

Date: 26 June 2006

TO: All Members of the Abingdon Area
Committee
FOR ATTENDANCE

TO: All Other Members of the Council
FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE** to be held in the **GUILDHALL, ABINGDON** on **THURSDAY, 6TH JULY, 2006** at **7.00 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 Carole Nicholl, Democratic Services Officer, on telephone number (01235) 547631.

Map and Vision

(Page 5)

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

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee held on 28 March 2006, (previously circulated with the Council Summons dated 17 May 2006).

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. Presentation - Neighbourhood Action Groups

To receive a presentation from Chief Inspector David Purnell, Thames Valley Police on Neighbourhood Action Groups.

8. Presentation - Extended Schools

To receive a presentation from Liz Morgan, Extended Schools Co-ordinator, Abingdon on Extended Schools.

9. Community Leadership

(Wards Affected: Abingdon Abbey and Barton; Abingdon Caldecott; Abingdon Dunmore; Abingdon Fitzharris; Abingdon Northcourt; Abingdon Ock Meadow; Abingdon Peachcroft; Drayton; Sutton Courtenay and Appleford;)

(Pages 6 - 7)

To receive and consider report 33/06 of the Strategic Director (attached)

Introduction & Report Summary

At its meeting on 28th March the Abingdon Area Committee resolved that an item be included on the agenda for the next meeting asking the Committee to consider community leadership.

This report provides information about community leadership. Information for this report has primarily come from 'The neighbourhood agenda and the role of the elected member' by Jane Foot and Ines Newman (available from the Improvement & Development Agency website www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk) and 'Community Leadership - Learning from Comprehensive Performance Assessment' (available from the Audit Commission website www.audit-commission.gov.uk)

The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise (Tel: 01235 547695).

Recommendation

Members are requested to note the information in this report.

10. Community Grants / Budget Position

(Wards Affected: Abingdon Abbey and Barton; Abingdon Caldecott; Abingdon Dunmore; Abingdon Fitzharris; Abingdon Northcourt; Abingdon Ock Meadow; Abingdon Peachcroft; Drayton; Sutton Courtenay and Appleford;)

(Pages 8 - 17)

To receive and consider report 32/06 of the Strategic Director (attached)

Introduction and Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee for Community Grants in 2006/07 and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant application received.

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

Recommendations

(a) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's budget for 2006/07 is £35,975.48 (£28,220+ £7,755.48 carried forward from 2005/06), apportioned as follows:*

o <i>Environmental Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£9,877</i>
o <i>Social Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£9,877</i>
o <i>Economic Agenda (10%)</i>	<i>£2,822</i>
o <i>Discretionary (20%)</i>	<i>£5,644 + 7,755.48</i>

but that grants totaling £915 have already been allocated and grants of £3,000 are earmarked for twinning, leaving a budget of £32,060.48 for the rest of 2006/07

(b) *Following the resolution by the Executive on 21 April, Members are asked to consider the following application and are encouraged to fund the amount requested:*

(i) *Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau, £2,565, to cover the remainder of the shortfall in core funding, Social Agenda, Access priority*

(c) *Members are asked to determine the grant award, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following applications:-*

(ii) *Preston Road Community Centre Association, £6,385, to include £1,650 as third*

party funding for WREN application and the remainder to cover the shortfall in funding from other sources, Social Agenda, Access and Town & Village Vitality priorities.

- (iii) *Abingdon Museum, £3,850, towards a development plan for the museum, Social Agenda, Access and Town & Village Vitality priorities.*
- (iv) (iv) *Peachcroft Christian Centre, £25,000, towards the shortfall in funding for the extension of the Centre, Social Agenda, Access and Town & Village Vitality priorities.*

11. Prospectus to Target Grants for the Benefit of Abingdon and Area

(Wards Affected: Abingdon Abbey and Barton; Abingdon Caldecott; Abingdon Dunmore; Abingdon Fitzharris; Abingdon Northcourt; Abingdon Ock Meadow; Abingdon Peachcroft; Drayton; Sutton Courtenay and Appleford;)

(Pages 18 - 21)

To receive and consider report 34/06 of the Strategic Director (attached).

