Date: 17 July 2007

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 **WEDNESDAY, 25TH JULY, 2007** 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

A large print version of this agenda is available. In addition any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement. Contact Carole Nicholl, Head of Democratic Services, on telephone number (01235) 547631 / carole.nicholl@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Please note that this meeting will be held in a wheelchair accessible venue. If you would like to attend and have any special access requirements, please let the Head of Democratic Services know beforehand and she will do her very best to meet your requirements.

Open to the Public including the Press

Map and Vision

<mark>(Page 5)</mark>

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

1.   **Election of Chair**

2.   **Election of Vice-Chair**

3.   **Apologies for Absence**

      To receive apologies for absence.

4.   **Minutes**

      To adopt and sign as a correct record the Section I Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee Abingdon Area Committee held on 22 March 2007, (previously circulated with the Council Summons dated 16 May 2007).

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 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.

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.   Grants Criteria

The Grants Officer will outline the Council's grants criteria at the meeting.

10.   Community Grants

<mark>(Pages 6 - 15)</mark>

To receive and consider report 46/07 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer (attached).

Introduction and Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position at the beginning of 2007/08 for this Committee in respect of Community Grants and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received.

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

Recommendations

(a)   *that Members note the budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee at the beginning of the financial year;*

(b)   *that Members agree in principle to the payment of the SLA grant to Abingdon Town Council and the Drayton Twinning Society subject to the required monitoring information having been received;*

(c)   *that Members consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following: -*

(i) Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society, £500, towards an exhibition about the history of Ock Street, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;

(ii) Appleford Parish Council & Village Hall Committee, £6,000, towards the refurbishment and extension of the village hall, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority;

(iii) The Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project, £7,000, towards the construction of a pontoon for sailors with disabilities, Social Agenda, Access priority.

11.   Progress Report on the Vale Partnership and the Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement

(Pages 16 - 46)

To receive and consider report 37/07 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

Introduction & Report Summary

Following the publication of the white paper on the future of local government ('Strong & Prosperous Communities') in the autumn of 2007 the Vale Partnership Board (which is made up of the District Council and key agencies which influence quality of life in the Vale) has commenced a review of the Vale Community Strategy 2004-2008. The Oxfordshire Partnership has also commenced a review of the Oxfordshire Community Strategy, in preparation for negotiations with central government on the priorities and targets in the next Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement.

This report provides further information on the reviews of the Vale Community Strategy and the Oxfordshire Community Strategy and provides an opportunity for members to provide information in respect of the social issues and priorities for the Abingdon area of the Vale.

The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy (Tel: 01235 547695; Email toby.warren@whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

Recommendations

(a)   Members are requested to note the information contained in this report;

(b)   Members are invited to comment on the strategic matrix (which is the background paper for this report) in respect of the social issues and priorities for the Abingdon area of the Vale.

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

None.

Vale of White Horse

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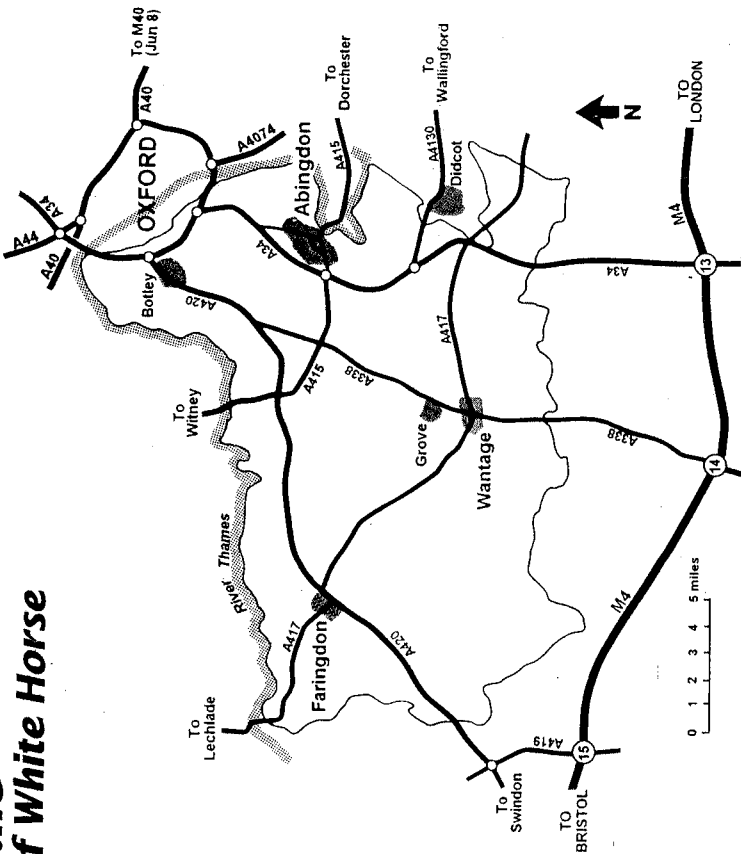
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

