

Date: 5 June 2006

TO: All Members of the South East 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 **SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE** to be held in the **CIVIC HALL, WANTAGE** on **TUESDAY, 13TH JUNE, 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 Steve Culliford, Democratic Services Officer, on telephone number (01235) 540307.

Map and Vision

(Page 3)

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

1. Election of a Chair

To elect a Chair of the Committee for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

2. Election of a Vice-Chair

To elect a Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

3. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

4. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 March 2006, (previously circulated with the Council Summons dated 17 May 2006).

5. 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.

6. Urgent Business and Chairman's Announcements

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

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Community Grants

(Pages 4 - 12)

To receive and consider report 17/06 of the Strategic Director.

10. Prospectus to Target Grants for the Benefit of South East Area

(Pages 13 - 17)

To receive and consider report 18/06 of the Strategic Director.

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

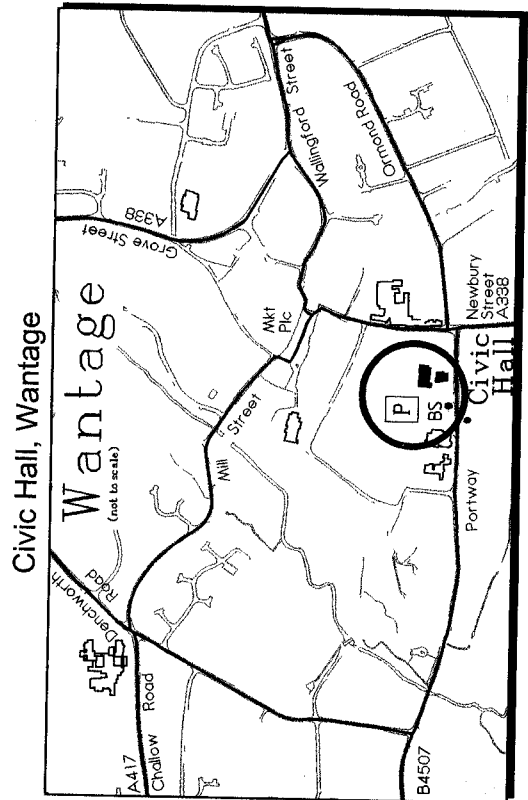
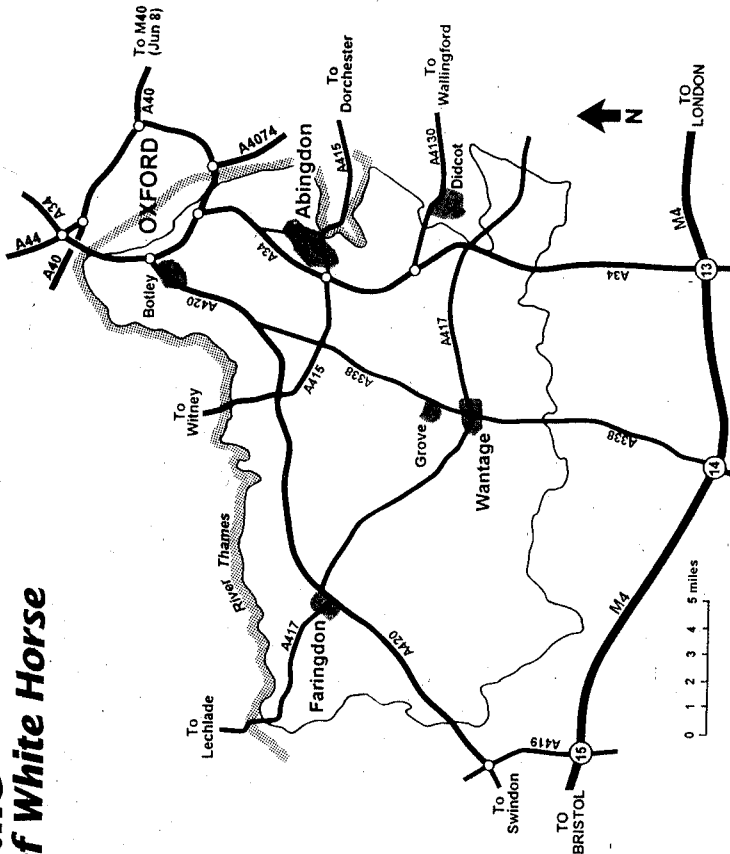
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