Introduction & Report Summary

At its meeting on 28th March the Abingdon Area Committee resolved that the Head of Innovation & Enterprise should be delegated to revise the draft prospectus based on the comments made at that meeting. The overall aim being to make the prospectus more 'user friendly'

This report provides information about the revised draft. The appendix consists of a copy of the revised draft prospectus. This information will assist the Committee in finalising the prospectus.

The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise (Tel: 01235 547695).

Recommendations

- (a) *Members are requested to determine the final content of the prospectus.*
- (b) *Members are requested to determine the need to convene an Abingdon Area Forum meeting in order to facilitate public consultation on the content of the prospectus.*

Exempt Information Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None.



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

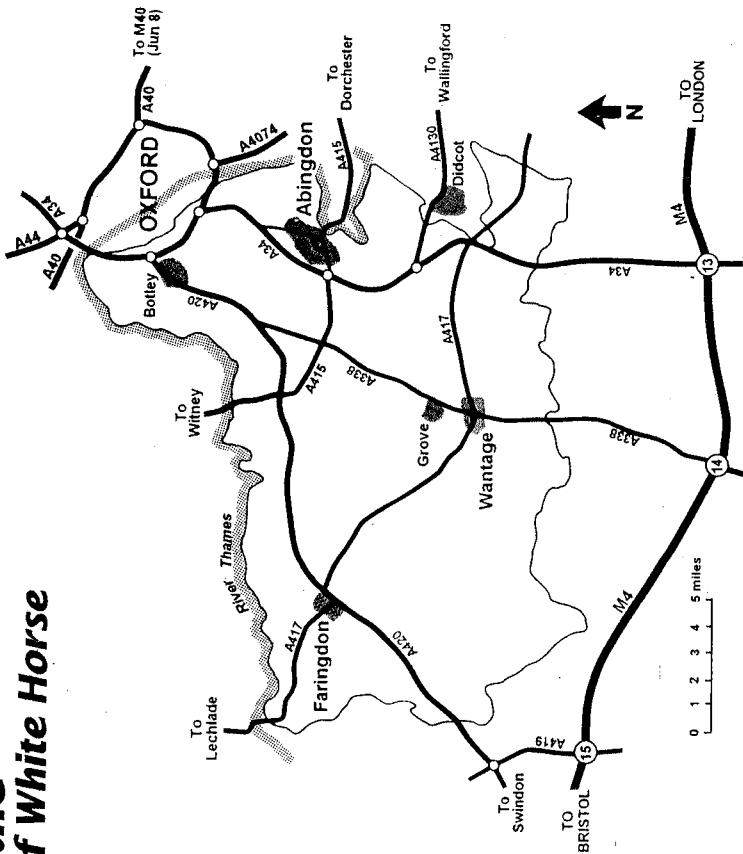
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

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

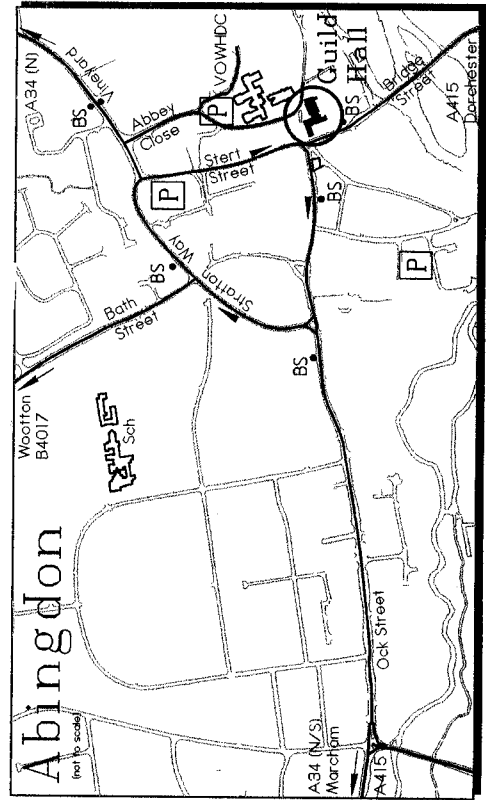
Help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential

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



Abingdon, Guildhall



KEY : BS = Bus Stop

LOCATION MAP



REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (TIM SADLER)
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE
6th July 2006

Community Leadership

1.0 Introduction & Report Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 28th March the Abingdon Area Committee resolved that an item be included on the agenda for the next meeting asking the Committee to consider community leadership.
- 1.2 This report provides information about community leadership. Information for this report has primarily come from 'The neighbourhood agenda and the role of the elected member' by Jane Foot and Ines Newman (available from the Improvement & Development Agency website www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk) and 'Community Leadership - Learning from Comprehensive Performance Assessment' (available from the Audit Commission website www.audit-commission.gov.uk)
- 1.3 The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise (Tel: 01235 547695).

