

Date: 4 October 2006

TO: All Members of the Abingdon Area
Committee
FOR ATTENDANCE

TO: All Other Members of the Council
FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE** to be held in the **GUILDHALL, ABINGDON** on **THURSDAY, 19TH OCTOBER, 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

(Page 4)

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 a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee held on 6 July 2006, (circulated with the Council Summons dated 18 October 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. Community Grants

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

(Pages 5 - 10)

To receive and consider report 97/06 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer (attached).

Introduction and Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee in respect of Community Grants, to invite Members to determine whether grants awarded under Service Level Agreements to twinning organisations in the Abingdon area can be paid and to consider and determine one grant application received since the last meeting of the Committee. This report also provides information on grants awarded by the Abingdon Area Committee in the last financial year and in the current year to date.

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

Recommendations

- (a) *Members are asked to note that a grant of £500 has been awarded under officer delegation since the last meeting and that the Committee's remaining budget for 2006/07 is £16,680.48;*
- (b) *Members are asked to receive a verbal review of twinning activities in 2005/06 from the Town Clerk of Abingdon Town Council;*
- (c) *Members are asked to consider requests for payment of the grants under Service Level Agreements from the following two twinning associations in the Abingdon Area and to decide if payment can be made:*

Abingdon Town Council, £2,500
Drayton Twinning Society, £500
- (d) *Members are asked to determine the grant award, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following application: -*

APAGE, £4,000, towards cost of producing brochure for Abingdon Arts Festival 2007, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;
- (e) *Members are invited to note the grants awarded in 2005/06 and 2006/07 to support projects, services and events in the community.*

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:

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

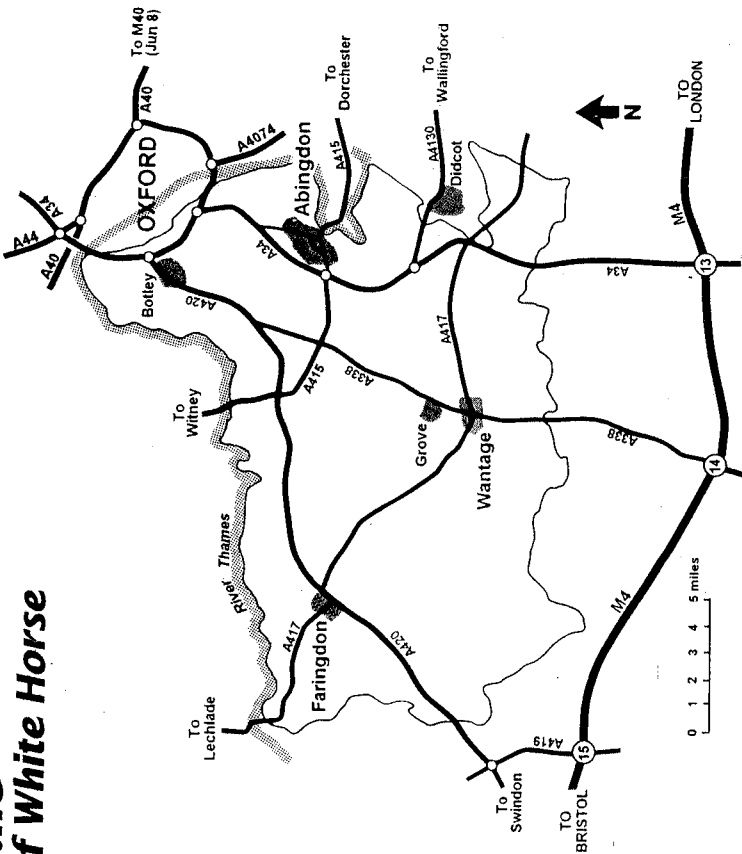
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

Encourage a strong and sustainable economy which benefits all who live in, work in or visit the Vale

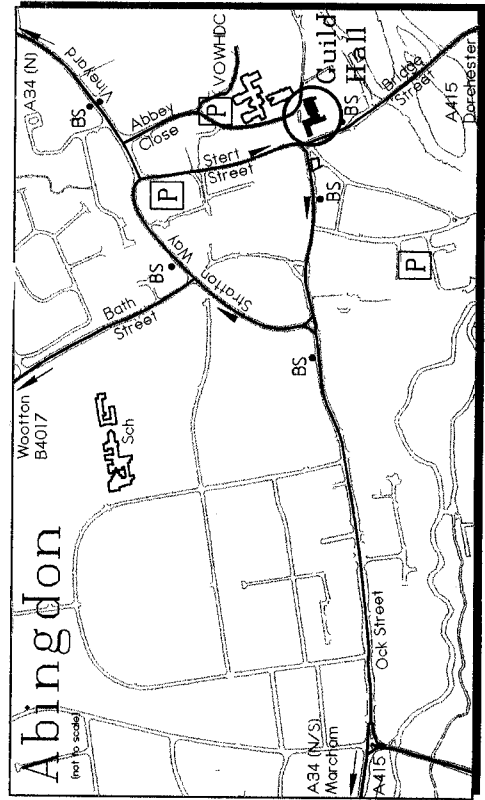
Help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential

