

Date: 29 March 2007

TO: All Members of the Executive
FOR ATTENDANCE

TO: All Other Members of the Council
FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** to be held in the **GUILDHALL, ABINGDON** on **Thursday, 5th April, 2007** at **2.30 pm.**

Yours faithfully

Terry Stock
Chief Executive

Members are reminded of the provisions contained in Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct, and Standing Order 34 regarding the declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

A G E N D A

Open to the Public including the Press

A large print version of this agenda is available. Any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement. Contact Steve Culliford, Democratic Services Officer on telephone number (01235) 540307.

Map and Vision

(Page 8)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting, together with a copy the Council Vision is attached.

STANDING ITEMS

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the public minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 2 March 2007, (previously circulated).

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

In accordance with Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct and the provisions of Standing Order 34, any Member with a personal interest must disclose the existence and nature of that interest to the meeting prior to the matter being debated. Where that personal interest is also a prejudicial interest, then the Member must withdraw from the room in which the meeting is being held and not seek improperly to influence any decision about the matter unless he/she has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee.

4. Urgent Business and Chair's Announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the Chair determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the Chair.

5. Statements and Petitions from the Public Under Standing Order 32

Any statements and/or petitions from the public under Standing Order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

6. Questions from the Public Under Standing Order 32

Any questions from members of the public under Standing Order 32 will be asked at the meeting.

7. Referral under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules or the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

None

8. Referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Other Committees

Best Value Performance Indicators – Performance against Top and Bottom Quartile 2005/06

At its meeting on 15 March 2007, the Scrutiny Committee considered report 159/06 - Best Value Performance Indicators – Performance against Top and Bottom Quartile 2005/06 and resolved:

"that the Executive takes up with the Audit Commission, through the Local Government Association, the relevance of some of the Best Value Performance Indicators, especially those that conflict with each other (BVPI 82aii [tonnage of waste recycled] and 84a [household waste collected]) and those outside the control of the Council – Crime (BVPI 126 [domestic burglaries], 127 [violent crimes and robberies], 128 [vehicle crimes], 156 [percentage of authority buildings open to the public and accessible to the disabled] and 175 [racial incidents])."

9. **Financial Monitoring**

(Pages 9 - 10)

Members are requested to consider the attached requests for virements.

Also attached to the agenda are the supplementary estimates noted at the last meeting of the Executive, but now showing the correct total. These are to be noted.

KEY DECISIONS

10. **Forward Plan**

(Pages 11 - 13)

To receive the Forward Plan containing Executive decisions to be taken from April to July 2007.

Recommendation

that the Forward Plan be received.

OTHER MATTERS

11. **Annual Audit and Inspection Letter**

To receive and consider the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter (to follow). The District Auditor will attend the meeting to present his report.

12. **Housing Nominations Policy Review**

Following a report to Strategic Review Committee in January 2007, officers committed to bring a report to the Executive detailing the changes to the housing nominations policy that the review had identified as being necessary.

Since any alteration to policy will require alterations to the Council's Choice Based lettings system we have sought advice from our IT consultant, Abritas, as to the feasibility of certain proposals and their likely cost. Their advice is crucial since their response to our request will frame the proposed changes that officers propose. Therefore a revised policy cannot come forward until we have discussed the matter with them and understood the IT implications of our proposals.

Therefore it has been necessary to delay bringing forward this report. I now consider that this report will be unlikely to be placed before Members before the July Executive.

13. **Organisational Development Programme**

(Pages 14 - 16)

To receive and consider report 189/06 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

One of the Vale's corporate priorities is to "Build our capacity through managerial and organisational change". Since the creation of an Organisational Development and Support (ODS) service area in last year's senior management re-structuring, a new staffing structure has been created, which has provided the capacity to define the Organisational Development Programme.

The new ODS management team has used best practice guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to develop an Organisational Development Programme that will build the capacity to deliver the Vale's aspirations for improvement.

An iterative process of learning, development, consultation and review has produced six interlinked programmes within the overarching development programme, and this report seeks approval of these.

The Contact Officer for this report is Helen Bishop, Deputy Director Organisational Development & Support, 01235 540372.

Recommendation

that the concept of the organisational development programme being made up of the six interlinked programmes as outlined in paragraph 7.1 be approved.

14. Thames Water's Stage 2 Consultation on its Proposed New Reservoir

To receive and consider recommendations from the Reservoir Advisory Group on the Council's response to Thames Water's Stage 2 consultation on its proposed new reservoir.

15. Budget Carry Forwards Requests

(Page 17)

Members are requested to approve unused 2006/07 revenue budgetary provision for specific one-off projects to be carried forward to 2007/08 without the need to budget for them again. Members should note that requests to carry forward unused capital budgets are dealt with separately.

The Contingency Fund is the approved mechanism used to carry forward revenue budget provision from 2006/07 to 2007/08. This was approved in report 491/00 to Operations Sub Committee on 13 March 2001.

The table appended to this agenda lists the various requests submitted by officers for Member approval.

Recommendation

that Members consider the revenue budget carry forward requests and approve the budgets to be carried forward from 2006/07 to 2007/08.

16. Community Grants

(Pages 18 - 40)

To receive and consider report 190/06 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the Executive Committee in respect of Community Grants and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received. The Executive currently considers grant applications bi-annually. Executive considered applications in October 2006 and the next meeting, at which the consideration of grants is planned, will be in October 2007.

The contact officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626).

Recommendations

- (a) *Members are asked to note that the Executive's budget for 2007/08 for Vale-wide grants is £23,814;*
- (b) *Members are asked to consider and determine the following grant applications and agree the Council agenda and priority:*
- (i) *My Life My Choice, £2,686.36, towards running 4 self-advocacy groups, Social Agenda, Access priority*
 - (ii) *OCVA, £5,000, towards running a volunteer brokerage service, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (iii) *Neighbourhood Watch, £2,033, towards an expanded service, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (iv) *Root and Branch, £1,073.47, towards equipment, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (v) *Oxfordshire Play Association, £4,535, towards core services, Social Agenda, Access priority*
 - (vi) *Oxfordshire Artweeks, £1,000, production of the Artweeks Guide, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (vii) *Oxford Film & Video Makers, £2,400, towards a film and digital media festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (viii) *Oxfordshire Chinese Community and Advice Centre, £3,276, towards increased running costs, Social Agenda, Access priority*
 - (ix) *Wantage Diving Club, £1,500, towards equipment, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (x) *Abingdon & District CAB, £7,477, towards increased running costs, Social Agenda, Access priority*
 - (xi) *Oxfordshire Children's Information Services, £5,000, towards enhanced services, Social Agenda, Access priority*
 - (xii) *Sunningwell School of Art, £3,000, towards a more efficient heating system, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (xiii) *Accessible Sailing, £5,000, towards construction of pontoon, Social Agenda, Access priority*
- (c) *Members are asked to agree to the request from Area Committees to carry forward unspent grant budget from 2006/07; and*
- (d) *Members are asked to note the range of projects, services and events supported by the Executive in 2006/07.*

17. Revised Tariffs for Hackney Carriages

(Pages 41 - 46)

To receive and consider report 191/06 of the Strategic Director and Chief Finance Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

The Council last reviewed the tariff structure and charges for Hackney Carriages in September 2003. This report sets out the results of a consultation exercise with Hackney Carriage drivers within this District, and asks Members to determine the tariff level which should be proposed for the next two years.

Following this initial decision from Members, the proposed tariff must be published in a local newspaper so that any member of the public or trade can make representations to the Council. At least 14 days must be allowed for receipt of these representations, from the date of publication. If no objections to the proposal are received, the tariff will take effect on a previously specified start date. Any objections which are received must be considered at Member level, and the tariff (with any necessary amendments) must be introduced within two

The contact officer for this report is Rob Akers, Team Leader (Food and Safety), extension 382.

Recommendations

- (a) *that the proposal to increase the tariff for Hackney Carriages within the Council's District to the average amounts (rounded to the nearest five pence) arising from the recent consultation exercise, as given in the table below be approved:*

	Tariff One (£)				Tariff Two (£)			
	Less than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	More than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	Subsequent $\frac{1}{10}$'s Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)	Less than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	More than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	Subsequent $\frac{1}{10}$'s Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)
<i>Rounded average requested</i>	3.00	3.00	0.20	0.25	4.10	4.15	0.30	0.30
<i>Soiling charge</i>	£50 (No change)							

- (b) *that this proposed tariff be published for consultation on 12th. April 2007, and take effect from 27th. April 2007, provided that no objections have been received.*
- (c) *that the Executive delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Licensing to consider any objections which are received and approve a final tariff, with any necessary amendments.*
- (d) *that a periodic consultation exercise with the taxi trade within the District is undertaken once every two years, to ascertain their views on tariff levels, the results of which will be reported to Members with recommendations made as to the amendment of tariff levels.*

18. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment - Joint Study with South Oxfordshire District Council

The Government has recently published Planning Policy Statement 25, Development & Flood Risk (PPS25). The Planning Policy Statement requires Local Authorities to carry out Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for their area. An assessment, which will look at all forms of flooding will refine the information on the Flood Maps and determine the variations in flood risk across and from the District. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will be used to inform the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Documents and will provide the evidence base from which to apply the sequential test and exception test in allocating sites for development and considering planning applications in the development control process.

PPS25 states there are considerable practical and technical benefits in Local Authorities joining together to commission Strategic Flood Risk Assessments which are best undertaken on a river catchment wide basis. In addition we have been advised if we jointly commission a study with South Oxfordshire the cost of one rather than two separate studies is likely to be substantially less (about 25% to each authority). The cost of the work will be met from the Council's Local Development Framework fund, as the assessment is a vital part of the Local Development Framework process.