2.0 Recommendation

Members are requested to note the information in this report.

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

- 3.1 This report supports the Council's Vision and Priorities. It also supports the Vale Community Strategy. It does not conflict with any Council strategy or any Council policy.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 Community leadership could be described as finding innovative solutions to the problems faced by local people. Community leadership is not a new thing for councillors – it lies at the heart of the local democratic process and has done so for a century or more.
- 4.2 However the legislative framework in which councils operate has changed significantly in recent years. A fresh focus on the community leadership role provides opportunities to make the most of recent legislation and give communities more influence over their own destinies.
- 4.3 The duty to produce a community strategy combined with the establishment of local strategic partnerships provides a vehicle for establishing and delivering a shared vision for local areas. To achieve this vision the focus of community leadership needs to be on the whole range of public services delivered locally, together with contributions from the private, voluntary and community sectors.
- 4.4 Leadership is not just a matter for executive members. As ward councillors, all members play an essential role as local representatives. This role includes advocacy on behalf of the people and communities they represent, but goes wider; as democratically elected representatives, they also have the responsibility to lead communities they represent, forging agreement among divergent communities on ways forward and taking responsibility for tough choices.
- 4.5 Leadership is not just about doing things on behalf of communities. It also involves encouraging and enabling communities to organise, speak up and do things for themselves.

5.0 The Community Leadership Role

- 5.1 The role of the community advocate includes:

- speaking up for, and on behalf of, individuals and groups
- encouraging residents to engage and participate
- participating in plan making and planning decisions
- communicating residents' concerns to the council and to other providers eg the police

But in this role, councillors must “not lose sight of the strategic context for the council area as a whole”.

- 5.2 This role of the community leader includes:
- stimulating local organisations and individuals to take up opportunities to express their views – the idea of voice
 - representing local level concerns and perspectives
 - maintaining a link between the users and the providers of services
 - encouraging the community to organise for themselves
 - working with other community leaders in the voluntary, community and business sectors
 - offering vision and direction to local groups, and building support for that vision
 - brokering agreements between different interests and partners contributing as an effective partner in neighbourhood arrangements, including those that deliver delegated functions

6.0 Good Community Leadership

- 6.1 The Audit Commission considers that councils performing their community leadership roles well will have good local intelligence about their areas and communities. They understand the social, demographic, environmental and economic context of the locality they operate in, using information collected from a variety of sources including census data, internal statistics, partners, members, staff and the local community. Strong awareness of community issues is complemented by good consultation and engagement mechanisms, both within and outside the council.
- 6.2 Good councils have effective networks in place which enable targets to be set in consultation with partners, residents and the wider community, and provide feedback on the reasons behind council decisions. This creates a shared vision and shared priorities, leading to wider ownership from partners and the community.
- 6.3 Excellent and good councils generally provide a clear and ambitious vision for their communities, with a defined set of priorities based on widespread consultation and a commitment to serving local people. The community strategy provides a coherent framework for service planning for the council and its partners, and is recognised at all levels within the organisation especially by members and senior management. These councils have succeeded in balancing national and local priorities, particularly by making national priorities relevant to local circumstances.
- 6.4 Councils that are doing well in community leadership recognise the benefits of improved joined-up working (both within the council and with other organisations), at strategic and operational levels, to increase capacity, pool resources and deliver better services to users. Many councils see their role as having changed from one of traditional service provision towards a mixed economy, with a range of services provided by partner organisations. This has helped these councils to identify the importance of partnership working.

Background Papers:

None

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE
6th JULY 2006

Community Grants/ Budget Position

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee for Community Grants in 2006/07 and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant application received.
- 1.2 The contact officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626).