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



LOCATION MAP



REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE
13 JUNE 2006

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for this Committee at the beginning of 2006/07 in respect of Community Grants and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications 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 £29,273.88 (£25,084 plus £4,189.88 carried forward from 2005/06) which is apportioned as follows:*

o <i>Environmental Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£8,779.40</i>
o <i>Social Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£8,779.40</i>
o <i>Economic Agenda (10%)</i>	<i>£2,508.40</i>
o <i>Discretionary (20%)</i>	<i>£5,016.80 + £4,189.88</i>

- (b) *Members are asked to note that a total of £4,446 was allocated from the 2006/07 budget at the meeting on 14 March 2006 towards additional parish cleansing and the Wantage Summer Festival 2006, leaving a budget of £24,827.88*

- (c) *Members are asked to consider requests for payment of the grants under Service Level Agreements from the following two twinning associations in the South East Area and to decide if payment can be made:*

Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association £2,000
Hendreds Twinning Group £500

- (d) *Members are asked to consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and Council priority in respect of the following:*
- (i) ***Ardington & Lockinge Parish Council, £7,441***, towards the cost of a village play area, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) ***Camel Pre-School, Wantage, £10,000***, towards the cost of refurbishment, Social Agenda, Access priority
 - (iii) ***Harwell Parochial Charities (re: Francis Geering Almshouses, Harwell), £800***, as third party funding for a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iv) ***The owner of Sparsholt Court, West Hendred***, a grant towards the cost of re-building and re-pointing a Grade II listed garden wall, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (v) ***The owner of The Dell, Harwell***, a grant towards the cost of re-thatching and re-ridging a Grade II listed cottage, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

- (vi) *The owner of Winding Way Cottage, Blewbury, a grant towards the cost of re-riding a Grade II listed cottage, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*

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

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 Community Grants

- 4.1 The current budget position for the South East Area Committee for Community Grants is as follows:

Budget b/f 2005/06	Budget 2006/07	Total budget 2006/07	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£4,189.88	£25,084	£29,273.88	£8,779.40	£8,779.40	£2,508.40	£9,206.68
	Allocated	£6,946	£1,946	£2,500	£0	£0
	Remaining	£24,827.88	£6,833.40	£6,279.40	£2,508.40	£9,206.68

- 4.2 Twinning partnership grants (Service Level Agreements)

In accordance with the decision of the Executive at its meeting on 6 August 2004 (Minute Ex.83) twinning associations are partners in service provision and have signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to this effect. The funding for the SLA is allocated from Area Committee budgets. In the South East Area the allocation is:

Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association, £2,000
Hendreds Twinning Group, £500

- 4.3 The twinning associations are asked to provide the following information as set out in their SLA:

- A report of the programme for 2005/06, providing an evaluation of the events and activities, based on any surveys carried out and feedback received from participants, plus any suggestions for future activities to develop the link
- An outline of any feedback from the wider community (non-members) on activities in 2005/06 and suggestions for future activities which might attract new people and groups
- A programme for 2006/07 including activities which seek to broaden involvement in the twinning link by reaching out to new people and groups, especially young people
- An outline of how the association's activities contribute to the Vale Community Strategy and how they benefit the communities served by the association
- A copy of the annual accounts showing how the 2005/06 grant was spent

Information has been received from The Hendreds Group which covers c), e) and partially covers a) and b). The Group undertook a survey of participants last year and has noted some ideas to improve future exchanges. It aims to use the Vale grant to subsidise costs of younger children to enable them to participate in twinning activities in 2006/07. Further details have been requested.

The Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association has provided information which covers a) and shows how the Association has undertaken activities to broaden the link and involve school students during the last year. The Association sought feedback

from its members on which activities they preferred and has responded to members' suggestions. Further information has been requested.

4.4 Members are asked to note that the information provided does not meet all the requirements set out under Schedules 2 and 3 of the Service Level Agreement, but that further information has been sought from the twinning associations and should be available to update Members verbally at the meeting.