Provide and support high quality public services which are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of people within the Vale

Protect and improve our built and natural environment



Abingdon, Guildhall



KEY : BS = Bus Stop

LOCATION MAP



REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE
19th OCTOBER 2006

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee in respect of Community Grants, to invite Members to determine whether grants awarded under Service Level Agreements to twinning organisations in the Abingdon area can be paid and to consider and determine one grant application received since the last meeting of the Committee. This report also provides information on grants awarded by the Abingdon Area Committee in the last financial year and in the current year to date.
- 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 a grant of £500 has been awarded under officer delegation since the last meeting and that the Committee's remaining budget for 2006/07 is £16,680.48;*
- (b) *Members are asked to receive a verbal review of twinning activities in 2005/06 from the Town Clerk of Abingdon Town Council;*
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- (d) *Members are asked to determine the grant award, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following application: -*
- APAGE, £4,000, towards cost of producing brochure for Abingdon Arts Festival 2007, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;***
- (e) *Members are invited to note the grants awarded in 2005/06 and 2006/07 to support projects, services and events in the community.*

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 2006/07 is as follows:

Budget b/f from 2005/06	Budget 2006/07	Total budget 2006/07	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£7,755.48	£28,220	£35,975.48	£9,877	£9,877 + £8,793 from discretionary	£2,822	£5,644 + £7,755.48
	Allocated	£19,295	£625	£18,670	£0	£0
	Remaining	£16,680.48	£9,252	£0	£2,822	£4,606.48

4.2 Since the last meeting of this Committee a grant of £500 has been awarded to Abingdon Band, under officer delegation and in consultation with the chair, towards the cost of the upkeep of the band room, the maintenance of instruments and purchasing a computer programme for music for training purposes. The £500 award has been deducted from the budget.

5.0 Twining partnership grants (Service Level Agreements)

5.1 In accordance with the decision of the Executive at its meeting on 6 August 2004 (Minute Ex.83) twinning associations are partners in service provision and have signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to this effect. The funding for the SLA is allocated from Area Committee budgets. In the Abingdon Area the allocation is:

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

5.2 The twinning associations are asked to provide the following information as set out in their SLA:

- a) A report of the programme for 2005/06, providing an evaluation of the events and activities, based on any surveys carried out and feedback received from participants, plus any suggestions for future activities to develop the link
- b) An outline of any feedback from the wider community (non-members) on activities in 2005/06 and suggestions for future activities which might attract new people and groups
- c) A programme for 2006/07 including activities which seek to broaden involvement in the twinning link by reaching out to new people and groups, especially young people
- d) An outline of how the association's activities contribute to the Vale Community Strategy and how they benefit the communities served by the association
- e) A copy of the annual accounts showing how the 2005/06 grant was spent

5.3 Following a discussion at a previous meeting of this Committee on twinning activities in Abingdon, the Town Clerk of Abingdon Town Council has accepted an invitation to provide the information requested in a verbal report to the Committee.

5.4 The Drayton Twining Society has provided information on its activities in 2005/06. These focussed on the visit of 34 twinning partners from the twin town, Lesparre. Drayton villagers, clubs and other organisations were invited to participate in all the events to provide an opportunity for those who were not able to host to meet the visitors and join in. Although the response was disappointing for most events, the Barn Dance proved very popular. Other activities in 2005/06 revolved around fundraising.

The Society has provided an outline programme for 2006/07 which includes an Open Day in Drayton to publicise the twinning and attract new members.

5.5 Members are asked to note that the information provided does not meet all the requirements set out under Schedules 2 and 3 of the Service Level Agreement, but that further information has been sought and should be available to update Members verbally at the meeting.

5.6 The SLA grants totalling £3,000 have been allocated in the budget so do not have to be deducted from the remaining budget. Members are asked to decide if payment of the SLA grants can now be made to Abingdon Town Council and The Drayton Twinning Society.