2.0 Recommendations

(a) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's budget for 2006/07 is £35,975.48 (£28,220+ £7,755.48 carried forward from 2005/06), apportioned as follows:*

o Environmental Agenda (35%)	£9,877
o Social Agenda (35%)	£9,877
o Economic Agenda (10%)	£2,822
o Discretionary (20%)	£5,644 + £7,755.48

but that grants totaling £915 have already been allocated and grants of £3,000 are earmarked for twinning, leaving a budget of £32,060.48 for the rest of 2006/07

(b) *Following the resolution by the Executive on 21 April, Members are asked to consider the following application and are encouraged to fund the amount requested:*

(i) **Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau, £2,565**, to cover the remainder of the shortfall in core funding, Social Agenda, Access priority

(c) *Members are asked to determine the grant award, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following applications:-*

(ii) **Preston Road Community Centre Association, £6,385**, to include £1,650 as third party funding for WREN application and the remainder to cover the shortfall in funding from other sources, Social Agenda, Access and Town & Village Vitality priorities

(iii) **Abingdon Museum, £3,850**, towards a development plan for the museum, Social Agenda, Access and Town & Village Vitality priorities

(iv) **Peachcroft Christian Centre, £25,000**, towards the shortfall in funding for the extension of the Centre, Social Agenda, Access and Town & Village Vitality priorities

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

- 3.1 This report supports the Council's Vision and Priorities. It also supports the Vale Community Strategy. It does not conflict with any Council strategy or any Council policy.

4.0 **Budget**

4.1 The current budget position for this Committee for the year 2006/07 is as follows:

Budget b/f from 2005/06	Budget 2006/07	Total budget 2006/07	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£7,755.48	£28,220	£35,975.48	£9,877	£9,877	£2,822	£5,644 + £7,755.48
	Allocated	£3,915	£545	£3,370	£0	£0
	Remaining	£32,060.48	£9,332	£6,507	£2,822	£13,399.48

4.2 At the very end of March the Council was advised by the Abingdon Science Partnership that, due to other sponsorship and a reduction in the amount of teaching cover needed by some of the schools, the grant awarded by the Abingdon Area Committee on 1 February was no longer required. The £1,800 which had been allocated was therefore included in the total budget carried forward.

4.3 At the March meeting of the Committee grants totalling £545 were awarded from the 2006/07 budget for additional parish cleansing this year. A further £370 has been allocated, under officer delegation and in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, towards the cost of equipment for the fish tank in Abingdon Library since the beginning of the financial year.

4.4 The Committee is advised that the sum of £3,000 needs to be set aside for the two twinning Service Level Agreement grants for Abingdon Town Council (£2,500) and The Drayton Twinning Society (£500) for 2006/07. Both organisations will be submitting the required information to the Council before the next meeting of the Committee and Abingdon Town Clerk has advised that he will attend to present his report, as previously requested by the Committee.

5.0 **Community Grants**

5.1 At the meeting of the Executive on 21 April 2006, a grant application was considered from the Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau to cover the shortfall in core funding. A grant of £4,140 was awarded to cover the increase in rent for 2006/07. The Executive resolved to refer the application to the Abingdon Area Committee with the recommendation that the members of the Committee be encouraged to fund the remaining £2,565 shortfall. Further details of the application are provided under Appendix A. Members are invited to consider the application and determine the grant, Council agenda and priority.

(i) **Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau, £2,565**, to cover the remainder of the shortfall in core funding, Social Agenda, Access priority

5.2 Applications have been received from the following organisations and there are narratives providing additional details in Appendix A.

(ii) **Preston Road Community Centre Association, up to £6,385**, to include £1,650 as third party funding for WREN application and the remainder to cover the shortfall in funding from other sources, Social Agenda, Access and Town & Village Vitality priorities

(iii) **Abingdon Museum, £3,850**, towards a development plan for the museum, Social Agenda, Access and Town & Village Vitality priorities

(iv) **Peachcroft Christian Centre, £25,000**, towards the shortfall in funding for the extension of the Centre, Social Agenda, Access and Town & Village Vitality priorities

Members are invited to consider and determine the grant award, the Council agenda and priority for these applications.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background papers: grant applications

(i) Applicant: Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Abingdon

The Trustee Board of the CAB is seeking a grant to cover the shortfall in its core funding for 2006/07.