4.5 One-off grants

Applications have been received in respect of the following organisations and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix A to the report:

- (i) **Ardington & Lockinge Parish Council, £7,441**, towards the cost of a village play area, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **Camel Pre-School, Wantage, £10,000**, towards the cost of refurbishment, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (iii) **Harwell Parochial Charities (re: Francis Geering Almshouses, Harwell), £800**, as third party funding for a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iv) **The owner of Sparsholt Court, West Hendred**, a grant towards the cost of re-building and re-pointing a Grade II listed garden wall, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (v) **The owner of The Dell, Harwell**, a grant towards the cost of re-thatching and re-ridging a Grade II listed cottage, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (vi) **The owner of Winding Way Cottage, Blewbury**, a grant towards the cost of re-ridging a Grade II listed cottage, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

4.6 Members are invited to consider and determine the applications listed above and to determine the Council agenda and priority.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers: Applications

Appendix A

(i) Applicant: Ardington and Lockinge Parish Council

Ardington and Lockinge Parish Council is seeking a grant towards the provision of a fenced play area in Ardington near the village shop and tearooms. It is proposed that the play area will contain two picnic tables, two tower units with slides, a large basket swing, a pair of swings for toddlers, a seesaw, a log train, parallel bars, two balance walks, a magnifying post and a litter bin. The equipment will be placed on Safagrass safety surfaces. There will be two self-closing pedestrian gates and access for wheelchairs. Bushes will be planted along a boundary which is not yet screened.

The parishes of Ardington and Lockinge do not currently have a playground. The nearest playground is in Wantage or West Hendred which is 2-3 miles away. Children are unable to visit the park as frequently as they would like because not every household has access to a car during the day to make the journey. Access via footpath to West Hendred is restricted for parents with prams or bicycles, because of the stiles en route (installed to prevent motor cyclists using the path). The proposal to build a play area in Ardington and Lockinge was identified in the parish plan consultation.

It is estimated that the minimum number of children to benefit from the proposed play area is about 170.

Since the parish council does not own any land, it is leasing the land for the play area from the Lockinge Trust for a peppercorn rent. The lease is for 6 years which is a standard lease for renting and maintenance but does not provide security of tenure. The cost of drawing up the lease was borne by the Trust which also provides financial support to the villages in the form of an annual grant towards village maintenance costs.

The parish council is working closely with the Ardington Playground Group on this project and once the playground is up and running the Group will become a functional committee working under the parish council.

The district council does not usually fund play equipment but does consider applications for safety surfacing and dog-proof fencing in play areas as well as the installation of facilities which make an area or building accessible to people with disabilities. For this reason the total project cost includes separate costs for the installation of these items.

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

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£41,777 incl VAT, £35,555 excl VAT (Can reclaim VAT) Of which the cost of safety surfacing, fencing, ramp and accessible path is: £16,291 incl VAT, £13,865 excl VAT
Own Contribution	£1,000
Grant Sought	£7,441
Previous Awards (Vale)	£41 in 2005/06 towards parish cleansing

	Trees from Amenity Tree Planting Scheme
Parish Council Support	See 'Own Contribution'
Parish Precept	£4,810; Band D £22.58
Other Support	<p>Funds raised by the villages £9,758.38(from which will be deducted £1,118 to release landfill grant)</p> <p>Donations from villages £1,345</p> <p>Oxfordshire Community Foundation £6,000 awarded (had applied for £7,000)</p> <p>Landfill Tax Credit Grant £11,000</p> <p>Awards for All (has applied for £6,100, response expected in July)</p> <p>Cooperative Dividend Scheme £1,000 (unsuccessful) Cannot apply to WREN because not the council is not the landowner; nor to the Big Lottery Children's Play programme because project doesn't introduce new ideas</p>

Officer comment (Toby Warren - Head of Innovation & Enterprise)

The District Council has expressed an interest in receiving an allocation from the Big Lottery Children's Play programme. Allocation of this funding will be dependent on the Council preparing a Play Strategy. Preparation of a strategy in accordance with the Big Lottery guidance will take some time. Projects identified by the strategy will not be wholly funded by the Big Lottery. Any funding allocation is unlikely to be large enough to provide funding contributions for all the projects identified.