Encourage a strong and sustainable economy which benefits all who live in, work in or visit the Vale
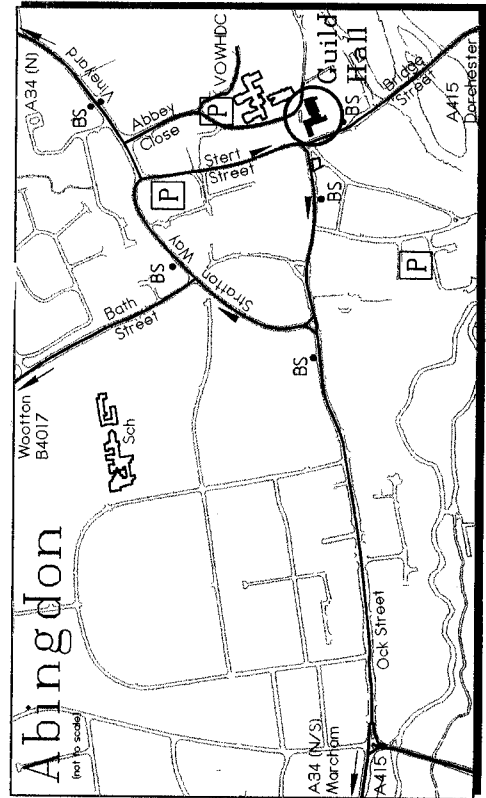
Help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential

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

Vale of White Horse

LOCATION MAP

Guildhall, Abingdon

VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL   Report No. 46/07
                                    Wards Affected – All wards in the Abingdon Area

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE
25 July 2007**

Community Grants

1.0   Introduction and Report Summary

1.1   The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position at the beginning of 2007/08 for this Committee 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), **e-mail address lorna.edwards@whitehorsedc.co.uk.**

2.0   *Recommendations*

(a)   *that Members note the budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee at the beginning of the financial year;*

(b)   *that Members agree in principle to the payment of the SLA grant to Abingdon Town Council and the Drayton Twinning Society subject to the required monitoring information having been received;*

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

(i)   ***Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society, £500,*** *towards an exhibition about the history of Ock Street, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*

(ii)   ***Appleford Parish Council & Village Hall Committee, £6,000,*** *towards the refurbishment and extension of the village hall, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*

(iii)   ***The Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project, £7,000,*** *towards the construction of a pontoon for sailors with disabilities, Social Agenda, Access priority*

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

This report supports the Council's Vision and Priorities and the Vale Community Strategy. It does not conflict with any Council Strategies.

4.0   Community Grants

4.1   Budget

4.2   The budget position at the beginning of 2007/08 for the Abingdon Area Committee is as follows:

Budget b/f 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Total budget 2007/8	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£11,398.63	£28,388.00	£39,786.63	£9,935.80	£9,935.80	£2,838.80	£5,677.60 + £11,398.63 = £17,076.23
	Allocated	£3,665.00	£665.00	£3,000.00	£0	£0
	Remaining	£36,121.63	£9,270.80	£6,935.80	£2,838.80	£17,076.23

4.3   The table shows that £3,665.00 has already been allocated. Of this a total of £665 was awarded towards additional parish cleansing at the meeting of the Committee in March. The remaining £3,000 is allocated to twinning partnership grants.

4.4   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 Abingdon Area the allocation is:

Abingdon Town Council £2,500
Drayton Twinning Society £500

4.5   The original SLAs ran from 2004-2007 and came to an end on 31 March 2007. The Executive has agreed that all SLAs should be extended for a further year. The twinning associations, in common with all SLA partners, are asked to provide specified information to enable officers to monitor that the partnership is meeting its commitments under the SLA. This information will be requested from the twinning associations in due course.

4.6   Members are asked to agree to the payment of the SLA grant to Abingdon Town Council and the Drayton Twinning Society in due course, subject to the required monitoring information having been received.

4.7   Members are asked to note that, after this allocation and the parish cleansing awards, the budget for 2007/08 will stand at £36,121.63.

5.0   New grant applications

5.1   Applications totalling £13,500 have been received from the organisations listed below. Amongst these is an application for £500, which would normally have been considered under officer delegation. However, since the Abingdon Area Committee had not yet had the opportunity to elect a Chair and the meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee was scheduled for less than two weeks hence, the Head of Community Strategy has decided to bring this application to the Committee for determination.

(i)   **Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society, £500,** towards an exhibition about the history of Ock Street, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(ii)   **Appleford Parish Council & Village Hall Committee, £6,000,** towards

the refurbishment and extension of the village hall, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(iii) **The Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project, £7,000,** towards the construction of a pontoon for sailors with disabilities, Social Agenda, Access priority

5.2   Grant narratives for these applications are set out in Appendix A to this report.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers: Grant applications

(i) Applicant: Abingdon Area Archaeological & Historical Society   (AAAHS)

Years in existence: 40 Years

Type of organisation: Society

Project, service or event details: Abingdon Area Archaeological & Historical Society is seeking a grant towards the costs of setting up an exhibition on the history of Ock Street, Abingdon. This is intended to take place at the Abingdon Museum from 12th January 2008 to 27th February 2008. It will be the second major exhibition put on by the Ock Street heritage Group of the AAAHS. The first, in 2006, attracted an estimated 800-900 visitors. There was disappointment that it only lasted three days, and there have been many requests for a repeat. The museum offers a longer time period, but required a very different style of display and therefore further expenditure.