The CAB receives a grant of £80,535 p.a. as part of the Service Level Agreement with the Council covering the period April 2004 - March 2007. In April 2005/06 a further one-off grant of £2,015 was awarded to help offset the increase in non-rental costs and an undertaking was given that the increase in rent in 2005/06 would be covered by an additional grant from the Council. This amounted to £3,022 from 9 July 2005 when the increase took effect.

In 2006/07 the increase in rent for the whole year will be £4,140 and at its April meeting the Executive resolved to award a grant to cover this increase. The Executive requested that the Abingdon Area Committee also consider the application and be encouraged to fund the remainder of the shortfall, which amounts to £2,565.

The CAB staff have sought funding from the parish councils covering the areas where their clients live; this represents about fifty percent of the parish councils in the Vale. In 2005/06 they raised £2,365 from other funders towards their core costs but a number of the charitable trusts and other organisations to whom they apply throughout the year will not provide core funding. Since the Bureau has recognised that it will be unable to raise sufficient additional core funding from the Council to meet all its essential requirements the Trustee Board has decided to reduce the hours of the paid staff. On the retirement of one of the two part-time managers of the Bureau in July, no replacement will be sought and the Bureau's hours will be reduced accordingly. Despite the savings that are being made and the Vale grant to cover the rent increase, the CAB still faces a shortfall of £2,565 in its core funding for 2006/07.

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
3 year service level agreement	£ 80,535	£ 80,535	£ 80,535
Rental assistance	£ 0	£ 3,022	£4,140
Costs assistance	£ 0	£ 2,015	-
Additional funding requested	£ 0	£ 0	£ 2,565
Total	£80,535	£ 85,572	£ 87,240

The aims of the CAB are to ensure that individuals do not suffer through lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibilities or of the services available to them, or through an inability to express their needs effectively and equally to exercise a responsible influence on the development of social policies and services, both locally and nationally. The CAB provides an independent, free, confidential and impartial advice service to everybody who seeks it. The main areas of its enquiry and casework are money, debt, employment, welfare, benefits, housing, relationship breakdown, tax and consumer issues.

In 2004/05 the Bureau helped over 7,000 Vale residents. With the equivalent of 2.3 paid staff, the bulk of the Bureau's work is carried out by volunteers.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Health & Wellbeing; Access to Services; the work of the Bureau plays an important role in improving the quality of life in the Vale.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost £98,805 (unrestricted core funding)

Balances	£9,198 unrestricted funds at 31.03.05
Running Costs	£93,137 from unrestricted funds at 31.03.05
Own Contribution	836 voluntary hours per month
Grant Sought	£2,565
Previous Awards	SLA grant of £80,535 p.a. plus one-off grant of £2,015 and grant of £3,022 to cover rent increase in 2005/06 £4,140 grant from the Executive to cover rent increase in 2006/07
Parish Support	Abingdon Town Council: £8,000 Appleton with Eaton: £35 Blewbury: £30 Cumnor: £150 Kennington: £300 Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor: £125 Marcham: £200 Milton: £50 North Hinksey: £200 St Helen Without: £80 Total: £9,170
Other Support	Funding received from other sources (e.g. Oxfordshire County Council Social Care) is restricted to specific purposes.

Officer Comment (Toby Warren (Head of Innovation & Enterprise)):

The CAB has arranged several meetings with officers and councillors prior to the submission of this application. The meetings have given officers and councillors a better understanding of the value of the CAB service and its financial position. The meetings have also given the CAB a better understanding of the Council's financial position.

(ii) Applicant: Preston Road Community Centre Association

The Preston Road Community Centre Association is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing the Community Centre's kitchen. The District Council's grant is needed as third party funding for the Association's application to WREN and also towards the cost of the project itself. The project was short-listed in Autumn 2005 in the People's Millions Lottery Award but was not selected. The Association currently has an application with the Lottery's Awards for All programme.

The present kitchen is the original built as part of the hall in the 1970s. It is in a poor state of repair and the cooker has been condemned by the Vale's Environmental Health Department. Separate sinks are required for food preparation, hand-washing and general cleaning in order to comply with current hygiene standards. Currently the Community Centre is losing bookings and thus revenue due to the state of the kitchen.