In order for South Oxfordshire to commission the work on behalf of both Councils, the Executive's authority is being sought for the Council's standing orders to be suspended in favour of those of South Oxfordshire.

Recommendation

In accordance with Standing Order 2C(4) this Authority's Standing Orders are suspended in favour of South Oxfordshire's in order to commission a joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to

cover both Districts.

19. Local Authorities in Oxfordshire

The Government has announced which proposals for unitary councils are to proceed to consultation and Oxford is not included. This means that the two tier system will remain in Oxfordshire for the foreseeable future.

However, the Government's press release also includes the statement that:

"In remaining two-tier areas Government expects all councils to pursue new working arrangements to achieve the same level of improvement and efficiency gains as we expect the new unitaries will be achieving."

The Executive is recommended to recommend the in-coming Council to determine its approach to this expectation as a matter of urgency.

20. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press

The Chair to move that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the remainder of the meeting to prevent the disclosure to them of exempt information, as defined in Section 100(I) and Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, to the Act when the following items are considered:-

- Item 21 Minutes
(Category 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

- Item 22 Property Matters
(Category 3)

EXEMPT INFORMATION UNDER SECTION 100A(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

STANDING ITEMS

21. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 2 March 2007, (previously circulated).

OTHER MATTERS

22. Property Matters

(Pages 47 - 48)

To consider the attached property matters.



OUR VISION AND AIMS

Our Vision is to build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community

The Vale of White Horse District Council aims to:

Strengthen local democracy and public involvement through access to information, consultation, and devolution of power so that everyone can take part in our community and contribute to the decisions which affect our lives

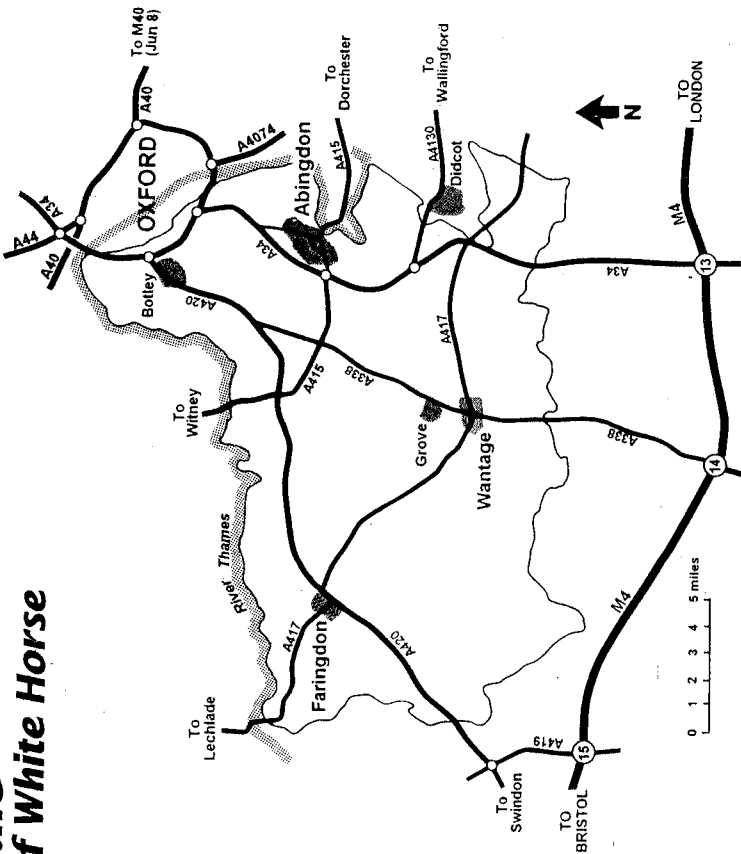
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

Encourage a strong and sustainable economy which benefits all who live in, work in or visit the Vale

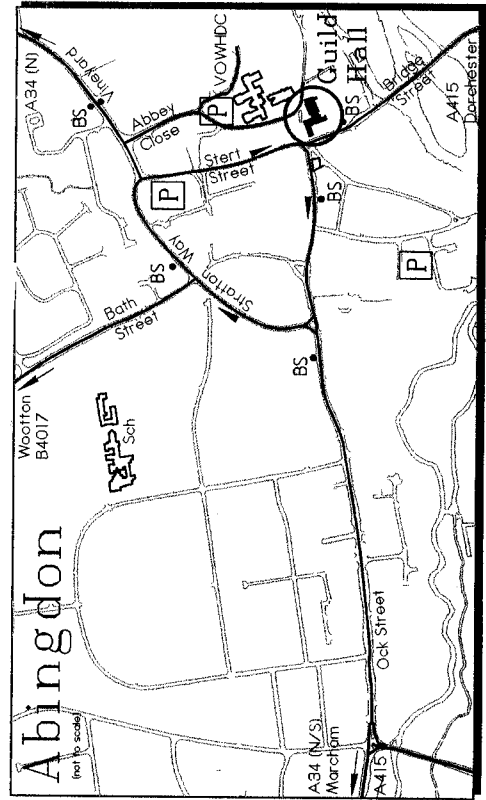
Help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential

Provide and support high quality public services which are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of people within the Vale

Protect and improve our built and natural environment



Guildhall, Abingdon



KEY : BS = Bus Stop

LOCATION MAP



Note for Executive

Virements received at 27 March 2007
(in respect of 2006/07)

Key to Type

- 1 Within a subjective within a cost centre
- 2 Within a Cost Centre but across subjective headings
- 3 Within the cost centres of a service area
- 4 Across service areas
- 5 Over £10,000

No.	Date received	Account From	Cost Centre Code	Cost Centre Name	Account To	Cost Centre Code	Cost Centre Name	Virement Total £	Virement Percentage	Reason	Preventative Action	Type	Authorised by Director/Deputy Director	Requires Executive Approval		
1	23/02/2007	418	F00	ICT	450	F00	ICT	1,500	0.6%	To cover conference and seminar expenses paid from service area	n/a	1	Y	N		
2	08/03/2007	433	T91	Excess Charge Administration	208	T33	Car Park Operations	1,300	13.1%	To cover increased cost of electricity	Investigate ways of reducing consumption. SBCF submitted to increase budget for 2007/08	3	Y	Y		
3	08/03/2007	409	T33	Car Park Operations	208	T33	Car Park Operations	1,200	3.3%	To cover increased cost of electricity	Investigate ways of reducing consumption. SBCF submitted to increase budget for 2007/09	1	Y	N		
4	08/03/2007	202	T33	Car Park Operations	208	T33	Car Park Operations	2,500	1.6%	To cover increased cost of electricity	Investigate ways of reducing consumption. SBCF submitted to increase budget for 2007/10	2	Y	N		
5	08/03/2007	402	T33	Car Park Operations	203	T33	Car Park Operations	2,000	5.0%	To cover the increased cost of vandalism at Charter Car Park	Wire mesh tubes to be fitted over tubes in Levels 1 and 3	2	Y	N		
6	09/03/2007	412	N50	Corporate Core	403	N70	Corporate Admin	200	0.1%	To cover unexpected repairs to shredder	Routine maintenance to be carried out	4	Y	N		
7	09/03/2007	211	N50	Corporate Core	101	T38	Payroll	240	25.2%	To cover payment of honoraria	n/a	4	Y	Y		
8	23/03/2007	424	F00	ICT	437	F00	ICT	19,260	8.2%	To move budget to correct account for purchase of software	n/a	5	Y	Y		
Total Virements								28,200								
Summary																
Total Type 1								2,700								
Total Type 2								4,500								
Total Type 3								1,300								
Total Type 4								440								
Total Type 5								19,260								
Total								28,200								

Note to Executive

Supplementary estimates approved by Strategic Director in consultation with the Leader of the Council
at 19 February 2007

No.	Date received	Account From	Cost Centre Code	Cost Centre Name	Account To	Cost Centre Code	Cost Centre Name	Supplementary Estimate Total	Description
1	22/11/2006	498	N80	Contingency	101	K90	Employee Relations	£8,000	Settlement of disputed back pay
2	22/11/2006	498	N80	Contingency	424	K10	Training & Development	£6,240	Expenditure on management development courses attended/delivered by Interim Director
3	19/01/2007	498	N80	Contingency	119	C00	Environmental Health	£6,250	Temporary Project Officer for implementation of Health Act 2006
4	19/01/2007	498	N80	Contingency	424	C00	Environmental Health	£5,000	Continued membership of the Cleaner Safer Greener Network
5	31/01/2007	498	N80	Contingency	119	N90	Accountancy	£10,250	Temporary staff to cover long term sickness
Total Supplementary Estimates								£35,740	

VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL

FORWARD PLAN

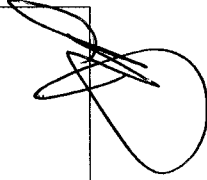
CONTAINING EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 APRIL 2007 - 31 JULY 2007

This Forward Plan sets out a schedule of Key Decisions likely to be taken over the four-month period shown above. It is a rolling plan, subject to change monthly. A Key Decision is a decision of the Executive which is likely to result in: the Council incurring significant expenditure or making significant savings; a high proportion of the community being affected; or an impact on two or more agendas or services. Executive decisions can be taken by the Executive as a whole, a committee of the Executive, an individual Member of the Executive, an Officer of the Council, an Area Committee, or through joint arrangements with other bodies or another Council.

Where the decision is to be taken by the Executive, until the local elections in May 2007 this comprises the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jerry Patterson, and the following elected Members: Councillors Mary de Vere, Tony de Vere, Richard Farrell, Joyce Hutchinson, Bob Johnston and Roz Smith.

Representations can be made on any of the following issues before a decision is taken. Representations must be made to the relevant contact officer shown below by 5pm on the working day preceding the date of the decision.