Previous activities on the history of Ock Street have shown that interest is general, but that the theme is particularly attractive to older people who lived there before the slum clearances, and to their now-elderly second generation. To the latter it gives a sense of belonging and community. A secondary target group is the residents of new developments in and about Ock Street, many of whom are anxious to understand the district they now live in and to put down roots of their own. Local schools will also be approached. Public meetings in 2004 attracted some 50 people with as many being turned away. A repeat in 2005 was full to capacity with 80 attendees. The present Ock Street research Group within AAAHS emerged spontaneously from these meetings.

The encouragement and support for continued activity came especially from members of the Abingdon and Vale Councils.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning

Area of the Vale covered: Abingdon in general, but especially Ock Street and the Saxton Road area to which residents were re-housed in the 1940s.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: Difficult to predict but they expect several hundred visitors based on public meetings held in 2004, 2005 and on the 2006 exhibition.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: There will be no charge for entry. There may be limited sales of literature which will be at or close to cost price.

Total estimated project cost: £851.06 exl. VAT; £1,000 including VAT (VAT can NOT be reclaimed by the society).

Balances: As of 31/08/06 £8,930.38

Own Contribution: £250; in addition in-kind support is being provided by members of the work group for research, archive work and developing the exhibits. This involves travel costs – some archives are in Reading and artefacts are stored in Standlake. The work group co-ordinator is a professional local historian and is not charging for his time or expenses.

Grant Sought: £500

Previous Awards (Vale): £500 awarded in 05/06 towards the exhibition but only £150 claimed

Parish Council Support: £250 awarded by Abingdon Town Council

Parish Precept: £854,185 (Band 'D' £68.57)

Other Support: Joint Environmental Trust £250 (awarded in principle, subject to further information) since this application was submitted. Preparing application to 'Awards for All' but they advise award is unlikely in view of £900 grant awarded towards the 2006 exhibition.

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

Recommend support	Yes, provided Members feel application meets criteria
Amount recommended	£250
Reasons:	Confirmed amounts awarded by Abingdon Town Council and Abingdon JET leave shortfall of £250. Applicant advises that the Society's balances are sufficient to maintain current routine activities but is unable to contribute more to special projects such as the exhibition.
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Members may feel that application is not eligible (see criteria c) of non-eligibility criteria: "Activities which are already receiving funding from a department within the Council"). Abingdon Town Council awarded a grant; subsequently a grant was awarded by JET (funded by VWHDC and Abingdon Town Council)
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning
Current budget	£36,121.63
Remaining Committee meetings	2
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£13,000
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

(ii) Applicant: Appleford Parish Council & Village Hall Committee

Years in existence: Over 50 years

Type of organisation: Parish Council & Charity

Project, service or event details:
Background
This project is the result of several years of discussion and negotiation in the village. In December 2004 the Council had agreed to set aside the sum of £27,500 from the Council's Lottery & Other Grants Support Fund when the applicant entered WREN's annual challenge competition to build a new village hall with a first prize of £250,000. The sum of £27,500

would have been required to release the £250,000 if the applicant was successful. The applicant secured a prize of £50,000. The Council reduced the earmarked sum to £14,300 when it subsequently became clear that the project to build a new village hall would not attract sufficient WREN funding to enable it to proceed. Now WREN has agreed a grant of £50,000 towards refurbishment of the village hall so £5,500 of the £14,300 earmarked will be provided as third party funding.

Appleford Parish Council & Village Hall Committee is seeking a grant towards the refurbishment of Appleford village hall to enhance the facilities for the local community. This will include an extension to the current hall, the provision of changing rooms and showers and new toilet facilities, including disabled facilities. In addition to a committee meeting room with new ancillary storage there will be a substantial improvement to the hall which will provide much needed sports facilities. There will also be a new kitchen. The new access at the front of the building, together with the new footpath from the car park, will provide the required access for people with disabilities.

A grant of £50,000 from WREN allows the first phase of the project to go ahead. Fundraising is continuing for the second phase of the project and it is for this second phase that the applicant is seeking £6,000 funding.

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

Area of the Vale covered: Appleford and surrounding villages primarily.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: Village population approx. 270

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: There are charges to groups and individuals hiring the hall.

Total estimated project cost: £120,086 exl. VAT (VAT can be recovered) includes £64,500 for the first phase.

Balances: £1,387.24 at 30/09/06

Own Contribution: £1,500

Grant Sought: £6,000 in addition to the £5,500 third party funding from the Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund

Previous Awards (Vale): £2,200 awarded as 3rd party funding for WREN grant 2004/05 towards new safety surfacing and dog proof fencing of children's play area

Parish Council Support: £13,000

Parish Precept: £6,200 (Band 'D' £68.94)

Other Support: Oxfordshire County Council £10,000, Football Foundation £19,000, Awards For All £10,000
WREN £50,000 awarded towards first phase of the project

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	£6,000
Reasons:	The WREN grant will enable the first phase of the project to be completed; the Council's support is needed towards the second phase of the project.
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Access to Services, Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Town & Village Vitality.
Current budget	£36,121.63
Remaining Committee meetings	2
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£7,250
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	

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

NOTE: An application for £10,000 from Accessible Sailing was initially submitted to the North East Area Committee in March 2007 and a grant for the full amount was awarded. The North East Area Committee recognised the project as an excellent example of partnership working, which met the Council's corporate priorities and would provide a safe facility suitable for disabled and able-bodied sailors, fishermen and birdwatchers. The members of the North East Area Committee suggested that the application be submitted to the Council's Executive meeting in April and the other Area Committees at their first meeting of the new financial year, noting that the facility would benefit residents from across the District.

