

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;*
- (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.*

**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