A lack of play facilities in rural areas means that many children feel very isolated and the parish plan has identified a local need and local fund raising suggests that there is a strong commitment for the provision of a play area as soon as possible.

(ii) Applicant: Camel Pre-School, Wantage

Camel Pre-School is the only early years provider in Segsbury Ward and has been unable to meet the existing local demand due to its limited premises. Local consultation has shown that there is a strong demand for more sessions, full day-care and lunch clubs and there is a lengthy waiting list for places. In view of this and anticipating the increase in demand likely to result from the significant housebuilding in the area, the pre-school has recently moved to a mobile unit in Stockham Primary School. The new premises will allow the pre-school to offer a wider range of services, including more flexible childcare, to meet the needs of the local community, and to provide a more inspiring environment for the children. The extension of care will help parents and carers who wish to return to work, increase their working hours or undertake training.

The pre-school has been upgrading the mobile unit in stages. It has been made more accessible by the installation of ramps and disabled toilet facilities. The pre-school is now seeking a grant towards the costs of the final stage of the work which includes the following: the development of the outside play area, the installation/upgrading of utilities and services, the installation of low level windows and completion of the kitchen.

The pre-school has been running for 36 years and is a registered charity. It will benefit an estimated 90 children, primarily from the catchment area for Stockham Primary School and the Segsbury Ward. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 shows that out of 75 Super Output Areas in the Vale, the Stockham Park area of the Segsbury Ward is ranked:

12th for education, skills and training
 20th for income deprivation affecting children
 27th for multiple deprivation
 where 1st in the ranking represents most deprivation.

In the longer term the pre-school plans to offer a breakfast club, after-school club and summer play scheme. It will be available for functions and fundraising activities. Charges for attending additional sessions and for use of the facilities outside school hours are projected to meet the running costs of the pre-school.

Camel Pre-School is entering into a partnership with Stockham Primary School and through this will assist in the provision of extended school hours facilities. At the same time the pre-school children will have the opportunity to be included in activities with the primary school's Foundation Stage children.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Safe & Supportive Communities, Health & Wellbeing, Town and Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning and Access to Services.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£86,016 incl VAT, £73,205 excl VAT (cannot reclaim VAT)
Cost of final phase	£19,857 incl VAT, £16,900 excl VAT
Balances	£7,223 at 31/07/05
Running Costs	£36,023 for year ending 31/07/05
Own Contribution	£3,655 (own fundraising)
Grant Sought	£10,000
Previous Awards (Vale)	None
Parish Council Support	Applying to Wantage Town Council
Parish Precept	Wantage: £120,000; Band D £31.52
Other Support	Early Years Partnership Funding (County Council) £32,500 Awards for All £5,000

Local Network Fund £5,000
Section 106 Funding £17,000
N Power £1,066
District Liaison Panel £250
Berkshire Masonic Charity £1,000
Autotype £200
Kingsgrove Trust £200

Total Other Support: £62,216

Officer comment (Toby Warren - Head of Innovation & Enterprise)

All three and four year olds have the right to Government funded early years education. In Oxfordshire, children qualify for free sessions in the term following their third birthday and are entitled to five, free, two and a half hour sessions of pre-school education a week for 38 weeks a year.

However working parents need childcare to cover the working day. This is a major problem for parents on a low income who have difficulty in affording private childcare. This can result in the risk that some young children spend some time left to look after themselves or in the care of a person who does not have the maturity needed to look after children of pre-school age. Easily accessible full day care reduces this risk and a wide range of services helps to ensure that all children have the opportunity of a good start in life.

(iii) Applicant: Harwell Parochial Charities re: Frances Geering Almhouses, Harwell

Harwell Parochial Charities are proposing to restore the brickwork on the front elevation of the Frances Geering Almhouses following a quinquennial inspection. They are seeking a grant to act as third party funding to help secure a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. The Almhouses are grade II* and situated within the Harwell Conservation Area. The works will involve re-pointing sections of the façade using traditional lime mortar.

When compared to modern buildings and techniques, works appropriate for historic buildings are often more expensive due to the specialisation involved. The District Council have a statutory obligation to ensure that historic buildings are maintained in good condition and providing grants is one way the Council can encourage owners to restore and maintain their properties.