The Community Centre is in a part of Abingdon with high levels of deprivation and social exclusion. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 shows that in this area of Abingdon Caldecott 39% of children live in families which depend on benefit, the highest level in the Vale.

The facilities have been used by a range of individuals and organisations from children to the elderly including the following:

- Parent Toddler Groups
- Polling Station
- Senior Citizens Clubs
- Casual Hire

Casual hire includes mainly local users for family and other functions such as weddings, children's birthday parties, dances, summer barbecues, and fund-raising events. It is estimated that the refurbished kitchen will enhance the Community Centre for the benefit of about 2,000 people.

The building is owned by the Vale of White Horse District Council and leased to the Community Centre Association.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Town & Village Vitality, Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Access to Services.

Total project cost	£24,310 incl VAT; £20,725 excl VAT VAT cannot be reclaimed
Balances	£6,707 at 01/05/05
Running costs	£47,681 at 01/05/05
Own contribution	£1,000
Grant sought	£6,385 to include £1,650 as third party funding for WREN application
Previous awards (Vale)	2003/04 £835 – towards the fire door in the main hall
Parish Council support	Applied to Abingdon Town Council for £500 – decision awaited
Parish precept	£706,402 Band D £57.87
Other support	WREN - £15,000 awarded Awards for All for £4,075 – awaiting outcome

Officer comment: Nick Burroughs, Principal Planning Officer [Strategy]

The local plan recognises that it is important in the area to maintain lively communities and existing services. The proposed improvements to the Preston Road Community Centre will enable it to continue to be well-used and help support the vital town and village activities that contribute to the maintenance of a thriving community.

(iii) Applicant: Abingdon Museum

The Curator of Abingdon Museum is seeking a grant towards the cost of research and consultancy fees to produce a development plan for the museum. A grant from the district council would support the museum's application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Project Planning Grant of £50,000.

Following an Access Audit in December 2004, which established that the Abingdon Museum is one of the most inaccessible in the sub-region, it was decided to embark on a period of planned development to maximise access to the museum. The goal is to provide a modern museum service which fully meets the needs of the public in terms of physical access (not just to the building), community engagement and interest whilst maintaining the educational role of the museum. The development of the museum will focus on the need to broaden what the museum offers for the benefit of the groups which currently do not visit the museum.

A two-stage strategy for development has been decided, with an initial phase of research, consultation and planning followed by managed implementation. The Museum has applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Project Planning Grant of £50,000 which is designed to help museums gather and present the information required to apply for a Heritage Main Development Grant. The Curator has been advised that the chances of the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund being successful would be increased if the district council provided some financial support to the project.

The initial phase of the project will deliver three co-ordinated studies which will be road-maps for development: an Audience Development Plan, an Access Plan and a Conservation Plan.

The Abingdon Museum receives an annual grant of £32,000 from the district council under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) towards running costs. The SLA does not cover research and development costs which are the subject of this application.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Access to Services, Education & Lifelong Learning, Town & Village Vitality

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£60,000
Own Contribution	See Parish Council support
Grant Sought	£3,850
Previous Awards (Vale)	None
Parish Council Support	Abingdon Town Council awarded £5,400
Parish Precept	£706,402 Band 'D' £57.87
Other Support	Will apply for a £50,000 Project Planning Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in July. Oxfordshire County Council awarded £750 In-kind support: Value of volunteer work £2,600

Officer comment: Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise

Abingdon Museum makes a major contribution to the town's identity and sense of community. This project will increase awareness of this role. Research should also provide information about aspects of the town's heritage that is important for its residents.

(iv) Applicant: Peachcroft Christian Centre, Abingdon

The Peachcroft Christian Centre has embarked on a large-scale extension to provide more and better facilities for the community it serves. In 2005/06 an application for grant funding of £50,000 was submitted to the Council. A grant of £10,000 was awarded by the Executive on 15 April 2005 from a

APPENDIX A

capital fund and a community grant award of £15,000 was made by the Abingdon Area Committee on 13 July 2005. At the time of the application, the Centre had raised £263,000 from the congregation; in the meantime this has increased to £294,972.