Decision	Key decision?	Decision maker	Date first published	Consultees	Consultation method	Contact Officer	Documents used
Financial Monitoring		Executive 5th Apr 2007	This item will appear on the Executive agendas each month	Executive Portfolio Holders	Consultation with budget holders	Steve Bishop, Strategic Director and Section 151 Officer Tel. (01235) 540332 steve.bishop@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	2006/07 Budget
Housing Nominations Policy Review		Executive 5th Apr 2007	March 2007	Councillor Mary de Vere	Consult Executive Portfolio Holder then Executive to make recommendations for any policy changes to Council	Paul Staines Tel. (01235) 547621 E-mail: paul.staines@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	None.



Decision	Key decision?	Decision maker	Date first published	Consultees	Consultation method	Contact	Documents used
Sports Strategy		Executive Portfolio Holder with delegated authority for Leisure Projects Apr 2007	April 2007	Councillor Joyce Hutchinson and Partner Organisations	Oxfordshire Sports Partnership Sport England South East Local Sporting Groups	Michael Mackay Tel. 01235 540337 E-mail: michael.mackay@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	Sport England Strategy Oxfordshire Sports Partnership Strategic Framework
Arts Strategy		Executive Portfolio Holder with delegated authority for Leisure Projects Apr 2007	April 2007	Councillor Joyce Hutchinson Partner Organisations	Arts Council for England South East Oxfordshire Arts Partnership Local Arts Groups	Michael Mackay Tel. 01235 540337 E-mail: michael.mackay@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	Arts Council for England Policy Oxfordshire Cultural Strategy
Organisational Development Programme		Executive 5th Apr 2007	April 2007	Councillor Roz Smith	Strategic Management Group Senior Managers' Workshop	Helen Bishop Tel. 01235 540372 E-mail: helen.bishop@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	Government Guidance
Building Control Shared Service		Executive 1st Jun 2007	June 2007	Councillor Bob Johnston	Senior Managers at South Oxfordshire District Council	Bill Farrar Tel. 01235 540356 E-mail: bill.farrar@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	None.

Decision	Key decision?	Decision maker	Date first published	Consultees	Consultation method	Contact	Documents used
Ridgeway Shared Service Partnership Joint Committee		Executive 1st Jun 2007	June 2007	Councillor Mary de Vere Councillor Richard Farrell	Ridgeway Shared Service Partnership Board Members Counsel's Opinion Vale and Douth Oxfordshire District Council's Legal Services	Steve Bishop, Strategic Director and Section 151 Officer Tel. 01235 540332 E-mail: steve.bishop@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	Counsel's Opinion Best Practice Checklist for Partnership Agreements Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Constitution and Legal Agreement



REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE EXECUTIVE
5 APRIL 2007

Organisational Development Programme

1.0 **Introduction and Report Summary**

- 1.1 One of the Vale's corporate priorities is to "Build our capacity through managerial and organisational change". Since the creation of an Organisational Development and Support (ODS) service area in last year's senior management re-structuring, a new staffing structure has been created, which has provided the capacity to define the Organisational Development Programme.
- 1.2 The new ODS management team has used best practice guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to develop an Organisational Development Programme that will build the capacity to deliver the Vale's aspirations for improvement.
- 1.3 An iterative process of learning, development, consultation and review has produced six interlinked programmes within the overarching development programme, and this report seeks approval of these.
- 1.4 The Contact Officer for this report is Helen Bishop, Deputy Director Organisational Development & Support, 01235 540372.

2.0 **Recommendations**

that the concept of the organisational development programme being made up of the six interlinked programmes as outlined in paragraph 7.1 be approved.

3.0 **Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies**

- (a) A, D and E
- (b) This report underpins the Vale's corporate priority to "Build our capacity through managerial and organisational change".

4.0 **Background**

- 4.1 One of the Vale's corporate priorities is to "Build our capacity through managerial and organisational change". In order to deliver the agenda that follows from this priority the senior management re-structuring created a Deputy Director for Organisational Development and Support who was formally put into post on 1st March 2006.
- 4.2 Since then, the structure of the Organisational Development and Support (ODS) service area has been achieved, bringing the four main disciplines of Communications, Contact Services, Human Resources and Organisational Change into the OD management team.
- 4.3 The new OD structure has created a strong platform to develop and implement organisational development. It enabled a strong focus on communications and consultation, and migrated the development of the web from a technological to a communications base. It brought the future direction of Human Resources (HR) within the Vale into focus by moving resources from HR administrative support to HR advice. It also brought together the key disciplines of ICT Operations, Mapping and Data Management, Performance Management, Equalities and

Diversity and Project Management within Organisational Change, a dedicated team who have the skills and methodology for facilitating and delivering change with a consistent and systematic approach.

5.0 What is Organisational Development?

5.1 Organisational Development is the practice of planned intervention to bring about significant improvements in organisational effectiveness.

5.2 Guidance advises that for an authority to aspire to be excellent in this way it needs:

- A clear vision.
- Expectations that it meets on a local and national level.
- Delivery of joined up local services that people want.
- Excellent public perception from the community and customers of the Council.
- Staff to feel valued and understand their part in the performance of our organisation.
- A culture of continuous performance improvement.
- To be a community leader not just delivering services ourselves but by working collaboratively in partnership with other organisations to deliver our service outcomes.
- A track record of good value for money services.

5.3 To deliver these aspirations requires capacity; this can only be achieved by investing in people and systems so we can:

- Attract and retain staff.
- Develop staff to have the right skills to deliver our corporate and service objectives.
- Empower our staff to make better decisions.
- Use our time more effectively.
- Change how we deliver our services.

6.0 The Journey So Far



6.1 The Senior Management Team initially agreed the themes incorporated within the Organisational Development Programme in October 2006, based on the guidance issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister “An Organisational Development Resource for Local Government”, as the broad direction of travel for the OD Programme.





6.2 Based on the six themes suggested by this guidance, workshops with the Senior Management Team and the Organisational Development Team led to the development of a version that best meets the needs of the Vale.

7.0 Organisational Development Programme

7.1 There are six interlinked programmes that make up the OD programme for the Vale, they are:

7.2

	<p>Grow Together – committing a percentage of each person’s time to personal and team development will result in demonstrable benefits to individual and service outcomes.</p>
	<p>Customer Focus – Ensuring customer service excellence within defined parameters, whatever the service, by whichever channel.</p>

	<p>Empowerment and Responsibility – Allowing personnel to assume responsibility for delivering quality results, whilst providing a balanced support programme, will empower staff to act creatively.</p>
	<p>Aim High – Aiming for “good” rating in a CPA re-assessment exercise in 2008. Aiming for “good and improving“ rating in any other service-specific assessment, best value review or similar audit.</p>
	<p>Communications – Understanding and serving the communications needs of the Council’s internal and external stakeholders. Engaging with communities and partner organisations to influence the way forward for service delivery.</p>
	<p>Diversity – Eliminating discrimination and actively promoting equal opportunities for employees and the public.</p>

8.0 **The Way Forward**

- 8.1 The actions within the programmes are being embedded into service plans both within ODS and across the organisation, setting an expectation for delivery, and a process to monitor and review progress. The monthly service reviews between service managers and portfolio holders will be vital in this respect.
- 8.2 Communication needs to widen throughout the organisation about the development programmes, and the value they will bring to personal development, management capacity, service delivery and the way we engage and involve our community in the way we deliver our services.
- 8.3 The learning and development of the ODS management team itself will continue, and this in turn will enforce its value as a strong and supportive corporate core, enabling the rest of the organisation to successfully deliver the corporate agenda and also improve the delivery of service outcomes.

HELEN BISHOP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR ORGSNIATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers:

- ODPM Guidance: An Organisational Development Resource for Local Government
- Report to Senior Management Group and the Senior Management Team on the Organisational Development themes.
- Report to Senior Manager Workshop “Organisational Development Objectives”.
- Activity Planning for OD Programmes (Version 3)

Revenue Budget Carry Forward Requests from 2006/07 to 2007/08

Form Number	Cost centre name	Project name	Agresso Account	Agresso Cost Centre	Cost type	Amount of budget to transfer (£)	Reason for carry forward
1	Homelessness	Partnership Grants	451	T46	Supplies & Services	£5,160	Partner agencies have yet to submit invoices
2	Homelessness	Expenditure against government grant	465	T46	Supplies & Services	£20,000	SBCF 202 processed in error as 2006/07 budget change but should have been in 2007/08
3	Homelessness	Government grant	901	T46	Income	-£20,000	SBCF 202 processed in error as 2006/07 budget change but should have been in 2007/08
4	WITHDRAWN						
5	Community Grants				Supplies & Services		Details to be reported to June Executive

£5,160

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR & MONITORING OFFICER
TO EXECUTIVE
5 APRIL 2007

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the Executive Committee in respect of Community Grants and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received. The Executive currently considers grant applications bi-annually. Executive considered applications in October 2006 and the next meeting, at which the consideration of grants is planned, will be in October 2007.