The Executive considered the application for £5,000 at its meeting in April 2007 and awarded a grant of £2,500 and endorsed the suggestion for the application to be submitted to the other three Area Committees.

Years in existence: 5 years

Type of organisation: Accessible Sailing is a registered charity.

Project, service or event details: 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 sailing organisation for people with disabilities); Oxford Sailing Club and Oxford & District Schools' Sailing Association (ODSSA) who help children with disabilities 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 £120,000 plus £21,000 VAT by Autumn 2007 in order to be able to start the project with the construction of the first two phases of the pontoon. The sum raised so far is approximately £99,500. *In view of the positive feedback from the North East Area Committee and the Executive, the project organisers have submitted an application for £7,000 to each of the West, South East and*

Abingdon Area Committees to cover the shortfall which would leave them with the VAT of £21,000 to fundraise from other sources.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Health & Wellbeing, Environment, Education & Lifelong Learning, Access to services

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 disabled sailors and helpers plus an estimated 3000 children, novice sailors, bidwatchers and flyfishermen.

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: £15,000 from own fundraising activities including the sale of planks for the pontoon and guided tours of Oxford by pontoon committee member

Grant Sought: **£7,000** (see narrative above)

Previous Awards (Vale): None

Parish Council Support: Have written to all parish councils in the district and followed up with a telephone call; to date grants have been awarded by Cumnor Parish Council (£10,000), Kennington P.C. (£200), Fyfield and Tubney P.C. (£200),North Hinksey P.C. (£200), Drayton P.C. (£150), Appleton with Eaton P.C.(£100), Longworth P.C. (£25).

Other Support: Since the launch of the project in 2002 Thames Water has provided £100,000 in funding and in-kind donations.

Additional support, totalling £99,475, has come from a variety of sources, namely:

Businesses:	£42,000
Employees' activities, supported by business:	£7,000
Private donations:	£7,500
Sale of commemorative 'planks':	£8,600
Raffles and sales of small items:	£2,000
Talks to individual groups:	£1,000
Fundraising from other sporting activities:	£3,000
Other fundraising:	£3,500
Cumnor Stores Book Stall:	£500
Open Weekend, including Trysailing	£1,000
Parish and District Council donations	£23,375

Other sources of funding explored:
Peter Harrison Foundation – awaiting outcome
Sport England/Lottery – application in progress
South Oxfordshire District Council – application in progress
Oxfordshire County Council – application in progress
West Oxfordshire District Council – Application in progress
Oxford City Council – Application in progress
The Money Pot Grant, Fox FM - declined
The Oxford Times Gannett Foundation – Declined
WREN landfill scheme – Declined
TOE landfill scheme – application in progress

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	£7,000
Reasons:	Important project with significant benefit to people with disabilities as well as novice sailors; project has received widespread financial support including from Vale's N E Area Committee and Executive.
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, Access to services
Current budget	£36,121.63
Remaining Committee meetings	2
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£6,250
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.

VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report No 37/07
Wards Affected: All
wards

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR & MONITORING OFFICER
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE
25th JULY 2007**

Progress Report on the Vale Partnership and the Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement

1.0   Introduction & Report Summary

1.1   Following the publication of the white paper on the future of local government ('Strong & Prosperous Communities') in the autumn of 2007 the Vale Partnership Board (which is made up of the District Council and key agencies which influence quality of life in the Vale) has commenced a review of the Vale Community Strategy 2004-2008. The Oxfordshire Partnership has also commenced a review of the Oxfordshire Community Strategy, in preparation for negotiations with central government on the priorities and targets in the next Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement.

1.2   This report provides further information on the reviews of the Vale Community Strategy and the Oxfordshire Community Strategy and provides an opportunity for members to provide information in respect of the social issues and priorities for the Abingdon area of the Vale.

1.3   The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy (Tel: 01235 547695; Email toby.warren@whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

2.0   Recommendations

2.1   *Members are requested to note the information contained in this report;*

2.2   *Members are invited to comment on the strategic matrix (which is the background paper for this report) in respect of the social issues and priorities for the Abingdon area of the Vale.*

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 White Paper on the Future of Local Government

4.1   Central government states the aim of the white paper is to 'give local people and local communities more influence and power to improve their lives.' In the white paper central government re-affirms the importance of local strategic partnerships (such as the Vale Partnership) in helping to influence quality of life for local residents.

4.2   The white paper emphasises the need for all local strategic partnerships to have a community strategy which is sustainable. A district level sustainable community strategy is expected to have the following features:
- Highest level strategic plan for an area

- Emphasis on place shaping at the strategic and local level
- Sets out vision, priorities, actions
- Partnership not a council plan
- Duty to include the Local Development Framework (spatial planning)
- County to take full account of district strategy
- Strategic plans of other major partners should have regard to strategy
- Emphasis on community consultation and the use of evidence and data

4.3   The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is an agreement between central government and the key agencies that influence quality of life in Oxfordshire. The District Council is represented on the Public Service Board which steers the Agreement. Oxfordshire County Council is the lead partner. Following the white paper the next Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement, which is scheduled to start in June 2008, will be central government's main tool for improving service delivery in Oxfordshire.