6.0 Community Grants

6.1 An application has been received from the following organisation and there is a narrative providing additional details at **Appendix A**.

APAGE, £4,000, towards cost of producing brochure for Abingdon Arts Festival 2007, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

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

7.0 Overview of grants awarded

Details of grants awarded by this Committee during 2005/06 and the 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 AND MONITORING OFFICER

Background papers: grant applications

Applicant: Abingdon Performance Arts Group (APAGE)**Years in existence:** 9 years**Type of organisation:** Umbrella organisation for arts and crafts groups in Abingdon and surrounding area; it 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.**Project or service details:** The Abingdon Performance Arts Group is seeking funding towards the production and distribution of the Abingdon Arts Festival 2007 programme of events. The festival will take place from 17-31 March 2007. 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 such as libraries, information centres and council offices.

The 2006 Festival comprised over 40 events ranging from the visual arts (art, photographic and sketchbook exhibitions), film, literature (story times and poetry sharing), music (brass band, jazz, classical, choral, popular), theatre and textiles (quilt exhibition).

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.

The 2007 festival will focus more on young people. The organisers are exploring how they can work in partnership with schools.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Education and Lifelong Learning, Town & Village Vitality**Area of the Vale covered:** Abingdon and surrounding villages**Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit:** Open to everyone**Charge to public for using the project/service/event?:** Most events have an entry fee which varies from event to event; a small number are free**Total estimated project cost:** £9,175 excl VAT (VAT not payable), of which
£5,000 for production and distribution of brochure**Balances:** £2,390 at 1/5/06**Running Costs:** £9,210.70 for 2006 Festival**Own Contribution:** Time and expertise given without charge; also carry a small balance to cover any deficit and award small sums to selected event organisers to cover losses.**Grant Sought:** £4,000**Previous Awards (Vale):** £3,500 2002/03
£4,000 2003/04
£4,000 2004/05 + £2,400 guarantee against loss for musical evening (not needed)
£4,000 2005/06

Town Council Support: Applied to Abingdon Town Council for £500, outcome awaited

Town Precept: £835,400 (Band 'D': £66.91)

Other Support: Estimated donations of £775
Applied to Co-op for £500 (outcome awaited)
Estimated income from fees and charges £1,400 (participating groups pay entry fee of £25 per group to APAGE)
Applying to Awards for All but cannot include brochure costs in application

Officer Comment (Abigail Brown, Arts Development Officer):

Abingdon Arts Festival delivers a valuable service to the arts and cultural groups in Abingdon by coordinating 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 7 years. It is run by volunteers who have proved to be more than capable of organising events, managing budgets and publicising the festival.