Financial Information

The lowest tender for the work is £9,250 exclusive of VAT. They are seeking a grant of £8,000 from TOE and therefore would like a grant of £800, representing 10%, to secure funding from TOE.

Officer comment (Alison Blyth, Principal Planning Officer [Environmental Policy]):

The application fulfils the criteria adopted by the District Council for the operation of its historic building grants under the community grant scheme. The Almhouses are situated in a prominent location along the village high street and the restoration will help conserve the historic building fabric. Any grant awarded should be subject to the normal historic building grant conditions.

(iv) Applicant: Mr Axel-Berg, Sparsholt Court, West Hendred

The owner of Sparsholt Court is seeking a grant towards the cost of re-building part of the garden wall and re-pointing the remainder. Sparsholt Court is grade II listed, built in the early 17th century. The wall runs along one of the main roads into West Hendred. It is situated within the village conservation area. The owner has lived there for 17 years.

When compared to modern buildings and techniques, works appropriate for historic buildings are often more expensive due to the specialisation involved. The District Council have a statutory obligation to ensure that historic buildings are maintained in good condition and providing grants is one way the Council can encourage owners to restore and maintain their properties

Financial Information

The lowest estimate for the work is £6,465 excluding VAT.

Officer comment (Alison Blyth, Principal Planning Officer[Environmental Policy]):

The application fulfils the criteria adopted by the District Council for the operation of its historic building grants under the community grant scheme. The wall is located in a very prominent location as you enter the village. The mortar along the base has eroded away and the brickwork is starting to deteriorate. There is a possibility that the wall may become unstable in future. Any grant awarded should be subject to the normal historic building grant conditions.

(v) Applicant: Mr & Mrs Jenkinson, The Dell, Harwell

The owners of The Dell in Harwell are seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing the thatch on the rear and west elevations of the roof, which has severely deteriorated, and re-ridging the roof. The cottage is grade II listed and situated within the Harwell Conservation Area. It is thought to have been built c.1450. The owners have lived there for over 50 years and report that, as the cottage is on the roadside and thus in a very visible position, passers-by frequently stop to admire and take photographs of it. A photograph of the cottage appears in the Vale's Historic Buildings Grants leaflets.

When compared to modern buildings and techniques, works appropriate for historic buildings are often more expensive due to the specialisation involved. The District Council have a statutory obligation to ensure that historic buildings are maintained in good condition and providing grants is one way the Council can encourage owners to restore and maintain their properties.

Financial Information

The lowest estimate of the work is £10,200 excluding VAT.

Officer comment (Alison Blyth, Principal Planning Officer [Environmental Policy]):

The application fulfils the criteria adopted by the District Council for the operation of its historic building grants under the community grant scheme. The work is required to maintain the roof in a watertight condition for the considerable future and hence conserve the historic building. Any grant awarded should be subject to the normal historic building grant conditions and the ridge being flush finished with no decorative features.

(vi) Applicant: Mr Brock, Winding Way Cottage, Blewbury

The owner of Winding Way Cottage, Blewbury is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing the ridge on their thatched cottage which has severely deteriorated. The Cottage is grade II listed originally built in the 16th Century and is situated on the edge of the village conservation area. The property is the owners' only residence and they have lived there for 24 years.

When compared to modern buildings and techniques, works appropriate for historic buildings are often more expensive due to the specialisation involved. The District Council have a statutory obligation to ensure that historic buildings are maintained in good condition and providing grants is one way the Council can encourage owners to restore and maintain their properties.

Financial Information:

The lowest estimate of the work is £6,525 excluding VAT.

Officer comment (Alison Blyth, Principal Planning Officer [Environmental Policy]):

The application fulfils the criteria adopted by the District Council for the operation of its historic building grants under the community grant scheme. The work is required to help maintain the roof in a watertight condition for the considerable future and it will also reinstate a traditional feature of the area.

Any grant awarded should be subject to the normal historic building grant conditions and the ridge being flush finished with no decorative features.