To date a total of £775,669 has been raised or is promised. The shortfall is £28,863. The Peachcroft Christian Centre is seeking a grant in 2006/07 towards the shortfall in the project costs.

Since the Centre was built in 1987 the Peachcroft housing estate has grown to over 2,000 houses with approximately 6,000 people. The centre is currently a one-roomed building seating 60; hence it is far too small for the needs of the Peachcroft estate. The congregation of over 50 adults and 30 children and young people has also completely outgrown the capacity of the building. Limited floor space, storage space, toilet and kitchen facilities greatly restrict the use that can be made of the Centre by both the congregation and the community at large.

The Centre is a focal point for many local community groups, including parent and toddler groups, over 55's club, holiday clubs, Women's Institute, Abingdon Music Centre and a youth café (run by the centre for local teenagers). In consultation with the community, the police, town and district Councillors and youth professionals, the Centre is playing a leading role in the development of work with the marginalized, at-risk youth of North Abingdon. The Centre's minister, Rev Stephen Godfrey, recently received a citizenship award for his work with young people in the area. The completion of the extension is urgently awaited so that young people have an alternative to hanging around on the streets and receive support and direction for the future.

The Centre has consulted extensively with its user-groups and surveyed 100 local households to ensure that the extension and the services it will offer are needed and will be used by the local community. The proposed extension plans include a flexible large main hall to seat 150 (with overflow capacity) which could be divided into several smaller spaces if required. This will serve as a worship area for Sunday services, but will also be used for numerous community functions throughout the week. In addition there will be a crèche, improved office and kitchen areas, a larger toilet block and a separate quiet room, all totally accessible to people with a disability.

Total project cost	£804,532 incl VAT – includes loan capital and interest totalling £173,233 Cannot reclaim VAT
Own contribution	£294,972 raised from and by the congregation
Grant sought	£25,000
Previous awards (Vale)	£25,000 2005/06
Parish Council support	£1,420 from the outgoing Abingdon Mayor's Charity Fund £500 Abingdon Town Council in 2005/06 and in 2006/07
Parish precept	£706,402 Band D £57.87
Other support	WREN £30,000 awarded Charitable Foundation & Trusts £153,381 Loans received & promised £226,790 Church in Abingdon Trust £23,436 Miscellaneous donations, bank interest and recoverable tax etc £92,880 Awards for All – awaiting outcome

Officer comment: Nick Burroughs, Principal Planning Officer (Strategy)

APPENDIX A

The local plan recognises that it is important in the area to maintain lively communities and existing services. The extension to the Peachcroft Christian Centre will enable it to continue to be well-used and help support the vital town and village activities that contribute to the maintenance of a thriving community.

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (TIM SADLER)
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE
6th July 2006

Prospectus to Target Grants for the Benefit of Abingdon & Area

1.0 Introduction & Report Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 28th March the Abingdon Area Committee resolved that the Head of Innovation & Enterprise should be delegated to revise the draft prospectus based on the comments made at that meeting. The overall aim being to make the prospectus more 'user friendly'
- 1.2 This report provides information about the revised draft. The appendix consists of a copy of the revised draft prospectus. This information will assist the Committee in finalising the prospectus.
- 1.3 The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise (Tel: 01235 547695).

2.0 Recommendations

- (a) *Members are requested to determine the final content of the prospectus.*
- (b) *Members are requested to determine the need to convene an Abingdon Area Forum meeting in order to facilitate public consultation on the content of the prospectus.*

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

- 3.1 This report supports the Council's Vision and Priorities. It also supports the Vale Community Strategy. It does not conflict with any Council strategy or any Council policy.

4.0 The Prospectus

- 4.1 The length of the draft prospectus has been shortened to make it less daunting. The wording has been reviewed to make the document more understandable and readable. All the community strategy strands have been included except transport, access services and housing. This reflects the view of members that the Committee grant budget is not an appropriate means of funding for initiatives in these areas.

5.0 Consultation & Distribution

- 5.1 The prospectus draws on the community strategy priorities which were agreed following a period of extensive community consultation. It also draws on committee members' knowledge of their local communities.
- 5.2 The Abingdon Area Forum could meet to facilitate public consultation on the content of the prospectus. However there is a risk that some forum participants may seek to have the prospectus amended to more closely reflect the priorities of groups in which they have an interest.
- 5.3 Launching the prospectus with a press release will help to create awareness of the prospectus. Distributing copies of the prospectus to local voluntary and community groups and the library will also help to create awareness.