4.4   The Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement will be made up of thirty five negotiated improvement targets plus eighteen statutory education improvement targets. It is intended that the thirty five negotiated improvement targets should reflect the priorities of Oxfordshire.

4.5   Negotiations on with central government on the content of the next Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement are scheduled to start in December 2007. Therefore the Public Service Board is planning to reach local agreement on the priorities of Oxfordshire by November 2007.

5.0   Review of the Vale Community Strategy

5.1   The Vale Partnership Board wants the review of the Vale Community Strategy to identify the priorities which need to be fed in the negotiations on the improvement targets for the Local Area Agreement. However it does not want to rush the review as it wants residents of the Vale to be fully involved in the review. Therefore the Board intends that the Public Service Board is kept informed of the issues and priorities as the review develops. This information can then be fed into the negotiations on the next Local Area Agreement.

5.2   At its meeting on 27th February 2007 the Board received a presentation from the Deputy Director of Planning and Community Strategy about the close relationship between the sustainable community strategy and the core strategy of the local development framework (LDF). The revised strategy and the LDF will identify common issues for now and the future but the response to the issues will differ because the community strategy concentrates on 'social' interventions whilst the LDF concentrates on 'physical' interventions.

5.3   Because of the linkages the District Council intends that it will combine the public consultation about the draft sustainable community strategy with the consultation about the vision, issues and options of the draft core strategy. This joint consultation is likely to take place in the early autumn.

5.4   The issues and priorities set out in a community strategy should inform and direct services in the future. There are many issues but limited resources so it is very important to not only to agree what are the priorities are but to also understand why they are the priorities. At the Board meeting on 22nd May 2007 individual Board members confirmed their service priorities and identified how these service priorities

address the key issues that are faced by residents of the Vale. Evidence for the choice of service priorities is being identified but the choices will also be tested through public consultation.

5.5 A matrix has been designed so it can include all the common issues that will affect the Vale now and in the future and indicate how key partners will response to the issues using both 'social' interventions and 'physical' interventions.

5.6 The matrix has been divided into four main themes with the intention that these will be common to the revised community strategy and the core strategy of the Local Development Framework:

- Planning for sustainable high quality development
- Planning for the needs of local people – the social dimension
- Planning for business and enterprise - the economic dimension
- Safeguarding and enhancing our environment

5.7 The matrix headings represent key components for the document which will describe the revised strategy to residents of the Vale:

- An analysis of the Vale now and in the future draws out the key issues or drivers of change.
- There are number of priorities that are important in dealing with the key issues.
- Evidence demonstrates why these priorities are important and why they should be the focus for resources.
- Evidence can also be used to measure progress, so we know where we are now (not just in absolute terms but also in comparison to others), where do we want to be and how well we are progressing towards our goal. It is important that the Partnership Board receives performance information for all the priorities so that it can see the 'big picture' and adjust the overall strategy if performance data suggests that some priorities are not dealing effectively with the key issues.
- A lead partner needs to co-ordinate partnership working, strategies, plans and actions. For many priorities the structure, processes and plans are already in place and do not need to be re-created. A good example is the Vale Community Safety Partnership and the Vale Community Safety Strategy
- Most priorities will be important for everywhere in the Vale but some maybe be location specific (NB It is recognised that service delivery will differ across the Vale in order to meet the specific needs of communities of place and communities of interest.).
- There are also other ideas for action that may develop over time as priorities evolve or change.

5.8 The most recent draft of the strategic matrix is included as a background paper to this report. Board members have been asked to provide detailed comment on the matrix, provide further information and in particular identify gaps in the draft matrix.

6.0   Review of Partnership Board Membership

6.1 The Vale Partnership Board is conscious that it needs all key agencies to be represented if the review of the Vale Community Strategy if the review is going to result in a sustainable community strategy which contributes to an improvement in quality of life for residents in the Vale.

6.2 At its meeting on 22nd May 2007 the Board reviewed its membership. The current membership is:

- Vale of White Horse District Council
- Abingdon and Witney College
- Thames Valley Police
- Environment Agency
- Learning and Skills Council
- Government Office for the South East
- Age Concern Oxfordshire
- Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Thames Water
- Vale Housing Association
- Diocese of Oxford
- Oxfordshire Secondary Schools' Head Teachers' Association

The following organisations have indicated that they no longer wish to be Board members:

- Business Link
- Oxfordshire Primary Head Teachers' Association

6.3 The Board agreed that it should remain compact to ensure that all members feel involved. Therefore it was agreed that the Partnership Board should consist of about fifteen members and the following should be invited to join the Board:

- A representative of the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus or MEPC Milton Park
- A representative of the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership
- A representative of a Vale town or parish council (nominated by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils)

7.0 Review of the Oxfordshire Community Strategy

7.1 Oxfordshire County Council is leading a project group (which includes the District Council) to set out a vision for Oxfordshire and to recommend local strategic priorities. Priorities will be arrived at through the analysis of data and consultation. The resulting strategy will be a partnership plan not a council plan. It will draw on evidence and data, regional, sub-regional and county plans and strategies (including the Regional Economic Strategy, Oxfordshire Children & Young People's Strategic Plan, Oxfordshire Public Health report and the Oxfordshire Rural Framework).