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) *Members are asked to note that the Executive's budget for 2007/08 for Vale-wide grants is £23,814*

(b) *Members are asked to consider and determine the following grant applications and agree the Council agenda and priority:*

- (i) **My Life My Choice, £2,686.36**, towards running 4 self-advocacy groups, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (ii) **OCVA, £5,000**, towards running a volunteer brokerage service, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iii) **Neighbourhood Watch, £2,033**, towards an expanded service, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iv) **Root and Branch, £1,073.47**, towards equipment, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (v) **Oxfordshire Play Association, £4,535**, towards core services, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (vi) **Oxfordshire Artweeks, £1,000**, production of the Artweeks Guide, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (vii) **Oxford Film & Video Makers, £2,400**, towards a film and digital media festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (viii) **Oxfordshire Chinese Community and Advice Centre, £3,276**, towards increased running costs, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (ix) **Wantage Diving Club, £1,500**, towards equipment, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (x) **Abingdon & District CAB, £7,477**, towards increased running costs, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (xi) **Oxfordshire Children's Information Services, £5,000**, towards enhanced services, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (xii) **Sunningwell School of Art, £3,000**, towards a more efficient heating system, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (xiii) **Accessible Sailing, £5,000**, towards construction of pontoon, Social

Agenda, Access priority

(c) *Members are asked to agree to the request from Area Committees to carry forward unspent grant budget from 2006/07*

(d) *Members are asked to note the range of projects, services and events supported by the Executive in 2006/07*

4.0 Community Grants

4.1 The budget position of the Executive for Vale-wide community grants in 2007/2008 is shown below

Budget b/f 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Total Budget 2007/08	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£0	£23,814	£23,814	£8,334.90	£8,334.90	£2,381.40	£4,762.80

5.0 Applications

5.1 Applications for consideration under the Council's Community Grants Scheme have been received from the organisations listed below and there is a narrative providing additional details at Appendix A to the report. The total amount of grants requested is £43,980.83.

5.2 Members are asked to consider and determine the grant applications and to agree the Council Agenda and priority.

- (i) **My Life My Choice, £2,686.36**, towards running 4 self-advocacy groups, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (ii) **OCVA, £5,000**, towards running a volunteer brokerage service, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iii) **Neighbourhood Watch, £2,033**, towards an expanded service, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iv) **Root and Branch, £1,073.47**, towards equipment, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (v) **Oxfordshire Play Association, £4,535**, towards core services, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (vi) **Oxfordshire Artweeks, £1,000**, production of the Artweeks Guide, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (vii) **Oxford Film & Video Makers, £2,400**, towards a film and digital media festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (viii) **Oxfordshire Chinese Community and Advice Centre, £3,276**, towards increased running costs, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (ix) **Wantage Diving Club, £1,500**, towards equipment, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (x) **Abingdon & District CAB, £7,477**, towards increased running costs, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (xi) **Oxfordshire Children's Information Services, £5,000**, towards enhanced services, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (xii) **Sunningwell School of Art, £3,000**, towards a more efficient heating system, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (xiii) **Accessible Sailing, £5,000**, towards construction of pontoon, Social Agenda, Access priority

6.0 Unspent grant budget

6.1 At the end of 2006/07 the Area Committees have unspent grant budget as indicated below:

North East Area Committee	£178.40
South East Area Committee	£2,902.88
West Area Committee	£0
Abingdon Area Committee	£11,398.63

6.2 Those area committees with unspent grants budget have resolved to request that these amounts be carried forward into 2007/08. The Executive is asked to agree their request.

7.0 Projects, services and events supported by the Executive

7.1 The table at Appendix B shows the projects, services and events supported by the Executive in 2006/07. As well as showing a breakdown of the grants awarded by Environmental, Social and Economic Agendas, the table shows which strand 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 & MONITORING OFFICER

Background Papers: Applications and supporting documents

(i) **Applicant: Oxfordshire My Life My Choice Association, based in Park End Street, Oxford**

Years in existence: 10 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: My Life My Choice is seeking grant funding towards the running costs of two self-advocacy groups in Abingdon and Wantage and one Women's and one Men's group based in Abingdon. The groups are open to residents throughout the Vale and are fully accessible because travel costs are covered by the organisation. Self-advocacy gives people with learning difficulties the platform to learn and talk about their rights, including access to services, health, housing, leisure and transport; it also gives people with learning difficulties the means to support each other in making decisions and it empowers them to make decisions for themselves.

Being a self advocacy organisation, My Life My Choice responds to the opinions of people with learning difficulties and these show that the four groups in the Vale are needed. Three of the groups in the Vale have increased in numbers but the men's group has proved less successful. This is being addressed by running a men's health Roadshow.

My Life My Choice has built closer links with other Oxfordshire based agencies but remains independent of them. It provides training about self-advocacy and encourages other local service providers to refer people with learning difficulties to My Life My Choice. The charity has worked hard over the last twelve months to become more sustainable. It is training people with learning difficulties to become trainers, inspectors and "easy readers" (making documents easy to read) and to inspect social care homes and day centres throughout the UK. It is estimated that this work will bring in about £90,000 in fees. By the end of 2007 the charity will be employing up to 12 people from the Vale with learning difficulties to carry out these activities.

Self-advocacy groups are paramount in ensuring the social inclusion of people with learning difficulties into the community. This type of project is unique to the Vale and to the whole of Oxfordshire.

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 60

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: None

Total estimated project cost: £53,727.32 for 4 groups in the Vale

Balances: £45,992 at 31/03/06

Running costs: £120,104 for 9 groups in Oxfordshire year ending 31/03/06

Own Contribution: Balance after grants

Grant Sought: **£2,686.36** (this is 5% of the cost of running the 4 groups in the Vale)

Previous Awards (Vale): 2006/07 £1,000
2005/06 £1,000

Parish Council Support: Has applied to Abingdon and Wantage Town Councils for £300 each (outcome awaited)

Other Support:

Oxfordshire County Council £934.96 confirmed
 Ridgeway Partnership Charitable Funds £600 confirmed
 Comic Relief £2,250 confirmed
 Learning Disabilities Development Fund £3,100 (awaiting confirmation)

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the grant
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment
Supports Vale Community Strategy strand(s)	Access to Services, Town & Village Vitality, Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(ii) Applicant: Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA)/Volunteer Centre Oxfordshire, based in Floyds Row, St Aldate's, Oxford

Years in existence: 74 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: OCVA is an organisation one of whose aims is to increase the level of volunteering in Oxfordshire and the Vale. Many local voluntary groups report that they have insufficient volunteers to cope with the demand for their services. At present OCVA has a Volunteer Centre Manager who is working with volunteer-involving organisations to help them develop and advertise their volunteering opportunities and to help them to train and manage volunteers. A volunteer information point has been established in Wantage and other venues have been identified in Abingdon and Faringdon. OCVA needs funding to handle an increasing number of enquiries from Vale voluntary groups. The OCVA directory lists 105 voluntary groups local to the Vale and 75 countywide groups that operate in the Vale.

OCVA also wish to encourage employee volunteering because there is a recognised shortage of volunteers in Oxfordshire, partly because of full employment. Employee volunteers recruited through OCVA provided Wantage Day Centre with a garden 'makeover'.

Volunteer-involving organisations wishing to advertise opportunities will be expected to be members of OCVA. This currently costs £25 a year but is free for groups with an annual income of less than £5,000. The membership entitles them to the full range of OCVA services so is not included in the specific budget for this project.

Area of the Vale covered: Vale wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: Potentially the whole population of the Vale could benefit from either becoming volunteers or being supported by volunteers.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: There will be a charge for any training event of £20 per person but is free for groups with an annual income of less than £5,000. OCVA does not charge volunteers themselves.

Total estimated project cost: £57,583 (inc. VAT which is not reclaimable)

Balances: £412,090 at 31/03/06

Running costs: £554,739 for year ending 31/03/06

Own Contribution: £4,000 from training charges

Grant Sought: **£5,000**

Previous Awards (Vale): £2,500 in 2005/06
£2,500 in 2006/07

Parish Council Support: Applying to town councils

Other Support: Capacity Builders grant (for countywide activity) £45,017
Entering into service level agreement with S.Oxfordshire DC.
Grant provided reduces need for funding towards administrative overheads.
Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire PCT & Oxford City Council contribute to core costs.

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the grant
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment
Supports Vale Community Strategy strand(s)	Town & Village Vitality, Health & Wellbeing,
Remaining budget	
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(iii) Applicant: Neighbourhood Watch, Thames Valley Police, based in Abingdon

Neighbourhood Watch will receive a grant of £8,200 in 2007/08 under a Service Level Agreement with the Council. This application is for a grant towards increased costs due to an expansion in the Neighbourhood Watch and Ringmaster schemes.

There are now about 1,000 watch schemes in the Vale including Countrywatch and Pubwatch. The service is operated and funded in partnership with South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and Thames Valley Police. Around 25% of households in SODC and the VWHDC are members of the scheme.

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is to combat all criminal activities including racial crime, distraction burglary etc. Neighbourhood Watch is a nationwide project supported at all levels of government. Ringmaster is a messaging system that can send messages to all neighbourhood watch co-ordinators to alert them to potential crimes in the area. These schemes provide social cohesion, mutual protection from crime, reduction in the fear of crime and an information-sharing process leading to the detection of crime.

Area of the Vale covered: Vale wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: Potentially the whole population of the Vale can benefit

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: None.

Total estimated project cost: £40,634

Balances: N/A

Running costs: £33,331 projected at 31/03/07 (but actual costs £28,061 due to loss of staff)

Own Contribution: £11,161 plus office costs including recruitment and management

Grant Sought: £2,033

Previous Awards (Vale): £8,200 partnership grant in 2006/07
£9,700 partnership grant in 2005/06
£9,700 partnership grant in 2004/05

Parish Council Support: N/A

Other Support: South Oxfordshire District Council £13,970

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the grant
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment
Supports Vale Community Strategy strand(s)	Safe & Supportive Communities, Town & Village Vitality, Health & Wellbeing,
Remaining budget	
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(iv) **Applicant: Root and Branch, Westmill Farm, Watchfield**

Years in existence: 4 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: Root and Branch is seeking funding towards the purchase of a new computer to set up a new 'administration' project to teach members office-based skills. At present there are no supported employment services for people with mental health problems in the Vale that teach administration. Funding is also being sought towards the cost of an additional wood lathe to extend the charity's woodworking project in response to a need identified by its current client group.

