

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR & MONITORING OFFICER
TO EXECUTIVE
7 DECEMBER 2007

Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members of the Executive on the project to refurbish and extend the facilities at the North East Abingdon Community Association (NEACA); to draw the attention of Members to the criteria of the Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund and to seek confirmation that a portion of the funding awarded in 2004 from this Fund can still be made available to NEACA for the revised project.
- 1.2 The contact officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626).

2.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies

- 2.1 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.

3.0 Recommendations

- (a) *that Members note NEACA's revised project resulting from its unsuccessful lottery bid; and*
- (b) *that Members agree that NEACA should receive funding from the Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund to obtain WREN funding for the revised project, the precise amount being dependent on the amount of grant awarded by WREN*
- (c) *that the Council's Community Funding Advice Service, provided by Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA), be requested to work with NEACA to identify funding that may be needed to make up any shortfall for the project*

4.0 Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund

- 4.1 The Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund was set up by Executive and applications to the Fund are determined by Executive.
- 4.2 It is a capital fund for projects such as the refurbishment, rebuilding or extension of village halls or other community facilities. The fund is designed to provide assistance to community groups who are making grant applications for capital funding to one of the National Lottery funds or, in the case of parish councils as well as community groups, to environmental trusts (which have been set up by landfill companies as a result of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme) such as WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd).

4.3 Generally speaking an application for a grant to one of the National Lottery funds has more chance of success if the applicant organisation is not applying for a grant to cover 100% of the project cost. Increasingly Lottery funds require that a significant proportion of the total funding needed comes from other sources. However for large projects it may be difficult to raise a significant proportion of the total funding required from other sources. In these circumstances an application for funding can be made to the District Council's Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund.

5.0 Request from the North East Abingdon Community Association (NEACA) concerning a previous grant award

5.1 Information on the background to the application from NEACA, submitted in 2004/05 and for which a grant of £25,000 was awarded by the Executive on 4 June 2004, is included under Appendix A.

5.2 Members are advised that the Abingdon Area Committee awarded a grant of £50,000 to NEACA towards the original project on 25 May 2004. At its meeting on 25 October 2007 the Abingdon Area Committee resolved that this grant should be confirmed. The Committee considered that the aims of the project remained unchanged and, despite a reduction in the cost of the project, a reduction in the amount of the award could result in the failure of the project aims.

5.3 Members are asked to note that under the criteria for the Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund the Executive may make an award to NEACA to secure WREN funding. An award of £5,500 will secure the WREN grant of £50,000, if NEACA's application to WREN is successful. The decision to award the remaining £19,500 of the £25,000 funding originally awarded under this scheme can only be taken if NEACA receives grant funding from another organisation whose grant conditions require a proportion of the grant to be met by the applicant. This is not the current situation.

5.4 If NEACA increases its application to WREN by £19,500 to cover the shortfall from the amount originally allocated by the Council, the amount required from the Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund will increase from £5,500 to £7,645.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR & MONITORING OFFICER

Background Papers: Letter, original application and supporting documents