7.2 It is intended that the review of the Oxfordshire Community Strategy should be completed by December 2007 in readiness for the commencement of negotiations on the content of the new Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement.

8.0 Conclusion

8.1 The review of the Vale Community Strategy will ensure that the Vale's priorities are reflected in the next Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement and as the review of the Vale's strategy is taking place at the same time as the review of Oxfordshire's strategy the

linkages between the two will become clearer and any risk of duplication will be minimised.

8.2   The revised community strategy will also show how the District Council is providing community benefit through co-ordination of the work of key agencies and the bringing together of 'social' interventions and 'physical' interventions.

8.3   The Board recognises the important role that elected members have in the review process. The Leader of the Council is the Council's representative on the Vale Partnership Board and elected members will receive further reports on the progress of the review prior to the period of public consultation.

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TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR & MONITORING OFFICER

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Background Papers:

Most recent draft of the matrix for the review of the Vale Community Strategy

Theme: Planning for sustainable high quality development

Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Accommodating new development as set out in the South East Plan and in accordance with government guidance	Promote sustainable and inclusive patterns of urban and rural development which enables: - social progress for everyone - high and stable levels of economic growth - the protection of the environment - prudent use of natural resources. It will involve identifying sustainable locations for development and ensuring the provision of	South East Plan and government policy PPS1	**VWHDC** and all partners **VWHDC**	LDF LDF	Preparation of the LDF Proposed Design Guide	Vale wide with references to specific places Major growth at Didcot and Grove already planned and further growth at Didcot, Grove and Wantage proposed in the draft South East Plan	Close working with the Vale partnership and other stakeholders to ensure priorities are matched and objectives delivered.

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			SPD		Vale wide	
	infrastructure and services to support future residents.					
	Promote good design					

Theme: Planning for the needs of local people – the social dimension

Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Health and wellbeing	Break the cycle of deprivation for some families and children	QoL; % of children that live in families that are income deprived	**PCT** VWHDC OCC	Oxon Public Health Strategy	VWHDC to agree & implement Health Improvement Plan for Vale with PCT (VWHDC Corporate Plan)	Vale wide	Identifying & tackling causes of multiple deprivation in the Caldecott ward of Abingdon & Faringdon & Wantage
	Tackle lifestyle health and wellbeing issues; particularly obesity	DPH Annual Report Active People survey	**PCT** VWHDC VSS	Oxon Public Health Strategy VWHDC Sports Development Strategy	VWHDC to agree & implement Health Improvement Plan for Vale with PCT (VWHDC Corporate Plan) LAA; increase participation in physical activity	Vale wide	Encourage access to natural environment as it can have positive affect on physical & mental wellbeing Encourage 'Healthy Schools' Encourage school green travel plans
	Control infectious diseases; e.g.	DPH Annual Report	**PCT** VWHDC	Oxon Public Health Strategy	VWHDC to agree & implement	Vale wide	Consider climate change related disease

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
flu, TB, MRSA, HIV and food borne disease							trends
	Improve mental health	?	PCT AC VWHDC		Health Improvement Plan for Vale with PCT (VWHDC Corporate Plan)	Vale wide	Encourage access to natural environment as it can have positive affect on physical & mental wellbeing

Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Population change - catering for an increasingly ageing population	Prevent ill health in an ageing population	DPH Annual Report	PCT AC VWHDC OCC	Oxon Public Health Strategy	VWHDC to agree & implement Health Improvement Plan for Vale with PCT (VWHDC	Vale wide	

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			PCT	Oxon LAA	Corporate Plan)	Vale wide	
	Reduce falls among older people	LAA	AC	Oxon LAA HCOP	Falls reduction project. Oxon wide 50 care home involved in the project, falls registers for each resident, reduction of 20% in falls	Vale wide	
	Reduce the sense of isolation amongst older people	?	**AC** VHA VWHDC OCC TVP	LTP SEEDA Access to Services Programme	Establishing 'active ageing centres' Dial-a-ride & community transport	Vale wide	Provide a range of housing suitable for the elderly (by type, location and tenure) Open up school facilities
Population change – likely increase in people from overseas taking up jobs in the Vale.	Integrate people from different backgrounds into our community	Home Office data	**VWHDC** VHA OCC VSS AWC TVP DO		Making sure everyone is able to access to public services they can benefit from. Achieve level 3 of the Equality Standard for Local Govt.&	Vale wide	Encourage Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) training

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Identifying the Evidence for the Priorities in the Vale – What counts & what's missing? – Author, Toby Warren, VWHDC

	top 25% place in respect of the Race Equality Scheme (VWHDC Corporate Plan)			