- 5.4 At the end of the year an opinion survey of grant applicants and voluntary and community groups who have not applied for grants could be conducted. The survey would assist members in determining the value of the prospectus and agreeing the shape of the 2007-2008 prospectus.
- 5.5 In respect of the prospectus a survey has the potential to be more inclusive and representative than a consultation meeting.
- 5.6 In terms of consultation it should be noted that the Chair of the Executive has requested that all Area Committee prospectuses are submitted to the Executive. The Chair wishes to ensure that whilst the prospectuses reflect local priorities they still retain a degree of consistency.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1. The Area Committee can demonstrate its community leadership role by championing projects that promote community self help and are consistent with the priorities of the Vale Community Strategy.
- 6.2 The prospectus will act as guide for applicants as it will indicate the Committee's priorities for support. However when the prospectus is published it should be made clear that each application is determined on its individual merits and the Committee is free to support project activity which is not mentioned in the prospectus.

Background Papers:
Revised draft prospectus

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

The Abingdon Area Prospectus 2006/07

The Council's Abingdon Area Committee supports residents to develop projects which improve their community. The area covered is Abingdon, Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford.

The elected district councillors, who make up the membership of the Abingdon Area Committee, have a limited budget which can be used to give small grants towards the cost of starting community projects. In the financial year 2005/06 the Abingdon Area Committee gave grants to twenty five different projects. The grants helped with arts, sports and young peoples' activities. Grants also helped to improve community buildings, conserve historic buildings and maintain important trees.

The Committee's budget for the financial year 2006/07 is nearly £36,000. The table on the following page provides information about the kind of local community led projects that the Committee would like to support in 2006/07. The table is organised to fit with the strands (or themes) of the Vale Community Strategy. The Vale Community Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will work together to improve the quality of life of everyone who lives in, works in or visits the Vale. The table shows how the Abingdon Area Committee plans to contribute to the Vale Community Strategy. Councillors consider that quality of life in the Abingdon area will improve if there are more of the kinds of community projects that are listed in the table.

The Abingdon Area Committee recognises that there are other kinds of community projects which may not be mentioned in the table. The Committee is more than willing to consider these projects, as all projects are determined according to their individual merits. However given the Committee's limited budget, it would like to focus its grant giving on projects that it feels will make an important contribution to community life.

If you are a member of a community group in the Abingdon area who is interested in applying for a grant towards the cost of starting a priority project visit the Council's website: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/CommunityDevelopment/GrantsAndFunding or telephone the Community Strategy Officer (Direct Dial 01235 547626).

<p>VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS OR THEMES</p>	<p>PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN 2006/07</p>
<p>Recreation, Culture and Leisure</p>	<p>The Abingdon Area Committee aims particularly to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts festivals, sports activities and other events which are affordable. These can be for all ages but projects that provide young people with something to do in the evenings, weekends and holidays are of particular interest.
<p>Safe and Supportive Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that develop peoples' energy and creativity to reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour. • Projects that help to reassure people that the Vale is a relatively safe place so that they do not live in fear of crime.
<p>Town and Village Vitality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that encourage more people to visit, and shop in, Abingdon town centre. • Projects that encourage economic and social activity in Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. • Projects to improve community centres and village halls.
<p>Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that discourage the dropping of litter. • Additional street cleansing by the parish councils of Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. • Projects that encourage more re-cycling. • Projects that help to improve the appearance of Abingdon (These should also be supported by the Abingdon Joint Environmental Trust.). • Projects that help to improve the appearance of Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. • The Committee will consider support for the preservation of listed historic buildings that are privately owned (outside the area covered by the Abingdon Joint Environmental Trust.). • The Committee will consider support for the maintenance of trees that are privately owned, if the trees are the subject of a tree preservation order.
<p>Education and Lifelong Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that promote learning opportunities (particularly ICT) for people of all ages. • Projects that use local school, community & church facilities to provide wider community learning benefits. • Projects that support young parents and help to give children a good start in life.
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that encourage people of all ages to exercise more. • Projects that support the wellbeing of elderly people