Root and Branch is a therapeutic gardening and rural craft project that supports people living in the Vale of White Horse who experience mental health difficulties. It was established in May 2001 in response to research by the Vale Social Services Mental Health Development Worker. The client group is also vulnerable to poor physical health, poverty, social isolation, discrimination and unemployment. The aims of Root and Branch are to help people develop skills, recover mental health, develop social networks and employment experience, gain confidence and improve their physical health.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Access to Services, Health & Wellbeing, Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town and Village Vitality, Education and Lifelong Learning.

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 30

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: None

Total Project Cost: £1,523.47 incl VAT; £1,256.87 excl VAT (VAT cannot be reclaimed)
Of this £552.34 excl VAT (£649 incl VAT) is for a computer and £744.23 excl VAT (£874.47 incl VAT) is for the lathe

Balances: £21,227 at 30/09/06

Running Costs: £72,906 year ending 30/09/06

Own Contribution: £150

Grant Sought: **£1,073.47**

Previous Vale Awards: 4 one-day art workshops provided by Strategic Arts Development Officer in 2006/07
£350 2005/06
£200 2004/05
£1,000 2003/04

Parish Council Support: Has written to all parish councils in the Vale. To date has been awarded: £50 Watchfield, £50 Shrivenham, £25 Shellingford, £100 Cumnor, £75 Kennington

Other Support: PCT (Primary Care Trust) – outcome awaited

(iv) **Applicant: Oxfordshire Play Association, based in Witney**

Years in existence: 32 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA) is a registered charity with over thirty years experience in play and play work. Its objectives are the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure-time occupations for children which will improve their quality of life by promoting their physical, mental and spiritual well-being. OPA works closely with play settings to encourage inclusive provision by providing support, guidance and play opportunities that are accessible to all.

OPA is seeking a grant to support its core work with After School Clubs, Holiday Playschemes and other play organisations within the Vale. The work includes the following services:

- Activity boxes and other materials
- Outreach play support visits
- Playwork training, both qualification and practical workshops
- Payroll services
- General advice on all aspects of play
- Support to playworkers

OPA has an established membership of approximately 150 After School Clubs, Holiday Playschemes etc, of which 44 clubs and schemes are located in the Vale. There is also regular use of training, activity box and outreach services in the Vale.

OPA is working closely with other voluntary organisations that work with children and young people to form a network group which will facilitate partnership working and provide mutual support.

Following a complete re-structure due to funding changes last year, OPA has considerably reduced its estimated expenditure for 2007/08.

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 4,730

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: A membership fee of £15 p.a is charged and there is a modest fee for hiring activity boxes (£2.50 per day or £10 per week).

Total estimated project cost: £33,665

Balances: £74,554 at 31/03/06

Running costs: £149,948 year ending 31/03/06

Own Contribution: £650

Grant Sought: **£4,535**

Previous Awards (Vale):	2006/07	£2,500
	2005/06	£2,500
	2004/05	£500
	2003/04	£4,000
	2002/03	£4,000

Parish Council Support: Has not applied to parish councils but plans to apply to parish councils for specific projects in their areas

Other support:

Applied to all district councils for grants based on proportion of play settings in each.
 Cherwell £4,675 (outcome awaited)
 West Oxon £4,675 (under discussion)
 South £6,745 (none awarded)
 City £6,885 (none, due to incomplete application)
 County Council Learning & Culture £5,500 awarded

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the grant
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer, healthier community and environment
Supports Vale Community Strategy strand(s)	Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Safe and Supportive Communities, Town and Village Vitality, Education and Lifelong Learning, Health and Wellbeing.
Remaining budget	
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(vi) Applicant: Oxfordshire Visual Arts Festival Ltd (known as "Artweeks")

Project, service or event details: Oxfordshire Visual Arts Festival Ltd is the co-ordinating organisation for Artweeks, the county-wide open art studio festival which is the largest and longest running annual visual arts event in the UK. The event is divided into three regional areas with each area having its own Artweek. The Vale district is included in the South Oxfordshire Artweek which in 2007 will be held during the week beginning 14 May.

The organisers are seeking a grant towards the cost of producing 50,000 copies of the Artweeks Guide 2007.

Artweeks allows many artists from all levels of practice and many different art forms to exhibit their work in a diverse range of places across the district including village halls, barns and houses in rural areas thus increasing access for the rurally isolated and encouraging participation by those sections of the community who do not normally visit art galleries and museums. This activity encourages local vitality, tourism, cultural identity and economic growth.

Workshops aimed at children and young people are run to encourage and promote their creativity. There is no charge for visiting any of the studios or exhibitions or for participating in the workshops reflecting the organisers' policy of making the event accessible to all and encouraging as many people as possible to experience and enjoy art.

Area of the Vale covered: Vale wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: It is estimated that about three hundred people in the Vale will take part in the festival as artists and approximately nine thousand people will visit the exhibitions and events organised.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: None

Total estimated project cost: £79,300 (countywide)

Balances: £18,529 at 31 July 2006

Running costs: £69,998 for year ending 31 July 2006

Own Contribution: Members subscriptions/fees £60,000 & time given by volunteers organising the event

Grant Sought: £1,000

Previous Awards (Vale): £1,000 2006/07
£1,000 2005/06
£ 2,500 2004/05
£2,050 in 2003/04
£2,000 in 2002/03

Parish Council support: None sought

Other Support: Making applications to Oxfordshire County Council and other district councils (for activities in their districts). Seeking £ 7,800 in grants (including this application) Advertising £ 11,500 Holywell Press – discounted price for printing guide Eye Division and Oxlink – reduced rates for maintaining Artweeks web-site Gow’s Farm, Appleton – one month’s free storage space for guides E W Beard’s Building Contractors – distribution of guides to all TICs free of charge and reduced rates for building work such as construction & erection of display screens

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the grant
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation Leisure & Culture, Town & Village Vitality
Remaining budget	
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(vii) Applicant: Oxford Film and Video Makers, based in Catherine Street, Oxford

Project, service or event details: Oxford Film and Video Makers (OFVM) acts as an information centre for film, video and digital media in Oxford and the county as well as the key centre for independent film makers to train, gain access to production support, gain screening opportunities and meet up with others with similar interests.

OFVM is seeking a grant towards Summerscreen 2007, a film and digital media festival which will be held between 28 July – 5th August 2007 in venues across the district. The festival comprises workshops and open-air film screenings.

Following on from last years' success, the programme for the Vale will include 3 days of film making workshops at the Vale and Downland Museum, and 3 days of BBC Mini Movie workshops at Abingdon and Witney College.

The BBC will provide support and guidance of professional film makers for the Mini (minute) Movie workshops to help 8 young people to develop and produce films of one minute in length. All films produced will be placed on the BBC website and screened at the 'Best of the Fest' screening at the Phoenix Cinema on 30 July. The organisers will work with the Vale's Arts Development Manager to identify and recruit young people who do not normally have these sorts of opportunities. There is no charge for participation in the workshop.

Over the last two years the Minute Movies workshops have been funded by the Community Foundation but their policy prevents them from providing support for a fourth year. The workshops have always been oversubscribed.

The Summerscreen 2007 festival also includes free film screenings in different parks. OFVM has run films in the parks in Oxford City for over 8 years. Last year Summerscreen visited Memorial Park, Wantage. The event proved very popular, with 600 people turning up to view the film. A similar screening is planned for this year, again in Memorial Park, Wantage.

Area of the Vale covered: Vale wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 500

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: None

Total estimated project cost: £9,900

Balances: £53,534 at 31 March 2006

Running costs: £158,857 for year ending 31 March 2006

Own Contribution:

Grant Sought: £2,400

Previous Awards (Vale): £1,900 in 2006/07

Parish Council Support: None sought

Other Support: Youth Media Fund £1,450
In Kind (BBC) £1,500 and £350 (venue)
Applying to other district councils for activities in their area

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
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Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the grant
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation Leisure & Culture, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning
Remaining budget	
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(viii) Applicant: Oxfordshire Chinese Community and Advice Centre (OCCAC), based in Oxford

Years in existence: 16 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: OCCAC will receive a grant of £4,675 in 2007/08 under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Council to provide an assisted information and advice service.

OCCAC is seeking a one-off grant of £3,276 towards the increased overhead costs of £14,700 which it faces in 2007/08 in order to provide this service. Most of these costs are due to a sharp increase in rent.

OCCAC bilingual advice service specifically addresses the needs of minority ethnic people, issues of access, low income and the elderly. The service is mainly concerned with helping non English-speaking Chinese to gain access to services, especially to housing and welfare benefits for those on low income.

As a result of accessing the bilingual advice service Chinese residents are made aware of and can benefit from other services provided by OCCAC including adult computing and English classes, vocational training (basic food hygiene, first aid, health & safety), weekly day care and luncheon club for elderly Chinese as well as cultural and community activities such as the Chinese New Year celebration.

OCCAC has recently been successful in an application to the Big Lottery's Reaching Communities Programme and has been awarded approx £50, 000 p.a. for five years for integration and health projects. This funding is restricted to the specified projects and cannot be used for the information and advice service, ie for the Centre's core funding.

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: An estimated fourteen percent of the Centre's clients, some 750 people, are from the Vale district.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: The bilingual advice service is provided free of charge to clients but there is a small charge for other activities such as the luncheon club.