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Housing - the need for decent and affordable housing	Provide more affordable housing	QoL Housing Market Assessment & waiting lists	**VWHDC** VHA	LDF VWHDC Housing Strategy	400 more affordable homes by 2011, at least 300 socially rented housing (VWHDC Corporate Plan) Identifying rural exception sites	Vale wide	
	Reduce the number of residents living in 'non-decent' homes	QoL; Household accommodation without central heating	**VWHDC** VHA	LDF VWHDC Housing Strategy	Top quartile Homes of 300 vulnerable people improved by 2010 (VWHDC Corporate Plan)	Vale wide	
	Provide local residents in housing need with good quality advice and support	**?**	**VWHDC** VHA	VWHDC Housing Strategy	Use advice and assistance to prevent 1000 households from becoming	Vale wide	Offer advice through schools

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	homeless by 2011 (VWHDC Corporate Plan)				

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Safe communities - living without fear of crime or persecution	Reduce the fear of crime	QoL ; % of residents surveyed who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside during the day % of residents surveyed who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside after dark	TVP VWHDC OCC	Vale Community Safety Strategy LDF	Updating CCTV cameras in Abingdon and Wantage town centres (VWHDC Corporate Plan)	Vale wide	
	Manage down criminal damage and envirocrimes	QoL; % residents who think that vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles is a very big or fairly big problem in their local area; Vale Voice 5 survey (2006)showed Envirocrimes of major concern	TVP VWHDC OCC	Vale Community Safety Strategy Vale Local Environmental Quality Enforcement Strategy		Vale wide	a.New Environment Wardens to work with NAGs and PCSOs to target Envirocrimes; b. joint public awareness campaign on envirocrimes
	Introduce and develop	?	TVP VWHDC	Vale Community		Vale wide	As a. above

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	neighbourhood policing		OCC	Safety Strategy		Vale wide
		?				
	Tackle domestic violence		**TVP** VWHDC OCC	Vale Community Safety Strategy		

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Young people becoming socially isolated	Increase effective participation by younger people	?	**VWHDC** VHA OCC VSS AWC TVP	VWHDC Youth Strategy		Vale wide	Encourage citizenship activities in local schools, increase after school & holiday activities, youth clubs for disabled pupils
Providing services that are accessible to everyone	Improve public leisure, recreation and culture facilities	VWHDC Leisure Audit	**VWHDC**	LDF VWHDC Play, Sports, Arts Strategies	Optimise planning contributions for leisure, culture & recreation (VWHDC Corporate Plan)	Vale wide	
	Provide more varied points of access to public service	?	**VWHDC** OCC TVP AWC		Extend mobile working, to take our services to those people who would otherwise find it difficult to access them (VWHDC Corporate Plan)	Vale wide	Consider role of the Vale's five main settlements as service centres. Consider ole of schools as service points
	Improve community	?	**VSS** OCC	Extended school		Vale wide	School hire details on

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	access to school facilities & school involvement in community			plans			website & in brochure

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Theme: Planning for business and enterprise - the economic dimension (bold text underlined signifies comparative underperformance)

Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Continuing globalisation in the world economy resulting in new challenges for the national and local economies	Encourage a strong, diverse and sustainable economy	RES	**VWHDC** OCC	RES SE Plan LDF OEDS	Provide a flexible and sustainable planning framework in the LDF	Vale wide with specific locational policies	Work with businesses to reduce environmental footprint and reduce costs
					Exploit the potential of the Central Oxfordshire diamond for growth and investment	The part of the Vale in the Central Oxfordshire sub-region	Oxfordshire Joint Regulation Project; Health & Safety at Work programme; Safer Food Better Business programme
					Exploit the potential of the Quadrant – particularly Milton Park and Harwell SIC	South-east part of the Vale	
						Rural areas	

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner (s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Labour and skills shortages	Improve educational attainment	QoL; % of 15 yr olds in local authority schools achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grade A*-C or equivalent	**OCC** VSS	Oxon Children & Young Peoples' Plan		Vale wide	Link parenting skills to basic skills. Work with Childrens Centres on basic skills
	Understand the skills needs in the key sectors in the Vale's economy & plan training for future skills needs	?	**LSC** AWC			Vale wide	
	Work in partnership to improve employer engagement	?	**AWC** LSC			Vale wide	
	Increase numbers with basic skills	ONS annual population survey	**LSC** AWC			Vale wide	

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	?	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Provide public transport and facilities for cycling and walking from home to education and work	?	OCC VWHDC VHA AWC	LTP LDF		Vale wide	
Locating development so people have good access to jobs		VWHDC OCC	SE Plan LDF RES locate development to reduce need to travel long distances by car		Vale wide	

Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Congested transport systems that impact on economic prosperity	Lack of rail provision	Only two local rail stations in the Vale	VHWDC OCC	LTP LDF	Continue to press for the re-opening of local rail stations – Grove and Kennington and safeguard land	Grove Kennington	
			VWHDC OCC	LTP Didcot Growth Bid	Improve	Didcot	

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
				LDF	access to Didcot station		
	Congestion on A34	RES SE Plan LTP	VWHDC OCC	LPT LDF	Complete the Southern Central Oxfordshire Transport Study. Incorporate a strategy into the LDF and LTP	Wantage/Grove to Didcot transport corridor	
Increasing centralisation of service delivery and use of ICT impacting on the role of market towns and villages	Maintaining the economic viability of towns and villages	?	**VWHDC** OCC	LDF RES SEEDA Access to Services Programme	Encourage parish plans and market town health checks (VWHDC Corporate Plan)	Vale wide	**Encourage local food initiative**

