

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (MATT PROSSER)
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE

19 MARCH 2009

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 2008/09 and in 2009/10, to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting.

1.2 The contact officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626), **e-mail address: lorna.edwards@whitehorsedc.gov.uk**

2.0 Recommendations

(a) *that Members note the Committee's remaining budget for 2008/09*

(b) *that Members consider and determine the grant application, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following:*

(i) Abingdon Music Festival Association, £475, towards a masterclass in conducting, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(ii) Drayton Hall, £1,000, towards replacement doors, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(iii) Oxford Film & Video Makers, £1,390, towards Summerscreen 2009 activities, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(c) *that Members consider grant applications which were awarded a grant by the Executive on 17 October 2008 and were referred to the Area Committees for possible additional support:*

(iv) Oxfordshire Play Association, £3,373, towards core costs of providing support services to play settings in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority

(v) South & Vale Carers Centre, £3,724, towards core costs of providing a support service to carers, Social Agenda, Access priority

(vi) Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire, £1,105, to impart a love of reading to children in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority

(vii) Oxfordshire Playbus, £3,000, towards a replacement sensory

vehicle for children with special needs, Social Agenda, Access priority

(d) that Members request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2008/09 into 2009/10

(e) that Members note the Abingdon Area Committee's budget for 2009/10

(f) that Members determine the applications for additional parish cleansing in 2009/10 to be paid from the 2009/10 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 2007/08	Budget 2008/09	Total budget 2008/09	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£3,727.97	£25,997.00	£29,724.97	£9,098.95	£9,098.95	£2,599.70	£5,199.40 + £3,727.97 = £8,927.37
	Allocated	£27,655.25	£1,337.50 + £5,691.73 to Social	£26,317.75	£2,599.70 to Social	£8,927.7 to Social
	Remaining	£2,069.72	£2,069.72	£0	£0	£0

4.2 At the end of the last meeting of the Committee all of the remaining budget for 2008/09 had been awarded or allocated in case the applications to the County Council's Chill Out Fund to be submitted by DAMASCUS Youth Project, The Vale of White Horse Foyer and the Compass Café, were unsuccessful. These three applicants were advised to apply to the Chill Out Fund and DAMASCUS Youth Project has been awarded £1,000, which was the balance in the Chill Out Fund for 2008/09. As a result £1,000 has been returned to the Committee's budget. The Vale of White Horse Foyer and the Compass Café have been advised to apply to the Chill Out Fund in the new financial year.

4.3 A further £969.72 has been returned to the budget from the grant of £2,000 awarded to the Preston Road Community Centre Association in Autumn 2008. The grant had been requested as third party funding to secure and release a grant from WREN.

- 4.4 Throughout 2008/09 a total of £2,219.72 has been returned to budget.
- 4.5 In view of the amount returned to budget since the last meeting of the committee, officers have considered an application from Sustrans and in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, have awarded a grant of £150 towards the reprinting of the leaflet on The Hanson Way cycle route which passes through Abingdon en route between Oxford and Didcot.
- 4.6 After taking into account the grant returned to budget and the grant awarded under officer delegation, the remaining budget for 2008/09 is £2,069.72, as shown in the table above.

5.0 New grant applications

Applications totalling £2,865.00 have been received from the following and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix A.

(i) Abingdon Music Festival Association, £475.00, towards a conducting a masterclass, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(ii) Drayton Hall, £1,000, towards replacement doors, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(iii) Oxford Film & Video Makers, £1,390, towards Summerscreen 2009 activities, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

6.0 Grant applications referred from the Executive

- 6.1 At the meeting of the Executive on 17 October six grant applications were considered. A grant was awarded to five of the six applicants and the leader of the Council requested that all the applications be taken to the Area Committees for further consideration so that they could award an additional grant if they so wished. One of the applicants received the total grant requested so no further consideration is necessary. The sixth application, where no grant was awarded by the Executive was withdrawn.
- 6.2 In view of the large number of new applications received and considered by the Abingdon Area Committee at its meeting on 6 November 2008 all of the Committee's remaining budget for 2008/09 was allocated with the result that consideration of the applications referred by the Executive was deferred to the March meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee.
- 6.3 The referred applications are as follows and a narrative is included at Appendix B. The grant requested and awarded by the Executive is shown on the narratives. The amount of grant requested from the Area Committees, shown below, is the balance after the award from the Executive and other funding received since the Executive meeting.
- (iv) Oxfordshire Play Association, £3,373**, towards core costs of providing support services to play settings in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority

- (v) **South & Vale Carers Centre, £3,724**, towards core costs of providing a support service to carers, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (vi) **Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire, £1,105**, to impart a love of reading to children in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (vii) **Oxfordshire Playbus, £3,000**, towards a replacement sensory vehicle for children with special needs, Social Agenda, Access priority

7.0 The 2009/10 Community Grants Budget for the Abingdon Area Committee

- 7.1 Following the meeting of Council on 25 February 2009 and the approval of the Council's budget for 2009/10, Members are advised that the Community Grants budget for the Abingdon Area Committee in 2009/10 will be £26,096.00.
- 7.2 The Abingdon Area budget for 2009/10 has been calculated based on the electorate in the Abingdon Area on 1 January 2009. The same principle has been applied to determine the budget for the other Area Committees.
- 7.3 The details for the Abingdon Area and other Areas are shown at Appendix C.

8.0 Carry forward of unspent grant

Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2008/09 into 2009/10.

9.0 Additional Parish Cleansing applications for 2009/10

- 9.1 At the meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee on 25 March 2008 two applications for additional parish cleansing were considered. In view of the reduced level of grant funding now available and likely in the future it was agreed that grants for additional parish cleansing in the Abingdon Area would be phased out over two years. Both parish councils who submitted applications for 2008/09 were advised of this decision. The final year for awarding such grants is therefore 2009/10.
- 9.2 An application has been received from Appleford Parish Council and Drayton Parish Council, details of which are provided in the table at Appendix D.
- 9.3 Members are requested to consider and determine the applications received. Any grant awarded will be allocated from the committee's 2009/10 budget.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

MATT PROSSER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers: Appendices A, B and D - Application Details