Abingdon Area Committee - Grants Awarded 2005/2006										APPENDIX B
Project/Organisation	Amount Applied for	Amount Allocated	Date Granted	Amount Paid	Passed for Payment 2005/06	Passed for Payment 2006/07	Comments			
Cleansing - Drayton Parish Council		£402.00	13/07/05	£402.00	03/08/05					
Cleansing - Appleford Parish Council		£250.00	13/07/05	£250.00	03/08/05					
Abingdon Town Council (Twinning)	£2,500.00	£500.00	13/07/05	£2,500.00	10/02/06		Not to be paid prior to signed SLA			
Drayton Twinning Society	£500.00	£500.00	13/07/05	£500.00	15/11/05		Not to be paid prior to signed SLA			
Peacrocft Christian Centre	£50,000.00	£15,000.00	13/07/05	£15,000.00	17/03/06		Extending & developing community facility			
Abingdon Child Contact Centre	£1,000.00	£600.00	13/07/05	£600.00	09/09/05		Running costs for next 2 years			
Mr Kirby, Symposon Close, Abingdon	£641.60	£160.00	13/07/05	£160.00	22/08/05		Tree maintenance			
Abingdon Marathon	£750.00	£0.00	13/07/05	N/A			£500 awarded as guarantee against loss. Advised Jan 06 that no loss made.			
Abbey Sailing Club	£2,000.00	£250.00	13/07/05				Purchase of two boats. 6 Feb advised delay in purchasing, to be bought by end July			
Mr Bax, Pusley Cottage, Drayton	£1,250.00	£640.00	13/07/05	£640.00	12/09/05		Re-thatching and restoration			
The NET Management Committee	£4,563.00	£1,500.00	13/07/05	£1,500.00	28/03/06		Extended holiday activities			
The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre	£750.00	£0.00	13/07/05	N/A			Installing electrically-operated door			
Mrs Packard, Rutherford Close, Abingdon	£108.00	£27.00	Off del 13/07/05	£27.00	19/08/05		Tree maintenance			
APAGE*	£4,000.00	£1,590.00	11/10/05	£1,590.00	17/03/06		Re-thatching for Abingdon Arts Festival 2006			
The Thatched Cottage, Appleford	£15,550.00	£0.00	11/10/05	Not Claiming			Re-thatching £250 allocated			
Abingdon & District Musical Society	£630.00	£630.00	11/10/05	£587.15			Jubilee Concerts (Fund deficit up to £930.00. £587.15 claimed)			
Mr R Bennett, 111 Shelley Court, Abingdon	£824.85	£200.00	11/10/05	£200.00	27/10/05		Tree maintenance (Officer delegation up to £200)			
Abingdon Science Partnership	£1,800.00	£0.00	01/02/06				Up to £1,800 awarded. 31/03/06 advised by tel. that grant not needed. Costs of supply teachers during Fair.			
The Shelley Court Association	£824.85	£200.00	01/02/06	£200.00	07/02/06		Additional grant after application reviewed - see no.21			
Abingdon Jazz Club	£1,000.00	£100.00	01/02/06	£100.00			Monthly Jazz Events			
Abingdon Decorative & Fine Arts Society	£1,625.00	£500.00	01/02/06				An exhibition of children's art as part of the Charter Celebrations			
Abbey Brass	£1,695.00	£500.00	01/02/06				Repairs to the band room portacabins			
Abingdon Music Festival Association	£1,520.00	£400.00	01/02/06	£400.00	13/06/06		A concerto class			
Abingdon Concert Band	£2,200.00	£100.00	01/02/06				Up to £100 guaranteee aginst loss for play day, awaiting info on timpanis			
7 Dorchester Crescent, Abingdon	£111.60	£44.64	01/02/06	£44.64	05/06/06		Tree Maintenance			
The NET Management Committee	£4,500.00	£4,500.00	28/03/06				Saturday evening cinema session			
Abingdon Area Archaeological & Historical Soc	£500.00	£150.00	Off del 28/03/06				£500 awarded but advised on 4/4/06 only £150 needed due to grant from Awards for All. Exhibition on history of Ock Street.			
Totals		£100,843.90		£30,743.64						
Budget c/f 2004/05		£8,231.12								
Budget 2005/06		£30,618.00								
Total Available 2005/06		£38,849.12								
Total allocated		£30,743.64								
Total paid		£24,700.79								
Balance Remaining to be allocated*		£8,105.48								
* £4,000 awarded but £2,410 is taken from the money accrued from 04/05 for APAGE and not needed by them.										
Carry forward figure of £7,755.48 at 31 March 2006 - figure agreed and carried forward. Subsequently, advised that applicant (see 32) only needs £150 (£350 is now lost as it can't be carried forward)										
Grants Awarded 2006/2007										
Applicant	Amount Applied for	Amount Allocated	Date Granted	Amount Paid	Passed for Payment	Amount returned	Purpose			
Abingdon Library	£500.00	£370.00	Off del 03/05/06	£370.00	04/05/06		Fish tank equipment			
Drayton Parish Council	£2,850.00	£500.00	28/03/06	£500.00	04/05/06		Additional parish cleansing 06/07			
Appleford Parish Council	£45.00	£45.00	28/03/06				Additional parish cleansing 06/07			
Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau	£6,705.00	£2,565.00	06/07/06				To provide independent, confidential and impartial advice to local residents.			
Preston Road Community Centre Association	£5,000.00	£3,385.00	06/07/06				To replace the kitchen units in Preston Road Community Centre			
Abingdon Museum	£1,250.00	£3,850.00	06/07/06				Increasing community access to the Museum			
Peacrocft Christian Centre	£25,000.00	£2,000.00	06/07/06	£2,000.00	06/09/06		Building alterations			
Mr R Sammons	£500.00	£80.00	Off del 06/07/06	£80.00	22/08/06		Tree maintenance			
Abingdon Band	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	Off del 02/10/06				Upkeep of band hall and maintenance of equipment			
Abingdon Town Council	£500.00	£500.00					Twinning SLA			
Drayton Twinning Society							Twinning SLA			
Total amount requested		£44,850.00								
Budget c/f 2005/06		£7,755.48								
Budget 2006/07		£28,220.00								
Total Available 2006/07		£35,975.48								
Total allocated		£19,295.00								
Total paid		£2,950.00								
Total returned		£0.00								
Balance Remaining to be allocated		£16,680.48								