Total estimated project cost: £123,689

Balances: £12,162.67 at 31/03/06

Running costs: £109,126.04 using unrestricted funds, plus
£107,101.80
using restricted funds, year ending 31/03/06

Own Contribution: £25,000 through fundraising within the Chinese
community

Grant Sought: **£3,276**

Previous Awards (Vale): £4,675 in 2006/07 (SLA) plus £1,000 one-off
£5,500 in 2005/06 (SLA) plus £1,500 one-off
£5,500 in 2004/05 (SLA) plus £4,500 one-off
£5,500 in 2003/04

Parish Council Support: Has written to all parish councils (outcome awaited)

Other Support: For advice and community work:
£38,027 Oxford City Council
£24,189 Oxfordshire County Council Social & Health
Care – funding may not be provided beyond 2007-08
Grants have been sought from Cherwell and West
Oxfordshire District Councils and the outcome is
awaited
South Oxfordshire District Council has declined

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the grant
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment
Supports Vale Community Strategy strand(s)	Access to Services, Safe & Supportive Communities, Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(ix) **Applicant: Wantage Diving Club**

Years in existence: 30 years

Type of organisation: Club

Project, service or event details:

Wantage Diving Club is seeking a grant to replace several items of “Try Dive” SCUBA diving equipment which will not pass their next service.

The club provides the opportunity to experience SCUBA diving in a local swimming pool. Regular visitors include local community groups such as scouts, guides, South & Vale Carers. In addition the club provides diving sessions as raffle prizes to local community groups to support their fundraising efforts.

The Try Dive experience is the club’s principal method of recruiting new members.

Area of the Vale covered: Takes place in Wantage, involves many local people but is open to anyone throughout the Vale as it is the only diving club in the Vale.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: Approx 160

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: For individuals £15 per person, £25 per couple but typically no charge for community groups.

Total estimated project cost: £2,976 excl VAT; £3,500 incl VAT, of which £1,500 is for the purchase of equipment and £2,000 is for 5 year’s maintenance costs

Balances: £4,049 at 31/08/06

Running costs: £9,604 year ending 31/08/06

Own Contribution: £2,000 (member subscriptions and fundraising activities)

Grant Sought: **£1,500**

Previous Awards (Vale): £1,500 2002/03 for a compressor

Parish Council Support Have applied to a number of parish and town councils but no response to date

Other Support: None

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the grant
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer, healthier community and environment
Supports Vale Community Strategy strand(s)	Recreation, Culture and Leisure; Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(x) **Applicant: Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau**

Years in existence: 39 years in Abingdon

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: The Bureau receives a grant of £80,535 p.a. towards core funding under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Council. Since no other body will fund the Bureau's running costs the Council is its main funder. In 2005/06 and 2006/07 the Bureau was awarded additional grants to cover the increase in rent, service charges and other running costs.

The Trustee Board is seeking a grant to cover the shortfall in its core funding for 2007/08. The shortfall in funding is due to increases in service charges, salary rises and pension contribution increases. (Paid staff are employed on Local Government terms). The Bureau's SLA grant will be increased in 2007/08 by an estimated 3.3% as a result of contract inflation which increases the grant to an estimated £83,193. After town and parish council grants, bank interest and donations have been taken into account the Bureau's shortfall will be an estimated £7,477.

The Bureau was obliged to take some difficult financial decisions in 2006/07 in order to keep within its budget, resulting in the non-replacement of the manager who retired, a reduction in the hours of paid staff and reduced opening hours. The Bureau was audited in summer 2006 and achieved very good results for its quality of advice, governance and administration. The results of a Client Satisfaction Survey provide evidence of overwhelming support for the Bureau's work and the quality of advice given by its staff.

In 2005/2006 the Bureau helped over 6,000 Vale residents. Following the 23% reduction in opening sessions each week in 2006/07 the number of Vale residents helped has inevitably reduced. The figure for 2006/07 is estimated at 5,000.

The Bureau aims to ensure that individuals do not suffer due to lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibilities or of the services available to them or through an inability to express their needs effectively. Main enquiry and casework areas are money, debt, employment, welfare benefits, housing, relationship breakdown, tax and consumer.

The bureau works closely with the Wantage Independent Advice Centre and provides a service to all residents of the Vale of White Horse.

The table below shows the level of SLA grant and additional one-off grants awarded over the last two years and the level of grant being sought for 2007/08.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
SLA towards core funding	£80,535	£80,535	£80,535 +£2,658 = £83,193 (estimated inflation of 3.3%)
Additional amount awarded/being sought for rental assistance	£3,022	£4,140	£4,140
Additional amount awarded/being sought for non-rental costs assistance	£2,015	£2,565	£3,337
Total additional amount awarded/being	£5,037	£6,705	£7,477

sought			
Total amount awarded/being sought	£85,572	£87,240	£90,670

Total Project Costs: £103,235

Balances: £23,198 at 31/03/06 of which £10,147 is unrestricted funds and the balance is for specified projects

Running costs: £111,609 year ending 31/03/06

Own Contribution: 1,016 voluntary hours per month

Grant Sought: **£7,477**

Previous Awards (Vale):

2006/07	£87,240
2005/06	£85,572
2004/05	£80,535
2003/04	£76,700
2002/03	£74,825

Town & Parish Council Support: Abingdon Town Council £9,000
 Has applied to about half the parish councils in the district; has not applied to small parishes, mostly beyond Wantage & Faringdon as rarely see clients from these areas.
 Total awarded from parishes to date:£1,915 (*an additional £750 is anticipated, making a total of £2,665*)
Grand total from parish and town councils to date: £10,915 (anticipated total: £11,665)

Other support: Donations and bank interest £900

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the amount
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment
Supports Vale Community Strategy strand(s)	Access to services, Health and Wellbeing
Remaining budget	
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(xi) **Applicant: Oxfordshire Children's Information Service (OCIS), based in Witney**

Years in existence: over 5 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: OCIS provides information for parents and professionals about childcare, early education, play, activities, and the comprehensive range of services for children, young people and their families that are available throughout the county. It is the only organisation managing and providing information about registered childcare in the county.

Oxfordshire County Council grants (Early Learning and Childcare Service) enable OCIS to deliver basic helpline and outreach services to the Vale (and other districts) and an enhanced service in a particular district is funded by a contribution from the district council. County Council funding will also cover the production of 4,000 copies of the new Vale Local Information Guide in December 2007.

OCIS is seeking funding to support the following:

- (i) **OCIS Outreach and Helpline** – target of helping 1,200 Vale enquirers through the Helpline, conducting 200 face to face contacts through Outreach work and holding 8 outreach events
- (ii) **Oxfordshire Services Directory (OSD)** – 1 week's Information Officer salary to improve the information on low cost activities in the Vale; the information will be maintained and updated by OCIS
- (iii) Print 1,000 additional copies of OCIS **new Vale Local Information Guide**
- (iv) Contribution to printed **Summer Holiday Playscheme information**

OCIS's services aim to be universal, provided for all people who can benefit from them in Oxfordshire. In recognition of the numerous potential barriers preventing some groups or individuals gaining full access, OCIS delivers information and advice in a range of ways; it also tailors its information and advice to target particular groups which are not accessing the services.

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: over 1,400

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: None

Total estimated project cost: Helpline and outreach service £182,580; Information Officer £20,000; Vale Local Information Guide £6,820; Summer Holiday Playscheme publication £10,000

Balances: £181,535 at 31/03/06

Running costs: £403,213 year ending 31/03/06

Own Contribution: Will subsidise Information Officer costs for week spent on improving information coverage of the Vale; reserves used in 2006/07 to finance move to new premises and create a new post

Grant Sought: **£5,000**, broken down as follows:
£3,000 towards enhanced helpline and outreach service, £450
Information Officer time, £550 for printing additional copies of
guide, £1,000 towards Summer Holiday Playscheme publication

Previous Awards (Vale): 2006/07 £1,000 for core Information and Outreach work and OSD development
 2005/05 £300 for Local Information Guides
 2003/04 £1,500 for core Information and Outreach work

Parish Council Support: Has applied to all Vale parish councils; if successful aims to provide some additional targeted outreach work in the parishes which contribute

Other Support: Contract with Oxfordshire County Council to deliver core information and outreach service in 2007/08 plus grant funding from County Council to re-produce Vale Local Information Guides; contract with County Council and PCT to deliver Oxfordshire Services Directory

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the amount
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment
Supports Vale Community Strategy strand(s)	Access to services, Health and Wellbeing
Remaining budget	
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(xii) Applicant: Sunningwell School of Art

Years in existence: 33 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: The Sunningwell School of Art has been advised by the services engineer to renew the central heating system as soon as possible as the existing one is old and inefficient. Energy is currently wasted and a new system would save 30% or more on heating bills. The students, tutors, models and staff plus other community groups that use the building would benefit from improved conditions which an efficient heating system would provide.

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 441 students of which approximately 50% are from the Vale

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Fees are charged for the courses; discounts are given to children who live in the local community

Total estimated project cost: £8,743.13 excl VAT; £10,560.62 incl VAT (VAT cannot be reclaimed)

Balances: £57,213 at 31/08/06

Running costs: £173,918 year ending 31/08/06

Own Contribution: £4,560 (from donations from students and fundraising activities including a concert)

Grant Sought: **£3,000**

Previous Awards (Vale): 2006/07 £1,000 towards installation of disabled toilet

Parish Council Support: Has applied to all Vale parish and town councils plus a further 7 surrounding the Vale

Other Support: Has applied to Award for All (outcome awaited)

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the grant
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment
Supports Vale Community Strategy strand(s)	Environment
Remaining budget	
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(xiii) Applicant: Accessible Sailing operating as The Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project

Years in existence: 5 years

Type of organisation: Accessible Sailing is a registered charity

Project, service or event details: This application was considered by the North East Area Committee on 8 March 2007 when a grant of £10,000 was awarded. In view of the significance of the project for residents throughout the Vale, the Committee requested that the application be referred to the Executive and the other Area Committees at their first meeting of 2007/08 for consideration.

Accessible Sailing is seeking a grant towards the cost of building a pontoon which has been specifically designed to meet the needs of sailors with disabilities. It has been designed as a wheelchair-friendly floating jetty that will enable disabled sailors and their helpers to access their boats easily and safely.

