

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE

25 MARCH 2008

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants for the remainder of 2007/08 and in 2008/09, to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting, to invite Members to decide on their principle for awarding grants towards additional parish cleansing in 2008/09 and to determine the applications received for this purpose.
- 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 2007/08 is £12,271.63*
- (b) *Members are asked to consider and determine the grant application, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following:*
- (i) **Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, £500**, towards the cost of a replacement map for the village, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) **The Church of St Michael & All Angels, Abingdon, £8,000**, towards the cost of essential repairs to a listed building and redevelopment of the Community Room, Environmental and Social Agendas, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iii) **Abingdon & District Musical Society, £800**, towards potential losses on a concert, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iv) **Sutton Courtenay Cricket Club, £470**, towards the purchase of kit for young people on their Youth Development Programme, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (v) **Abingdon Band, £1,000**, towards the purchase of instruments for use by new members, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (c) *Members are asked to note that the Abingdon Area Committee's budget for 2008/09 is £25,997*
- (d) *Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2007/08 into 2008/09*

(e) Members are asked to determine their principle for awarding grants for Additional parish cleansing in 2008/09 and invited to determine these grants to be paid from the 2008/09 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 policy.

4.0 Community Grants

4.1 Budget

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

Budget b/f 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Total budget 2007/08	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£11,398.63	£28,388.00	£39,786.63	£9,935.80	£9,935.80	£2,838.80	£5,677.60 + £11,398.63 =£17,076.23
	Allocated	£27,515.00	£665.00	£26,850	£0	£16,914.20 to Social
	Remaining	£12,271.63	£9,270.80	£0	£2,838.80	£162.03

4.2 Community Grants

4.3 Members are advised that a grant of £400 was awarded to Abbey Brass under officer delegation at the end of May and was omitted from the report to the Committee in July due to an oversight. As the Committee had not elected a Chair at that stage, the award had been made by the Head of Community Strategy in consultation with the Leader of the Council. The grant was awarded towards the cost of an advertising campaign to raise awareness about the band amongst a wider audience and thereby to attract new people to this type of music. This sum has been included in the figure for the budget allocated in the table above.

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

- (i) **Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, £500**, towards the cost of a replacement map for the village, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **The Church of St Michael & All Angels, Abingdon, £8,000**, towards the cost of essential repairs to a listed building and redevelopment of the Community Room, Environmental and Social Agendas, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iii) **Abingdon & District Musical Society, £800**, towards potential losses on a concert, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

- (iv) **Sutton Courtenay Cricket Club, £470**, towards the purchase of kit for young people on their Youth Development Programme, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (v) **Abingdon Band, £1,000**, towards the purchase of instruments for use by new members, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

5.0 The 2008/09 Community Grants Budget for the Abingdon Area Committee

- 5.1 Following full Council on 27th February 2008 and the approval of the Council's budget for 2008/09, members are advised that the Community Grants budget for the Abingdon Area Committee in 2008/09 will be £25,997.
- 5.2 The Abingdon Area budget for 2008/09 has been calculated based on the electorate in the Abingdon Area on 1 January 2008. The same principle has been applied to determine the budget for the other Area Committees.
- 5.3 The details for the Abingdon Area and other Areas are shown at Appendix B.

6.0 Carry forward of unspent grant

Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2007/08 into 2008/09.

7.0 Parish Cleansing bids for 2008/09

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 At the meeting of the Committee on 22 March 2007 Members agreed that they did not wish to adopt a principle for awarding grants towards additional parish cleansing but would determine each application on its merits.
- 7.3 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 2008/09 totals £1,450.
- 7.4 Members of the Committee are invited to consider whether they wish to adopt a principle for awarding grants towards additional parish cleansing grants in 2008/09 and to determine the bids received, noting that any grant awarded will be allocated from the 2008/09 budget.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Background Papers: Appendices A and C - Application Details