

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE
22 MARCH 2007

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise on the new process for delegating the determination of grants, to set out the budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants in 2006/07 and in 2007/08, to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting and to invite Members to agree a principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing.
- 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 process for delegating the determination of community grants applications (outlined in the report at Appendix A) has been approved by the Executive and that the grant narratives have been amended to reflect this*
- (b) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's remaining budget for 2006/07 is £12,680.48*
- (c) *Members are asked to consider and determine the grant application, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following:*
- (i) **Abingdon & District Musical Society, up to £677**, to cover potential concert loss, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **1 Brewers Court, Abingdon**, towards tree maintenance, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iii) **30 Hillview Road, Abingdon**, towards tree maintenance, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iv) **67 Abingdon Road, Drayton**, towards tree maintenance, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (d) *Members are asked to note that the Abingdon Area Committee's budget for 2007/08 is £28,388;*
- (e) *Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2006/07 into 2007/08;*
- (f) *Members are asked to determine their principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing in 2007/08 and invited to determine these grants as set out in Appendix C to the report, to be paid from the 2007/08 budget;*

(g) *Members are asked to note the range of projects, services and events supported by the Abingdon Area Committee in 2006/07 to date, as shown at Appendix D to this report.*

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 policy.

4.0 The delegation of the determination of community grant applications

4.1 Following a recommendation by the Council's Constitution Advisory Group on 28 September 2006 and the subsequent approval by Council on 18 October 2006, the Chairs and Chairmen of the four Area Committees were invited to a meeting on 13 December 2006 where a process for applications to be considered without the need to hold a Committee meeting was drawn up. The process was considered in a report to the Executive on 5 January 2007 and agreed.

4.2 The process will be used to determine community grant applications by e-mail (or post where a Member does not have e-mail) if a scheduled area committee meeting is cancelled. The meeting will be cancelled if by 15 working days before the scheduled date of the area committee meeting no grant applications have been received or the total value of grant applications received is less than £4,000.

4.3 If at this time there are applications that have been received (but in total the value of grants applied for is less than £4,000) officers will prepare a short narrative report and recommendation for each application.

4.4 The narrative must include any written statement that the applicant wishes to submit and the recommendations must include:

- Advice to approve or decline the application (there must be a reason for the advice that makes reference to the Council's priorities, the Area Committee's priorities and the community grant scheme criteria).

If approval is recommended:

- Advice on amount of grant to offer
- Advice on any special conditions that must be satisfied before the grant is paid

4.5 For the purposes of consistency and in order to avoid confusion, all narratives whether they will be considered by Members at a meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee or by officer delegation, are now being prepared with an officer recommendation according to the principles set out above.

5.0 Community Grants

5.1 Budget

The current budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee for Community Grants is as follows:

Budget b/f 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	£2,822	£5,644 + £7,755.48
	Allocated	£23,295	£625	£9,877 + £12,793 from discretionary	£0	£12,793
	Remaining	£12,680.48	£9,252	£0	£2,822	£606.48

5.2 Community Grants

5.3 An application has been received in respect of the following and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix B:

- (i) **Abingdon & District Musical Society, up to £677**, to cover potential concert loss, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **1 Brewers Court, Abingdon**, towards tree maintenance, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **30 Hillview Road, Abingdon**, towards tree maintenance, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iv) **67 Abingdon Road, Drayton**, towards tree maintenance, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

6.0 Method of determining the 2007/08 budget for Area Committees

6.1 The Abingdon Area budget for 2007/08 has been calculated based on the electorate in the Abingdon Area on 1 January 2007. The same principle has been applied to determine the budget for other Area Committees.

6.2 The details for the Abingdon Area are as follows:

	Electorate 01/01/06	Electorate 01/01/07	% of electorate 01/01/06	% of electorate 01/01/07	Apportionment	Budget 06/07	Budget 07/08
	27,956	29,158	31.50%	31.70%	25.0335%	£28,220	£28,388
Totals whole of Vale	89,729	92,013	100%	100%	100%	£113,400	£113,400

7.0 Carry forward of unspent grant

Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2006/07 into 2007/08.

8.0 Parish Cleansing bids for 2007/08

8.1 At the meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee on 28 March 2006 the members of the Committee considered two applications for additional parish cleansing. In view of the modest amount requested the Committee awarded the full amount requested, namely £500 to Drayton Parish Council and £45 to Appleford Parish Council.

8.2 The bids for additional parish cleansing which have been received by the deadline are listed in the table at Appendix C. The amount of grant requested for 2007/08 totals £1,475. The table includes a column showing the amount that would be awarded if the Committee adopts the same principle as for the current year.

8.3 Members of the Committee are invited to consider whether they wish to adopt the same principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing in 2007/08 and to determine the bids submitted.

9.0 Projects, services and events supported by the Abingdon Area Committee

9.1 At the first meeting of the current financial year Members of the Committee adopted a prospectus setting out the priorities for community grants in the Abingdon Area in 2006/07 based on the strands of the Vale Community Strategy.

9.2 The table at Appendix D shows the projects, services and events supported this year to date by the Abingdon Area Committee. As well as showing a breakdown of the grants awarded by Environmental, Social and Economic Agendas, the table shows whether the applications met the Community Grants Scheme criteria and which strand of the Abingdon Area Prospectus, and thus of the Vale Community Strategy, they support.

Members are asked to note the information provided.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Background Papers: Appendix B - Application Details