The pontoon will be 65 metres long and 5 metres wide with a sloping walkway and access bridge linking the shore to the main pontoon. A lift will enable access at low water. There will also be a drop-deck with two short jetties for trimaran-type boats.

Accessible Sailing, of which the pontoon project is a part, has been set up to provide or assist with the provision of sailing or sailing-related activities for people without access due to their youth, age, infirmity or disablement. The aim of the project is to improve their quality of life.

At present disabled sailing boats are launched into the water from the "beach" end of the reservoir. Volunteers lift disabled sailors into the boats and then wade thigh-high into the water, pushing the boats until afloat. The existing pontoon is made of rubber blocks, is unstable and is only accessible via a flight of steps to water level. It is totally inaccessible for anyone with the slightest disability or lack of confidence.

The three organisations currently using Farmoor Reservoir for sailing activities are Oxford Sailability (the local disabled sailing organisation); Oxford Sailing Club and Oxford & District Schools' Sailing Association (ODSSA) who help disabled children to learn to sail. All three organisations are united in their acknowledgement of the need for better facilities for disabled and disadvantaged users and they are all working in partnership to raise funds for the pontoon.

All the necessary permissions and approvals of the installation design have been obtained.

The project has been split into stages and it is hoped to raise the first £116,000 (plus VAT) by the Autumn in order to be able to start phases 1 and 2 of the project which includes the construction of the pontoon. The sum raised so far is approximately £91,000 including the £10,000 from the North East Area Committee.

Area of the Vale covered: Based in the North East Area but available to residents throughout the Vale

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: Nearly 300

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: None

Total estimated project cost: £200,000 excl VAT; £235,000 incl VAT (VAT cannot be reclaimed)

Own Contribution: £12,200 from own fundraising activities including the sale of planks for the pontoon and guided tours of Oxford by pontoon committee member

Grant Sought: **£5,000**

Previous Awards (Vale): £10,000 awarded by North East Area Committee 08/03/07

Parish Council Support: Has written to all parish councils in the district and followed up with a telephone call; to date grants of £200 awarded by Kennington Parish Council and £10,000 by Cumnor Parish Council

Other Support: Since the launch of the project in 2002 Thames Water has provided £100,000 in funding and in-kind donations
Doris Field Trust £5,000
Great Northern Run 2006 participant with BUPA matched funding £1,200
Savill's Charity of the Year 2006/07 £3,300
Duke of Marlborough via Trusthouse Charitable Foundation 2006 £500
Blackwell Publishing 2005 £500
Private donation from concert 2004 £5,500
Three Peaks Race 2006 £1,650

Cumnor Stores Book Stall (ongoing) £500
 Chair of VOWH's Farewell Dinner 2004 £1,400
 Saddles £1,330
 Peter Harrison Foundation – awaiting outcome
 Sport England/Lottery – application in progress
 The Money Pot Grant, Fox FM - declined

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Members are requested to determine the grant
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	£
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	Thames Water, a member of the Vale Partnership Board, is very supportive of this project as witnessed by the significant level of funding and in-kind support provided.

EXECUTIVE - Grants Budget 2006/2007		APPENDIX B									
Applicant	Amount Applied for	Amount Allocated	Date Granted	Amount Paid	Purpose	Agenda Enviro	Agenda Social	Agenda Econ	Comm Strat priority		
Oxfordshire Rural Education Initiative	£2,000.00	£1,000.00	21/04/06	£1,000.00	Employment of Education Link Officer	£1,000	£0		ENV		
BTCV	£1,000.00	£500.00	21/04/06	£500.00	Running Costs	£250	£250		ENV		
Oxon Chinese Community & Advice Centre	£4,325.00	£1,000.00	21/04/06	£1,000.00	Bi-lingual service		£1,000		ACC/HW		
Sunningwell School of Art	£5,000.00	£1,000.00	21/04/06	£1,000.00	Provision of accessible facilities for people with disabilities		£1,000		ACC		
My Life My Choice	£3,500.00	£1,000.00	21/04/06	£1,000.00	Self-advocacy groups in the Vale		£1,000		ACC/HW		
Volunteer Reading Help (Oxford)	£2,597.00	£1,000.00	21/04/06	£1,000.00	Provision of volunteers for reading in schools		£1,000		ELL		
Oxfordshire Play Association	£8,000.00	£2,500.00	21/04/06	£2,500.00	Towards yearly operating costs		£2,500		ELL/RCL		
Oxon Community & Voluntary Action	£9,700.00	£2,500.00	21/04/06	£2,500.00	Towards costs of a volunteering officer for the Vale		£2,500		TVV/HW		
Abingdon & District CAB	£6,705.00	£4,140.00	21/04/06	£4,140.00	Towards a core funding shortfall		£4,140		HW/ACC		
Oxfordshire Drama Network	£300.00	£300.00	21/04/06	£0.00	Guarantee against loss on Drama Festival - not needed		£0		RCL		
Oxfordshire Visual Arts Festival (Ahtweeks)	£2,300.00	£1,000.00	21/04/06	£1,000.00	Printing of Artweeks Guide		£1,000		RCL		
Oxford Film and Video Makers	£1,900.00	£500.00	21/04/06	£500.00	Summerscreen 2006 Festival		£500		RCL		
Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	£5,500.00	£0.00	21/04/06	£0.00	£5,500 3rd party funding Lottery & Other Grants Support Fund - waterway bet canal & Thames	£0	£0		ENV		
Vis Barrington Mem Hall, Shrivensham		£0.00	21/04/06	£0.00	£5,000 from Lottery & Other Grants funds for hall refurbishment	£0	£0		TW		
Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington		£0.00	21/04/06	£0.00	Extension to hall	£0	£0				
Oxford Playhouse Trust	£500.00	£500.00	18/03/06	£500.00	Off. Del. Summer residential theatre course held in the Vale		£500		RCL		
Wantage Counselling Service	£2,500.00	£1,000.00	06/10/06	£1,000.00	To provide a counselling service in Wantage		£1,000		HW		
Vitalise	£598.50	£400.00	06/10/06	£400.00	To provide essential breaks for disabled people and carers		£400		HW		
Oxfordshire Childrens Information Service	£4,490.00	£1,000.00	06/10/06	£1,000.00	Provision of OCIS Outreach and Helpline information and advice for VWH area		£1,000		ACC		
Age Concern	£8,000.00	£2,000.00	06/10/06	£2,000.00	To provide a voluntary footcare service to elderly residents		£2,000		HW		
South and Vale Carers	£20,000.00	£574.00	06/10/06		To offer information, advice and support to unpaid family carers		£574		HW		
Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	£4,427.00	£2,000.00	06/10/06		To improve the equality of access and health and well-being to residents		£2,000		ACC/HW		
Lifeline	£2,000.00	£200.00	06/10/06		Running costs of a new help group for people with eating disorders	£0	£200		HW		
Orinocco	£13,000.00	£0.00		£0.00	Application withdrawn before meeting.	£0	£0				
						£1,250	£22,564				
Totals	£108,342.50	£24,114.00									
Budget c/f 2005/6	£0.00										
Budget 2006/07	£23,814.00										
Total Available 2006/07	£23,814.00										
Total allocated	£24,114.00										
Total not required	£300.00										
Final total allocated	£23,814.00										
Total paid	£21,040.00										
Balance Remaining to be allocated	£0.00										

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH) TO
THE EXECUTIVE
ON 5 APRIL 2007

Revised Tariffs for Hackney Carriages

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The Council last reviewed the tariff structure and charges for Hackney Carriages in September 2003. This report sets out the results of a consultation exercise with Hackney Carriage drivers within this District, and asks Members to determine the tariff level which should be proposed for the next two years.
- 1.2 Following this initial decision from Members, the proposed tariff must be published in a local newspaper so that any member of the public or trade can make representations to the Council. At least 14 days must be allowed for receipt of these representations, from the date of publication. If no objections to the proposal are received, the tariff will take effect on a previously specified start date. Any objections which are received must be considered at Member level, and the tariff (with any necessary amendments) must be introduced within two months of the original start date. A flow chart setting out this process is given in Appendix 3.
- 1.3 The contact officer for this report is Rob Akers, Team Leader (Food and Safety), extension 382.

2.0 Recommendations

- (a) *that the proposal to increase the tariff for Hackney Carriages within the Council's District to the average amounts (rounded to the nearest five pence) arising from the recent consultation exercise, as given in the table below be approved:*

	Tariff One (£)				Tariff Two (£)			
	Less than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	More than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	Subsequent $\frac{1}{10}$'s Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)	Less than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	More than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	Subsequent $\frac{1}{10}$'s Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)
Rounded average requested	3.00	3.00	0.20	0.25	4.10	4.15	0.30	0.30
Soiling charge	£50 (No change)							

- (b) *that this proposed tariff be published for consultation on 12th. April 2007, and take effect from 27th. April 2007, provided that no objections have been received.*
- (c) *that the Executive delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Licensing to consider any objections which are received and approve a final tariff, with any necessary amendments.*
- (d) *that a periodic consultation exercise with the taxi trade within the District is undertaken once every two years, to ascertain their views on tariff levels, the results of which will be reported to Members with recommendations made as to the amendment of tariff levels.*

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

This report supports the Council's overall aim of seeking the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the Vale, protecting and enhancing the vitality of our towns and villages. In particular this report helps to create a cleaner, greener, safer and healthier environment

4.0 Current tariff and comparisons

4.1 On the latest information available, using a two mile 'Tariff One' fare as a benchmark, the national average is £4.49, whereas the Council sets this at £5.30. This is the maximum which taxi drivers may charge, although they are at liberty to make a reduced charge if they wish.

