDIX

The Abingdon Area Prospectus

The purpose of the Abingdon Area Committee is to promote the economic, social and environmental well being of the area (Abingdon, Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford).

The work of the Committee supports the Vale Strategic Partnership (which brings together the Council and other key organisations whose services affect the quality of life of residents in the Vale). Following a period of community consultation the Vale Strategic Partnership has published the Vale Community Strategy. The strategy is designed to improve quality of life in the Vale by encouraging better partnership working between the members of the Vale Strategic Partnership and local communities.

Another Government initiative the 'Local Area Agreement' is also designed to encourage better partnership working. In Oxfordshire the County Council, district councils, police, health authority and the Learning & Skills Council are negotiating an agreement covering the period 2006 to 2009.

Most of the service improvements that will result from the Local Area Agreement are designed to benefit the whole of Oxfordshire and the Vale Strategic Partnership will be making sure that local communities in the Vale are able to share this benefit.

The elected district councillors who make up the membership of the Abingdon Area Committee have a unique role in carrying responsibility for local government in the Committee's area and being directly accountable to residents. Committee members recognise that this leadership role should be exercised in partnership rather than by command. And to be effective, the various different partnerships and their plans must be co-ordinated.

The following Prospectus provides information about the kind of local community self help projects that the Committee would like to support in the financial year 2006-2007. The Prospectus is organised to fit with the nine strands (or themes) of the Vale Community Strategy and describes how possible projects fit with the Vale Community Strategy and the Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement. The Prospectus also describes how these projects could benefit residents in Abingdon Area.

The Abingdon Area Committee has a limited budget but may be able to offer a suitable project a small financial grant. The Committee may also be able to help in other ways by supporting applications to other funding bodies and publicising the benefits of a project.

The Abingdon Area Committee recognises that there are other local community projects which may not fit with the Prospectus. The Committee is more than willing to consider these projects, as all projects are determined according to their individual merits. However given the Committee's financial constraints, it would like to focus its limited financial resources on projects that support its Prospectus.

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ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE PROSPECTUS FOR 2006/07

Comment: Addition of '& Area' Comment: Addition of 'Local Area Agreement' Comment: Hopefully a clearer explanation of the reasons for project choice	Comment: Emphasis that support is for start up.
WHY THESE PRIORITIES?	Better access, from outlying parts of Abingdon and the villages, to town centre shops and services Encouraging cycling and walking to reduce congestion and promote healthy lifestyles
PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN 2006/07 ARE: The projects that have been identified as projects that have been identified as projects that have the support of the District Council and the Vale Strategic Partnership. The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward	To provide start up support for a group wanting to organise a community bus service for Abingdon and the surrounding area Information to encourage more cycling and walking
COMMUNITY STRATEGY & LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITIES	Bus services and linkages with community transport services Reduced traffic congestion Improved and expanded cycle tracks Improved road maintenance Greater consultation to ensure a more systematic and co-ordinated transport system Improved parking provision
VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	Transport

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	COMMUNITY STRATEGY & LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN 2006/07 ARE: The projects that have been identified as priorities are intended to be locally organised projects that have the support of the District Council and the Vale Strategic Partnership.	Why These Priorities?
		The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward	
Access to Services	 Improved, reliable and relevant current information about services, events etc. Enhanced communication More extensive consultation Increased access to and use of new technology Greater and better networking opportunities 	 Consultation on services for young people - do they meet the needs of young people? 	Finding out (rather than assuming) what young people really want
	 More local access points (eg, shops and local facilities) 		

Comment: Hopefully a clearer explanation of the reasons for project choice

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VALE COMMUNITY	COMMUNITY STRATEGY &	PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN	WHY THESE PRIORITIES?	
STRATEGY	LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT	2006/07 ARE:		
STRANDS	PRIORITIES	ine projects that nave been identified as priorities are intended to be locally organised		
		projects that have the support of the District Council and the Vale Strategic Partnership.	,	Comment: Hopefully a c
		The Abingdon Area Committee would like to		explanation of the reasons project choice
		support suitable groups who are able to take		
		these projects forward		
Recreation, Culture	Expanded range of	New affordable entertainment &	More things for young people to do	
and Leisure	facilities/affordable venues	sports activities in Abingdon	and things that encourage a healthy	
	Support for better		lifestyle (also in Local Area Agreement)	Comment: Indicate VSP
	networking among local			priorities
	associations			
	 Greater use of development 			
	control opportunities to			
	secure open spaces			