Theme: Safeguarding and enhancing our environment

Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Contribute to reducing the causes of climate change	Reduce the need for people to travel by car	QoL; local estimates of CO2 emissions (kt CO2)	**VWHDC** OCC	LDF LTP Introduce Climate Change Strategy to reduce harmful emissions and the impact on the Vale (VWHDC Corporate Plan)	Locating development so people have good access to jobs and services Prioritise and support public transport Improve the footpath and cycle network	Vale wide	
	Reduce the consumption of non renewable energy	QoL; Average annual domestic consumption of gas & electricity in kWh	**VWHDC**	Introduce Climate Change Strategy to reduce harmful emissions and the impact on the Vale (VWHDC Corporate Plan)	Ensuring new development minimises fuel consumption	Vale wide	The new waste collection contract in 2010 will focus on reducing route miles, fuel efficiency /dual fuel vehicles.
	Work with the		**VWHDC**	Introduce		Vale wide	Encourage

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
	community to tackle climate change			Climate Change Strategy to reduce harmful emissions and the impact on the Vale (VWHDC Corporate Plan)			'eco-schools'

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Addressing the consequences of climate change	Address predicted imbalance between supply and demand for water	QoL; daily domestic water use (per capita consumption, litres)	**TW** VWHDC	Introduce Climate Change Strategy to reduce harmful emissions and the impact on the Vale	Ensuring new development minimise water consumption	Vale wide	
	Address issues raised by increased flooding	?	**EA** TW VWHDC	LDF	Undertake a SFRA of the whole district and locate development where not likely to be affected by flooding	Vale wide	Where flooding is likely to affect existing urban areas consider remedial action and design of new buildings (if any) Ensure residents at risk are prepared
	Address issues raised by natural habitat change	?	**EA** VWHDC	Oxon Biodiversity Action Plan	Identify & protect habitats most at risk	Vale wide	

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Prudent use of natural resources	Resist unnecessary loss of land to development, especially best and most versatile farmland and that containing commercial mineral reserves	One of the four key themes of sustainable development set out in PPS1	**VWHDC** OCC	SE Plan LDF	Maximise use of brownfield sites & density of development in urban areas	Vale wide	
	Increase amount of waste reused, recycled or composted	QoL; kg of household waste collected per head % of household waste recycled % of household waste composted	**VWHDC** OCC EA	Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Strategy and VWHDC Waste Action Plan	Increase biodegradable waste recycled, to 31% by April 2009 Encourage home composting Provide a 3rd brown bin waste composting round, Divert all green sack garden waste to compost facilities	Vale wide	

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		VWHDC Corporate Plan)			

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Key issue/driver of change	Priority for addressing issue	Evidence to verify priority & measure success	Board Partner(s)	Relevant strategies & plans	Existing & proposed actions	Location	Ideas for Other Actions
Pressures on the natural, built and historic environment	Protect the distinctive character of the Vale's towns and villages, especially those with conservation areas	Protecting environment; one of the four key themes of sustainable development set out in PPS1	**VWHDC**	LDF		Vale wide	
	Preserve and enhance listed buildings and their settings, archaeological sites and historic parks and gardens		**VWHDC**	LDF		Vale wide	
	Protect and enhance cherished landscapes		**EA** TW VWHDC	LDF Oxon Biodiversity Action Plan		Vale wide	
	Protect and enhance important wildlife habitats and biodiversity		**EA**			Vale wide	
	Protect and enhance water quality		**EA** **VWHDC**		Joint improvement plan with contractor	Vale wide	
	Protect and enhance air quality	QoL; % of land and		VWHDC Waste		Vale wide	

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	Improve the cleanliness of the Vale		Action Plan	More robust enforcement action to tackle "enviro-crimes"	Vale wide	
	highways assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus.					

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Glossary & Abbreviations

QoL: Quality of Life Indicators

http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/(b1jp5laxdd3xy155yefogp55)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0

Partner(s): Lead partner in bold

LDF: Vale Local Development Framework

SE Plan: South East England Regional Spatial Strategy

PPS 1: Planning Policy Statement 1; Delivery of sustainable development

SPD: Supplementary Planning Document

NAG: Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Action Group

PCSO: Police Community Support Officer

SFRA: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

RES: South East England Regional Economic Strategy

LTP: Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan

Oxon LAA HCOP: Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement, Healthier Communities & Older Peoples' Programme

DPH: Oxfordshire Director of Public Health

HSIC: Harwell Science and Innovation Campus

Quadrant: Quadrant of proposed economic and housing growth in Oxfordshire; focusing on Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Milton Park, Grove and Didcot

Didcot Growth Point: Government formally recognizes Didcot as a location which can provide new homes and jobs

VWHDC: Vale of White Horse District Council

EA: Environment Agency

PCT: Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust

AC: Age Concern

TVP: Thames Valley Police

OCC: Oxfordshire County Council

VHA: Vale Housing Association

LSC: Learning & Skills Council

AWC: Abingdon & Witney College

TW: Thames Water

VSS: Vale Secondary Schools

DO: Diocese of Oxfordshire

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SEEDA: South East England Development Agency
OEP: Oxfordshire Economic Partnership
OEDS: Oxfordshire Economic Development Strategy

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