4.2 Tariff One is a list of basic rates, whereas the rates in Tariff Two apply during unsocial hours (see the note to Appendix 1 for a complete definition). The current rates for this Council are as follows:

Tariff One (£)				Tariff Two (£)			
Less than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	More than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	Subsequent $\frac{1}{10}$'s Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)	Less than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	More than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	Subsequent $\frac{1}{10}$'s Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)
2.70	2.70	0.20	0.20	3.75	3.75	0.25	0.25

A charge is also specified for 'soiling', which covers cleaning and loss of income where the interior of the vehicle has been soiled by customers. This is currently £50.

4.3 Comparisons between tariffs in England are published regularly in trade press. The table below shows that this Council's rate is currently the highest in Oxfordshire (using the two mile 'tariff one' fare for comparison) although one council has not revised the local tariffs since 2001 and another does not set a tariff:

Name of Council	'Tariff One' 2 Miles	Date Introduced
Vale of White Horse D. C.	£5.30	September 03
West Oxfordshire D.C.	£4.35	March 01
Cherwell D. C.	£4.30	May 06
Oxford City Council	£4.70	February 06
South Oxfordshire D.C.	Tariff set by taxi drivers themselves	

4.4 The tariff for Private Hire Vehicles is not set by the Council. Operators of these vehicles set their own rates.

4.5 At a meeting with taxi drivers/proprietors and private hire operators on 6 December 2006, a number of changes to the tariffs for Hackney Carriages were suggested, although some expressed the view that the tariff should not be changed. A consultation process has therefore been completed, whereby each taxi driver/proprietor and operator was asked their views on how the tariff system should be changed.

5.0 Results of consultation

5.1 Ten replies were received from the taxi trade, out of a total of 285 questionnaires sent out (a response rate of only 3.5%). The details of these replies are given in Appendices 1 and 2 of this report.

- 5.2 Out of the ten respondents only two did not request an increase in the tariffs. The table below takes the responses from Appendix 1, showing the average figure requested by the trade for each charge, then rounding each to the nearest five pence.

	Tariff One (£)				Tariff Two (£)			
	Less than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	More than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	Subsequent $\frac{1}{10}$'s Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)	Less than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	More than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	Subsequent $\frac{1}{10}$'s Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)
Average requested	2.98	2.99	0.22	0.23	4.08	4.13	0.30	0.29
Rounded average	3.00	3.00	0.20	0.25	4.10	4.15	0.30	0.30
Current VWH Rate	2.70	2.70	0.20	0.20	3.75	3.75	0.25	0.25

- 5.3 The comments received on the questionnaires are given in Appendix 2. These show that there is support for a more regular review of the taxi tariff.

6.0 Discussion

- 6.1 Although the Council has not increased the Hackney Carriage tariff since September 2003, the maximum charge which taxis can make in this District is higher than in West Oxfordshire, Cherwell, and Oxford City (using the Tariff One 2 mile charge as a benchmark). It is also over eighty pence higher than the national average.
- 6.2 A 3.5% response rate to the consultation is less than expected, although all taxi drivers/proprietors and operators were given an opportunity to submit their views. Nevertheless, the consultation process has shown that of those who responded the majority would like an increase in the tariff. The use of a rounded average based on the respondents' individual requests is considered to be the fairest and most expedient way to arrive at an increase which reflects the consultation response.
- 6.3 If Members determine the proposed tariff at this meeting it will be published on 12th. April and will take effect from 27th. April, provided there have been no objections. If objections are received, these will need to be considered by the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Licensing, subject to such delegation being approved by the Executive. The legal requirement is that any objections must be considered within 2 months from 27th. April, but every effort will be made for these to be considered early in the week commencing 30th. April.

DAVID STEVENS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH)

Background papers

December 2006 - Standard letter sent to Hackney Carriage drivers, explaining the consultation process.

Hackney Carriage Tariff Survey – Summary of Requested Charges

Questionnaire No.	Tariff One (£)				Tariff Two (£)			
	Less than 7/10 Mile	More than 7/10 Mile	Subsequent 1/10's Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)	Less than 7/10 Mile	More than 7/10 Mile	Subsequent 1/10's Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)
1*	2.70	2.70	0.20	0.20	3.75	3.75	0.25	0.25
2	2.70	none given	0.25	none given	3.50	none given	0.25	none given
3	3.00	3.00	0.20	0.20	4.00	4.00	0.25	0.25
4	3.20	none given	0.25	none given	4.20	none given	0.40	none given
5	2.70	2.70	0.25	none given	3.75	3.75	0.30	none given
6	3.20	3.20	0.20	0.25	4.00	4.00	0.25	0.25
7	3.20	3.20	0.20	0.25	4.80	4.80	0.30	0.30
8	3.20	3.20	0.20	0.25	4.80	4.80	0.30	0.30
9	3.20	3.20	0.25	0.25	4.20	4.20	0.40	0.40
10*	2.70	2.70	0.20	0.20	3.75	3.75	0.25	0.25
Average	2.98	2.99	0.22	0.23	4.08	4.13	0.30	0.29
Current VWH Rate	2.70	2.70	0.20	0.20	3.75	3.75	0.25	0.25

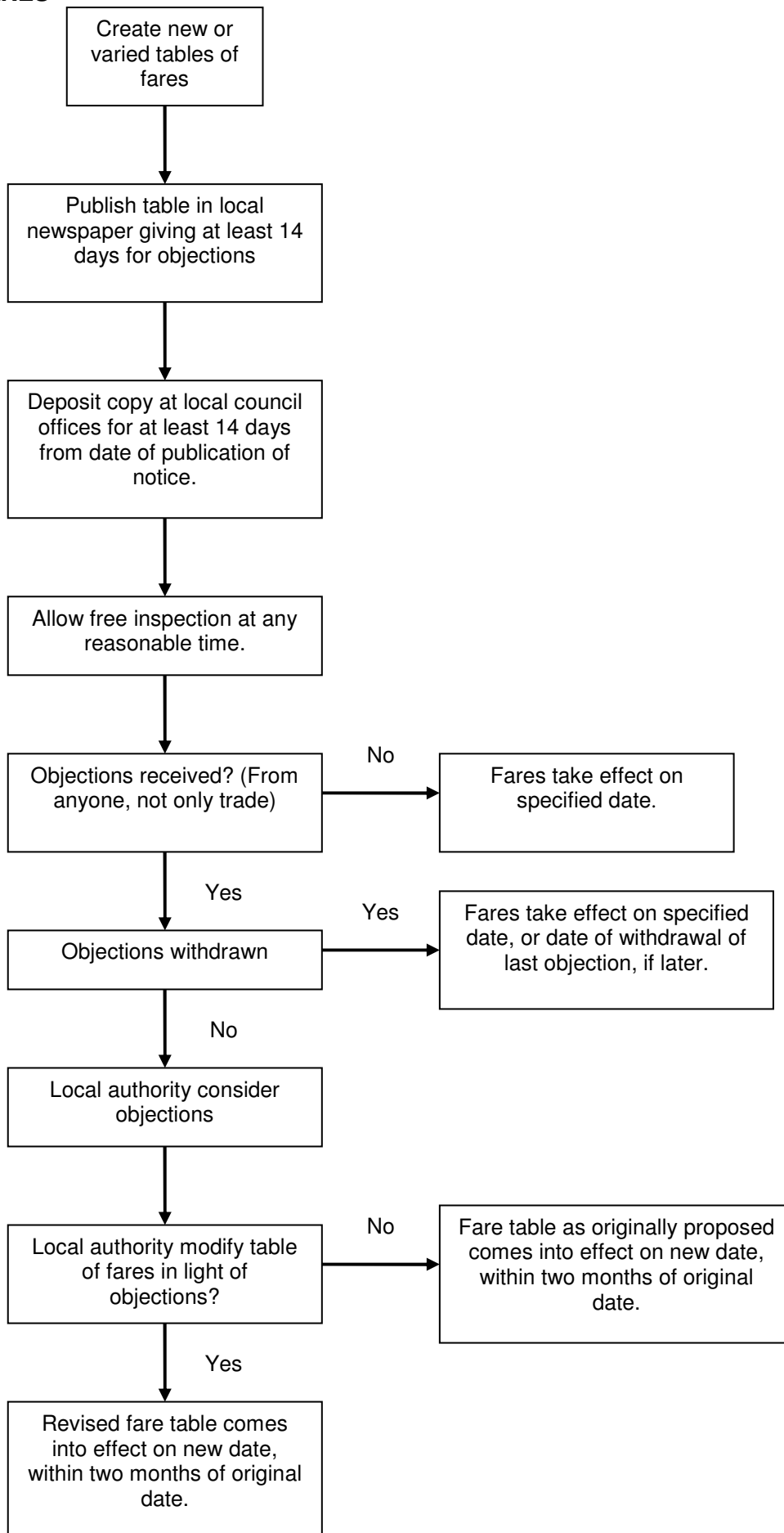
*Status quo

N.B. Tariff One is the basic rate; Tariff Two applies: (a) on public holidays, from 10 p.m. on the evening preceding the holiday until 6 a.m. on the morning after the holiday, and (b) to all journeys on all other days commencing after midnight and before 6 a.m.

Hackney Carriage Tariff Survey – Summary of Comments

Questionnaire No.	Comment
1	No change.
2	Any changes to tariff charges should be on a yearly basis rather than 2 increases in a short space of time and then nothing for years.
3	No comments.
4	No comments.
5	Base rate should remain the same but running cost should be increased from 20p to 25p rate one and 25p to 30p rate two.
6	It would be nice to get price change sorted out as it's been over 3 years.
7	Tariff two at the old rate is only 12.5%. New should be 50% extra of tariff one working bank holidays give not much incentive.
8	No comments
9	No comments
10	No change.

**FLOW CHART FOR SETTING HACKNEY CARRIAGE
FARES**



By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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