Comment: Hopefully a clearer explanation of the reasons for project choice	Comment: Indicate VSPLAA priorities
WHY THESE PRIORITIES?	Reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse
PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN 2006/07 ARE The projects that have been identified as priorities are intended to be locally organised projects that have the support of the District Council and the Vale Strategic Partnership. The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward	 Projects to positively develop young people's energy and creativity (also in Local Area Agreement) Projects to allay the fear of crime for older people
COMMUNITY STRATEGY & LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITIES	 Better information to allay the fear of crime Additional measures to tackle anti-social behaviour More visible policing Better enforcement of traffic regulations
VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	Safe and Supportive Communities

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	COMMUNITY STRATEGY & LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN 2006/07 ARE: The projects that have been identified as priorities are intended to be locally organised projects that have the support of the District Council and the Vale Strategic Partnership. The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward	Why These Priorities?
Town and Village Vitality	Support for economic vitality across all sectors including small rural businesses. Community Reduce a sense of isolation and alienation amongst older people Promote and support volunteering Foster a spirit of community by developing infrastructure and breaking down barriers between different groups Encourage local issues groups Take account of village plans	 Village action plans for the hinterland surrounding Abingdon Projects that encourage town centre shopping Projects to maintain and improve community facilities 	Identifying local priorities and linking them to district, county, regional and national priorities Maintaining an interesting, attractive and lively town centre Providing local places for local people to meet and get involved in their community

Comment: Hopefully a clearer explanation of the reasons for project choice

Comment: Hopefully a cleare explanation of the reasons for project choice	Comment: Indicate VSP/LAA priorities Comment: Indicate VSP/LAA priorities
Why These Priorities?	Improving the quality of the local environment
PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN 2006/07 ARE: The projects that have been identified as priorities are intended to be locally organised projects that have the support of the District Council and the Vale Strategic Partnership. The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward	Projects that encourage companies and organisations to save energy and recycle (also in Local Area Agreement)
COMMUNITY STRATEGY & LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITIES	Reduce litter both in streets and fly tips (also in Local Area Agreement) Increase recycling facilities Greater engagement and education of communities on environmental issues Ensure services are provided in a sustainable manner
VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	Environment

Comment: Hopefully a clearer explanation of the reasons for project choice	Comment: Indicate VSP/LAA priorities
Why These Priorities?	Reducing the risk of criminality and abuse
PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN 2006/07 ARE The projects that have been identified as priorities are intended to be locally organised projects that have the support of the District Council and the Vale Strategic Partnership. The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward	Projects that reduce the risk of homelessness; particularly among young people
COMMUNITY STRATEGY & LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITIES	 Provide more genuinely affordable housing, particularly for key workers, young families and local people (also in Local Area Agreement) Ensure balanced housing developments Identify more exception sites Provide more and better facilities for homeless
VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	Housing

Comment: Hopefully a clearer explanation of the reasons for project choice	Comment: Indicate VSP/LAA
Why These Priorities?	Encouraging uptake of the many courses that are already available Bridging the 'digital divide'
PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN 2006/07 ARE The projects that have been identified as priorities are intended to be locally organised projects that have the support of the District Council and the Vale Strategic Partnership. The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward	 A database of local learning opportunities Promote learning opportunities (particularly ICT) for older people
COMMUNITY STRATEGY & LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITIES	 Encourage greater coordination between learning institutions Promote the social/community/individual benefits of learning (also in Local Area Agreement) Support parents and guardians Promote learning opportunities for older people
VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	Education and Lifelong Learning

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Comment: Hopefully a clearer explanation of the reasons for project choice	Comment: Indicate VSP/LAA priorities Comment: Indicate VSP/LAA priorities Comment: Indicate VSP/LAA priorities
WHY THESE PRIORITIES?	Giving children a good start in life Tackling the risk of obesity
PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN 2006/07 ARE: The projects that have been identified as priorities are intended to be locally organised projects that have the support of the District Council and the Vale Strategic Partnership. The Abingdon Area Committee would like to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward	 Projects that support young parents (also in Local Area Agreement) Projects that encourage children & young people to exercise (also in Local Area Agreement)
COMMUNITY STRATEGY & LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITIES	 Increase support for older people to avoid isolation Maximise opportunities for older people to exercise Greater support for young parents Improve education generally Increase use of local facilities (also in Local Area Agreement)
VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS	Health and Wellbeing