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (TIM SADLER)
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

13th June 2006

Prospectus to Target Grants for the Benefit of South East Area

1.0 Introduction & Report Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 14th March the South East Area Committee resolved that a draft prospectus of the Committee's priorities for grant assistance be prepared for discussion at the next meeting to assist in clarifying how local criteria should be set.
- 1.2 This report provides information about a draft prospectus. The appendix consists of a copy of a draft prospectus which has been prepared by officers. This information will assist the Committee in finalising the form and content of a prospectus.
- 1.3 The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise (Tel: 01235 547695).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 *(i) Members are requested to determine the final content of the prospectus.*
(ii) Members are requested to approve the proposed plan for creating awareness of the prospectus and monitoring its value.

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 draft prospectus is intended to make the voluntary and community sector and others more aware of the types of projects that are a priority for support by the Area Committee.
- 4.2 The draft prospectus is designed 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.
- 4.2 The Vale Community Strategy has nine strands:
- Transport
 - Access to Services
 - Recreation, Culture and Leisure
 - Safe and Supportive Communities
 - Town and Village Vitality
 - Environment
 - Housing
 - Education and Lifelong Learning
 - Health and Wellbeing

- 4.3 The Community Strategy strands are fairly broad which provides an opportunity for the Area Committee to select the strands that are important for the South East.
- 4.4 Priorities can be identified by looking at existing project provision in the South East and mapping it against need to see if there are gaps in provision (e.g. Is there sufficient provision of appropriate ICT training for older people?).
- 4.5 The length of the draft prospectus is intended to make it 'user friendly'. The wording hopefully makes the document understandable and readable.

5.0 Consultation & Distribution

- 5.1 The prospectus draws on the community strategy priorities which were agreed following a period of extensive community consultation. The final version will also draw on committee members' knowledge of their local communities.
- 5.2 The South 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 libraries 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.

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:
Draft prospectus

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

The South East Area Prospectus 2006/07

The Council's South East Area Committee supports residents to develop projects which improve their community. The area covered is Wantage, Grove, Childrey, the Challows, Letcombe Bassett & Letcombe Regis, Goosey, Denchworth, Charney Bassett, Lyford, the Hanneys, Ardington, Lockinge, the Hendreds, Steventon, Milton, Harwell, Chilton, Upton and Blewbury.

The elected district councillors, who make up the membership of the South East 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 South East Area Committee gave grants to seventeen 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 £30,000. 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 South East Area Committee plans to contribute to the Vale Community Strategy. Councillors consider that quality of life in the South East of the Vale will improve if there are more of the kinds of community projects that are listed in the table.

The South East 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 South East of the Vale 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).

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS OR THEMES	<p style="text-align: center;">PRIORITIES IN THE SOUTH EAST AREA IN 2006/07</p> <p>The South East Area Committee aims particularly to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</p>
Recreation, Culture and Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts festivals, sports activities and other events which are interesting and 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.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Priorities could include support for community transport schemes, initiatives, maps and guides to encourage cycling and walking</i>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Priorities could include support for pro-active housing advice for 'hard to reach' groups (young, disabled, ethnic minorities)</i>
Access to Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Priorities could include support for local service directories or websites; voluntary sector advice 'road show' visiting village halls</i>
Safe and Supportive Communities	<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.
Town and Village Vitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects that encourage more people to visit, and shop in, Wantage town centre. Projects that encourage economic and social activity in the towns & village in the South East of the Vale. Projects to improve community centres and village halls. Parish action plans in villages that do not already have them.
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects that discourage the dropping of litter. Additional street cleansing by the parish councils in the South East of the Vale. Projects that encourage more re-cycling. Projects that help to improve the appearance of Wantage and Grove (These should also be supported by the Wantage or Grove Joint Environmental Trusts.). Projects that help to improve the appearance of the villages in the South East of the Vale. The Committee will consider support for the preservation of listed historic buildings that are privately owned (outside the areas covered by the Wantage & Grove Joint Environmental Trusts.) where the building has an element of community use. 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.

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS OR THEMES	<p align="center">PRIORITIES IN THE SOUTH EAST AREA IN 2006/07</p> <p>The South East Area Committee aims particularly to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</p>
<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 facilities to provide wider community 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